



Manufacturing specialised handling equipment for onshore & offshore pipelines

Deploying oil, water and gas pipes with vacuum based lifting technology will reduce significant potential costs

As a manufacturer of specialised pipe handling equipment, the German based company Schoenbeck is very much aware of the expanding global demands for safer and efficient working conditions when confronted with pipe deployment.

As pipeline projects grow throughout the world, challenges faced by logistic management and pipeline construction managers increase from project to project.

One major key contributor towards a successful pipeline project will always be the logistic strategy. Onshore or offshore transportation and handling of pipes, major or intermediate pipe stockpiles and general onsite pipe handling, needs to be planned and executed prudently, safely and efficiently when aiming to minimise overall project costs.

Technical options are available.

Although some counties remain wary in

believing that vacuum lifting equipment could be much safer and exceptionally faster when unitised correctly, this equipment technology trend coupled with OEM expert advice, qualified training staff is proving itself from project to project. Numerous available technical solutions provided by Schoenbeck are convincing current and new customers that are confronted with handling steel coated, non-coated and PE or even offshore concrete coated pipes. In some regions around the world, deploying pipes by using traditional tools such as ropes, slings and chains is becoming less and less the preferred safe lifting method and in some cases no longer accepted as feasible when facing deletion of potential human hazards.

Manpower costs are regionally variable and that is a calculated and undisputed fact. Regardless of how high or low the regional manpower costs are, the requirement to prevent or at least minimise the possibility

of human injury will remain a factor for all calculations. The more manpower required, the higher the risk open to manpower injury, this is also an undisputed fact.

In the past six years, Schoenbeck has manufactured numerous vacuum-based lifting tools for excavator and crane applications alike. Regardless of the pipe characteristics, Schoenbeck can offer solutions for both on and offshore applications. In some cases vacuum based lifting technology may not be suitable or feasible, in such cases hydraulic or electrically powered spreader bars may be a solution for consideration.

Vacuum pipe lifters coupled with a suitably sized excavator will require only one operator in comparison to a manned crane with two banksmen. The speed in which a truck can be off/on loaded, pipe be stringed or stacked is impressively high whilst reducing the manpower requirement and thereby costs. Excelling safety standards by minimising potential safety hazards is the icing on the cake. ■

This article was written by Dave McGuinness, international business & product manager, Schoenbeck