Major works at Australia’s largest port development

In early 2008 a Mecrus partnership was awarded a $135.5 million contract to supply four stacker/reclaimer stockyard machines to the Abbot Point Coal Terminal in North Queensland.

Abbot Point is a coal storage stockyard and shipping facility located at Bowen, which currently exports 25 Mt of Queensland coking coal annually to China, Japan and India. The expansion program being undertaken by the Ports Corporation of Queensland is the largest port development in Australia.

In addition to the stacker reclaimers, the development includes upgrades and expansion of the coal train inloading facilities, additional coal storage bunds and yard conveyors, and a new berth and ship loading facility.

At the completion of this phase of the expansion the port will have the capacity to handle 50Mt per year.

With international business partner, FAM, Mecrus is contracted to design, fabricate, erect and commission four stacker-reclaimers at the port. A key feature of the project, which commenced in May 2008, is that a significant amount of structural fabrication and electrical design will be done in Australia.

Mecrus has a team of four people dedicated to project management of this contract and approximately $80 million worth of the work will be carried out by a number of Australian firms contracted to and under the direct management of Mecrus. Mecrus has let a sub-contract to Morwell (Victoria) electrical contracting company Nilsen for electrical design and erection works and to Mackay (Queensland) company G&S Engineering Services for some fabrication and the mechanical erection of the machines on the project.
Mecrus’ partner, German-based company FAM, will be responsible for the design and fabrication of some specialised components in Europe. It is anticipated the fourth and final stacker reclaimer at the port will be commissioned early in 2011.

**Mecrus – FAM partnership**

The Abbot Point project is the first major contract awarded to the Mecrus – FAM joint venture in Australia.

The relationship between German engineering company Magdeburger Foerderanlagen und Baumaschinen GmbH (FAM) and Mecrus began in 2005. It brings to Mecrus a demonstrated capability in the engineering and design of major materials handling equipment. FAM is the principal contractor, while Mecrus has the responsibility to provide project management and site supervision.

Mecrus is now the exclusive agent for FAM in Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea and Indonesia. The partnership provides the Australian marketplace with equipment built to meet the highest Australian and global standards. Mecrus coordinates all supplies and services for projects undertaken within the territory including design, fabrication, construction and equipment erection-related activities for FAM machines.

Mecrus mediates sales between prospective purchasers and has commercial and functional authorisation to act and negotiate on behalf of FAM. Mecrus assists FAM in their common work on projects in administrative, statutory, taxation and legal matters.

**FAM background**

FAM is an independent company, with its head office in Germany. It has a long history as a manufacturer of materials handling systems and has vast business and engineering know-how in providing bulk materials handling, mining systems, stockyard systems, mineral processing, loading systems, conveying systems and port technology. In fact, more than 50% of FAM employees are engineers. Through its relationship with Mecrus, FAM can now offer Australian businesses turn-key projects for mining, conveying, storing, crushing, homogenising, loading and unloading of minerals and raw materials.

**About Mecrus**

Mecrus is a wholly Australian owned company whose asset management expertise is founded on a “whole of business” management approach. The philosophy that drives Mecrus is both practical and logical. While clearly focused on asset management, Mecrus constantly strives to extend the relationship with clients to their business as a whole. The company focuses on providing innovative and cost-effective solutions for its clients.

**A winning combination**

The strategic partnership between Mecrus and FAM offers:

- Highly skilled O&M experience and input at the design stage
- The capability to develop a customer friendly product, focused on end user requirements
- Access to skilled engineering and technical staff with vast experience in bulk materials handling equipment
- Ongoing O&M input at construction and commissioning stage to ensure a full understanding of client environment and priorities
- The opportunity for machine suppliers (Mecrus) to actually own and/or operate the plant for you