

ITS introduces automated steering system for RTGs

International Terminal Solutions (ITS) has completed the development and substantial upgrade of its RTG auto steering system, with the launch of its new V-TRAX passive automated steering system. The system, says the company, is a cost-effective solution for steering RTG cranes.

V-TRAX automatically and accurately steers the container handling equipment down a virtual track along the runway, preventing equipment

and container collisions. According to ITS, the system improves terminal safety and driver productivity, reducing driver fatigue and equipment maintenance.

It uses high-precision differential GPS to locate the equipment and provide both its current position and heading, using a twin antenna method that allows it to determine the heading even before it starts to move.

The system is designed to offer minimum invasion into

existing equipment controls, with simple-to-use interfaces that make it easy to set up and configure. The runway map can be quickly and automatically uploaded to each item of equipment using an existing wireless LAN or manually using a USB memory stick.

V-TRAX has a number of in-built safety devices that provide fail-safes to avoid collisions. The driver has full override control, allowing manual steer at any time, and

clear signalling and audible warnings let the driver know at all times what the system is doing and who is steering.

The system can be fully stand-alone or incorporated as part of a position location system. Designed to retrofit to existing equipment as well as install on new, it is not tied to any particular crane or control package manufacturer. This ensures continuity of system supply if terminal operators purchase handling equipment from multiple vendors. ■