



delivering freight reliably port terminals

Tuesday, 12 December 2017

## **TRANSNET PORT TERMINAL CELEBRATES LOCALLY ASSEMBLED STRADDLE CARRIERS**

Transnet Port Terminals today unveiled 23 Kalmar new straddle carriers assembled locally for the Durban Container Terminal (DCT) Pier 2 operations, marking Transnet's commitment to localisation and industrialisation of the country. The delivery of the 23 straddle carriers forms part of TPT's strategy to replace ageing equipment with new and modernised equipment.

The substantial capital investment by TPT of nearly R308 million will increase the number of reliable straddle carriers available to operations and lower the cost of maintenance due to less equipment failures.

The investment will also ensure greater customer satisfaction through improved delivery time of containers.

TPT has sought the services of a global and leading cargo handling maker, Kalmar, an original equipment manufacturer (OEM), to supply a substantial portion of the sub-assembled components for specialised cargo handling equipment of this nature through its fellow operating division Transnet Engineering. This is in line with Transnet's strategy of local enterprise development and skills transfer.

The partnership also involved training and imparting of technical knowledge and skills for local engineers at Transnet.

One of the key milestones on the project was the local manufacture of the spreader beams by TE, which were designed to automatically locate and lock the container, operated by the driver.



Transnet Port Terminal, Chief Executive, Nozipho Sithole said: “Straddle carriers are a core of the terminals’ container logistics and service delivering handling system. As such they directly influence the terminals’ ability to handle container volumes in line with the key performance indicators provided by customers. Towards the end of their design life, straddle carriers become unreliable as components age and result in increased breakdowns. The consequential impact is a decline in terminal productivity and an increase in maintenance costs.”

The replacement of the 23 straddle carriers reaching their end of life was deemed in 2016 as an essential to increase the reliability of the straddle carrier fleet and to militate against safety risks, explained Sithole.

Thamsanqa Jiyane, Transnet Engineering Chief Officer Advanced Manufacturing, notes that this was the first time the company’s engineers had an opportunity to manufacture straddle carrier component kits for an original equipment manufacturer of Kalmar’s calibre.

“Our team had to ensure that the interphase of the spreader box and the T-Bulk was within the required tight tolerance specification,” says Jiyane. “State of the art measuring equipment was purchased for the fabrication and assembly of the T-Bulk. In the process, Transnet Engineering had to design some of the jigs to manufacture these components from scratch.”

The life span of a straddle carrier is 40,000 hours, which equates to around 8 years. According to Josiah Mpofo, Transnet Port Terminals’ GM: Engineering, the revised approach by TPT to maintaining and procuring new equipment has already had a positive impact on improving the agility and reliability of the service for customers. As part of the contract with Kalmar, a straddle carrier simulator is being supplied and will be installed at the Maritime School of Excellence by the end of January 2018.

Transnet’s Group Chief Executive, Siyabonga Gama addressed invited guests at the DCT unveiling and reinforced the importance of Transnet Operating Divisions fulfilling the ‘One Team One Vision’ spirit. “This particular project showcases the benefits of the Transnet Value Chain Co-ordinator (TVCC) and highlights integration efforts by TPT and TE. It also

demonstrates the vast local capabilities that can be achieved when Transnet works in partnership with key stakeholders, and we feel this needs to be further developed in an effort to boost industrial growth and local content,” stated Gama.



Durban Pier 2 Container Terminal (DCT) in the port of Durban is a specialized maritime facility with dedicated infrastructure and equipment for the handling of containerized cargo. The terminal's container handling system comprises of a combination of ship-to-shore (STS) cranes, straddle carriers and rail mounted gantries.

ENDS

**TAGS:** Transnet port terminals, tpt, port terminal, ports, export, import, DCT, Pier 2, Durban Container Terminals, straddle carriers, stakeholders, equipment, operations TE, Transnet, Transnet Engineering, Kalmar, integration, operational efficiency, customer satisfaction.

**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.

For information, visit [www.transnetportterminals.net](http://www.transnetportterminals.net)

**Editorial Contact**

Mbali Mathenjwa

Executive Manager: Corporate Affairs

Transnet Port Terminals

Tel: 031 308 8310/083 279 2651

Zodwa Mashishi

Executive Manager: Corporate Affairs

Transnet Engineering

Tel: 012 391 1511/060 583 5418