

PRESS RELEASE

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Soya handling: TES handles 3,900 tons 24/7

The Santos export terminal recently started using a PRO DER240 shunting robot to move freight trains weighing up to 3,900 tons. The new addition complements the existing robot fleet on site: A total of seven shunting systems from Vollert now accelerate the low-dust 24/7 unloading of soya, bran and maize in the modernized ship terminals of the two operators TES and ADM.

TES and ADM are two neighboring companies united by one goal: the modernization of the ship terminals for loading agricultural goods in the port of Santos, Brazil. In several steps, investments were made in the demolition and conversion of the existing halls and loading facilities as well as in new and modern shunting and transport technology to reduce dust pollution from grain particles and emissions from the entire facility. Within just three years, TES was able to increase its capacity from around 2.3 to 4.5 million tons. ADM increased its capacity to 8 million tons. At the same time, dust emissions were reduced by around 80 percent. This is also made possible by Vollert's modern shunting systems, which enable efficient 24/7 shunting operations on four unloading tracks with optimum interplay, while at the same time reducing noise and exhaust emissions. TES and ADM have been using four cable-connected, all-electric and therefore emission-free STANDARD TANDEM KR130 and STANDARD KR70 shunting robots to move freight wagons since 2020. The new diesel-electric drive of the PRO DER240 also uses state-of-the-art drive technologies to reduce fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions.

Concentrated power: 108 tons with 240 kN tensile load

While the four cable-connected shunting robots take over the semi-automated unloading and return of the empty wagons to the terminals, the new PRO DER240, together with two other identical machines, feeds the loaded freight trains. With an operating weight of 108 t, the PRO DER240 shunting robot is a real heavyweight. Equipped with two bogies and four spring-mounted drive axles, its frequency-controlled diesel-electric drive offers 240 kN of tractive force - and therefore enough power to shift up to 3,900 t at a travel speed of 6 km/h. It can be controlled either from the two control stations or by radio, and the coupling can also be opened either automatically or manually. Due to the numerous coupling processes involved in weighing, unloading and returning the wagons to the port terminals, this saves a considerable amount of time. In addition, the coupling is compatible with trains with 1,000 mm and 1,600 mm track widths.

Robust technology and fast on-site service

In order to cope with the harsh working conditions and daytime temperatures of up to 40 °C in continuous operation, the new shunting robot at TES has an air-conditioned driver's cab and reinforced supply and exhaust air for the diesel unit, as well as air/water heat exchangers to cool the frequency converter. Drive is provided by four 75 kW electric motors. An automatic sanding system with integrated slip measurement also ensures optimum power transmission even in adverse weather conditions. In damp conditions, maize and soybean residues on the tracks can lead to considerable friction losses. "In addition to the robust technology, we also offer our customers components with service and replacement in Brazil. Thanks to our Brazilian subsidiary, we have our own service technicians and fitters on site - an important aspect when it comes to the operational reliability of the systems," explains Wesley Gomes, CEO of Vollert do Brasil. His team is also responsible for project management and commissioning on site. Vollert do Brasil, based in Belo Horizonte in eastern Brazil, is responsible for direct contact with customers from Mexico to Chile.

About Vollert Anlagenbau GmbH

As an innovator, Vollert Anlagenbau GmbH develops economical shunting systems for connecting and secondary lines. Since the 1950s, Vollert's stationary, cable-mounted shunting systems are used worldwide for the shunting of railway wagons and trains. Moreover Vollert delivers stand-alone shunting machines, heavy-duty transport trolleys and transfer platforms for reliable and efficient operations in refineries, mines, ports, steel and cement plants, explosion protection areas, train wash facilities and maintenance facilities.

Vollert's plant and machine solutions are deployed in more than 80 countries around the world and in Asia and South America the company's own subsidiaries strengthen in addition the sales activities. Vollert employs more than 300 people at its company headquarters in Weinsberg. **www.vollert.de**

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Image 1 - Source: Vollert

Equipped with an automatic sanding system and interchangeable couplings for 1,000 and 1,600 mm track widths, the new shunting technology from Vollert at TES in the port of Santos, Brazil, is optimally equipped for feeding freight trains of up to 3,900 tons.



Image 2 - Source: Vollert

The new shunting robot from Vollert complements the existing fleet in the port of Santos, Brazil. A total of seven shunting machines, including four all-electric and three diesel-electric, now ensure sustainable 24/7 shunting operations.