

PRODUCT FOCUS: FEEDER SERVER

THE CUSTOMER

Saigon New Port Company is a prestigious and powerful brand in the terminal operation in Vietnam. The container throughput of the company has accounted for more than 65 % of the market share in Ho Chi Minh City area and 42 % in the country. Cat Lai port is the biggest and most modern container port in Vietnam, governed by the Saigon New Port Company. The terminal handles more than 170 vessels every month, coming from all over the world with the average throughput of 160,000 TEUs.

THE TASK

Cargo handling volumes in Vietnamese harbours have grown constantly during recent years having urgently required expansion. At the end of 2009, the Vietnamese government announced far-reaching investments worth billions as part of a master plan for the improvement of infrastructure. The Feeder Server were part of these investments and play an important role in the success of the company. Operating speed and precision as well as flexible positioning between existing gantry cranes are central to the service of feeder vessels.

THE CRANE

The feeder server is a mobile container crane that had been delivered to the Cat Lai Terminal as rail-mounted type. This crane can be moved to the berths of the postpanamax and super-post-panamax ships in the large terminals and thus can serve smaller feeder ships effectively. The feeder server is optimally adapted to the handling operation in the terminal. Its dimensions are adapted to the ship sizes. And in general, the crane is operated in the same way as the large-sized cranes, e.g. it does not know any slewing movements which are not applicable in practice. But above all, this crane can carry out fast changes of position in the backreach of large-sized cranes. Compared with the conventional container cranes, it is the cheapest alternative as railmounted variant up to the panamax size.

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WHAT THE DESIGNER SAYS

'When designing the Feeder Server, right from the start our focus was on cutting down weight wherever possible, but of course also on a sturdy, torsionally rigid structure. To achieve both objectives, we have subjected all components of the Feeder Server to a process of optimization: The boom system, for example, now consists of stability optimized box girders. This design offers a low profile at a minimum weight, low wind areas, yet with a high load-bearing capacity. The Feeder Server is the perfect crane in feeder and large terminals. Not only in Vietnam.'

