

Press Release

Gottwald Port Technology Supplies another Giant Four-rope Mobile Harbour Crane to Antwerp Bulk Terminal

Düsseldorf (Germany), 10 December 2003 – Gottwald Port Technology, the world's leading supplier of both conventional and four-rope grab Mobile Harbour Cranes for professional bulk handling, recently supplied an HMK 360 EG Mobile Harbour Crane to Antwerp Bulk Terminal (ABT), a member of the Sea-Invest Group and operator of five bulk terminals in the Port of Antwerp, Belgium. The new crane is also the ninety-ninth crane to be delivered to Belgium by Gottwald. The HMK 360 EG Mobile Harbour Crane is the largest four-rope grab Mobile Harbour Crane ever built and will be operated at ABT's Terminal, quay 206. In Antwerp alone, more than 80 Gottwald Mobile Harbour Cranes are in use throughout the entire hub, where they make a major contribution to the efficient handling of containers, bulk and general cargo, which is then shipped to numerous industrial centres and centres of population around Europe.

"The Port of Antwerp, one of the world's major hubs, relies more than any other port in the world on Mobile Harbour Cranes. Operators in this port have realised the suitability of using this product for the type of work they do," said Joachim Kröll, Gottwald's Representative for Belgium and neighbouring Netherlands. "The HMK 360 EG for Antwerp Bulk Terminal," Kröll added, "will discharge coal and other bulk materials with a capacity of more than 1,500 tonnes an hour. We would like to thank ABT, who already operate a number of Gottwald HMK 360 EG and HMK 300 EG four-rope grab cranes, for once again demonstrating their confidence in Gottwald to provide the best equipment available to meet their customers' needs".

Eddy Haerens, Technical Director of the Sea-invest Group pointed out: "The HMK 360 EG from Gottwald Port Technology will certainly help us to improve our productivity. It was not only our excellent experience with our existing four-rope grab cranes, supplied by Gottwald in recent years, that convinced us to rely once again on a product from the leader in this field. It was also the fact that Gottwald Port Technology runs a service station for Mobile

Harbour Cranes in the Port of Antwerp. This station with its broad spectrum of services guarantees that ABT receive immediate response when technical support is required", Haerens concluded.

Gottwald Port Technology provides a comprehensive range of diesel-electric Mobile Harbour Cranes. The HMK 360 E and HMK 360 EG (four-rope grab version for professional bulk handling equipped with an additional hoist and designed to a higher classification) were mainly developed to meet the requirements of Antwerp and Ghent port operators but are also in demand by other customers around the globe. With the HMK 360 EG supplied to Antwerp Bulk Terminal, Gottwald's reference list for four-rope grab cranes amounts to ninety units worldwide. In total, the company has sold more than 850 Mobile Harbour Cranes. One in every eight of these is operational in the Port of Antwerp.

About Gottwald Port Technology

Gottwald Port Technology GmbH, located in Düsseldorf (Germany), is the world's leading supplier of Mobile Harbour Cranes (HMK series) and rail-mounted Portal Harbour Cranes (HSK series). The *Automated Port Technologies Division* provides a multitude of services for terminal operators. These services range from conceptual design and operational layouts, basic engineering of equipment and systems through to Automated Guided Vehicles and Automated Container Stackers.

With the launch of its Wide Span Gantries at the beginning of 2003, Gottwald moved a step closer to becoming a supplier of the full range of port technologies and thus once again demonstrated its commitment to healthy growth. The company presently has a workforce of around 650 employees in Düsseldorf and the turnover for the financial year 2002/2003 (as of 30 September) is €183 million. The company, which sold 66 Mobile Harbour Cranes worldwide in 2002, runs a service station at Antwerp's quay 83. This service centre employs 15 technicians and offers a wide range of services including technical support, assembly of cranes and 24-hour call out.

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