

Container Tilter for bulk materials

A-Ward Attachments has reported great success for its Container Tilter in the scrap metal industry. The company is now promoting its benefits to the broader bulk handling community in Australia.

Four years ago, Simon Ward, managing director of New Zealand-based A-Ward Attachments was asked by a US customer to come up with a safe and efficient way of loading shipping containers with scrap metal.

After some intensive research and design work, and only three months later, the first Container Tilters were shipped to Texas, completely satisfying the US client.

In terms of operation, A-Ward's Container Tilter will hydraulically lift a 20ft or 40ft container off a skeleton or flat deck trailer, before inverting it to 90 degrees. At that stage the container doors are hydraulically opened enabling products such as residential

and industrial waste, grain, plastic, wood chip, glass, coal, scrap metal and dozens of others, to be easily and efficiently loaded.

A load bar scale system accurately weighs the product being loaded for maximum payload. Once the desired payload has been reached the container doors can then be hydraulically closed and the Container Tilter will reposition the container back onto the deck of the skeleton or flat deck trailer.

A-Ward says it now has eight different models including new versions that cater for unloading. The company has distributors in 18 countries across the globe, from Russia to the Americas, three manufacturing plants, and over 180 Container Tilters in service.



Pictures show A-Ward's Container Tilters loading scrap metal.



Simon Ward stressed that the Container Tilter allows companies to add valuable export business to domestic supply arrangements.

"A-Ward container bulk handling solutions allow customers to keep their business sustainable, by having the flexibility to split product between local suppliers and overseas markets," he said.

An early adopter of the Container Tilter - a large US grain and soy producer based in Iowa - has used the device to broaden its market from the local mill to the supply of containers to Japan for bio-fuel production.

A spokesman for the company, Michael Moore commented: "the positive effect on our business has been truly remarkable. We are no longer reliant on the local mill, which has been in the driver's seat for years.

"The A-Ward Tilter allows us to sustain a profitable business model by being flexible enough to ship product to the most lucrative market at any given time."

According to A-Ward, other companies around the world have followed the export lead of the US grain producer, with scrap metal merchants in the vanguard. Metal and Waste UK Ltd - one of A-Ward's biggest customers - now has 12 Tilters in operation across the UK, and more on order.



ELG Metals loading stainless steel in Tokyo.

Each day the firm lines up several Container Tilters at each location. In each eight hour shift one machine can fill as many as twenty full containers with between 25mt and 26mt each of metal scrap, with each container taking approximately 20 minutes to be cycled.

A spokesman for Metal and Waste summed up its experience. "The opportunity to ship scrap via container as opposed to bulk vessels gives the company a vastly stronger position with our overseas buyers.

"The old way of monthly break-bulk shipments was arduous and risky, particularly in the current

volatile economic climate where many buyers have walked away from contracts. Smaller containerized parcels have improved our flexibility to move with market shifts and become more profitable."

A-Ward said it is currently working with Emirates, Abu Dhabi Municipality and Tetra Pak on different large scale projects.

"These organisations all face the same issues of moving bulk product safely and efficiently to maintain a sustainable business model," said David Smith, A-Ward's general manager.

"Our main goal is to be able to meet the individual needs of customers to provide cost effective solutions for loading and unloading bulk product."

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