



Japan to Texas: the 6,000 kilometre journey

Summary: ASCO Freight Management Houston successfully transports highly valuable drums from Japan to Texas.

Challenge

Take two pieces of equipment, each of which is longer than a blue whale, weighs as much as 200 family cars and is twice the height of a double-decker bus, and move them thousands of kilometres across the world from Kobe, Japan to Houston, Texas in the USA. The equipment, critical refinery equipment called coke drums, is designed to withstand temperatures of 800 degrees Fahrenheit, but would it survive the journey?

Solution

AFM provided turnkey logistics for the complex operation of moving the drums from Kobe, Japan, 6000 kilometres by sea and land to their customer's refinery in Corpus Christi.

A year of meticulous planning went into ensuring that the 50 day transit to Houston would be flawless. AFM brought in ASCO's highly experienced Marine team to identify a precise specification for the carrier vessel while ASCO's IT team provided web-based software, which provided the customer with 24/7 GPS tracking capability.

Results

The deep sea vessel arrived on time and the coke drums were driven the final three miles to the refinery on specialist transporters. The whole project was successfully completed without harm to people or equipment, on time and to the satisfaction of the customer, who has now placed an order for six more drums due in 2009.





Beating the Drums for AFM

In the spring of 2008, a major Houston based refiner and marketer of transportation fuels, ordered two coke drums as part of a refurbishment program for their oil refinery in Corpus Christi. Each coke drum—a piece of refinery equipment designed to withstand temperatures of 800 degrees Fahrenheit—is longer than a blue whale, weighs as much as 200 family cars and is twice the height of a double-decker bus. Moving cargo of this size requires specialist assistance. And that is where ASCO Freight Management (AFM) came in.

AFM provided turnkey logistics for the complex operation of moving the drums from Kobe, Japan, 6000 kilometres by sea and land to the refinery as part of the Corpus Christi upgrade.

AFM faced a year of meticulous planning to ensure the project ran smoothly during the coke drums' 50 day transit to Houston. AFM brought in ASCO Marine to identify a precise vessel specification as a prelude to chartering the carrier vessel,

which transported both units to the port of Houston without incident.

To avoid demurrage fees and late delivery costs to the customer, AFM coordinated the positioning of a standby barge with the arrival of the vessel. The coke drums were critical to the operation of the entire refinery so it was important for AFM to get them on site, on time.

"We also wanted to offer more to our customer than the shipment of the cargo," said Mike Higgins, AFM Houston's Vice President of Operations. "We wanted to offer them the comfort of knowing exactly where their cargo was 24/7." To do this, Mike had ASCO's IT specialists create a system that allowed their customer to access shipment information via a website.

When the ship arrived in Houston, the coke drums were lowered to specialist transporters before making the final three mile trip to the refinery. The customer was highly satisfied.

AFM's demonstration that the international shipment of such complex pieces of cargo could be planned and executed safely gave the customer confidence to place an order for six more coke drums for delivery during 2009.

AFM continues to expand its global portfolio. As a world class provider of project freight management services to the oil and gas industry, it provides excellent service to its clients despite short deadlines and often harsh climatic conditions.

- Turnkey project logistics solution
- Customised IT package created for tracking customer's shipment
- Marine consultancy vessel selection