

CANADA Daily News and Updates November 10th 2023

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Ocean Updates

\$4 Million Lets Shipper Cut to Front of Line at Panama Canal

A shipper has paid nearly \$4 million to jump to the front of the line at the congested Panama Canal waterway, a record high.

Japan's Eneos Group paid \$3.975 million in an auction on November 8 to secure the crossing, bidding documents show. That comes on top of the regular transit fees companies pay, which can be hundreds of thousands of dollars more.

A queue of ships waiting to use the canal has been growing in recent months amid a deep drought. To manage the situation, the canal's managing authority has announced increasingly drastic restrictions for the depleted thoroughfare. It also lets companies bid on the chance to speed things up and move to the front of the line. Last month, the Panama Canal Authority held 140 auctions, it said. Three of those came in above \$1 million.

Read more in an [article from Transport Topics](#).

Technology

Human Connections Integral to Logistics Industry's AI Adoption Insists Raft CEO

The successful adoption of artificial intelligence (AI)-driven technology will rely on developing solutions that enable forwarders and customs brokers to prioritize human connections, said James Coombes, CEO and co-founder of Raft, at The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA) Executive Summit this week.

Coombes stressed that freight forwarding is ultimately a relationships business, highlighting that AI exists to free up time for forwarders and customs brokers to focus on the human elements of their work.

"While it's true that AI holds tremendous potential, trust and human relationships are fundamental elements in logistics, and these emotional aspects are an area where AI has its limitations," said Coombes.

“The connections we build with our service providers, customers and partners are invaluable and irreplaceable.

“Our approach is to use AI to automate the more routine, lower-value tasks, allowing freight forwarders and customs brokers to concentrate on nurturing and enhancing these crucial relationships.”

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).