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freight and logistics:supply chain

Supply chain stable, despite Italy's earthquake

A large 5.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Ponte Motta in Italy, on May 29, 2012, recently caused significant damage estimated to be worth tens of millions of Euros to the factory owned by WAM – an internationally-recognised specialist in the manufacture of screw conveyors and bulk material handling and processing equipment.

Despite the fact that the 74 000m² roofed facility, which also includes warehouses and offices, is largely inaccessible as a result of the earthquake, WAM South Africa's General Manager, Emilie Marchand, points out that local customers will not be negatively affected with regard to equipment supply. "OLI, a subsidiary of WAMGROUP, has a large assembly and distribution warehouse in Malta, and has taken over the responsibility for the supply of equipment to the South African market," she explains.

The various international branches of OLI and WAM have been working closely together to ensure that the necessary support is provided to the most urgent markets. "WAM France has been providing WAM SA with support regarding distribution, while OLI SA has been supporting its Australian and German counterparts, who have been negatively affected. This excellent support network and comprehensive stockholding among all the WAMGROUP subsidiaries has minimised any risk of disruption in the supply chain, and South African customers will not be affected in any way whatsoever," she adds.

WAMGROUP Chairman and CEO, Vainer Marchesini, says that the rebuilding of the Ponte Motta plant may take up to 12 months, "Although we do aim to have the more complex production lines back in operation within the next three months," he explains.

"To cope with market demands, we have tentatively located our production for all core products at our sites in Ravenna and Mantua, in addition to a rented site in

Modena. All our employees have also been moved to offices in Modena," he adds.

Italian-based WAM employees have been working around the clock to ensure that any disruptions to the company are minimised. Vainer states, "I would like to personally extend my praise and gratitude to all WAM employees who have displayed their unwavering dedication and commitment to the company during this difficult time.

"They have shown that swift action and hard work is vital to the quick and seamless recovery of the business."

Emilie has also extended her gratitude to the WAMGROUP management in Italy. "WAM SA is sincerely grateful to management at WAM in Italy for handling this crisis in such a professional manner. This has ensured that all 53 subsidiaries are able to carry out 'business as usual', without customers being negatively affected," she concludes.

WAM SA and OLI SA currently have sufficient stock levels, and can source additional stock from a global network if required. Any concerned customers who require more information on the availability of specific equipment can contact WAM SA on 011 822 2269 or visit www.wamgroup.com or www.olisouthafrica.com

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Aftermath of the Cavezzo Earthquake, 10 days later.

