



By Lars Fricke & Tomas Sylvén

With growth in environmental awareness and increasing demand for renewable energy sources, growth in Biomass exports have increased. As a result Riga Universal Terminals had begun handling biomass pellets and wood chips, but have been looking for innovative ways to cope with the demand while still being cost competitive for their clients.

After extensive research, RUT's management were steered towards a system called Containerised Bulk Handling (CBH). This particular system allows the commodity to be directly loaded into containers and tipped into the ships hold with rotating spreader *RAM Revolver®* attached to a Liebherr mobile harbour crane.

RUT's expansion

Riga universal terminal, located just outside the beautiful city center of Riga in Latvia was formed in 2001 and rapidly developed to become one of the top terminals in the port of Riga.

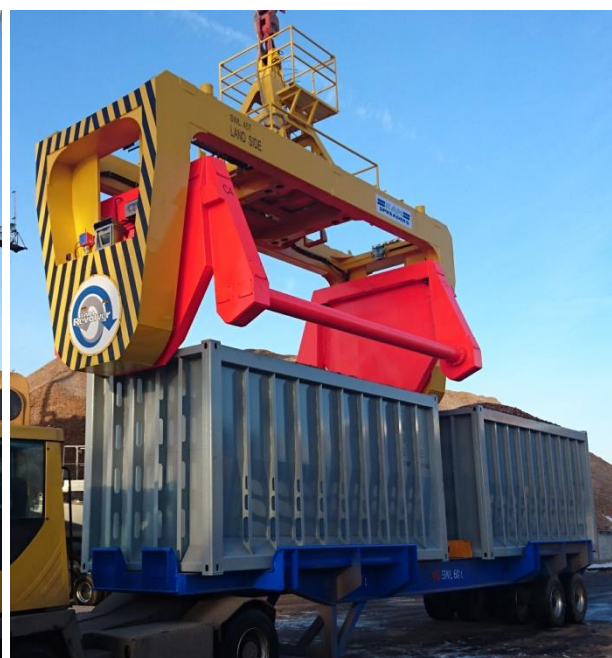


In 2013 international operator *Portek Group* from Singapore took note of this success and acquired RUT. The innovative management team has grown the business from traditional sources, adding different kinds of cargo. The multipurpose port can handle containers, breakbulk, timber and various types of bulk materials.



Due to a rising demand of renewable energy sources, a few years ago RUT started handling sunflower pellets, wood pellets and wood chips. Being biomass products, wood pellets and chips are quickly becoming a valuable commodity and is in high demand as a reliable and renewable energy source.

The increasing demand meant that RUT had to look at more efficient high capacity loading systems to continue growth.





CBH - good option for material handling

When considering the different options available, RUT had thought about buying a new material handler in the region of 1.3 Million Euros as well as the possibility of having to sell one of their existing Liebherr mobile harbour cranes in order to buy a bigger and much more expensive crane.

"But both these options would have meant a huge investment without getting a meaningful profit in return"

Ricky Yong, Chief Executive Officer of RUT.

With the support of their Liebherr service partner *Alfis Ltd.* and the sales agency *Intersafe Marine AB*, RUT soon got the recommendation for the *RAM Revolver®*

Containerised Bulk Handling with the revolver allows for high capacity loading of up to 45 tonnes per cycle. Utilising the existing Liebherr MHC and the skilled operators; RUT projected 30 cycles per hour.

Facts about revolver loading rates:



This meant that for a small investment the RUT could increase loading rates making the terminal more profitable with higher annual tonnage for a small investment in crane attachment.

Operation

The RAM Revolver® and purpose built high capacity containers were delivered in January and they made a difference straight away.



While loading vessels with wood chips, RUT compared the work of a material handler with the work of a RAM Revolver® by measuring the time it takes to load the vessels with each machine. They found out that the material handler had a maximum capacity of handling 200 tons/hour, while the RAM Revolver® reached of 800 tons/hour on the first usage which can only increase.



"That's a production productivity increase of 100%! Such a result we would have never expected. We are very satisfied!"

Kaspars Buris - Technical Support Manager RUT



Riga Universal Terminals

Quadruples productivity of Biomass loading



Facts about RAM Revolver®

Loading bulk with RAM Revolver® is revolutionary because of the reduction in material loss and pollution.

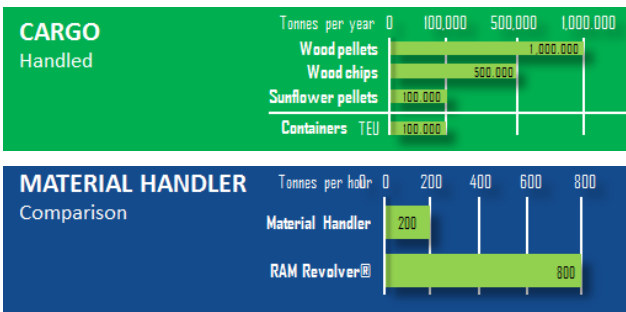


The system first uses containers which can be enclosed with a lid to stop any material loss.

Secondly the system adds little energy to material when tipping gently at the bottom of the hatch where there is very little dust generated.

RUT is very proud and happy of being able to operate with this innovative kind of machinery; and are looking forward to welcoming guests from other ports and companies to show them the fast and easy operation of their new RAM Revolver®.

Facts about cargo handled by RUT:



Even though the RAM Revolver® is widely used in bulk handling in Australia and South America, the one in Riga is now the very first of its kind working in Europe.

"Being the first Revolver in Europe, the CBH system is worlds best practice for environment; and we can see in Riga that it increases productivity as well".



Cameron Hay – RAM Spreaders

Offices with engineering support in Germany, UK, Holland & Scandinavia

www.ramspreaders.com

