

A S H T O N B U L K L T D

O R I G I N S & E X P E R I E N C E

Ashton Bulk are the core remaining element of the original Strachan & Henshaw Ltd Bulk Materials Handling Division located in Bristol, UK from 1879 to 2001. This department was acquired by Metso Minerals in 2001 and remained in Bristol until it's closure in 2009.

As Strachan & Henshaw, we accumulated over a 100 years experience of supplying varied and bespoke handling equipment to a variety of industry sectors both in the UK and around the world. This culminated in certain areas of specialisation including materials handling equipment such as Stockyard Equipment and Train Unloading Systems. Of the latter, Strachan & Henshaw were seen as the world specialists in train handling and could design and supply a range of machines to automatically or semi-automatically marshal trains and unload wagons to suit customer requirements. Strachan & Henshaw Train Unloading and Stockyard plant has been installed throughout the world, in particular the high throughput export and transshipment terminals of South Africa, Canada, China and Australia.

Metso Minerals took the decision to close their Bristol office in 2009 and at that time the specialist engineering team and knowledge base that Strachan & Henshaw had previously built was still in place. The opportunity to ensure it remained intact and functioning for the future presented itself and resulted in the formation of Ashton Bulk Materials Handling, initially working to support Metso Minerals before they gradually withdrew from bespoke areas of the international materials handling sector.

The Ashton Bulk team consists of extremely experienced engineers, younger engineers and support staff, primarily undertaking engineering, project management and aftermarket/refurbishment projects. All senior staff have a background in engineering design, project management, production, installation and commercial experience. We maintain a close relationship with both long term clients, consultants and experienced suppliers to ensure we provide, and can be provided with, the best engineering solutions in an industry with individual requirements that are rarely be solved using "off the shelf" designs.

Since our inception we have collaborated with recognised builders and suppliers of bulk materials handling equipment including Takrak Tenova (Germany), Larsen & Toubro (India) and Power China's Manufacturing Unit. Companies using and enquiring for AB services and consultancy include Dalian Huarui Heavy Industries DHHI (China), FL Schmidt (Germany & USA), TAIM Wesser (Spain), Krupp Fordertechnik (Germany).

In respect of the range of equipment we can design and engineer, Ashton Bulk equals that previously offered by Strachan & Henshaw and is second to none in respect of size and types of Train Unloading Systems. The capacity of equipment we have in our range of expertise includes Train Unloading systems and Stockyard machines up to 10,000 tonne per hour capacity.

Train Unloading Systems

Ashton Bulk have the experience of being involved in the design, engineering and supply of all known types of Train Unloading Systems. These systems are rarely 'standard' or 'off the shelf' and that is why experience and good partnering is the key to successful supply and performance. This is particularly pertinent to plants where replacement equipment is being installed. There are two main types of Train Unloading Systems, those where the wagons remain coupled, referred to as Unit Train, and those where wagons are uncoupled for unloading.

Included in within these categories are:

- Single Cell Rotary 'O' Type Tippers (including Unit Train) - arranged individually or in series.
- Single Cell Rotary 'C' Type Tippers - arranged individually or in series.
- Multi-Wagon Versions of Rotary 'O' and 'C' Type Tippers.
- Side Unloading (Rotaside) Tippers.
- Associated Train Moving and Train Holding Equipment including Train Positioners, Side Arm Chargers, Wagon Traversers, Wheel Grippers, Wheel Chocks and Train Locks.

During the last 9 years, 44 Train Unloading Systems have been commissioned or are currently being installed worldwide to Ashton Bulk designs. No other Train Unloading System design engineers have achieved such references in terms of quantity or range of machine types.

Stockyard Equipment

Our range of Stockyard Equipment is engineered and designed in as thorough manner as our Train Unloading Systems. Machines range from smaller "Rocker" type machines up to 'C' Frame machines with throughputs as high as 10,000 tonnes per hour.

Engineering Team & Approach

All equipment is engineered in accordance with the latest design standards and codes of practice, in particular BS EN13001 General Principles for Crane Design, using state of the art modelling and analysis systems and overseen by experienced stress engineers. All components are design to be extremely robust and sized with high levels of contingency to ensure maximum availability and reliability.

Our team combine a balance of highly qualified engineers and engineers that have served full term craft apprenticeships in a wide range of technical disciplines. This skilled team has the experience of working globally to ensure that the manufacture of equipment meets the required engineering quality and performance of the required systems are achieved. The total experience of these engineers exceeds 300 man years. Being located in the UK, our team is readily available for service calls and back up during normal working hours in Europe and Africa, and available for the America's and Asia for during parts of the working day.

Project Experience & References

The following documentation is available: Reference lists covering all types of the above listed equipment for which Ashton Bulk designers have provided engineering and designs, Letters of Reference, Ashton Bulk's Tippler design portfolio, recent project summaries and introduction to Wagon Tippler Train Unloading Systems.

Aftermarket Services

Ashton Bulk provide a wide range of aftermarket and consultancy services to cater for client's requirements in areas of surveying, refurbishment, spare part support and upgrades to maintain their equipment's operational availability and efficiency over the course of its lifetime.

Equipment Surveys & Audits

Surveys can be undertaken whether structural, mechanical or electrical and tailored to a number of requirements such as emergency repairs, planned maintenance, capital expenditure or insurance claims.

Repairs & Refurbishment

Ashton Bulk engineers are on hand to plan and engineer every modification, repair or machine refurbishment, including capacity, structural, hydraulic and electrical upgrades.

Spare Part & Equipment Supply

Our specialist knowledge of mechanical handling and bulk handling equipment enables us to provide a wide range of spare part and specialist equipment services.

Engineered Dismantling

Modern dismantling and decommissioning of large structural machines require specialist knowledge of the particular challenges presented both physically in and in terms of compliance with the latest regulations and codes of practice.