

(326,000 NT, down 1% from September final), Turkey (136,000 NT, up 13%), Germany (135,000 NT, down 12%), Brazil (91,000 NT, down 17%) and Japan (91,000 NT, down 46%). Through the first ten months of 2017, the largest offshore suppliers were South Korea (3,282,000 NT, up 0.4%), Turkey (2,089,000 NT, up 1%) and Japan (1,326,000 NT, down 16%).

\* Monthly permit numbers provided to date may be understated, as entry documentation with the required import license number may be submitted up to ten days after imports have entered U.S. commerce.

### SP Compression Load Cell Performs BOP Clamp Load Test

Carl Stahl UAE used four hydraulic cylinders and a wireless compression load cell from Straightpoint (SP) to perform a load test on a blowout preventer (BOP) clamp for an undisclosed client in the Middle East recently.

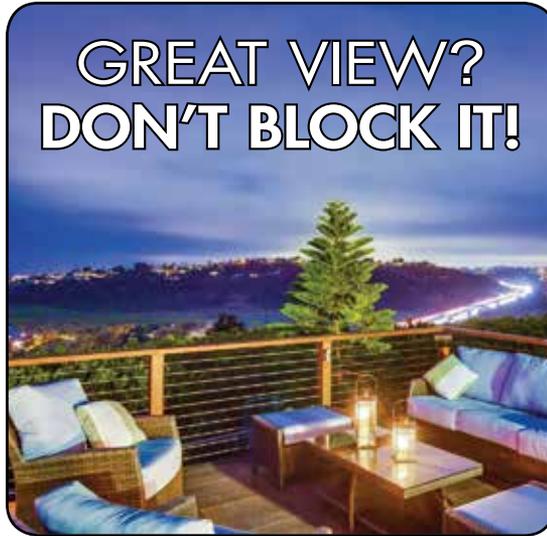
Carl Stahl, a distributor of SP's range of force measurement technologies and other lifting equipment, accepted a scope of work to plan and execute a 137.5t load test, and report the find-



The 150t capacity compression load cell was beneath a larger beam rigged to a forklift truck.



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ings back to the customer. The BOP in its entirety will be used to stop the uncontrolled flow of liquids and gases during well drilling operations. It is essentially a large, high-pressure valve.

The clamp was flat on the ground, above which the four 50t capacity hydraulic cylinders were positioned along a beam; above that, the 150t capacity compression load cell was beneath a larger beam rigged to a forklift truck. A shackle at either end of the larger (red) beam connected it to the clamp.

Sinoj Antony, Technical Manager at Carl Stahl UAE, said: "We used beams to constrain the load within the system and steel plates as footings to spread the load over the surface of the BOP clamp. The forklift was only used to set-up the system; the load application was achieved through hydraulic cylinders."

David Ayling, Director at SP, added: "In essence, they [Carl Stahl UAE] spread the lift along the bottom beam and transferred it to the load cell. The

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