



AI Powered Automation at Ports Workshop – Day 1, March 30, 2026

Time	Event	Speaker
8:00 – 8:45	Breakfast at DIMACS	
8:45-9:15	Opening Remarks: Workshop Background and Goals	Fred Roberts CCICADA Director
9:15-9:55	Keynote Talk: The Emerging Smart Port and the Enabling Role of AI	Erwin Verstraelen, VP Innovation Port of Antwerp-Bruges
9:55-10:05	Q&A	
10:05-10:25	Break	
10:25-10:55	The Cost of Standing Still: Why Ports Can't Stay the Supply Chain's Weak Link	Erez Agmoni, Principal, Interwoven Ventures, and former Head of Maersk Innovation
10:55-11:15	Q&A, followed by Instructions for Breakout Work Session	
11:15-12:15	Breakout Work Session 1	
12:15-1:05	Lunch at DIMACS	
	Afternoon Session Chair: Kostas Bekris, Rutgers University	
1:05-1:35	Container Terminal Automation: Diffusion Trends and Patterns	Jean-Paul Rodrigue, Professor of Maritime Business Administration, Texas A&M- Galveston
1:35-1:45	Q&A	
1:55-2:25	Drivers and Benefits of Automation: Global Insights from Container Terminal Operators	Geraldine Knatz, Port of LA Exec. Director (ret.) and Professor of the Practice of Policy and Engineering, University of Southern California
2:25-2:45	Break	
2:45-3:35	Panel: AI at an Inflection Point	Moderator: Michael Santoro, Santa Clara University Panelists: Alston Ghafourifar, CEO & Co-Founder, Entefy Kostas Bekris, Prof. of CS, Rutgers, & Amazon Scholar Alex Carroll, MIT Charlie Collins, Arcadia Impact
3:35-3:50	Instructions for Breakout Work Session	
3:50-4:50	Breakout Work Session 2	



4:50-5:20	Breakout Group Reports and Discussion	
5:20-5:30	Closing Remarks, Plans for Day 2	Fred Roberts
Dinner on your own		



AI Powered Automation at Ports Workshop – Day 2, March 31, 2026

Time	Event	Speaker
8:00 – 8:45	Breakfast at DIMACS	
8:45-9:00	Opening Remarks: Goals for the Day	Fred Roberts CCICADA Director
	Morning Session Chair: Elsayed Elsayed, Rutgers University	
9:00-9:30	AI and Digital Transformation in the Port of Rotterdam: Building a Smarter, Sustainable Ecosystem	Sophie Broere, AI port Center, TU Delft & Erasmus University, & SmartPort, Rotterdam, and Tim Meijster, AI Port Center, TU Delft & Erasmus University
9:30-9:40	Q&A	
9:40-10:00	Break	
10:00-10:30	AI-powered Maritime Logistics at Port of New York/New Jersey	Elenna Dugundji, Director of the Deep Knowledge Lab for Supply Chain and Logistics at the MIT Center for Transportation and Logistics
10:30-10:40	Q&A	
10:40-11:00	Break	
11:00-12:00	Breakout Work Session 3	
12:00-12:50	Lunch at DIMACS	
	Afternoon Session Chair: Dennis Egan, Rutgers University	
12:50-1:05	From Data to Decision: MIT Research on Port Congestion & Supply Chains for FLOW	Thomas Koch, Postdoctoral Associate, MIT Center for Transportation and Logistics
1:05-1:15	Q&A	
1:15-1:45	AI-Enhanced Critical Infrastructure Protection: Digital Twins & Intelligent Structural Inspection for the Port of Hamburg	Markus Horschig, Head of Critical Infrastructure, Port of Hamburg Authority
1:45-2:05	Q&A followed by panel setup	
2:05- 2:50	Panel: Ports at the Crossroads: Scaling Automation and AI Without Disrupting Operations	Moderator: Erez Agmoni Panelists: Doug Vogt, COO, North Carolina Ports



		Stephen Lyman, Executive Director, Maritime Association of the Port of NY/NJ Erwin Verstraelen, VP Innovation Port of Antwerp-Bruges
2:50-3:10	Break	
3:10-3:40	Algorithmic Foundations Enabling Scalable High-Density Logistic	Jingjin Yu, Associate Professor of Computer Science, Rutgers, and Director of Algorithmic Robotics and Control Lab
3:40-4:00	Q&A followed by Move to Breakout Groups	
4:00-4:50	Breakout Work Session 4	
4:50-5:20	Breakout Group Reports and Discussion	
5:20-5:30	Closing Remarks, Plans for Day 3	Fred Roberts
Wine and Cheese Reception with Student Poster Session Workshop Dinner with Discussion of "Port of the Future" Moderator: Elsayed Elsayed, Rutgers		



AI Powered Automation at Ports Workshop – Day 3, April 1, 2026

Time	Event	Speaker
8:00 – 8:45	Breakfast at DIMACS	
8:45-8:55	Opening Remarks: Goals for the Day	Fred Roberts CCICADA Director
	Morning Session Chair: Aman Goswami, Cal State University, Northridge	
8:55-9:25	Harnessing the Power of Networks through Investment in Automation, Digitalization and Sustainability	Johannes Berg, Director of Corporate Affairs, Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG
9:25-9:35	Q&A	
9:35-10:05	From Strategic Vision to Smart Implementation for AI-Driven Automation in Modern Ports	Josh Hirschheimer, Partner, Porsche Consulting
10:05-10:15	Q&A	
10:15-10:35	Break	
10:35-11:05	Collaborate, Coordinate, and Communicate: Preparing For and Managing Through Disruptive Events	Anne Strauss-Wieder, Senior Freight and Logistics Executive and Rutgers University Lecturer
11:05-11:35	Q&A followed by Move to Breakout Groups	
11:35-12:25	Breakout Work Session 5	
12:25-1:15	Lunch at DIMACS	
1:15-2:15	Breakout Groups Meet to Draft Final Reports	
2:15-2:25	Closing Remarks	Fred Roberts
Travel Safely		