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ALE 30,000T LOAD-OUT USES UNIQUE SKIDDING SYSTEM



ALE completed the load-out of the 30,000t CAT-J jack-up rig in July, using a unique skidding system especially designed for the project.

ALE completed the load-out of the first jack-up rig for the CAT-J project at the Samsung Heavy Industries Shipyard in South Korea. The jack-up rig, which finally weighed 29,300t, was built on top of supports on a concrete track 20m from the quayside.

ALE used their own unique, self-propelled skidding system and ballasting system to load-out the jack-up rig from the quay onto a floating drydock barge. 72 skid shoes, with a total capacity of 42,900t, were installed underneath the rig. By extending the skid shoe integrated hydraulic cylinders, the load was transferred from the building supports onto the skidding system.

A three-point hydraulic suspension was created in order to control and maintain the stability of the system during the load-out. The ALE ballast system was installed beside the internal ballast system of the floating drydock itself. This provided sufficient ballasting capacity to compensate for the tide during the load-out and the load transfer from key to the dock by the skidding system.

Since ALE's first skidding jobs in the 1980's, their R&D department has utilised the knowledge gained from previous experience to design the current skidding system. As the

system is made completely computer controlled, all parameters such as wind speed, hydraulic pressures, stroke sensors and heel, trim, can be checked from the control room. Operationally this computerisation of the system is ready to meet future requirements where this increased level of control, logging of information and sharing of data during operations are the new standard.

ALE's Supervisor, Nico den Engelsen, explained how ALE's innovative new skidding system was instrumental to the project's success: "In terms of contingency, usability and safety, I truly believe that this improved skidding system is by far the most complete and competitive in the industry. By using the overview from the control room, we could keep the operation easily within the predetermined limits.

"Speaking on behalf of the team, I can say that we are incredibly proud of the system and how it represents the next level of skidding capabilities. We are yet to reach the limits of the system and look forward to continue in our today's set boundaries again in future projects."

The CAT-J project involves the creation and delivery of tailor-made rigs for us both surface and subsea wells in the shallow-water segments on the Norwegian continental shelf. The rigs are designed to boost oil recovery with a less expensive, more efficient and safer production process.

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Issued by the ALE Press Office. For more information or images, please contact Sarah Maia on 01889 272 545 or email s.maia@ale-heavylift.com

ABOUT ALE

ALE delivers strategic heavy-lift services to a wide range of sectors, including civil, oil and gas, energy, nuclear, offshore, renewables, petrochemical, ports, marine, minerals and metals and mining.

ALE has more than 30 offices across Europe, the Far East, Africa, America, South America, the Middle East and Australia. It is fully compliant with international standards of safety and excellence, including Quality standard ISO 9001:2015, Environmental standard ISO 14001:2015, and Occupational Health and Safety management system requirements OHSAS 18001:2007. Further information can be found on the ALE website at www.ale-heavylift.com.