



Case study

German Waterways choose James Fisher Prolec

German Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration



Scope of work

James Fisher Prolec's guidance system Digmaster Pro selected by the German Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration to support a significant fleet upgrade.

The German inland waterway network stretches to around 7300km and is crucial for the country's economy. Not only is it well used by tourists and holidaymakers but it is also an integral trade hub for international freight transport. The network is managed by the German Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration, who are responsible for maintaining the rivers, canals, locks and seaward approaches, as well as managing shipping traffic.

In August 2012, as part of a work-boat fleet upgrade, the Federal Waterways office brought into service the clamshell dredger 'Elsflether Sand' to be used in the management of the River Weser in the Bremen district. This craft replaced older, decommissioned vessels, and was intended to increase the efficiency of the waterways' working cycles.

James Fisher Prolec supplied its 3D guidance solution Digmaster Pro complete with rugged marine grade sensors to accurately monitor both the boom and buckets position in relation to the target depth.

After installing Digmaster Pro, the German Federal Waterways and shipping Administration were able to significantly improve its productivity through close monitoring of profiles and "seeing" underwater.

Benefits delivered

- Fully submersible angle sensor technology allowed the operator to accurately excavate material from the harbour sea bed
- System configured to enable the construction of breakwaters or laying sealing material in shipping channels within pre-set parameter
- Faster Job completion
- Reduced costs of material handling, fuel and labour
- Ability to construct complex geometries, profiles and grades for 'blind' excavation
- Ability to select over 100 different bucket types without further calibration of the machine

Summary

Hitachi Zaxis 470 LCH excavator fitted with a Prolec Digmaster Pro for newly acquired dredger 'Elsflether Sand'

Equipment provided

- Digmaster Pro Machine guidance software
- Marine grade angle sensors
- Highly accurate GPS positioning