

LOCAL NEWS

Maersk wants permanent Panama port role, urges tender date

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Summary

Maersk's Latin America head said the group will bid for permanent operation of Panama's ports and asked the government to set a tender timetable; Maersk runs Balboa temporarily until August 2027.

Details (summary of the article)

Casa Solution, drawing on La Estrella and La Prensa reports of 28 October, says Antonio Domínguez, Maersk's president for Latin America and the Caribbean, confirmed the group will compete when Panama opens permanent operation of its port infrastructure to bidders, and pressed the government to say when that will happen. Maersk's subsidiary APM Terminals Panamá currently runs the Port of Balboa under a transitional contract of up to 18 months running from 23 February 2026 to 24 August 2027, after the Supreme Court struck down the law contract behind the Panama Ports Company concession for Balboa and Cristóbal. Cristóbal is under a similar temporary arrangement with MSC's Terminal Investment Limited. The Panama Canal Authority is developing new terminals at Corozal and Isla Telfers, with a preliminary joint investment estimated at \$2.6 billion and concessions expected to be awarded toward the end of 2027. Domínguez argued Panama is behind on expanding port capacity as trade routes shift toward Latin America, and said the temporary Balboa operation is not a concession. No tender date, format or conditions have been announced.