

VIGAN barge unloading technology helps keep trucks off the roads

One 75-metre barge can transport the same amount of dry bulk as 60 trucks on 850 metres.

Inland transportation is of increasing interest against traffic jams — this a major reason why many industries prefer barge transport: it is also globally speaking cheaper.

A barge unloader installed at the Port of Liverpool in the UK at its Brocklebank Dock rapeseed crushing facility in 2002 has resulted in 2,500 fewer trucks a year on UK roads.

The VIGAN pneumatic unloader, which can discharge a ship at a rate of 170tph (tonnes per hour), was purchased with the assistance of a Department of Transport Freight Facility Grant.

"By shipping up to 5,000 tonnes at a time by sea from other parts of Britain and mainland Europe, we are not only securing valuable supplies for the plant and extra traffic for the port, but we are also substantially reducing the number of truck movements across the country's network," said Cargill's port superintendent Andrew Polter.

For many years VIGAN has been a major player in pneumatic barge unloaders mainly in Europe with many installations in Belgium, Holland, France and Germany.

As a 'première' for cocoa beans in bulk, VIGAN supplied a barge unloader to Cargill facility in Zandaam. The relevant factor is that cocoa beans are a delicate product to handle but thanks to its up-to-date technology, VIGAN manages the technological challenge to the full satisfaction of the customer.

A major advantage of the pneumatic unloaders for barges and inland transportation is the capability of sucking down to the latest product particles on the hold floor.

This technology is environmentally friendly: there is no dust and low noise (nearby urban areas). VIGAN's equipment follows all the recent international regulations in terms of protecting the environment.

In 2004, VIGAN delivered also a barge unloader in China with a capacity of 400tph (near Chongqing along the Yangsi river). In 2005, two barge unloaders (each also with 400tph capacity) were delivered in Brazil for Cargill new facilities in Santarem along the Amazon river.

Another very interesting project was for the Cargill group in the Ukraine: unloading rail wagons and loading barges.

The fact that one of the most important company in the agri-business like Cargill is choosing pneumatic systems in several countries (Holland, Brazil, Ukraine and France) is a clear indication that they fully trust this technology as being the most suitable solution for this kind of barge unloading operations.

VIGAN has sold several barge unloaders to this company: two in Holland, one in France, one in England, one in Brazil and one in the Ukraine.

VIGAN has also sold two barge unloaders to the international group CERESTAR: one for Holland, and one for Germany.

The Soufflet group and Heineken are also purchasers of VIGAN's barge unloading equipment.

For many years VIGAN has sold equipment for barge



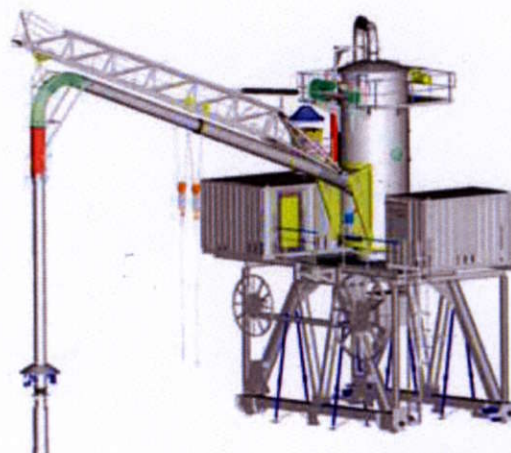
unloading. The company is continuously making technological improvements to its equipment to increase reliability and reduce running costs.

The main advantages for barge unloading with a VIGAN pneumatic equipment are:

- ❖ the ability of the pneumatic systems to suck down to the latest particles of the cargo (also in hard-to-reach corners of the hold);
- ❖ low manpower: a one single operator is able to take care of the whole unloading operation;
- ❖ no dust or spillage; and
- ❖ low noise.
- ❖ low energy consumption (down to 0.6 kW per unloaded ton) thanks to most state-of-the art engineering and latest energy saving devices.

Most recently VIGAN has sold equipment for barge unloading in Belgium (one for grains in 2005 and another for urea in 2008).

Currently, a barge unloader with a capacity of 400tph is under manufacture at VIGAN's facilities and will be delivered by the end of 2011 to the port of Sète in France. This will ease the arrival of grains from the hinterland of France for onward transportation on large size vessels mainly to the African and Middle East markets.



Port of Sète - France