

Tank Cleaning Magazine

SUMMER 2023

Issue 3 Volume 10

Action stations

Facilities benefit from latest tank cleaning technology

Chain gang

Strategies aimed at improving supply chain challenges



**SCANDINAVIAN
TANK CLEANING STATION
DIRECTORY INSIDE**

HIGH PRESSURE

TANK WASHING DEVICES



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Don't underestimate the role tank cleaning stations play in the vital global supply chain network

It cannot be understated how important tank cleaning stations are in the global supply chain network. Hundreds of tank cleaning stations carry out tens of thousands of food cleaning operations every day to ensure the highest standards are complied with in the supply chain. These facilities carry out the proper cleaning and decontamination of tanks, which helps maintain the quality and safety of the cargo that are being transported worldwide. Tanks used to transport liquids or bulk materials can easily accumulate contaminants, residue or odours from previous cargoes. Thorough cleaning at specialised stations helps prevent cross-contamination and ensures that subsequent operations are not compromised. Therefore, ensuring cargo quality, safety and compliance with regulations is essential for transport firms in order to maintain a positive reputation. Tank cleaning stations contribute to this by providing a reliable and standardised cleaning process, assuring customers that their cargo will be transported in clean and uncontaminated tanks. The war in Ukraine and the disruption this has caused in the supply chain reinforces how important these cogs are in the entire network. It has been a challenging time for tank cleaning operations with energy costs still very high, but the industry is a resilient one and, no doubt, these challenges can be overcome. For the latest tank cleaning news visit globaltankcleaning.com

Paul Warner**Editor**

Contents

02 News**06 Successful installation**

Dutch firm successfully completes tank cleaning facility for Swedish client

10 Secret agent

Turco highlights some of its cleaning products used in difficult-to-clean operations

12 Nozzle ideas

PNR Italia showcases its spraying equipment

13 Sustainable solutions

Stolt Tank Containers uses state-of-the-art technology to cut water waste and reduce energy usage

14 Chain reaction

Suttons outlines its strategy in overcoming supply route issues

16 Cutting pollution

Hoyer Group sets new ambitious emissions targets for the next five years



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Sutton Tankers rolls out HVO trials as part of new net-zero strategy

Suttons Tankers has embarked on an eight-week trial using hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as an alternative fuel aligned to its environmental strategy.

HVO is a sustainable fuel source with a significantly lower carbon footprint than diesel, reducing CO₂ emissions by a minimum of 85%.

The alternative fuel is compatible with existing diesel engines without any need for modifications and the trial phase aims to reduce emissions by 91,000kg on just five routes.

Full implementation of HVO throughout its fleet is aimed at reducing 39,000 tonnes of carbon, which is 85% of its Scope 1 emissions.

Suttons aims to become net-zero by 2040.

Fleet director Steve Hassall said: "Sustainability and reducing our carbon footprint are at the absolute forefront of our agenda at Suttons and in order to move this forward we are trialling HVO so that we can fully understand the emissions reductions, costs and practicalities of this product.

"It is naturally more difficult for logistics businesses to reduce their impact on the environment than other industries, but the emergence of alternative fuels such as HVO is a step in the right direction and one that will significantly reduce emissions."

Martin Tomlinson, head of media and truck demonstration at Volvo Trucks UK & Ireland, added: "Running fleets on HVO brings a lot of advantages - it's a less water and land intensive alternative to biodiesel and its high-quality as a fuel means it can be used in any of our latest Euro-6 diesel trucks.

"Last year, we even fuelled our own 44-tonne Volvo FH with I-Save demonstrator with HVO when it set a new record of 9.82mpg around the demanding commercial motor test route, highlighting its suitability as a drop-in replacement for regular diesel." ■

ITCO president set to retire from post

ITCO president Reg Lee has informed the board that he will retire from the post at the end of the year.

The International Tank Container Organisation started in 1998 and Lee was one of the founder members.

Jeremy Bergbaum was the organisation's first president and when he stood down in 2003, Lee was elected to lead ITCO - upon his retirement from Stolt.

Lee resigned as the president of ITCO in 2009 as the board at that time was unwilling to expand the organisation into the Asia-Pacific market and include companies from Asia.

This was mainly because of their concerns about creating more competition.

In 2010, Graham Wood and Lee started the Asia Tank Container Organisation to help develop and expand the rapidly expanding Asia tank container market, which today is the fastest growing region.

In 2016, Lee was invited back as president of ITCO.

Then, in 2017, Lee combined ITCO and the Asian association into a single tank container organisation.

Today, ITCO remains the only organisation representing the worldwide tank container industry with almost 200 members.

Lee said: "I am proud of what we have achieved in my time at ITCO. However, now is the time to pass the baton on to a new president." ■



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Kube & Kubenz ramp up storage capacity for tank containers in Germany

Producers and traders in the Rhineland chemical region now have more storage capacity available for filled tank containers.

The liquid bulk logistics company Kube & Kubenz, which operates throughout Europe, recently expanded the storage area of its branch in Bergheim to cater to this business.

Safety infrastructure at the location east of Cologne, which has existed since 2015, has also been upgraded.

As part of the investment, the company created 120 new storage spaces for filled tank containers of hazardous material in categories 3, 8 and 9.

Twenty-five Kube & Kubenz employees organise multimodal transport and storage services for resilient supply chains in the chemical industry at the site.

Designed to meet the most stringent safety standards and located near a federal motorway, the site serves as a transshipment hub.

It serves industry in one of the largest chemical regions in the European Single Market from all over the world. Existing storage capacity

for unclassified goods will be available to its customers in Bergheim as usual.

The site's portfolio also includes 250 storage spaces for empty tank containers and 40 tractor units.

"Expanding this location makes us even more attractive to our customers in the chemicals industry because our secure tank containers, monitored 24/7, shorten and make logistics chains more efficient. At the same time, these investments are ensuring jobs at this location in the long term," said Olaf Fügemann, manager of Kube & Kubenz's branch in Bergheim.

"Together with our storage space in the city of Worms, our first storage location for tank containers, we are now even better equipped to meet the needs of our clients from the chemical industry. The expansion and modernisation of our Bergheim branch will allow us to perfectly meet the requirements of hazardous materials logistics while at the same time reaching our own growth targets in the coming years," added Konstantin Kubenz, managing partner of Kube & Kubenz. ■

ECTA appoints new board member from TALKE

TALKE, a leading provider of logistics solutions for the world of chemistry, has announced that Timo Schäfer, head of account management and new business, has joined the board of the European Chemical Transport Association (ECTA).

The appointment was made during the ECTA board meeting at the transport logistic trade fair in Munich.

Formal confirmation will take place at the next ECTA ordinary general meeting in November in Düsseldorf.

As an ECTA board member, Schäfer will play an important role in shaping the future of the chemical transport and logistics industry in Europe.

ECTA is a non-profit organisation dedicated to setting the highest standards for chemical transportation and logistics in Europe.

The association's mission is to improve efficiency, safety and sustainability, as well as the environmental and social performance of the industry.

He brings extensive experience and know-how as well as a European perspective to his new role, the association said.

He is a qualified freight forwarder and graduated in business administration. Before joining TALKE in 2021, he held several management positions in logistics.

Schäfer said: "I am honoured to be appointed as a board member." ■

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VTG halts tank container business due to tough market conditions

VTG is terminating its tank container transport and logistics business and will discontinue the relevant activities by the end of the second quarter this year.

Discontinuing all the tank container logistics activities of VTG Tanktainer will also involve closing its international subsidiaries, with the exception of the joint venture Shanghai COSCO VTG Tanktainer.

VTG will continue and expand its tank container leasing business.

This step has been necessary due to the increasingly tough trading conditions since the end of last year.

A slump in demand for transport in the chemical industry and declining freight rates – in part due to the massive increase in energy costs – has been accompanied by substantial price hikes in the intermodal segment.

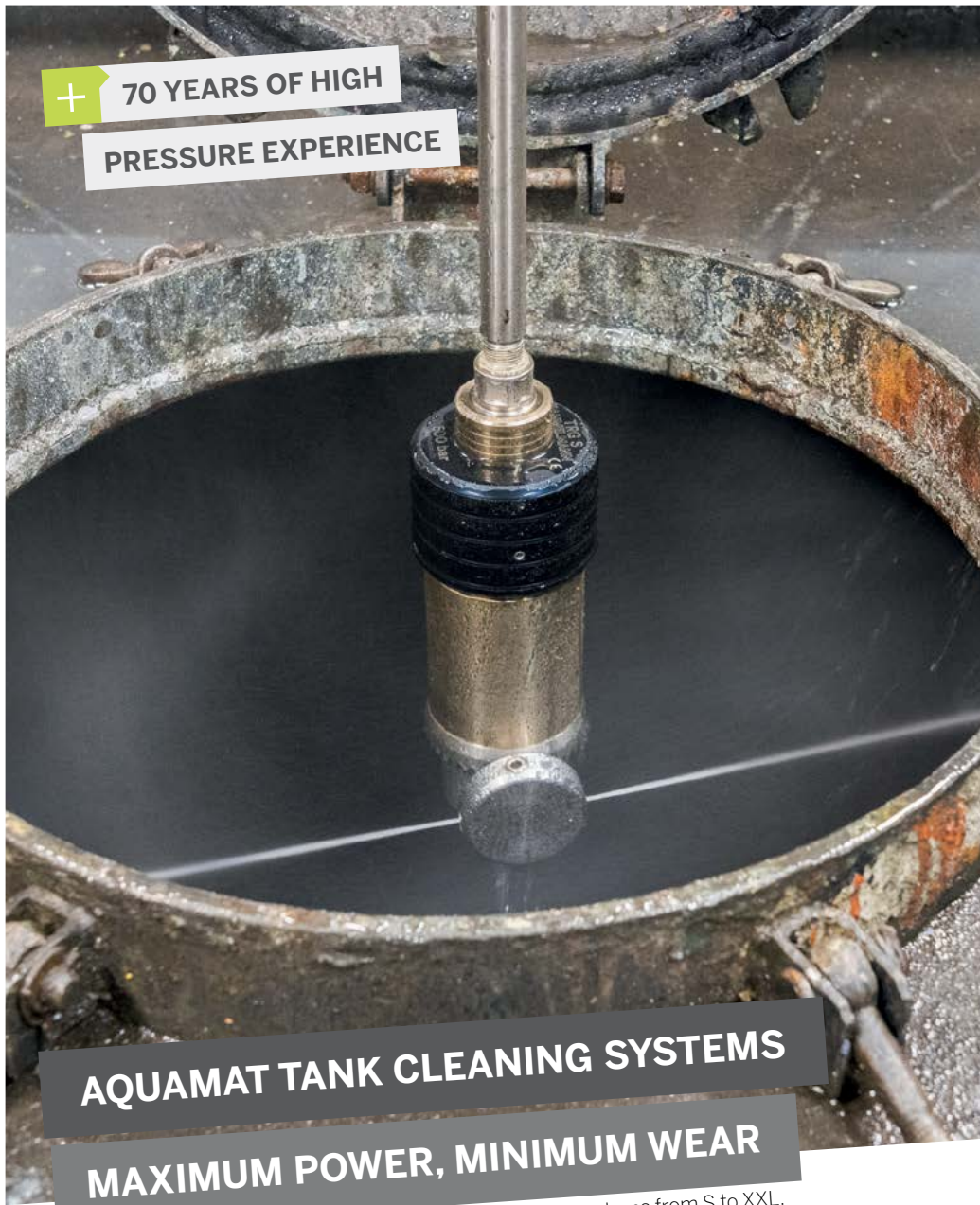
At the same time, freight costs can now only be planned on the basis of prices valid for between three and six months.

After thoroughly examining various options, the executive board, acting in agreement with the shareholders, took the strategic decision to discontinue its logistics activities.

Tank container leasing activities – including the staff and the assets themselves – are to be transferred within the VTG Group at the Hamburg site by the end of the second quarter.

VTG Tanktainer's other facilities in Germany, Finland, North America and Singapore will be closed by the end of the year.

The joint venture Shanghai COSCO VTG Tanktainer in China has not been affected by these measures. ■



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Global success for Gröninger

The Dutch company that installs tank cleaning systems successfully carries out new projects in Scandinavia, Germany and Japan



The equipment used for the tank cleaning facility in Gothenburg

The tank cleaning facility located at Den Hartogh Logistics Service Centre Gothenburg, Sweden, has recently been equipped with a latex cleaning unit.

Den Hartogh, which acquired the Swedish company at the beginning of last year, performs cleaning and heating activities at the site in addition to transport operations.

Cleaning process

The process of cleaning hardened latex remnants is difficult using a standard high pressure cleaning system.

To mitigate this, Gröninger has developed a fully automatic latex circulation unit dedicated to this purpose, which is continuously being updated and modernised.

By using a heated batch with a chemical cleaning agent, the latex is dissolved in the tank, eliminating the need for any manual work to be carried out.

Alongside its customer, Gröninger has been analysing how these operations can be carried out as energy efficiently as possible and has now selected an electric-powered return pump to reduce compressed air consumption.

The unit is placed in a 20ft technical container with a work platform located on top, allowing tanks to be cleaned on a separate bay without disturbing regular tank cleaning activities.

Global developments

The city of Nagoya in Japan, is home to Japan's largest seaport.

As a crucially important transportation hub, Meiko Trans has chosen Nagoya as the location for the construction of a modern tank container depot.

Different types of tank containers will be able to be cleaned at the new depot using a high-pressure system and a low-pressure chemical circulation unit.

The layout of the system was designed in close consultation and based on a visit by the Meiko delegation to Gröninger's headquarters in Rotterdam.

Upon the system's arrival in Japan, the unit was connected with piping and cabling and commissioned by a Gröninger project engineer.

Container cleaning system

Elsewhere, Gröninger has designed, built and commissioned a fully automatic container cleaning system for cotac.

cotac has been cleaning intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) and stainless steel containers at the Mannheim site for many years.

Many of the products transported in these containers find their way into the pharmaceutical industry.

To safeguard the quality of the



A fully automatic container cleaning system for cotac

“The process of cleaning hardened latex remnants is difficult using a standard high pressure cleaning system”

cleaning and to make cleaning less labour intensive, Gröninger has completed a fully automatic container cleaning system for the company.

The system is equipped to process various container formats. A forklift truck places the container on the stainless steel chain conveyor.

Next, the container is moved automatically through different sections.

The section where residual product is removed is connected to an air purification system, where the released vapors are purified.

Both the exterior and interior cleaning are carried out in a

closed, fully automated booth.

The associated high-pressure technology is built in a 20ft container. Stickers are removed very quickly using a 500 bar spray gun.

Afterwards, the containers are dried with hot air and/or sterilised using steam.

Cleaning and process data are processed by a PLC, exported as files, and digitally sent to the customer's systems.

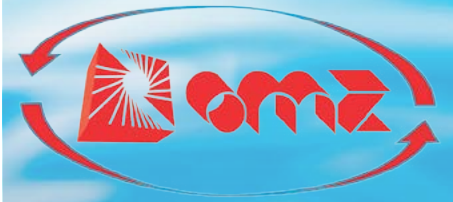
This means that the cleaning history of a container can always be referred to when asked for.

The HOYER Group has begun operating its most modern semi-automatic cleaning facilities for IBCs at its Mannheim site in Germany. With new projects in South Africa and New Zealand, Gröninger confirms its role as a global player. ■

For more information:
Visit: groninger.eu



The tank cleaning site in Nagoya, Japan



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Cleaning up with special agents

TURCO showcases some of its cleaning agents used at tank cleaning centres throughout Europe

TURCO Spain has established a prominent presence in the European tank cleaning market in recent years, thanks to a remarkable product called Transmaster NF.

Cleaning agent

TURCO's best-selling product offers an extremely good solution for tackling challenging cleaning tasks. With this product, operators can efficiently accomplish a wide range of difficult cleaning operations – saving both time and labour.

The company said that what sets it apart from other products on the market is its unique compatibility with steam, which significantly enhances its performance.

By harnessing the power of steam in conjunction with Transmaster NF, operators can achieve exceptional cleaning results that surpass the

capabilities of alternative solutions.

However, in certain cases, particularly with dedicated containers, the accumulation of dried and old residues necessitates more intensive measures.

A spokesman said: "We are not talking here about entering the tank – for



Sergio Saez Castro



Road tankers in the process of being cleaned

“In certain cases, particularly with dedicated containers, the accumulation of dried and old residues necessitates more intensive measures”

TURCO, this is a basic premise: operators must avoid entering a tank for manual cleaning – or about circulation systems, which, although effective, are not available to all cleaning centres.”

To address these challenges, TURCO has developed a ground-breaking cleaning system known as the A+S Process.

This innovative solution effectively eliminates stubborn residues by combining two specialised products with the application of steam and high temperature.

Unlike traditional solvent cleaners, the A+S Process does not dissolve the residues. Instead, it effectively strips away the solidified deposits from the tank walls using the pressure from the cleaning heads after the recommended waiting time.

The A+S Process has become the ultimate solution for critical situations involving dedicated containers, as well as other



special cases where cleaning has been neglected and seems almost hopeless.

Furthermore, this process finds another valuable application in the cleaning of dismantled parts.

By immersing the parts in the product mixture, with the appropriate temperature, the residue is softened, enabling easy removal with pressurised water.

In summary, the A+S Process perfectly complements the cleaning capabilities of Transmaster NF and conventional alkaline cleaners.

The spokesman added: “It represents a cutting-edge solution that enhances the effectiveness and

versatility of the tank cleaning process, ensuring exceptional results even in the most challenging scenarios.

“TURCO is constantly working to maintain its leading position in the market of cleaning agents for tank cleaning.”

For more information:

Visit: turco-spain.com/tankcleaning

High-pressure tank washing devices

PNR Italia showcases its spray nozzles and spraying equipment

For about 50 years, PNR Italia has been instrumental in the manufacture of spray nozzles and spraying equipment for the tank cleaning industry.

The company has been offering a wide range of quality tank washers designed to fill the requirements of several industries like food, beverage, pharma, and chemical for a very long time.

Solid reputation

PNR Italia is also a leading high-pressure industrial washing device market company. The firm offers high-quality cleaning solutions for various industries that has helped to solidify its reputation within the sector.

Its tank washing devices are designed to tackle the challenges of high-pressure industrial cleaning – ensuring exceptional results.

The company's R&D manager said: "We specialise in developing and manufacturing custom products tailored to the specific needs of our customers.

"What sets us apart is our focus on innovation and the quality of our products. "We use advanced technologies to ensure our washing heads' reliable and



UBQ (Axial-Radial) has a rugged construction and is used for continuous operations under challenging conditions



UBQ X produces a 240° rotating spray jet

"We specialise in developing and manufacturing custom products tailored to the specific needs of our customers"

long-lasting performance. Our team of experts also provides competent technical support and top-notch customer service.

"We understand the diverse needs of our customers and are committed to providing tailored solutions that improve cleaning process efficiency and reduce operational costs."

PNR Italia insists it is an ideal partner if companies are seeking reliable, and innovative high-pressure cleaning solutions.

The company is also keen to stress that it aims to deliver superior-quality products and exceptional services to meet the various industrial cleaning needs.

Its laboratory is also one of the best-equipped for testing products and it has a test bench where the performances of tank washers are tested when



The UBR device will allow a mobile cleaning capacity for customers using many small tanks, avoiding the investment in a stationary system

operated with hot water (85°C) to ensure performance is not affected by these extreme temperatures.

The required product range has been defined in about 11 different models, covering both general applications and some specific market areas.

The spokesman concluded: "The process of introducing the complete product range is still running. Three models have already reached their final targets and are now on the market."

For more information:
Visit: pnr.eu



Stolt Tank Containers outlines the technology it uses to reduce water and energy usage at one of its tank cleaning facilities

Sustainable cleaning solutions

Thanks to innovative recycling techniques, Stolt Tank Containers (STC) is keeping water, energy and detergent usage to a minimum during the cleaning of its tank containers.

STC has been trialling new processes at its cleaning depots to recycle water and energy, as well as minimise the need for additives and detergents.

This is resulting in significantly less waste, lower costs and a more planet-friendly tank-cleaning operation, according to the company.

STC's Moerdijk terminal in the Netherlands is one example of how the process works.

The system installed there recently is expected to reduce wastewater discharge by 70% and retain the wastewater for reuse at a temperature of 23°C so it does not require as much energy to reheat.

Water recycling

Wastewater from tank container cleaning processes is drained into the STC depot's wastewater installations, where it is processed via state-of-the-art technology for re-use.

This involves the separation of oils and fats, physical chemical treatment,



biological treatment and enhanced effluent polishing incorporating ultrafiltration, nano-filtration, active carbon absorption and sand filtration.

The cleaned water is of drinking quality standard, which makes it good enough to use all over again for the cleaning of chemical tank containers.

Thanks to the new system, freshwater usage at Moerdijk will be reduced by 21,000m³ per year. Additionally,

the discharge of wastewater into the public sewer will also decrease from 30,000 to 9,000m³ per year.

Energy efficiency

Heating water to perform high-pressure cleaning, dissolve product residue and flush waste requires a lot of energy.

This is because the optimal temperature for cleaning tank containers is about 85°C, while water coming out of the mains is typically around 11°C.

However, STC has invested in special rotating heat exchangers at Moerdijk, meaning they can recover a large proportion of the thermal energy in the wastewater that has been used for tank container cleaning.

This provides a starting point of 23°C (instead of 11°C), meaning there is 12 degrees less water heating to do. This, therefore, results in a huge saving in natural gas consumption.

What is more, this transfer of heat cools the wastewater to a point where it enables the oil fat separator to operate more efficiently.

Moerdijk's consumption of natural gas is expected to reduce by 57,000m³ per year, saving 37,000 kg of carbon emissions. That is equivalent to one year of household gas consumption for every employee (45) at the Moerdijk depot.

Reducing detergents and additives

The re-usable water that comes out of the facility's enhanced filtration system is very low in salts and minerals.

This soft water does not require additives prior to being re-heated in the boilers and reduces the amount of detergent needed for effective cleaning.

As a result, STC expects to reduce chemical consumption by around 2,000 kg a year at Moerdijk. ■

For more information:

Visit: stolttankcontainers.com



Wastewater at the facility gets to be reused

Chemical equations to solve supply chain issues

Sutton's international response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has had a significant impact on the chemical supply chain. These routes both within Europe and globally have been compromised and many long-established avenues have been disrupted since the conflict began 15 months ago.

While the short-term impact can be analysed, the long-term effects are yet to be fully understood.

Suttons International has reacted to these changes with a number of measures and is continually reviewing the situation to ensure customers' supply chains and production schedules are minimally disrupted.

The Impact of the conflict on supply chains

The impact the conflict has had on the physical transportation of chemicals in Eastern Europe cannot be understated.

The country is a major transit point for pipelines and links that carry raw materials in and out of Europe. The conflict has damaged or shut down many of these transit links, leading to disruptions in the supply of key feedstock for many chemical production processes.

The sanctions imposed on Russia due to the invasion has led to restrictions to previously accessible



New supply chains have had to be established

raw materials and has resulted in a significant increase in energy costs.

This has had a huge effect on the chemical supply chains in Europe and beyond, leading to shortages and price increases for a wide range of chemical products. These, in turn, have had cascading effects on multiple industries that rely on these chemical inputs.

In order to protect chemical plants in Europe from costly shutdowns, new supply chains to source raw material and feedstock from other locations have had to be quickly established, often at greater expense to the chemical producers.

The increasing costs of feedstock have been compounded by the skyrocketing price of energy.



“Another way in which Suttons International is helping its customers navigate these issues is through the use of strategically located bulk storage locations to hold buffer stocks of critical raw materials”

As an already highly energy intensive industry, soaring energy prices within Europe has forced many chemical producers in the region to pass these costs on to customers and end users, ultimately making these producers less competitive and attractive when compared to alternatives from Asia or the Americas.

This has all come at a time of reduced deep sea ocean rates, which have recently stabilised to the lowest levels since the start of the pandemic.

Additionally, chemical logistic costs within the EU (and UK) are at an all-time high, due in part to the issues already discussed, and lingering effects of Covid and Brexit, which further reduce the affordability and appeal of European chemical producers.

As a result, there has been a downturn in demand, and, therefore, overall production at many sites has decreased.

The loss of manufacturing output has further reduced the competitiveness of European chemical manufacturers, who are unable to bring the economies of scale necessary to reduce cost, when compared to rivals, or their own manufacturing, in other regions.

The impact on the global supply chain is far reaching. Suttons is only in the early stages of what could be a complete shift in numerous supply chains, which have been long established and unbroken for many decades.

In the medium to long term, the company can expect to see manufacturers source chemical products necessary for their operations away from the now higher cost European factories to alternative suppliers outside of Europe.

immediately stop all of its tanks carrying out import and export business to and from Russia.

A spokesman said: "We are continuously working with our customers to provide logistics solutions for transportation of alternative and ethically sourced products from other areas of the globe, to help with the immediate disruptions caused by the sanctions.

"Another way in which Suttons International is helping its customers navigate these issues is through the use of strategically located bulk storage locations to hold buffer stocks of critical raw materials. This way we can keep our manufacturing customers

constantly supplied with raw materials and finished products, further offsetting the unpredictability of the ongoing conflict."

Thanks to the company's global network with depots and offices across the US, South America, Southeast Asia, Japan and China, it has been able to support customers who are unable to retain their existing supply chains and help with the planning and distribution of products from new locations. ■

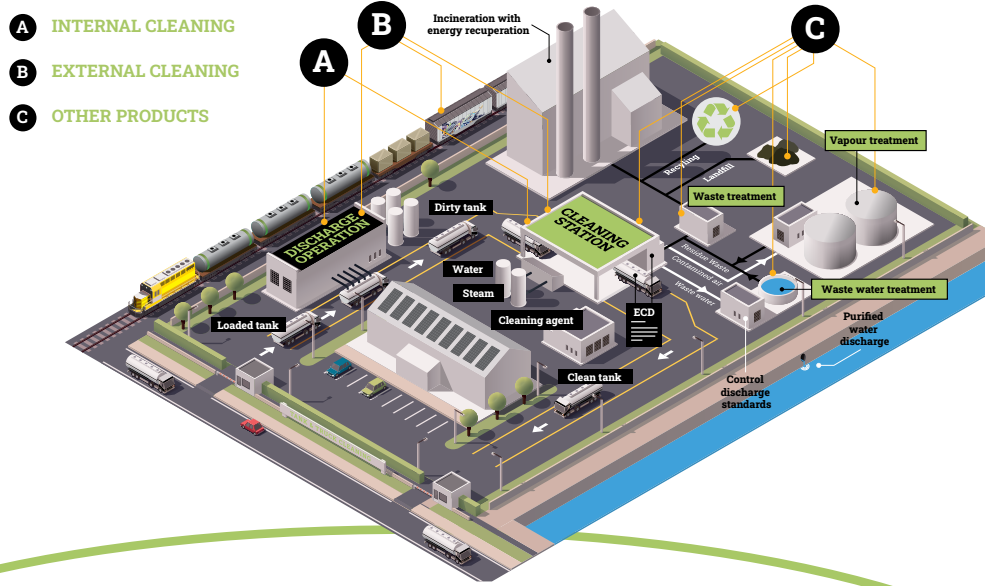
For more information:
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Navigating the conflict

One important action Suttons International took was to



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Pollution reduction goals

Hoyer sets out its new emissions targets

The HOYER Group has defined ambitious new medium and long-term emissions and safety targets by 2025 and 2030.

With a strategic mix of measures, the globally-operating, full-service provider consistently pursues its sustainability goals - this also includes testing further alternative fuels and the creation of a new energies project group.

CEO Björn Schniederkötter said: "For HOYER, sustainability aspects play an essential role at all stages of the supply chain.

"With solid improvements over the last 10 years, we have already achieved good progress towards our goal of minimising our carbon footprint."

In 2021, for the first time in the company's history, more than 80% of the kilometres HOYER travelled were undertaken using the less CO₂-intensive intermodal methods of transport.

A strategic mix of measures

The company has set itself ambitious targets for the future. By 2025, transport-



By 2025 emissions are targeted to be reduced by at least a further 10%

related CO₂ emissions, which have already been reduced by 29% since 2010, are targeted to reduce by at least a further 10% – and emissions from non-transport operations to reduce by an even more ambitious 27%.

The logistics firm aims to reduce their so-called transport-related tank-to-wheel CO₂ emissions by a further 15.6% to a total 25.6% reduction by 2030.

To achieve its medium- and long-term sustainability goals, the company has opted for a strategic mix of measures.

These include further optimising logistical and operational processes throughout the whole company.

In road transport HOYER has additional CNG and LNG trucks in operation and has started trialling HVO biodiesel.

A specifically composed project group with internal experts keeps a constant eye on the direction in which research into new energies is developing – so the international family business has a finger on the pulse of the times. Furthermore, the logistics specialist is switching to electricity from renewable energy sources in plant operations in its so-called non-transport sector. ■

For more information:
Visit: hoyer.com

"For HOYER, sustainability aspects play an essential role at all stages of the supply chain"

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