TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

# mechanical support linkspan

rev3

**The function of linkspans is to level the height difference between the quay and the cargo deck of the vessel in order to provide smoother, safer and faster access for loading and unloading. The linkspan can either rest directly on the vessel or be used to support the vessel's ramp.**

The TTS mechanical support linkspan, operated by lifting equipment, for example hydraulic cylinders, provides an access way to the main deck or the upper deck of the vessel. When linking to the main deck, it is normally positioned to accommodate the vessel's ramp, but it can also be rested on the vessel's ledge.

The mechanical support linkspan is suitable for use across different ranges of tidal variation. In the case of reduced tidal variation, the linkspan is normally operated at a specified fixed level depending on the actual water level and the type of vessel. The operator activates the linkspan to a preselected level and the linkspan automatically unlocks the parking cleat, manoeuvres itself and then locks at the correct level.

In the case of greater tidal variation, the linkspan is able to follow the tide while being used to support the vessel's ramp.

The operating panel can be programmed to accommodate various types of vessel such that the linkspan is levelled to fit the ship's deck when it arrives in port.

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If a vessel has no ramp, the operator can manoeuvre the linkspan onto the vessel's ledge. It can then be switched to 'floating' mode in order to follow the movement of the vessel.

Extended access ramps can be provided to ensure a smooth flow of traffic when the linkspan is used for access to the upper deck. The mechanical support linkspan enables more efficient loading and unloading of two-deck vessels, and helps to reduce the turnaround time of cargo vessels in port.


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