


# LABIDCO TURNS 30

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# KEY TAKEAWAYS

*NGC Group subsidiary LABIDCO commemorated 30 years in the business in February 2025.*

*Over the past three decades, LABIDCO has grown from a strategic initiative into a thriving industrial hub that continues to support Trinidad and Tobago's broader economic growth.*

**O**n February 15, 2025, LABIDCO proudly celebrated its 30th anniversary, commemorating three decades of remarkable contributions to Trinidad and Tobago's national development. From its

humble beginnings as a bold vision to develop the La Brea Industrial Estate, to becoming a leading force in the energy sector, LABIDCO's journey stands as a testament to resilience, adaptability, and growth.

## THE VISION (1970s - 1990s)

In the 1970s, Trinidad and Tobago embarked on an ambitious journey to industrialise and harness its hydrocarbon resources. The creation of key state entities such as The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) and the National Energy Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (National Energy) laid the foundation for the country's industrial future.

The development of the iconic Point Lisas Industrial Estate (PLIE) became a cornerstone of this vision.

However, by the mid-1990s, the PLIE was nearing capacity, signalling the need for expansion. In response, the Cabinet made the decision to develop the La Brea Industrial Estate in southwestern Trinidad.

Thus, on February 15, 1995, the La Brea Industrial Development Company Limited (LABIDCO) was incorporated, with NGC as the majority shareholder and Petrotrin (now Heritage) as the minority. Strategically positioned near a natural deepwater harbour and located on State-owned land, the Estate was ideally suited for industrial expansion and growth.

## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY INFRASTRUCTURE (1995 - EARLY 2000s)

LABIDCO's strategic location near a deepwater harbour and state-owned land made it perfect for industrial growth. Phase 1 of the Estate's development included approximately 400 acres of land, a construction dock dredged to a depth of six metres, a drainage system, and a marshalling yard for storage. Access to the Estate was facilitated by a 40-metre-wide corridor that included both utility and pipeline routes.

Initially, LABIDCO's mandate was to manage the La Brea Industrial Estate, which was designed to accommodate significant projects such as the Farmland MissChem Ammonia Plant and the Atlantic LNG Plant. However, with these projects being relocated, LABIDCO shifted its focus to supporting small and medium-sized energy services and manufacturing companies, while also providing bioremediation services and storage facilities.

## FOCUS ON GROWTH AND LOCAL CONTENT (2002 - 2004)

LABIDCO's growth accelerated with further infrastructural developments aimed at diversifying the Estate's offerings. In 2002, National Energy, LABIDCO's sister company, was tasked with developing a 30-acre fabrication yard at the La Brea Estate, in line with the government's push for local content in the energy sector. By 2004, this world-class fabrication yard, complete with a 150-metre-long dock, was ready for operation.

The fabrication yard became the largest provider of offshore platform construction in the Caribbean and the only platform fabrication yard in Trinidad and Tobago. It not only boosted local participation in the energy sector but also made significant contributions to the national economy. Over the years, the fabrication yard has delivered over 10 offshore platforms for upstream oil and gas companies, with the most recent platform completed in 2024. This activity has created thousands of jobs, driving economic benefits for the La Brea community and the country.

## KEY MILESTONES IN LABIDCO'S GROWTH (2011 - 2024)

As LABIDCO evolved, so did its portfolio of milestones that shaped the national energy landscape:

**2011** - Construction of Berth 3, expanding the Estate's docking and logistics capabilities

**2017** - Reconstruction of Berth 2 and the facilitation of the bpTT Juniper Platform load-out, the largest offshore platform ever constructed in Trinidad and Tobago

**2018** - Reconstruction of the LABIDCO Corridor and the Pipeline Right of Way (ROW) Project, improving access and infrastructure

**2020** - Facilitation of the inaugural methanol load-out from the Port of Brighton, showcasing LABIDCO's expanded role in industrial logistics

**2020** - LABIDCO transitioned to an autonomous subsidiary of the NGC Group and appointed its first-ever General Manager, marking a new chapter in governance and operational autonomy

**2024** - The Port of Brighton achieved EcoPort certification, making history as the first port in CARICOM to be recognised with this prestigious achievement



## LOOKING AHEAD

Over the past 30 years, LABIDCO has grown from a strategic initiative into a thriving industrial hub that continues to support Trinidad and Tobago's broader economic growth. With ongoing diversification and the expansion of its offerings, LABIDCO remains committed to the sustainable development of its assets as well as national energy and manufacturing sectors.

As LABIDCO celebrates this significant milestone, the company looks ahead to continued growth and new opportunities that will shape the future of the La Brea Industrial Estate and Trinidad and Tobago's industrial landscape for many years to come. ■

