

ALE



SMARTER, SAFER, STRONGER

AINSCOUGH

CRANE HIRE LTD



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Ainscough and ALE have worked together in the UK for many years, so making the partnership official seemed like the next logical step. By collaborating and combining our expertise, we'll be able to offer clients a seamless, full-service solution. We're excited about the opportunities this working partnership will bring.”

Neil Partridge, Managing Director, Ainscough

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This partnership combines two market leaders. We're delighted to be amalgamating our plant, expertise and industry knowledge to offer a complete solution to clients. The quality of service we offer is paramount and this working relationship will provide the best available, without a doubt.”

Mark Harries, Executive Director, ALE



It's no surprise that ALE, a leading heavy lift company, and Ainscough, the UK's largest crane hire provider, have worked together to mutual benefit for many years. So we're delighted to announce that we're establishing an official partnership in the UK that will enable us to provide an even more efficient and expansive service.



ALE operates one of the largest fleets of heavy transportation equipment in the world. Considered a global authority on moving heavy loads, the company boasts a wealth of highly trained personnel, exceptional project management skills and a proven track record in engineering innovation. As a result, ALE is able to deliver the best heavy lifting and transportation solutions available.

Established in 1976, Ainscough Crane Hire Limited has 3 decades' experience supplying safe and efficient lifting solutions to the energy, infrastructure, petrochemical, offshore and construction industries. Today, with some 500 cranes based at 30 depots across the UK, Ainscough operates the largest and most technically advanced mobile fleet, and is firmly established as Britain's market leader in lifting services.

Both companies were founded in the UK, and have market knowledge and experience that can't be beaten. But while strong separately, the combination of our equipment and expertise makes us even stronger together. Both ALE and Ainscough have made a firm commitment to the partnership, which will give us the ability to lift and transport any piece, of any size in the UK.

Customers of both organisations will reap the benefits of better service, greater expertise and a first class fleet of equipment. ALE and Ainscough have much in common: both share the belief that health and safety considerations are paramount, both place considerable importance on maintaining client relationships, and both invest heavily in new technologies and training. Our partnership will ensure we remain at the forefront of our industry and continue to add value to the service our customers receive.

In fact ALE and Ainscough are both accredited to ISO standard and have implemented stringent standards that exceed legal requirements. ALE has established Centres of Excellence in all service areas to complement classroom-based study and external training. A dedicated HSQE team oversees local and global campaigns and provides advisors on site to ensure HSQE standards are continually improving. Under the overarching motto 'Safety before profit', Ainscough recently introduced 'Target Zero'; a safety initiative designed to reflect the zero injury target much of the industry now strives for.



Although we've only recently formalised the ALE/ Ainscough partnership, we have in fact been working together successfully for many years. ALE's transportation services and Ainscough's lifting services have complemented each other on numerous projects – most notably on the Greater Gabbard Wind Farm project in Harwich.

Greater Gabbard is the world's largest offshore wind farm in construction. Situated off the Suffolk coast on two North Sea sand banks known as Inner Gabbard and The Galloper, the wind farm will eventually produce a total capacity of around 500MW from 142 wind turbines mounted on steel monopoles.

Design and Feasibility

ALE was awarded the contract to receive, store and redeliver components for the wind farm to the Harwich site. To achieve this, ALE was heavily involved from the design and feasibility stage. Our input resulted the creation of a purpose-built storage site for the EPC contractor, which allows components can be stored for as long as required and transported offshore to suit the installation schedule. It also meant we were able to develop innovative handling solutions that had a positive impact on the speed, safety and efficiency of operations.

The flexibility of our equipment meant we were able to reduce imposed ground loads, and by reducing our reliance on cranes we were able to minimise the risk of weather delays and safety issues associated with working at height.

However, there were key stages during the operation that demanded the use of cranes, and for these ALE required Ainscough's knowledge and experience. ALE and Ainscough therefore developed a close working relationship from the earliest stages of the project.



Operations



ALE's responsibilities included receiving the turbine components; the handling, storage and maintenance of the components; the inventory and quality control of the components entering and exiting the site; the load-out of the components to offshore installation vessels as and when the installation schedule demanded them; and the receiving of equipment and load-out equipment by working two vessels in parallel.



During the project, Ainscough were called upon to assist with two critical operations: firstly, in lifting the turbine blades from site onto ALE plant ready for transportation, and secondly, with the lifting of cable spools onto Self Propelled Modular Transporters (SPMTs) for delivery by ALE.



The success of the project relied on ALE and Ainscough working together to provide a complete, seamless service. Our combined expertise guaranteed the safety and efficiency of operations.



Ref: www.chpv.co.uk

Power

Ainscough has substantial experience in nuclear decommissioning projects and offers a turnkey service to wind farm operators, while ALE has worked on energy projects in more than 100 countries and developed new technology and equipment to meet the changing needs of the power generation industry. Our combined fleet puts us in a unique position to support the projects expected to come on line in the next few years.

CASE STUDY

WEST BURTON POWER STATION

ALE transported and installed 18 items for West Burton Power Station. The items were received at the port of Hull and barged down the River Trent to a jetty at Cottam Power Station, where they were transhipped to a girder frame trailer for the final 6-mile journey through narrow country roads and small villages. Ainscough supported the project throughout by providing a full onsite cranning solution.



CASE STUDY

THAI GROWTH PROJECT

ALE performed a series of lifts as part of the Thai Growth Project, transporting, lifting and installing a number of items ranging from 73te to 813te in just 22 days. The use of ALE's record-breaking AL.SK190 crane helped achieve significant cost and time savings as it meant we were able to perform all lifts from a single location.



Petrochemical

Whether it's for full-scale refinery shutdowns or maintenance work, Ainscough is the UK's leading supplier of cranes to the petrochemical industry. ALE also operates a comprehensive fleet of heavy cranes – including the world's largest land-based crane – which makes it possible to engineer scheme such as lifting 'off plot' that were previously impossible. Together, we're able to meet the most demanding challenges.

Oil and gas

Ninety per cent of ALE's work in the oil and gas industry involves a full cradle-to-grave support solution including load-out, ballasting, weighing and transportation services. Ainscough has a dedicated operation, based in Scotland, called James Jack Lifting Services, which is focused on meeting the needs of the offshore industry.

CASE STUDY

BP SALT END

Ainscough and ALE worked together to transport 18 modules, ranging from 16te to 118te, from South Wales to the BP refinery at Salt End. Because of their size, 10 of the modules were delivered by road, while the remaining 8 were shipped on two coaster vessels. ALE was responsible for the site movement of the pieces and their transportation to the refinery, while Ainscough provided the crange required to load the modules onto the vessels and trailers and then completed the contract by erecting the modules on-site.



CASE STUDY

SHOOTERS BOTTOM

When Ecotricity approached Ainscough to help with the erection of a 70m wind turbine at Shooters Bottom in Somerset, we used our 500te Liebherr crane to lift it into position. The crane was first rigged on a 135te counterweight and a guyed main boom for the erection of the tower section, which weighed up to 53te each. The crane was then reconfigured and coupled with a 52m luffing fly to lift the 51te generator and hub and blades into place.



Onshore wind

ALE and Ainscough are able to provide a full solution to the onshore wind market. Our unparalleled range of transportation and crange equipment – along with our engineering intelligence and vast experience – mean we're able to create smarter solutions to the challenges posed by wind turbines and associated components that are continually increasing in size and weight.

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