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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***SLASPA, Customs and Industry Partners Embark on a Project to Implement a Cargo Community System for Saint Lucia***

Castries – Thursday May 15, 2008 - The Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA) and the Customs and Excise Department has been working with two French companies CEIBA, SOGET to implement a Cargo Community System in St. Lucia. The Project Team met with over fifty local stakeholders at the NIC Conference Center and provided an engaging demonstration of the soon to be implemented Cargo Community System for Saint Lucia.

A Cargo Community System (CCS) which is a central platform that manages the flow of information among all the stakeholders in the Port Community is essential to the future development of St. Lucia's Sea Ports. This system will facilitate the flow of accurate and timely information across the supply chain partners and Government agencies. It will also allow for the comprehensive tracking of merchandise transported via both containers and traditional exchanges thus creating a broader base for trade facilitation in Saint Lucia.

The CCS will also enhance the trading capabilities of St. Lucia with the neighboring islands of Martinique, Guadeloupe and Dominica who are also participating countries of the project. Both SLASPA and the Customs and Excise Department are instrumental in this initiative which explores all avenues for interfacing the CCS with their current internal systems such as Asycuda ++ and Unitrack.

Speaking at the ceremony, Permanent Secretary of Minister of Communication, Works, Transport and Public Utilities, Mr. Benjamin Emanuel said "Although Dominica, Guadeloupe,

Martinique and Saint-Lucia, are next to each other, from a geographical, cultural and historical point of view, the exchange of goods and people endure many obstacles that do not facilitate easy trade between the nations.”

Mr. Emmanuel explained that dependable and safe methods that allow for the follow-up of exchanges, as well as provide real-time statistics and control procedures are needed to implement the administrative and customs agreements, and the projects of free exchanges in the area. These are just some of the fundamental reasons this project was undertaken and has come out thus far as a success, which we hope will continue with the participation of all the parties.”

Other participants included Mr. Terrance Leonard, Controller of Customs, Mr. Sean Matthew, General Manager, SLASPA and the project team which includes local representative from the respective French-based companies. The CCS should be implemented in Saint Lucia within a period of twelve (12) months.



CEI.BA, SOGET and SLASPA Representatives