

Case Study



Invasion of the Slug Catchers

ASCO's freight forwarding company, ASCO Freight Management (AFM) have a one hundred per cent record of accomplishment of delivering projects to their customers on time, even when moving very large pieces of equipment with complex requirements around the world on tight deadlines. One such project involved the transport of two Slug Catchers from Treviso, near Venice, Italy to Dimlington in England in the spring of 2008. This project exemplifies the meticulous planning and attention to detail which is AFM's hallmark.

Slug Catchers are pressure vessels that separate water, oil and gas from crude oil input as well as offering protection from large-scale surges in inlet flow. They measure four and a half metres in diameter and are roughly twenty metres long. During testing, when they are filled with water, they weigh 470 tonnes – the combined weight of 100 African elephants.

“Not only did the equipment arrive on schedule but the entire project took place without a single safety incident. We are proud of that.”

Richard Singer, AFM Managing Director

AFM's project freight specialists moved the Slug Catchers by barge from Treviso to Venice, Italy before supervising their load out on the deep-sea vessel that carried them on a ten-day journey through the straits of Gibraltar and across the English Channel to Hull. At Hull, a pair of 500 tonne cranes tandem-lifted the Slug Catchers onto specially configured low loaders.

The final twenty-three mile leg of the journey to the Dimlington Terminal – at walking pace – took seven hours to execute and seven months to plan. Weeks of meetings with utility companies, local authority officials and traffic police took place. Every metre of the route was subject to stringent risk

assessments and extensive civil works were executed to allow sufficient clearance for the loads to pass.

On the day, telephone and utility engineers raised cables at various places along the route so that the Slug Catchers could pass underneath. To allow the slug catchers to squeeze through a particularly narrow section of the route, engineers turned overhanging lampposts away from the traffic flow.

Despite the complexity of the task, AFM ensured that the Slug Catchers arrived at site on time. Moreover, as Managing Director of AFM, Richard Singer recalls, 'Not only did the equipment arrive on schedule but the entire project took place without a single safety incident. We are proud of that.'

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Invasion of the Slug Catchers

Challenge

Transport two Slug Catchers from Treviso, near Venice, to Dimlington in England to meet a tight deadline.

Solution

AFM's project freight specialists moved the Slug Catchers by barge from Treviso to Venice, before supervising their load out on the deep-sea vessel that carried them on a ten-day journey through the straits of Gibraltar and across the English Channel to Hull. There on the quayside, a pair of 500 tonne cranes lifted the Slug Catchers onto low loaders for the last leg of the journey.

Outcome

The Slug Catchers were delivered on time, without incident and to the satisfaction of the client.



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