

Durban Port to get new cranes

Following a competitive tender process, Transnet SOC Ltd signed an agreement with China-based Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industries for the purchase of seven tandem lift ship-to-shore (STS) cranes for the Durban Container Terminal - Pier 2. The tender is for the design, manufacture, delivery and commissioning of the cranes to replace the terminal's ageing infrastructure and will be installed during the 2012/13 financial year.

It is part of the targeted interventions to renew Transnet's fleet of port handling equipment in an effort to boost efficiency and productivity at South Africa's flagship terminal. The purchase will result in improved operational efficiencies and reduced service times. The cranes are also designed to suit the future deepened north quay berths of Pier 2 and be able to easily service the new generation megamax container vessels.

The purchase makes Pier 2 the first terminal in Africa to operate tandem lift STS cranes. The tandem lift capability of the cranes, which can simultaneously handle two 12m containers or four 6m containers within hoisting capability of 80 tons, is a significant step towards making Pier 2 a globally competitive terminal as is the case with Pier 1.

The purchase of the cranes is in addition to the implementation of a Terminal Operating System, NAVIS Sparcs N4, which will enable enhanced vessel and terminal planning to further boost efficiency at the terminal. The company has recently acquired 28 new diesel-electric straddle carriers, 14 of which have twin lift capability.

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