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## U.S. BARGE COMPLETES WORKSYSTEMS GRANT

*Grant allowed start-up company to build strong workforce training program*

PORTLAND, Ore. – (August 18, 2008) U.S. Barge has just completed a \$150,000 training grant from Worksystems, Inc. The grant was originally issued in September 2006, right after U.S. Barge opened their doors for business. Over the past two years, the funding has helped to build a strong series of training programs for current and incoming employees at U.S. Barge.

“We are deeply committed to training a safe, efficient workforce,” stated Corey Yraguen, CEO of U.S. Barge, “Worksystems worked with us from the beginning to help address our training needs. Their valuable assistance at U.S. Barge gave us access to the resources we needed to jumpstart our training programs.”

Training that was covered by the grant includes welding qualifications, rigging safety, overhead and mobile crane use, confined space, fire watch, shipyard competent person, and many other programs. The flexible nature of the funding allowed for a combination of offsite classes and onsite trainers. Through the grant, U.S. Barge was also able to certify its own employees to train in various areas.

“Worksystems, Inc. has been a great partner to the industrial community for a number of years,” added Frank Foti, co-owner of U.S. Barge and owner of Vigor Industrial, “They have a strong commitment to workforce development and training. I look forward to working with them on many future projects.”

**U.S. Barge LLC** is a Portland, OR-based barge fabricator. Founded in 2006, the company uses advanced technology and specialized manufacturing to meet customer’s needs. From ocean-going to inland barges, their oversize facility gives them the capability to fabricate and deliver virtually any type of barge.

**Worksystems, Inc.** is a nonprofit organization that connects job seekers with employers by funding providers of career placement and training services. Their strategic partnerships with business, economic development agencies, community organizations, educational institutions, and labor groups create a workforce development system that responds quickly to the skill needs of local employers.

For more information on U.S. Barge, visit [www.usbarge.com](http://www.usbarge.com) or email [info@usbarge.com](mailto:info@usbarge.com). For information on Work Systems, visit [www.worksystems.org](http://www.worksystems.org) or email [hficht@worksystems.org](mailto:hficht@worksystems.org)

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