

HPK



For Professional Mid-Stream Cargo Handling
HPK Harbour Pontoon Crane

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Gottwald's first pontoon crane dedicated

HPK 330 EG harbour pontoon crane transloading cargo from large vessels to river barges.



An enthusiastic crowd of people gathered in Convent on the Lower Mississippi River, Louisiana, USA, on 3 February this year, to celebrate the first HPK Harbour Pontoon Crane from Gottwald Port Technology in a dedication ceremony.

As a noted supplier of mobile harbour cranes, with more than 900 units installed globally, Gottwald Port Technology had added the HPK Harbour Pontoon Crane series to its portfolio in summer 2004 and sold the first HPK 330 EG to St. James Stevedoring Company, Inc. — one of the leaders in bulk cargo handling on the Lower Mississippi River, Louisiana, USA — which was looking for new barge mounted cranes for its mid-stream operations. Being mounted to a pontoon (or barge crane as is called in USA), the HPK harbour pontoon crane is intended for direct transloading of cargo from large vessels to river barges.

The dedication ceremony for the new HPK 330 EG attracted a large number of bulk materials shippers, Mississippi River barge operators, port officials, mid-stream stevedores and terminal operators who were attending the parallel MVTTTC (Mississippi Valley Trade and Transportation Council) 2005 World Trade & Transport Conference in New Orleans.

"This day is a true milestone for both St. James and Gottwald," said Dr. Mathias Dobner, chief technical officer at Gottwald Port Technology, who made a speech during the event. "We are grateful to St. James Stevedoring Company, Inc., as first customer and concept initiator of this new type of crane, for placing their confidence in our company. This is not simply a new crane being installed. This order marks the beginning of a new product series and Gottwald is once again asserting its position as a pioneer in developing untapped markets."

The new crane is named *Alex G*, after the owner Alex

Goldberger who said in his address: "The addition of the *Alex G* into our fleet of floating bulk cargo cranes is a proud moment. It is a concrete expression of our confidence in the future of St. James Stevedoring Company, Inc., a recognition that our customers deserve the very best in bulk transfer services and a signal that Gottwald technology is the wave of the future in mid-stream stevedoring operations."

HPK 330 EG — TECHNICAL FEATURES

The new Gottwald crane uses the same proven technologies as the Gottwald HMK mobile harbour cranes. From the slewing ring upwards the HPK is similar to the HMK — the only difference is that it is mounted to a pontoon instead of the rubber-tyred chassis characteristic for the standard HMK version. The proven four-rope grab crane suitable for continuous professional bulk handling is equipped with a diesel-electric drive, a common feature of all the larger Gottwald harbour cranes. With handling rates of up to 900tph, the HPK 330 EG conveys bulk cargo, such as fertilizers, ores, coal, sugars and agribulks, from the large vessels coming into the mouth of the Mississippi River to the river barges that then carry the valuable loads on the 14,000 miles navigable inland waterway system to the hinterland.

The crane operates at lifting capacities of 40 tonnes in grab operation up to 30 metres, 31 tonnes up to 40 metres and 21 tonnes up to 50 metres. Lifting capacity on the hook is 63 tonnes. Hoisting speed is 120 m/min. Maximum slewing speed is 1.5rpm and luffing speed is 60 m/min. The crane unit is mounted on a 65 metre x 22 metre deck barge with a draught of 4.6 metres. The entire HPK crane unit on the barge can be moved up and down the river to discharge ships anchored at many different locations on the Lower Mississippi River.