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Gottwald 'G' force grabs attention

Gottwald Port Technology (GPT) has had another good year for mobile harbour crane deliveries in 2003. The company sold a total of 64 cranes during the year, which has been achieved despite a weakening dollar.

If 2003 has been remarkable for the company: it is because four-rope grabs have 'bitten a significant chunk' out of the higher-capacity bulk handling equipment market.

Whilst the market for grab handling gantries in Europe remains slow, mobile harbour crane deliveries to the UK (Immingham), Spain (Gijon and Santander),

France (La Rochelle and Bordeaux) for example have proved that even though the overall market for mobile harbour cranes is not growing, GPT can be satisfied with the result.

The four-rope variant — referred to by Gottwald as its 'G type' — represented 26% of total mobile harbour sales in 2002. At the beginning of December last year, the percentage had risen to 37%! GPT recommends four-rope grabs if bulk handling exceeds 80% of crane duties. For operations up to 60% bulk handling, a two-rope grab system is sufficient.



Gottwald's HMK 330 EG handles a broad spectrum of bulk materials, including fertilizers, minerals and grain. Peak loads of 1,000tph have been reached.

BIGGEST EVER (AGAIN)

Few examples serve to illustrate this better than the recent delivery of another HMK 360 EG unit to Antwerp Bulk Terminal (ABT), which is a member of the Sea-Invest Group and an operator of five bulk terminals in the Port of Antwerp.

The HMK 360 EG mobile harbour crane is the largest four-rope grab mobile unit from Gottwald and it will be operated at quay 206. The unit will discharge coal and other bulk materials with a capacity of more than 1,500tph, according to Joachim Kröll, GPT's

representative for Belgium and the Netherlands.

The new unit is also the ninety-ninth crane to be delivered to Belgium by Gottwald.

Antwerp alone operates more than 80 Gottwald mobile harbour cranes. However, this also includes machines used for handling containers and general cargo.

Whilst ABT now has two HMK 360 EGs, the first of this type was delivered to CBM in Ghent where it is mainly used for handling coal, coke but also other bulk commodities. CBM is also part of the Sea-Invest Group.

Eddy Haerens, technical director of the Sea-Invest Group said: "The HMK 360 EG will certainly help us improve our productivity." The new crane has a lifting capacity of 50 tonnes at 40 metres and, as already reported in the November 2003 issue of *Dry Cargo International* (see p38), the machine can be used for board-to-board operations.

One other factor seems to have determined Sea-Invest's choice. GPT runs a service station for mobile harbour cranes at quay 83 in the Port of Antwerp. "This station, with its broad spectrum of services, guarantees that ABT receives immediate response when technical support is required", Haerens adds. This service centre employs 15 technicians and offers a wide range of services including technical support, assembly of cranes and 24-hour call out.

GPT provides a comprehensive range of diesel-electric mobile harbour cranes. The HMK 360 E and HMK 360 EG were mainly developed to meet the requirements of Antwerp and Ghent port operators, but are also in demand by other customers around the globe.

Earlier this year, Gottwald sold its first two ever four-rope grab units to Latin America, one to Rocha Top the other to Luxus Graneis as reported on p32 of the June issue of *Dry Cargo International*. The HMK 330 EG commissioned in January 2003 handles a broad spectrum of bulk materials, including fertilizers, minerals



The iron ore terminal at Quinhuangdao in China has two Gottwald HSK 360 EGs.

and grain. Peak loads of 1,000tph have been reached, according to GPT.

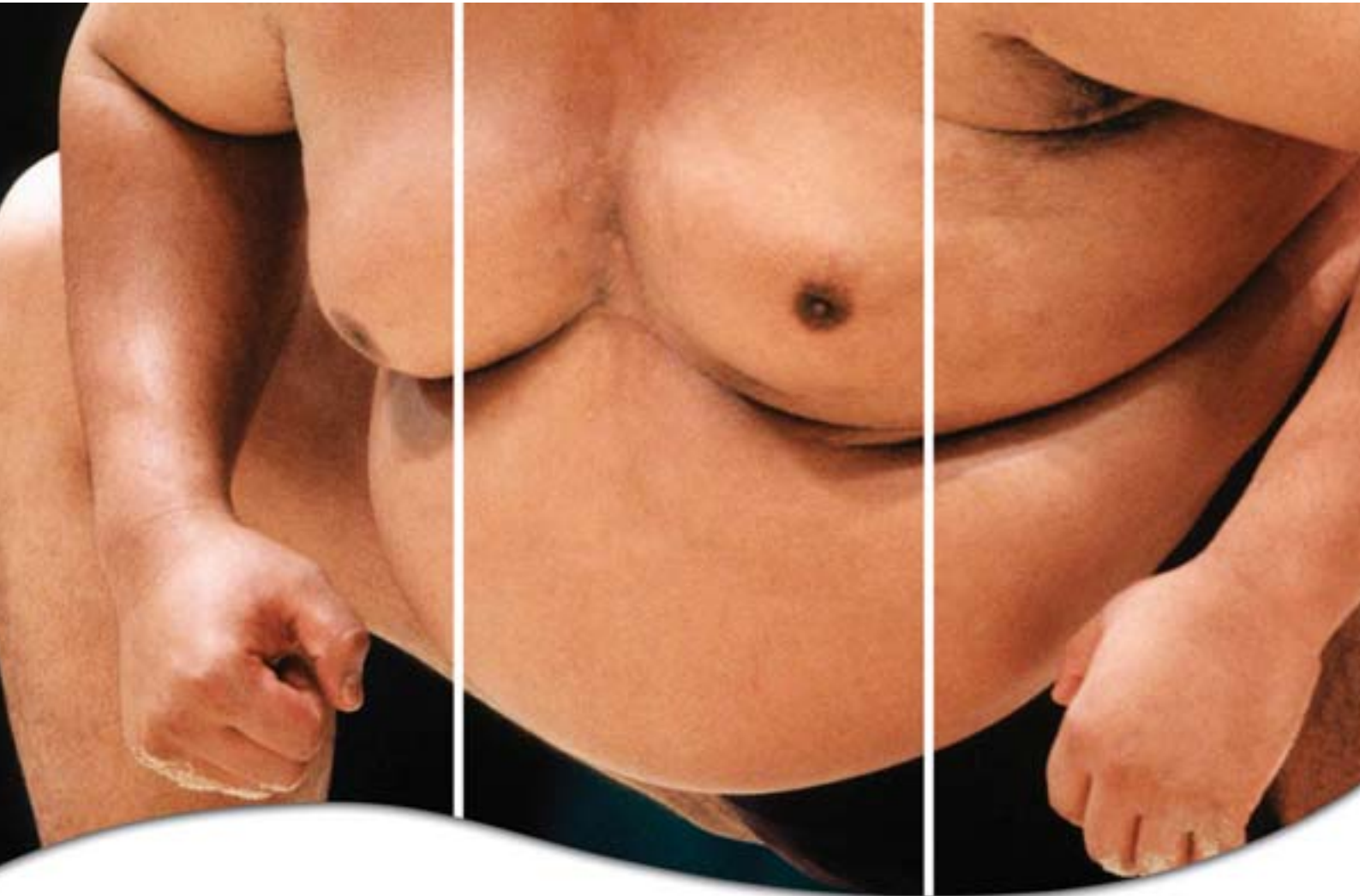
As mentioned earlier, ABP Immingham has purchased nine mobile harbour cranes in recent years, including three HMK 280 EG units which are used for coal handling at Humber International Terminal 1. Following its initial success with these machines, ABP (Associated British Ports) ordered six HMK 260 EG cranes. The first batch was delivered in 2002. Five of the six cranes are now fully operational and are used for handling different bulk materials such as scrap, fertilizers, animal feed, biomasse and ferro-alloys. The sixth HMK 260 EG crane will be commissioned early the new year.

HSK VARIANT

Rail-mounted portal cranes are another speciality of GPT. Since its launch in 1998 at IC Rail Marine Terminal (USA), the company has sold a total of 17 HSK types worldwide, ten of which were sold during 2003. With the exception of a two-rope unit sold to Sidmar in Ghent, all HSK are four-rope grab units. Several machines have been deployed in Russia. Tuapse and Novorossiysk now have four each and Vladivostok has one. The iron ore terminal at Quinhuangdao in China has two and Bordeaux also has two units.

Generally speaking, HSKs are used for quays fitted with rails but which are too narrow for normal rubber-tyred units. All Russian units have the same rail gauge of 10.5 metres, says GPT. The Russian machines have in common is that they are fitted with both a diesel generator and cable drum. The exception is the unit deployed in Vladivostok. This machine relies on external power supply only.

In total, the company has sold more than 850 mobile harbour cranes. The company currently has a workforce of around 650 employees in Düsseldorf and the turnover for the financial year 2002/2003 (ending 30 September) is €183 million.



Up to 1,500 tonnes per hour

With over 850 cranes already sold, Gottwald Port Technology stands unchallenged as the heavy-weight champion in the field of state-of-the-art Mobile Harbour Cranes – which also makes us the most reliable weight-lifter in professional bulk handling. Gottwald's four-rope grab cranes are a force to be reckoned with when it comes to bulk handling. With capacities of up to 1,500 tonnes an hour, these gentle giants



move coal, ores, agribulk, gravel or scrap rapidly and cost-effectively. Bulk-handlers such as ABT, CBM, ABP Immingham, Port Autonome de Bordeaux and Port of Qinhuangdao make full use of these performance levels on a daily basis.

If you want to move more in professional bulk handling, it's time to make a move in our direction. Contact Gottwald Port Technology.

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