

DCT PIER 2 COMMENCES ERECTION OF NEW STRADDLE CARRIERS TO OPTIMISE OPERATIONS

The erection of the first two of 23 straddle carriers commenced recently at the Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) Durban Container Terminal (DCT) Pier 2. The highly anticipated arrival of these new straddle carriers forms part of an initiative being implemented by TPT in partnership with Transnet Engineering (TE) and Kalmar to increase productivity and overall operational performance.

This partnership is a first of its kind for TPT in that an OEM (Kalmar) has now supplied a substantial portion of the sub-assembled components for specialised cargo handling equipment of this nature through Transnet Engineering. Transnet Engineering is supplying Bumpers, Columns and Spreader Frame assemblies in its Bluff facilities in Durban and supplying to Kalmar Industries South Africa who have commenced assembling the Straddle Carriers at DCT's Pier 2. This demonstrates the vast local capabilities that need to be further developed in an effort to boost local industrial growth.

The erection of the straddle carriers started with the lifting of the top frames on 19 July 2017, and assembling the straddle carriers onto their wheels. The assembly of these straddle carriers has led to the handover of the first two machines in August 2017, followed by a steady stream of straddle carriers being commissioned over the next 4 months.

"Last year we committed to offering better service delivery through a number of initiatives which included the procurement of new equipment to replace the machines that had reached end-of-life. The completion of the 23 new straddle carriers will greatly enhance the service we will be able to provide," stated Josiah Mpofo, Transnet Port Terminals' GM: Engineering.

Transnet Port Terminals utilizes a large fleet of equipment to handle cargo at the Durban Container Terminals. This fleet consists of ship to shore cranes, rail gantry cranes, and rubber tyre gantry cranes, straddle carriers, reach stackers and empty container handlers, amongst others. More recently hauler and trailer combinations were introduced at DCT and have already contributed to improved handling and turnaround times. The overall fleet exceeds 250 units.

"Our revised approach to maintaining and procuring new equipment has already had a positive impact on improving the agility and reliability of our operations for our clients and stakeholders, which ultimately results in better customer service. The terminal is working

tirelessly to ensure that we continuously improve our service delivery,” concluded Josiah Mpofo, Transnet Port Terminals’ GM: Engineering.



ENDS

WORDS	: 390
PICTURES	: Images of the two new straddle carriers erected at DCT Pier2 by TPT and TE 0894 – Welding of T-Beam on Tack Jig 0905 – Machining of Columns on 3D Milling machine 0913 – Painted Spreader Beams and Bumper Assemblies 0917 – Spreader Frame Assembly getting tested for final quality before shipping on testing jig.
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Notes to editor:

Transnet Port Terminals manages 16 cargo terminal facilities across seven South African ports with a staff compliment of over 9 000. Its operations target four major market sectors, namely the automotive sector, containers, bulk and break bulk, organised according to their respective geographical regions.

Nozipho Sithole is the Chief Executive.

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