Wharf to Vessel Transfer - Transhipment

Project Overview:

Client: SMD Groep
Project: Wharf to Vessel Load Transfer
Location: Netherlands
Date: 2022
Unit: AR15 (WLL 15 tonnes)
Usage: Controlling the orientation of lifting cage remotely, eliminating the amount of personnel needed near the moving load during operations and reducing manning.



SMD Groep loading bricks onto vessel. Typically, 650 lifts are conducted each day on a 30 second cycle time.

650 lifts a day, 15% decrease in total loading time

SMD Groep in the Netherlands loads pallets of bricks into coastal vessels. This operation uses a 50-tonne hydraulic telescopic crane, with each lift consisting of two pallets of bricks weighing a total of 4 tonnes.

The lifting cage which holds the pallets needs to be rotated 90 degrees to allow for forklift access for loading on the wharf and unloading in the hold. The turning of the lifting cage was previously done manually on the ground using two personnel, one positioned on the wharf and the other in the vessel hold. This is now done by Roborigger.



2 orientations pre-set with a single button press

SMD uses the pre-set orientation capability of Roborigger. The “position A, position B” function allow the crane operator to reset the load orientation in transit with a single button press. Vessel loading operations are now conducted without the help of ground personnel or taglines.



2 less personnel required, significant safety improvement

"Nowadays, with Roborigger, we do not need anyone to stand close to the load anymore. We're also seeing a total loading time reduction because Roborigger outperforms humans in terms of accuracy and consistency. Single lifting cycle has gone down from around 35 seconds to 30, and we have around 600 lifting cycles a day, so that reduction really adds up. We are very happy with Roborigger, as well as the team that's behind it." - ***Daan Sterk, Head of Innovations, SMD Groep***

