



OCP solve dust problems

Office Cherifien Phosphates (OCP) of Morocco is the world's largest exporter of Phosphate employing over 20,000 people with some 15million tonnes of product per annum being shipped around the world through the companies' facility in the port of Casablanca.

Phosphate, which is produced as a constituent of fertiliser is an extremely dry and dusty material and the loading of ships with conventional loading systems resulted in very high levels of dust pollution, typically 200mg/m³ per loader, interfering with adjacent operations and representing a health & safety problem for the facility operators.

To further the companies endeavours to maintain its position as a global leader in environmental improvement the company undertook a study to find a solution to the production of dust when loading ships, evaluating every system available, before appointing Cleveland Cascades Ltd from North East England, a specialist designer and manufacturer of bespoke bulk material handling solutions with extensive experience of dealing with very dusty materials.

OCP knew that in order to comply with ever tightening regulations and in order to demonstrate the use of best available technology, they stipulated air pollution levels of 5mg/m³ or less when any of their four shiploading systems were in operation. To make an already challenging task even more complex, OCP also wished to extend the length of the loading booms to accommodate Panamax vessels which increasingly visited the port and required a rapid turnaround.

Cleveland Cascades Ltd was selected to undertake the project because they could provide a total package of services under a single point of responsibility for the ultimate performance of the refurbished shiploaders.

The new design had to be manufactured to operate fully blocked within the existing maximum loadings for the machines, which was achieved by incorporating a unique auto spill facility specifically developed by Cleveland for retrofitting.

As part of the supply package Cleveland measured the air pollution levels during loading using the latest air sampling techniques and produced a certified report, which establishes before and after pollution levels, present loading emissions and ambient emission levels. This study is invaluable to the client as it establishes a benchmark against which performance of the system can be assessed and offers authorities evidence of the levels of improvement made by the investment. Initially just one of the four shiploaders was selected and a complete loading solution was designed and manufactured.

