damage so always legible); RFID chips installed for digital tracing; markings on both faces of the shackle body (no need to turn heavy objects to find markings; users can always read them whichever side is up); and off-center lifting point in shackle pin to enable manipulation with a hoist during installation.

The Power Sling Shackle joins other Green Pin products in Safe Lifting's rental range, including the GP P6033 Sling Shackle and GP P6036 Heavy Duty Shackle. The company also stocks an existing range of heavy lift shackles up to 1,500t capacity, but will invest in higher capacity rigging equipment if required. An existing client base is expected to drive initial demand for the new shackle but Heick anticipates enquiries from prospective customers as word spreads of availability.

He said: "We're committed to healthy stock levels and have multiple units of each capacity, up to 1,250t, available immediately. We need to be able to respond to demand for short-term rental for single lifts, and long-term hire for project durations. Supply of the Power Sling Shackle will be the same as for other products; the customer decides the period of time they require the lifting component and we make a compelling case to choose our solution."

Van Beest concluded: "Running large rigging projects for demanding end users is their [Safe Lifting's] core business. Many companies rely on their expertise to perform these jobs as quickly and efficiently as possible. These are exactly the kind of projects that benefit the most from this unique new shackle."

Seattle Firm Keeps SP Loadshackle Busy

Seattle, Washington-based Arxcis Inc., a crane inspection and operator safety training company, uses a 25-ton capacity wireless shackle load cell (or loadshackle) from Straightpoint (SP) to keep personnel at a safe distance during load testing.

Arxcis is accredited to carry out such tests on a variety of on and offshore equipment, including floating cranes and derricks; vessels; material handling products; and loose rigging gear, including wire rope and other below-the-hook equipment. Its customers are principally concerned with meeting the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Jeff Williams, co-owner, president and chief inspector at Arxcis, said: "We also have certifications to inspect cranes and other equipment used in longshoring; shipyards and ship breaking; and the construction industry. We use the SP loadshackle mainly in the load testing portion of our operations, whether doing a static test or weighing the test weights themselves."

Williams, who has been inspecting cranes and below-the-hook equipment for 22 years, explained that the wireless capability of the load shackle—data is transmitted wirelessly utilizing the latest in IEEE 802.15.4 (2.4 GHz) technology—is essential to keeping personnel safe.

"When load testing some marine cranes we will load the crane to 125% of the rated load for that radius and, if there's a catastrophic event, one doesn't want to be in close proximity of the hook," he said.

A number of recent case studies represented typical Arxcis applications. In a bollard pull test at Platypus Marine, of Port Angeles, WA, for example, the loadshackle was attached to the vessel by two straps and then a long line was sent out from the stern and attached to a fixed point. The vessel then ramped up to full power and the poundage was read and recorded

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