

09 August 2017

ALE PERFORM THEIR HEAVIEST LOAD-OUT BY SKIDDING OPERATION



ALE has performed their heaviest-ever load-out operation by hydraulic skidding when performing the back skidding and load-out of an Appomattox hull, weighing over 40,440t, in South Korea.

ALE was contracted to undertake the weighing and skidding integration as well as the load-out and ballasting scopes.

In October 2016 ALE performed the skidding of the half hull, from water-side further on the quay, using 48 skid shoes. This was undertaken so space could be created for the client to complete the hull using sheerlegs.

A few days prior for the load-out, ALE performed the weighing using a 112 point weighing system comprising of hydraulic jacks and load cells.

To perform the load-out, ALE installed 96 skid shoes under the hull, including 48 of ALE's new 800t skids shoes. The skid shoes were divided over eight tracks and moved forward using 32 push pulls. The skidding was controlled using the new ALE computerised skidding system.

The ballasting and real-time barge monitoring was undertaken by ALE-Offshore Services, a specialist offshore division. The ballasting was undertaken using ten 24PS pumps and 47 10PS de-ballast pumps, with a combined capacity of 71,000t/ hr.

Teun Van Gorp, ALE's project Manager/Engineer, said: "The load-out represents one of the largest we have executed to date. By utilising our latest technologies and the specialist expertise from different branches and ALE divisions, we were able to perform these technically complex skidding operations and showcase our capabilities."

The load-out was undertaken in August 2017, taking 19 hours and the entire operation was completed in five weeks.

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For more information or images, please contact Sarah Maia on (+44) 1782 977146 or email s.maia@ale-heavylift.com

Image 1: ALE performing the skidding load-out in South Korea.

Image 2: Hull is loaded-out onto the barge.

Notes to editors:

ALE delivers a highly tailored, end-to-end service covering every aspect of the handling, transportation and installation of heavy, indivisible loads, including lifting, transporting, installing, ballasting, jacking and weighing.

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 Health and Safety Standard OHSAS 18001:2007. Further information can be found on the ALE website at www.ale-heavylift.com.