

# PRESS RELEASE

ASA-CME-FOR-001 Rev 1.0

**From:** Blanca CLAEYSSSENS  
**Direct:** +33 6 28 29 78 95  
**Date:** 01/10/2024  
**Subject:** Mana Ito project Tahiti

With the olympic games just weeks away from starting, ASA France still surfs the wave of the Mana Ito project which it concluded beginning of 2024. Indeed at a merely 30 km away from the iconic wave and surfing hotspot TEAHUPOO, a remarkable story started in 2022 near HITIAA on the french polynesian island of Tahiti.



ASA France is asked to assist its client with the transport of three gas tanks from Poland to the site in the jungle near the shore of the lagoon at Hitia'a. This is the beginning of two years of preparation for this operation, which is subject to stringent safety standards. So in April 2023, the ASA France team visits the site to define the solution in order to make it technically possible. ASA prepares the lashing and securing challenges and ensures the cradle design is adapted. It also anticipates the spmt limitations and asks to design the road accordingly. As each gas tank, fabricated by GELDOF (Engicon), weighs 357t and has a diameter of 8m and a length of 45m, the technical challenges are multiple. Besides a suitable road, a quay needs to be constructed as to ensure a barge can be moored safely to unload bullet per bullet.



The purpose of the project is to provide an expanded gas offer to the tahitian households. The gas terminal has a capacity of 3 000 tonnes LPG and will be connected with a pipeline to the mooring position where gas tankers will anchor to fill the bullets.

Nevertheless, this goal is not reached at whatever cost ; MANA ITO takes utmost care of the environment and the local community. The corals in front of the quay are displaced with floatable balloons to preserve their existence and even a ritual ceremony is performed by the locals to request the approval of the sacred forest spirits.

In the meantime, ASA FRANCE runs a feasibility study to check whether a local barge can be used to transfer the bullets from the heavy lift vessel instead of having to bring one from Europe. By doing so, besides by saving more than one million euros, also the carbon footprint of the project is reduced.

After the correct heavy lift vessel selection and the creation of a team between the manufacturer, the vessels crew and transport handler, the UHL ship is ready to load the bullets and set sail from Poland to Tahiti. As Marine Warranty Surveyors, ASA FRANCE supervises the operation from door to door with a dedicated team. Off course there are some bumps in the road (storm in the North Sea area, a Panama Canal with several weeks of delay), but thanks to the well established communication lines with COLI SHIPPING, swift decisions are taken and the course is set safely to destination paradise.

After more then a year of technical preparation by ASA FRANCE with the client and it's subcontractors, finally the bullets arrive in the lagoon.



This is a maiden voyage because for the first time the anchoring points, created for the mooring of gastankers, are used by a vessel. Besides the technical challenges, the human

factor is of even more importance. Only by acting as a team, all voices of the individual experts can be heard, worries expressed, risks identified and so the best solution chosen.

On the UNITED HEAVY LIFT cargo ship, the gigantic 45-meter-long gas tanks, with a storage capacity of 1,000 tonnes each, catch the eye of local residents and journalists.

The show can begin, by closely monitoring the weather limitations and over a period of several days, the behemoths are transshipped from vessel to barge by the use of the 2x450MT vessels' cranes. Every morning at 04.00 o'clock, ASA FRANCE unites all actors to highlight the risks of the day and ensure situational awareness is present throughout the team. The heavy lifts are supervised to ensure execution according to plan for the single lifts and a perfect coordination of the tandem lifts.

The barge is precisely manoeuvred onto the small quay and moored with the assistance of Fabien Duval and the coordination of multiple trucks used as mooring points. The SARENS team starts the load-in operation by the use of 48 axle lines KAMAG K24 SPMT's with 2 PPU's, 2 500-tonne capacity turning tables and 9-metre linkspans.



Everytime a bullet arrives safely onshore, a loud honking from the barge, the trucks used for mooring and the SPMT operators sounds throughout the valley. The team congratulates

oneother, shakes hands and celebrates this small victory. After a small break, focus again to safely manoeuver the bullets over the 350-meter road that has been laid out, tarred and terraced for the occasion. Each bullet is positioned on it's storage stools and carefully inspected by ASA FRANCE and GELDOLF to ensure conformity.

Once again human interest is put before economical gain and all parties agree to take a well deserved holiday break permitting all expats to return to their family in Europe for Christmas.

Beginning of January, the entire team is back up and running to perform the final manoeuvring and jack-down the bullets onto their sandbed by the use of 4 CS250 climbing systems. ASA FRANCE coordinates between all different companies (PVRD, SAT NUI, SARENS, GELDOLF and SALTA) to ensure focus till the end. Everyone is at the same page, no suppositions are made and no unnecessary risks taken. A flawless execution is only possible at remote locations when preceded by a thorough preparation. By constantly asking the question « What if ? », the team is ready to handle even the most unlikely event. Luckily, because during the jack-down operation, an spmt operator gets bitten by a venomeonous jungle specie and needs immediate treatment.



The transport part of the project is closed by a an unforgettable barbecue hosted by the locals and in presence of all companies involved.

Today, the bullets are already invisible and the jungle will slowly grow over their buried surface as the connexion of piping by SALTA continues to finalise this gas terminal by the end of the year.



An extensive report, some pictures and especially a lot of great memories will last a lifetime as every project completed in our industry is unique and together we make great things happen !

Further video and articles from Sarens

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQf\\_ziWajOU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQf_ziWajOU)

<https://www.sarens.com/about/news/sarens-supports-construction-of-new-gas-storage-terminal-on-tahiti.htm>