

Crane simulator to boost Felixstowe

Felixstowe plans to introduce a new crane simulator with a view to improving operator proficiency and enhancing overall productivity.

The UK port is working on the development of a computer-based simulator for its gantry cranes, in partnership with Drilling Systems (UK) of Bournemouth, an expert in training simulation in the oil gas and crane industries.

The port will provide operational expertise and data for its cranes, terminal tractors/trailers and vessels, as well as environmental data, to enable accurate modelling of the relevant workplace.

Drilling Systems will then use this data to produce the new software and hardware for the simulator, which will comprise an operator's chair,

graphics projection system and instructor's station.

The new simulator is expected to provide significant gains in safety and productivity levels at the port.

Trainees sit in a replica crane operator's chair and focus on a three-dimensional visual world, with audible cues from a surround-sound system. They can be tested in a virtual operating environment, safe in the knowledge that expensive equipment will not be damaged if mistakes are made. The system allows potentially dangerous scenarios and "crane operator competence under pressure" to be evaluated safely, using an array of simulated equipment malfunctions and adverse weather conditions.

Lift for Liebherr mobile cranes

Liebherr-Werk Nenzing sold a record 58 of its LHM (Liebherr harbour mobile) cranes in 2004, a 20% up on the 2003 number of 48.

During the year five new countries were added to the Liebherr portfolio and 13 units were delivered into these new markets.

Eight cranes were delivered to five different customers in India.

In addition, two units have recently been commissioned in a delivery to Coalition Provisional Authority at Umm Qasser, Iraq, in spite of what Liebherr calls "a number of hurdles that had to be taken during the delivery process".

Other new markets for Liebherr were Baku in Azerbaijan, Gruas Portuarias in Venezuela and Qatar Steel.

Liebherr's bestselling model was the 104-tonne/48-metre outreach unit LHM 400, which achieved sales of 21. In second place with 11 orders was the LHM 150 and in third place the LHM 320.

Venezuela's ITS picks Tideworks to manage terminal operations



Tideworks Technology has been chosen by International Terminal Services of Puerto Cabello in Venezuela to provide terminal operations management systems for container operations in the port.

The agreement marks the first deployment of Tideworks terminal systems in Venezuela.

Included in the agreement are Tideworks Material terminal management system, its Spinnaker planning management system and the community web portal. Forecast implementation is scheduled for the second quarter of 2005.

The terminal extends over 3.5ha and Esteban Szalay, MD of

the Intershipping Group said: "We are keen to increase terminal capacity. We can do that through expansion by stacking higher, or through increased efficiencies, working with the space we have."

"We feel that our arrangement with Tideworks is a positive step in that direction."

Gottwald pontoon crane goes to lower Mississippi

Gottwald's first HPK harbour pontoon crane was dedicated at a ceremony in Convent, Louisiana, US, on February 3.

Gottwald sold the crane to the St James Stevedoring Company, which wanted a crane

and direct transloading cargo from large vessels to river barges.

The HPK 330EG pontoon crane – or barge crane as it is called in the US – is similar from the slewing ring up to the HMK mobile harbour crane, the only

mounted on a pontoon instead of a rubber-tyre chassis.

The crane being used on the Mississippi is fitted with the four-rope grab and the diesel-electric drive that are standard features of all larger Gottwald

Hutchison UK ports achieve safety acclaim

The UK ports of Felixstowe and Harwich have won recognition for excellence in safety management.

The British Safety Council audited facilities at the ports, both part of the Hutchison Port Holdings Group, in early January. Felixstowe achieved 4,473 points out of a total of 4,600 for the effectiveness of its safety management practices, giving it an overall score of 97.24%, while Harwich received 4,345 points or 94.46%.

The result places both ports in the five-star "excellent"