

# Single Electronic Window (SEW) Project



VISION 2020 - MTI: "Enabling Competitive Businesses"

MTI has embarked upon one of its most ambitious and important projects to date, an IT platform which will impact on business and trade processes and enhance our competitiveness in the global market. This is the Single Electronic Window (SEW). The commencement of the SEW project was formally launched on Tuesday 20th October, 2009 at 7:30 am, at a brief ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad.

The SEW is an IT based trade facilitation tool, which allows parties involved in the various elements of trade and cross border transport to lodge standardized information and documents at a single entry point, in order to fulfill all regulatory, import, export and transit-related requirements. It is an electronic one-stop-shop, where private stakeholders and approving government agencies can collaborate to process necessary permits and approvals online in a seamless and efficient manner.

At the most basic level, the SEW will cut the time it takes to process trade related documents from between 15 to 30 days to two to three days, and instead of submitting a multitude of paper-based trade documents, importers and exporters will be able to transmit online one single e-document for approval by the various state agencies. In terms of business facilitation, the benefits of such a system include:-

- Greater operational efficiency
- Transparency of government services
- Improved collection of state revenue
- Increase in the speed of trade facilitation
- Provision of vital, timely information to support more efficient Business-to-business transactions and indeed business and investment decisions
- Sharpening the competitive edge of our companies and industries.

The SEW system will involve significant cooperation amongst a range of Ministries and agencies responsible for trade facilitation. This project will complement the ASYCUDA system currently being implemented at the Customs and Excise Division and improve the quality and timeliness of trade data by allowing the CSO to generate information two weeks after the end of each month.

MTI will be partnering with the Singaporean company CrimsonLogic, to implement the SEW, under the provisions of an MOU signed between Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of Singapore for IT/technology assistance, especially with regard to E-business and E-Government operations. An agency of the Government of Singapore, CrimsonLogic is the creator/operator of the world famous TradeNet in Singapore, a wide ranging SEW which incorporates a variety of Government services apart from trade and business related activities.

The Ministry has also received strong support from the Ministries of Public Administration, Agriculture, Legal Affairs, Health, Works and Transport and Finance, all of whom serve on the Cabinet appointed Inter-Ministerial Committee responsible for the SEW implementation process.

Trinidad and Tobago's international competitiveness is high on MTI's agenda, given our Vision 2020 objectives. This country's ranking in the recently released Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) has improved from 92 in 2008-2009 to 86 in 2009-2010 out of 133 countries. This is a most exciting time for the Ministry and rest assured we will keep you fully informed as the project continues.