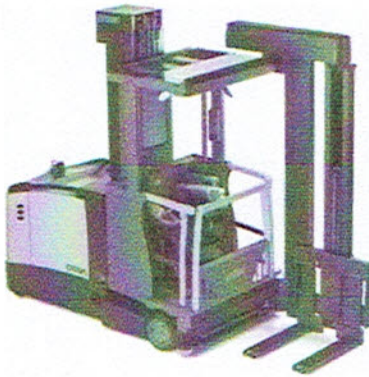


Goscor earns its stripes at Zebra Hub of Excellence in Gaborone

WITH the delivery of Botswana's first ever Crown TSP VNA (very narrow aisle) turret truck to Zebra Hub of Excellence (ZHE), Goscor Lift Truck Company (GLTC), distributors of Crown in South Africa, has cemented itself as one of the fastest growing material handling equipment (MEH) suppliers in the sub-Saharan region.

"This is an important milestone for us," says GLTC MD Darryl Shafto. "ZHE is one of the most respected companies in the warehousing and logistics industry in this region and to get our first VNA turret truck in Botswana into their operation is something we can be proud of."

He adds that in these challenging economic times with warehousing space at a premium, VNA warehousing equipment is becoming more and more important with respect to



Goscor Lift Truck Company has delivered Botswana's first ever Crown TSP VNA (very narrow aisle) turret truck to Zebra Hub of Excellence.

bottom line saving and the Crown TSP 6000 Turret Truck, the model which ZHE bought, is the best of its kind.

The Crown TSP 6000 Turret Truck has a lifting capacity of 1 000-1 250 kg and a lift height of 11.7 m. Its 48-Volt AC motor allows for faster

handling and control. Innovative features like its Monolift Mast, excellent visibility and easy serviceability ensure the highest performance in the VNA applications. "This machine - and all our turret trucks - has the unique ability to cope with some of the most

demanding tasks in material handling, tasks that set the pace for every other process in the warehouse," Shafto says.

ZHE, a 100% Botswana citizen owned private company has its head office in the country's capital Gaborone with additional hubs in Francistown, Maun, Palapye and Jwaneng. The company's main services include freight forwarding, customs clearance, couriering and 3PL. Its warehousing facilities stand at over 8 500m² with complete technology-driven automation capabilities.

Brenda Gerber, director of Coastal Hire in Gaborone who did the deal with ZHE, says that this has been a most exciting exercise. "The machine is state of the art and is performing beyond all expectations. The installation went very smoothly and the Goscor team's training

was very professional," Gerber says.

She adds that the efficiency of the Crown TSP 6000 Turret Truck, especially in the important VNA warehouse environment, augurs well for more of these to be placed in Botswana warehouses in the near future.

Meantime the successes in Botswana are indicative of GLTC's successful drive into Africa, especially the sub-Saharan and Indian Ocean Islands regions, which, according to Haripersad, are directly benefiting from the rollercoaster cycle of investor confidence in South Africa. "We are already represented in Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland, East Africa and Mauritius and, so far, our 'Africa footprint' initiative looks good but there's still much work to be done and we will not be resting on our laurels," Shafto says.

Warehousing trends to watch

ALTHOUGH the fundamental goals of logistics have not changed, to get the right products into the right place, at the right time and at a competitive cost, logistics is more complex than ever before. The evolution of global networks of interrelated and interdependent systems, processes and actions is behind the shifting landscape on which logistics buildings and networks are built.

Logistics service providers should expect further pressure for productivity, utilisation and other efficiency gains. Most large companies operate many different IT systems and technologies throughout their supply chain, as a result of legacy purchases in different areas. This patchwork approach is currently the norm, particularly given that companies have only recently begun to adopt cloud based systems.

Incorporating consolidated intelligent digital systems: IT systems are well suited for applications within the supply chain, where accurate and reliable data holds the potential to dramatically cut costs. In this mix there is huge potential for the adoption of smart devices although at this point wide usage throughout industry is seen as a security risk.

Warehousing in emerging markets: both warehousing and logistics networks are very much in the pro-

cess of formalising in emerging markets, some from an extremely low base, whereas they are already highly formalised in developed markets. Key to building capacity in emerging markets will be a firm understanding and acknowledgment of the constraints and challenges particular to the local environment, given that a one-size-fits-all approach will not succeed in these jurisdictions.

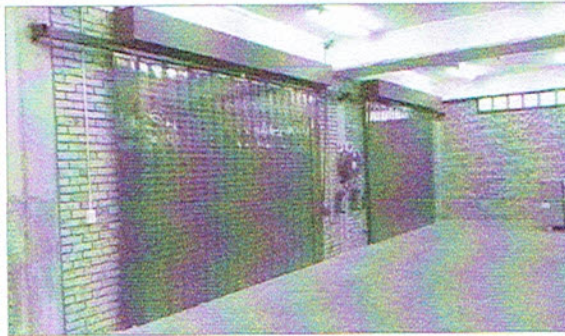
The growth of e-commerce: this has

"IT systems are well suited for applications in the supply chain."

prompted a fundamental change in the operations that take place within facilities, driving the need for both operational and cost-efficiency across logistics networks. Internationally, DACHSER warehouses are a core component of integral supply chain solutions and are used above all in the context of DACHSER contract logistics.

Tailor-made solutions: leading logistics companies are becoming an extension of their clients, by offering a customized warehouse and process design that takes picking techniques and disbursement strategies into consideration that are unique to each customer.

Heat is no match for Apex's solutions



Apex General Strip Curtains are an inexpensive way to cover a door opening to prevent the ingress of hot air yet still allow easy passage.

IN engineering and manufacturing, warehouses and workshops often become heat chambers in a hot summer as is currently being experienced in most parts of the country. Doors left open to allow access for people and equipment also let in hot air, which is trapped in the building and reheated by the greenhouse effect, causing excessive heat build-up.

"It's a proven fact that a comfortable worker is a productive worker, yet many industrial managers in both large and small operations do not realise they can improve working conditions immeasurably in hot buildings by simply controlling air

movement," says Wim Dessing, managing director of Apex Strip Curtains.

Dessing's company offers a range of products that make it easy to control the working environment. Locally manufactured Apex SR 900 high impact traffic doors are insulated impact resistant swing doors, designed for efficient long life use in high traffic, impact-opening applications.

Built to withstand traffic from both pedestrians and forklifts, the Apex SR 900 door is a fully gasketed heavy duty impact swing door which opens easily and closes under its own weight. Insulated with polyurethane, this ro-

bust impact door is ideal for application where temperature control is vital, or where ingress of dust, insects or noise must be prevented.

The door retains its physical properties in both high and low temperature environments and is impervious to moisture, acid, animal fats, insects, salt solutions and petroleum products. Besides being durable and robust, this door provides excellent sound attenuation.

Another popular option, Dessing says, is the range of high speed roll-up or fold-up doors which includes the Traffic and Sector units. All offer rapid automated opening and closing, as well as efficient thermal insulation

and a highly effective wind barrier.

The doors are aesthetically pleasing in a range of colours and are made from durable, flexible polyesters and PVCs. The electronic componentry is modern, compact and self-contained to allow quick and easy installation in doorways and passages.

A variety of activation options, from floor mats to beepers, is available and all doors have a back-up emergency opening capability. Unless otherwise required, doors have a transparent panel for through-vision.

The company is also well-known for its patented, ball edged strip curtains, which have proved itself in innumerable applications in South Africa and abroad.

"Strip curtains are a very inexpensive way to cover a door opening to prevent the ingress of hot air yet still allow easy passage. Strips are made from specially formulated PVC that doesn't become brittle with use and stays transparent for through-viewing and added safety. The ball edge on the strips don't snag or catch on people or goods passing through, strengthening the strips for a long service life as well," Dessing explains.

"All our products are modular in design, providing flexibility for either retrofitting or greenfields installation. Specifications and advice are readily available, and Apex's philosophy is to provide the best solution for long-term, cost-effective environment-control," Dessing concludes.

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