Clydeport will upgrade primary ship loader conveyor drives with Rulmeca Motorized Pulleys in 2011 at the Hunterston Terminal in Fairlie, Largs, Scotland. This follows several years of successful testing of Rulmeca drives elsewhere at the facility. Capable of unloading 350,000 dwt cape size vessels and loading 95,000 dwt vessels, the Hunterston Terminal has the fastest discharging rates in the UK and is keenly aware of the risk of demurrage fees if the terminal’s conveyor system were to delay coal loading or unloading. Ideally located for UK, Irish, and European coal markets, Hunterston also offers rail & road links.

With a promise of more reliable “up time” plus a reduction in energy costs, the Rulmeca Motorized Pulley made its debut in 2008 on a secondary conveyor drive in the terminal’s rapid train loading station. Two additional drives were installed in the train loading station in October 2009, this time on the primary circuit, making a total of three 100 HP 600 fpm model 800H units in the bunker feed system.

Hunterston’s 330HP 600 fpm model 1000HD under full load testing at Rulmeca facility in Germany, July 2011. 1000HD has a small footprint of 40.16” diameter x 59.06”. Four mounting bolts simplify installation.

Hunterston’s shifts maintenance manager, Willie Caig, said “We’ve run the Rulmeca pulleys in the train loader on and off 24 hours a day, depending on coal demand, without any problems. We look forward to the same good product performance when we fit the big drives onto our ship loader and export dock conveyor.”

According to Rulmeca UK sales manager, Tony Hooker, “More than 100 large Rulmeca Motorized Pulleys are now driving coal conveyors in UK collieries and power plants. When Willie agreed to test our drive in 2008, I knew replacement of the 30 year old existing drives would soon follow.”
Since 1953, Rulmeca Motorized Pulleys have offered mines, prep plants, power plants, and ship loading terminals an optimal alternative to exposed drive systems with diameters from 5.5" to 40", powers up to 330 HP, and belt speeds up to 1,320 fpm.

In addition to two clamshell ship unloaders, a shiploader, and a train loadout station, Hunterston Terminal has a 120 acre coal stockyard which is serviced by three bucket wheel stacker reclaimers, operating 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Rulmeca developed the model 1000HD in response to numerous customer requests for more Motorized Pulley power. After more than two years of R&D, the product is now available in 220, 270, and 330 HP and belts speeds from 600 to 1,320 fpm.

The company’s model 800HD is also relatively new, having been designed with a three stage gearbox to produce speeds of 240 to 600 fpm in powers of 75 to 180 HP.

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