

UTC Overseas • Almajdouie Logistics Company

Two partners in harness

Two experienced heavylift specialists, namely the Houston-based US logistics service provider UTC Overseas (founded in 1925) and Saudi Arabia's Almajdouie Group (founded in 1965), recently formed an exclusive joint agency.

The two partners UTC Overseas and the Almajdouie Logistics Company have previously already cooperated in project logistics activities. Now the firms have formalised a new exclusive agency joint-venture agreement. Senior representatives, including Brian Posthumus, UTC's presi-

dent and CEO, and S. I. Mustafa, chief executive officer of Almajdouie Logistics, met recently in Saudi Arabia to sign the deal. The occasion was presented by the transport of a large tower (weighing 220 t and measuring 51 x 9 m) destined for a solvents recovery facility in Jubail.

Almajdouie has already earned respect for its handling of some major logistics projects in the energy, oil and gas, power distribution and infrastructure sectors. For example, the corporation handled the movement of a 5,000 t component to the Ras al Khair desalination plant (Saudi

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Arabia). This project (which we have already reported on previously, see page 24 of the Breakbulk and Heavylift Special in *ITJ* 7-8/2012) was even recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as the heaviest item ever moved by road.

Bundling their common strengths

UTC Overseas, in turn, has crafted an international reputation for itself as a leader in the field of the safe and cost-effective handling of complex turnkey projects, often delivered to remote destinations. It manages a total of 55 offices in 26 countries worldwide, including centres in North and South America, Europe



Photo: UTC

UTC and Almajdouie executives met up in Saudi Arabia to sign the deal.

(including Eastern Europe and the Balkan region), Asia (including the Middle East and India), Australia and North Africa, where it set up its presence most recently. The corporation recently also opened

a new office in the Opec member state Algeria, a move which UTC said not only reflects the company's expanding activities in the region, but simultaneously also puts it in an excellent position to handle major moves of capital project and oil and gas equipment for local operators.

The joint venture between UTC on the one hand and Almajdouie on the other creates a project logistics team which the partners say has «unmatched strengths and experience in the global energy, petro-chemical, manufacturing, infrastructure, and power generation and distribution sectors, particularly in the Middle East.» *Andreas Haug*

Special heavylift property near Ulm

The Honold Logistics Group is erecting a special building on a 50,000 sqm property in Vöhringen, near Ulm (Germany). The distinctive features of the hall, which offers a ceiling height of 11.5 m to the bottom of the trusses, include a special heavylift crane as well as floor, for technically-demanding and heavy goods. The hall will also offer a variety of technical equipment for handling heavy cargo. According to information from the company, the building is one of the few facilities in the region that meets these requirements. In the first phase, it will include 10,000 sqm of warehouse space and 400 sqm of office space, and once all work is completed it will cover a total of 23,000 sqm. The hall will more than meet the current regulations for the protection of the environment and energy conservation. It will be the most modern building of its type in Neu-Ulm district, and take every ecological requirement into account. A first anchor tenant from the region has already signed a multi-year rental contract. Honold is currently negotiation with other potentially interested tenants from the industry.

At the start of the project Honold was confronted with resistance from a citizens' initiative and considerable problems with contaminated areas. By working together with the authorities and including input from political decision-makers, however, a solution was found which «took all interests into account, particularly those of nature conservancy and local residents», according to the developer. In order to complete the project, properties were purchased from several owners and combined.



Photo: Honold

Even when deploying the strongest performers Honold respects the highest standards for the protection of the environment.

Overcoming switchbacks, bends, inclines



Photo: Goldhofer

Hareket's convoy had to cross eleven rivers, sometimes on bridges which it had provisionally erected itself, to reach the destination.

The Turkish company Hareket Heavy Lifting & Project Transportation, which is headquartered in Samandira (Istanbul), has mastered a very special challenge, with help of innovative transportation equipment manufactured by the German vehicle-maker Goldhofer Aktiengesellschaft. Hareket, which says it is one of the most important transport and logistics companies in Turkey, was called on to move a 580 t heavy gas-pressure tank on a 176 km journey to a mine in the mountains. Hareket used a 22-axle self-propelled Goldhofer heavy-load modular system with an electronic control programme driven by two power-packs with 490 hp each for the task. Because of the 7 m diameter of the tank and the narrow roads, Hareket decided to use a so-called split combination (1 + 1/2) vehicle. This allows the operator to divide the heavylift modules along the longitudinal axis, to better distribute the weight.

On the road from the western Turkish port of Izmir to the Zorlu Meta Nikel mine in Manisa in the interior, the 35 m long and 8 m high colossus had to cross eleven rivers. Because it is not permitted to use bridges in Turkey with heavy loads weighing more than 150 t, Hareket had to construct temporary crossings. On the last 40 km in the mountains, the vehicles had to navigate switchbacks, sharp bends and inclines of up to 12%. The high temperatures of up to 35°C were also a great burden for the project team. In order to avoid the worst of the heat, the shipment set off at 04.30 every day, with a leading water trailer cooling the road.