



Green Giant

New crane a real HIT!



A WHOLE RAFT OF GREEN initiatives has been launched by Hongkong International Terminals (HIT), earning the company official plaudits for its increasingly eco-friendly approach.

In Hong Kong, as in other advanced jurisdictions, there is more and more concern about the environment; the public increasingly scrutinises the eco-friendly credentials of major corporations.

HIT is taking a lead in the industry with a programme that ensures there is as little wastage, or pollution, as possible during all stages of the terminal's round-the-clock operations.

The most recent initiative was to deploy 17 electric rubber-tyred gantry cranes (known as eRTGCs), the first phase of a USD18 million (HKD140 million) crane-electrification programme that will reduce emissions at the city's giant Kwai Tsing Container Port. HIT is the first terminal operator in Hong Kong to deploy eRTGCs, a project that is part of an ongoing series of initiatives to help protect the environment.

To celebrate the green efforts, HIT organised a "Green HIT" ceremony in the container yard, attended by Edward Yau, the Secretary for the Environment, who jointly officiated the event with HIT Managing Director Eric Ip.

The new cranes are more energy efficient, with no noxious gases or black smoke. There is no engine maintenance which, in turn, reduces waste disposal of lubrication oil, filters and engine parts.

Another environmentally-friendly move is to introduce hybrid versions of eRTGCs which have lithium batteries, with the power coming from the engine and the battery during the loading of ships and trucks. The batteries are recharged while the engine is working, or idling, which means the energy is recycled with no wastage.

In addition, HIT has switched to the cleaner ultra-low sulphur diesel, at an annual cost of USD500,000 and introduced variable engine speeds to reduce noise and fuel consumption.

This year will also see the installation of electronic ballasts on 1,350 crane floodlights, a move that will result in energy consumption being reduced by 40 per cent. All quay crane floodlights will be switched off when idling.

A look at other areas at the HIT operation has resulted in even more eco-friendly changes. A drainage system now collects emulsified grease water generated by the maintenance workshop for off-site disposal; petrol stations have been fitted with underground oil interceptors; waste such as batteries and scrap metal is collected for recycling; chemical waste is stored in a central compound; and used lubrication oil and hydraulic oil are now recycled using dynamic oil purifiers, a change that has cut consumption by 46 per cent annually.

