Press Release

Phone: +49 (0) 2733 29 7286
E-mail: martin.aufschlaeger@sms-group.com
Martin Aufschläger

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World’s first high bay container storing system to be ready for 2020 World Expo in Dubai

Unique joint venture between DP World and SMS group to revolutionize global port logistics
Disruptive technology to radically improve operations

An international joint-venture formed by global trade enabler DP World and industrial engineering specialists SMS group will revolutionize the way that containers are handled in ports. A new and intelligent storing system will be applied for the first time ever at Jebel Ali Terminal 4, in time for the Dubai Expo 2020 world fair.

The High Bay Storage system was originally developed by SMS group subsidiary AMOVA for round the clock handling of metal coils that weigh as much as 50 tons each in racks as high as 50 meters. AMOVA is the first company to transfer this proven technology to the port industry.

Instead of stacking containers directly on top of each other, which has been global standard practice for decades, the system places each container in an individual rack compartment. Containers are stored in an eleven-story rack, creating 200 percent more capacity than a conventional container terminal, or creating the same capacity in less than a third of the space.

Thanks to the rack’s design, each container can be accessed without having to move another one, enabling 100 percent utilization in a terminal yard. The system brings big gains in speed, energy efficiency, better safety and a major reduction in costs. Costs are further cut by the ability to shorten the time taken to load and unload mega-ships by as much as 30 percent.

Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, DP World Group Chairman and CEO, said: “DP World’s experience and expertise in moving cargo coupled with the technology of AMOVA will ensure the system is remarkably efficient and relevant for present and future operations. As a world first in our industry we are tremendously excited by its potential and groundbreaking features. Our engagement in new technologies is a major priority and we have become known for seeking ways that transform the way goods are moved across the world. Innovation is part of our DNA and at the heart of our success.”

Burkhard Dahmen, CEO of SMS group, said: “Our subsidiary AMOVA has optimized this technology in industrial applications for the metals industry over several decades. The application for container terminals is a direct result of our “New Horizon” strategy, in which SMS transfers technology from the metallurgical sector to other industries.”

Dr. Mathias Dobner, CEO of Joint-Venture, said: “This new container handling technology allows cities to use their expensive and sensitive land and waterfront areas more effectively. Our system will significantly increase the productivity of handling ships on the quay. This means that quay walls can be shortened by a third. This disruptive innovation will greatly improve the financial performance of container ports, and well as their overall appearance.”

For DP World media enquiries please contact:

Sana Maadad
Corporate Communications Manager
DP World
Phone: +971 505522610
sana.maadad(at)dpworld.com

Mike Vertigans
Senior Corporate Communications Manager
DP World
Phone: +971 566769324
michael.vertigans(at)dpworld.com
Follow DP World on:
Twitter: https://twitter.com/DP_World
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/dp-world

For AMOVA media enquiries contact:

Martin Aufschläger
Vice President Corporate Development & Communications
Phone: +49 (0) 2733 29 7286
Mobile: +49 (0) 151 1711 0612
martin.aufschlaeger(at)sms-group.com

About DP World:

DP World is a leading enabler of global trade and an integral part of the supply chain. We operate multiple yet related businesses – from marine and inland terminals, maritime services, logistics and ancillary services to technology-driven trade solutions.

We have a portfolio of 78 operating marine and inland terminals supported by over 50 related businesses in over 40 countries across six continents with a significant presence in both high-growth and mature markets. We aim to be essential to the bright future of global trade, ensuring everything we do has a long-lasting positive impact on economies and society.

Our dedicated team of over 36,000 employees from 103 countries cultivates long-standing relationships with governments, shipping lines, importers and exporters, communities, and many other important constituents of the global supply chain, to add value and provide quality services today and tomorrow.

Container handling is the company’s core business and generates more than three quarters of its revenue. In 2017, DP World handled 70.1 million TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) across our portfolio. With its committed pipeline of developments and expansions, the current gross capacity of 88.2 million TEU is expected to rise to more than 100 million TEU by 2020, in line with market demand. By thinking ahead, foreseeing change and innovating we aim to create the most productive, efficient and safe trade solutions globally.

About AMOVA:

AMOVA GmbH located in Netphen, Germany, has been a specialist in satisfying logistic demands in the metallurgical and rolling mill industry for more than 60 years. The portfolio further includes fully automated solutions meeting the most diverse requirements with respect to packaging for internal and external transportation.

AMOVA has been successful in translating the knowledge of these demands into other industrial sectors. Another field AMOVA has become a specialist in is high-bay stores for containers. Sea containers of different sizes are carried to fully automated high-bay stores where they are kept in space- and time-saving arrangement until repackaging or reloading (by ship, rail or road).
SMS group is a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering for the steel and nonferrous metals industry. It has some 14,000 employees who generate worldwide sales of about EUR 3 billion. The sole owner of the holding company SMS GmbH is the Familie Weiss Foundation.