FAIRPORT : A NAUTICAL ODYSSEY

Fairport Engineering of Adlington, Lancashire, is a long established and successful bulk materials handling and processing plant consultant and contractor. Perhaps surprisingly Fairport has, over its' 36 years, had a varied and interesting involvement in matters maritime and not always involving the core technologies in which the organisation has unrivalled experience and capabilities.

Fairport's most recent and perhaps most complex assignment is the raw materials intake and storage system that is currently being constructed at the UK's new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point, on the north Somerset coast. Fairport has been engaged to provide the materials handling systems that are to be installed on a jetty that extends some 600m into the Bristol Channel and will bring in the majority of the aggregate and sand that will be used over the 7 to 8 year construction period. An associated on-site storage facility for these materials and GGBS is also part of the project. Delivering bulk materials to the construction site in this way will avoid some 80% of these construction materials being delivered by road. The following photographs show the loading of various components on a jack-up barge crane, at Falmouth, that was subsequently used to install them at the jetty head.



Fairport's early involvement with working over water was in the 1990's and mainly the maintenance and refurbishment of piers and jetties at sea-side towns such as Blackpool, Llandudno and Brighton. As will be seen from the photo-montage below this also included the visitor attractions associated with, or on, the piers themselves.





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This ability to extend the life of structures, that were subject to significant salt air corrosion, quickly spread into more traditional Fairport territory with the provision, at Raynes Quarry, North Wales, of a ship-loading system. As shown below, the conveying system passed below the main A55 North Wales coastal expressway before ending in a reversing tripper conveyor that allowed two ships to be loaded in quick succession without being unduly affected by the tidal range.



As shown, in the following before and after photographs, Fairport's minerals processing and materials handling skills were called into use in 2008 to assist with a major development at the Port of Tilbury for Cemex. Fairport acted as the Client's Engineer to develop and deliver a new storage and grinding terminal that would import clinker from all over the world and produce high quality cements for construction use in London and the surrounding areas.



Following on fairly quickly, in 2011, and once again at Tilbury, but this time at RWE's power station on the banks of the river Thames, Fairport designed and built a new ship unloading system that would allow the power station to use wood pellets instead of coal as its main source of fuel.



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The success of this system led to Fairport rapidly becoming a leading specialist in assisting port operators to switch their traditional coal import facilities to accept biomass.



Not that every marine project that Fairport was involved with between 2013 to 2015 was of massive proportions - as illustrated by the following photographs that show one of a number of mobile unloading hoppers and a novel tramp removal conveyor plough.



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