Ideal discharge for floating terminal

When Cargill Agricola S/A made plans to double the capacity of its soya bean and maize processing site at Santarém on the River Amazon by constructing a floating jetty, it needed a compact, lightweight, efficient and reliable unloader with excellent environmental performance.

**Customer**
Cargill Agricola S/A

**Location**
Santarém on the River Amazon, Brazil

**Siwertell installation scope**
- **Ship unloader model**: ST 790-M, rail-mounted
- **Rated unloading capacity**
  - Soya Beans/Corn: 1,500t/h (peak: 1,650t/h)
  - Soya Meal: 1,100t/h (peak: 1,250t/h)
- **Maximum ship size**: Barges up to about 2,500 dwt
- **Total weight**: 252t
Case story

Challenge

The customer wanted to more than double its agri-bulk exports from the Santarém riverside transfer terminal by augmenting its two existing pneumatic unloaders with the best system available.

The tidal range of eight metres makes unloading operations very difficult alongside a fixed structure. A floating jetty solved this problem but it required a lightweight unloader to minimise the size of the pontoon. The unloader also had to be physically small enough to fit inside a canopy designed to protect the cargo operations from the elements.

In addition, the unloader was required to deliver very clean discharge operations to meet strict environmental regulations.

Other important considerations included high performance, efficiency, reliability, and dependable support and service.

Solution

Having carefully considered all the suitable unloading systems available, Cargill decided that a Siwertell screw-type unloader was the best solution to its requirements. In 2012 it placed an order for a Siwertell ST 790-M fully-enclosed barge unloader, weighing only 252 tonnes including its counterweight. It has a rated capacity of 1,500t/h for soya beans and maize and 1,100t/h for soya meal. The floating jetty, including the roof, was designed by Interocean. Siwertell worked closely with Interocean and Cargill to design the appropriate ship unloader, taking account of all the particular needs imposed by the trade and location.

Cargill purchased a large stock of critical spare parts. This prudent approach is intended to minimise the risk of unplanned downtime and reflects Santarém’s remote location far from major commercial centres.

Results

Before the expansion project the Santarém terminal exported two million tonnes per year; it now handles five million tonnes. Modifications to the conveyors have delivered a very flexible operation. Since commissioning in 2015, the Siwertell unloader has been in almost continuous operation, with the workload split roughly 70 percent to Siwertell and 30 percent to the pneumatic unloaders. Retaining the pneumatic unloaders ensures a high level of redundancy and is an integral part of the plan.

Cargill says its Siwertell unloader runs very well, easily meeting all environmental requirements. Elimination of cargo spillage raises overall efficiency while the noise level provides a safe working environment.

Cargill says Siwertell delivered good, well-specified engineering supported by good quality fabrication. It highly recommends Siwertell unloaders to other operators.

Contact

Siwertell works closely together with representatives on all continents. Please contact our head office below and we will direct you to your local Siwertell contact.

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The Siwertell product portfolio includes ship unloaders, mobile ship unloaders, ship loaders, horizontal and vertical screw conveyors as well as complete dry bulk terminal solutions. Virtually any dry bulk cargo can be handled and all Siwertell solutions are designed to ensure sustainable, efficient and safe cargo operations. Siwertell is part of Cargotec Corporation.