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Ruddy lifting points!

German-based chain, sling and lashing specialist RUD, known for its shocking pink hooks and chain sets, has introduced a new rotating eyebolt system dubbed the StarPoint VRS eyebolt.

Standard eyebolts are designed for vertical, symmetrical lifts and loadings that exceed an angle of 45 degrees from the bolt's centre line can have a major impact on its maximum load limit. A fixed eyebolt will inevitably attempt to turn in the direction of the pull upon it, which can easily result in it becoming loose, causing it to bend or shear. The advantage of the StarPoint eyebolt is that it is able to rotate through a full 360 degrees, allowing



The StarPoint in a distinctive florescent pink powder coating.

it to adjust to the direction of the load lift therefore eliminating the costs and dangers that are inherent with bent eyes, backed out threads and over-tightening. Available screw thread sizes range from eight to 48mm with capacities ranging from 400kg to 32 tonnes and an 'Easy-Fit' key enables it to be fitted without the use of tools.

A pivotal moment

Italian lift attachment manufacturer CAM Systems has introduced a 180 degree box rotator attachment for telehandlers and fork lift trucks.

Developed in response to market demand in Italy and France, the attachment has been designed to transport and rotate boxes through the vertical plane with forks rotating clockwise 180 degrees. An adjustable folding third arm provides additional support through the rotation and its open design

provides optimal visibility. The attachment can be fitted to any FEM II fork carriage and is also available with either a different upper carriage rail widths, a semi-integrated side shift or a version specifically designed for foundries.

Belgian replacement parts specialist TVH will distribute the attachment after acquiring CAM Systems earlier this year and having spent three years prior as its exclusive distributor.

The 180 degree box rotator attachment on a fork lift truck



An example of an automated system installed on a stacking crane

First remotely operated cranes

Power and automation specialist ABB has recently won two contracts to provide port operators APM Terminals and Rotterdam World Gateway with an automated Ship to Shore (STS) crane system.

A series of ABB systems combined with onboard cameras enables STS operators to remotely control and supervise all crane movements on monitors from a control room located in the terminal building. The company claims the improved working ergonomics help reduce the stress on the operators back and neck and that the onboard cameras provide a more comprehensive view than from within the crane cab.

When an operator is on-board an STS crane the working speeds have to be limited. The automated system removes this problem enabling the crane to work faster and with shorter ramp times, the loading times become significantly reduced. The system is also designed to automate the crane's corrective movements to ensure accuracy and speed, improving overall efficiency.

Additional automation systems available with this technology

include Skew Control which controls containers in strong winds, Ship Profiling System which uses lasers to outline the ship profile and an Automatic Container Landing System which performs fast, accurate and safe landings fully automatically.

In order to use ABB's automated systems two five day courses need to be completed. The first 'basic' five day course provides information on the crane system which includes functionality, components and documentation. The second 'advanced' five day course builds on what was taught on the basic course and ensures the trainee is able to understand the complete system and perform maintenance as well as troubleshooting.

Scheduled to be operational in 2014 the automated STS cranes at APM Terminals and Rotterdam World Gateway at their respective terminals located in the Port of Rotterdam will become the first STS cranes in Europe to be remotely operated. APM Terminals' STS crane will also be a world first unit that does not have an operator's cab installed on the crane.

enquiries

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