

ITS supplies real time tracking system to AMPT Algeciras

UK-based International Terminal Solutions (ITS) has installed its GPS position determination system (PDS) and container move identification system on 20 new RTGs delivered to the APMT terminal at Algeciras, Spain.

Together with the ITS Automatic Truck Identification (ATI) module, the PDS and other systems engineered by ITS provide real time tracking of equipment positions for optimised yard planning and a system for issuing work instructions and confirming completed jobs without drivers having to operate a touch screen or press a key on a vehicle mounted computer.

While the PDS tracks container handling equipment, the

location of containers on road trucks and terminal tractors is managed by the ATI module.

Terminal tractors are fitted with automatic ID transmitters and hand-held units are issued to truck drivers at the gatehouse. The transmitters use an infrared signal to pass container ID and work instruction information directly to the RTG, which is then cross checked against the work instruction for the TOS.

A "twist-interlock" feature monitors the position of the spreader and prevents an incorrect move being carried out by preventing release of the twistlocks unless the crane has the correct container in the correct position.

The ATI system is able to identify to the crane the position on the chassis of 2x20ft containers. ITS managing director Richard Lambert says the advantage of its infrared-based system over RFID systems now being used on the USWC is that not every chassis has to be tagged and the system is still able to identify the correct container position on the chassis.

APMT is also using an ITS equipment/operator security system that uses machine readable cards to authorise access to equipment and data and its equipment maintenance logger to send maintenance information from the RTGs directly to the terminal's ERP system. □