

## VIGAN increases its food and feed security role in Saudi Arabia

The first grain handling machine delivered by VIGAN to Saudi Arabia was a 300tph (tonnes per hour) shiploader, bought by GSFMO (Grain Silos and Flour Mills Organization) for the Port of Yanbu back in 1992! At that time, Saudi Arabia was a large wheat producer and exporter.

However, times have now changed. Decades ago, the Saudi Arabian government put in place a programme dedicated to push local wheat production. However, the rising water scarcity that Saudi Arabia was facing, the lack of arable land, and the increasing population made this production more and more difficult to manage — and very expensive.

In 25 years, the country has gone from exporting wheat to relying on imports. This is indeed a good use of its internal resources.

GSFMO (renamed SAGO – Saudi Arabia Grains Organization) is the public authority in charge of grain imports for subsidized food in Saudi Arabia. It aims to supply wheat and flour to the entire Saudi Arabian population. In this changing context, the company has chosen VIGAN as the preferred partner for its grain ship unloaders.

VIGAN is also supplying ship-unloaders to private stevedoring companies operating various ports.

Recently, VIGAN has installed several 600tph ship unloaders in various ports in Saudi Arabia, among which: two machines in Jeddah; two in Jazan; two in Dammam; and three in Yanbu. All of these were delivered between 2014 and 2016. VIGAN is proud not only to sell its machines in Saudi Arabia, which is becoming one of its biggest partner countries, but also to contribute to



*VIGAN shiploader installed in Yanbu in 1992.*

feeding the country's population every day. This relationship represents a strong link between the large Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of Belgium.

These VIGAN ship-unloaders have a capacity of 600tph. Mounted on a gantry on tyres or on rails, equipped with two electrical motors of 250kW each (total 500kW) and a 30m suction boom, NIVs are designed for the most efficient discharge of wheat from vessels of up to 80,000dwt of various origins including the EU, North America, South America and Australia.

For the last five years, the majority of VIGAN sales have consisted of large 600tph unloaders, mainly in the Middle East and North Africa.

The advantages of VIGAN pneumatic CSUs are numerous:

- ❖ **unloading** of all sizes of vessels and all types of grain;

*Two 600tph NIVs installed in Jeddah.*



*Two 600tph NIVs installed in Jazan.*



*Two 600tph NIVs installed in Dammam.*

- ❖ **reliability:** good conceptual design and the use of state-of-the-art manufacture process with the latest generation of components and materials;
- ❖ **low maintenance costs:** namely thanks to the use of very high resistance alloys (e.g. for the elbow and the piping);
- ❖ **efficiency:** limited unwanted stoppages, good cover of the ship hold, efficient and quick hold cleaning from hatch opening to final closing at the end;
- ❖ **minimum manpower costs:** one single operator for the entire ship unloading period;
- ❖ **low energy consumption:** less than 0.6kWh/t. The multi-stage turbo blower, with direct drive, is controlled by a frequency inverter;
- ❖ **environment friendly:** limited dust, spillage and noise;
- ❖ **safety:** namely by favouring operator working conditions; and finally...
- ❖ **the best capacity/price ratio** in terms of investment and operating costs!



*Two 600tph NIVs installed in Yanbu.*

Since its creation in 1968, VIGAN has honed its expertise in CSU reliability and its expertise to advise its customers for efficient unloading operations.