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ALE'S MEGA JACK PERFORMS FIRST JACK-UP IN EUROPE



ALE has used the revolutionary Mega Jack system for the first time in Europe as part of the Albert Kanaal Project in Belgium.

The Mega Jack system, engineered to push structures of staggering weights and sizes, was utilised to jack-up the main bridge of a bridge heightening project in Genk, Belgium.

Jacking-up the bridge sections was the first phase of the project. The main bridge, with a span of 180m and weight of 4,500t, along with the two side bridges, weighing 536t each, were jacked-up 2.9m in three consecutive days. This enabled the client to adjust the foundations and finish other civil works over the following three weeks, before ALE jacked-down the main and the two side bridges on the adjusted foundations. Eventually, the height allowance of the bridge for ships to pass under was increased with 2.4m.

Jos Baelemans, Project Engineer, said: "One of the challenges was to utilise a computerised jacking system with a jacking accuracy of +/- 0.3mm and a read-out accuracy of +/- 0.01mm. Furthermore, as the bridge foundations were located close to the quayside, a system was required with a high jacking capacity and a small footprint."

"Given the extreme weight of the bridge, we believe the optimum solution would be to use our Mega Jack System. This jacking system comprised of eight jacks, each with 1,300t capacity, thus creating a total lifting capacity of 10,400t. By using the Mega Jack, we could complete the jack-up quickly and safely within the space available."

"For both side bridges, a computerised jacking system with a total of 2,000t capacity and oversized steel beams was used, which allowed for the bridge to be jacked-up on all 14 bearing points simultaneously".

The bridge heightening is part of the Albert Kanaal Project, in which over 50 bridges will eventually have a free passing height of 9.1m to allow ships with four layers of containers to



pass through the channel. Some bridges need to be completely replaced, other bridges only need to be heightened and some bridges already have the sufficient height.

ALE has also been awarded the contract to launch the new bridge at Zolder, weighing approximately 1,200t. This bridge is also part of Albert Kanaal project and the launching will take place in the autumn of 2016.

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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.