

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Port of NEOM Receives KSA's First Automated Cranes, Ushering in a New Era of Smart Port Innovation and Reshaping the Future of Work—Particularly for Women
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Attachments: [Production Specialists at Port of NEOM.jpg](#)
[Production Specialists at Port of NEOM 2.jpg](#)
[Cranes stationed at Port of NEOM.jpg](#)
[Port of NEOM Automation and Talent Development PRL - EN.docx](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

I wanted to share a story of progress and leadership from Saudi Arabia that aligns with your coverage of women in innovation, tech, and non-traditional careers.

At Port of NEOM—part of Saudi's reimagined industrial city of Oxagon—a cohort of young Saudi women is undergoing training to become remote crane operators, making them among the first in the Kingdom to hold such high-skill, tech-forward roles in logistics. Their training aligns with a key milestone: the recent delivery of Saudi Arabia's first fully automated, remote-controlled cranes to the Port of NEOM. These next-generation cranes are central to NEOM's strategy to build one of the world's most advanced and inclusive smart ports, and these women are preparing to operate them from secure, high-tech environments.

This initiative is part of a broader movement in Saudi Arabia to expand economic opportunity and reshape the future of work—particularly for women. Through Oxagon's two-year training program, women from the Tabuk region are gaining the technical skills and hands-on experience needed to operate some of the world's most advanced port automation systems. In doing so, they are helping redefine what's possible for women in maritime, logistics, and high-tech industry.

Their progress reflects a national shift already underway: since 2019, female participation in the Kingdom's industrial workforce has surged by 93%, and the female unemployment rate has dropped from 31.4% to just 12.8%, according to reports announced by the Kingdom. Pairing infrastructure innovation with inclusive workforce development, Oxagon is directly enabling women to lead in future-critical fields—where capability, not convention, defines leadership.

We'd love to explore telling this story if you are interested. I've attached the press release with more information on the crane delivery, as well as photos of the cranes and the program participants for your use.

Look forward to hearing back from you and thank you in advance.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (she/her/hers) [\(what's this?\)](#)

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Port of NEOM Strengthens Role in Global Supply Chain Connectivity

- *Development of Port of NEOM continues at pace ahead of 2026 launch of Terminal 1, which will enable the port to receive the world's largest container vessels*
- *Port of NEOM welcomes first automated remote-controlled cranes in Saudi Arabia, advancing automation and boosting trade links on the Red Sea*
- *Arrival of next-gen cranes supports advanced workforce development program designed to empower Saudi talent and unlock high-tech jobs of the future*

NEOM, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, [4 June 2025] – Port of NEOM, set to become an advanced and sustainable port, has marked a major milestone with the arrival of the first fully automated, remote-controlled Ship-To-Shore (STS) and Electric Rubber-Tyred Gantry (eRTG) cranes in KSA—advancing its goal to become a global hub for smart, sustainable trade.

Strategically located on the Red Sea, one of the world's busiest maritime corridors, Port of NEOM is already serving as a critical gateway on the East–West trade route. The newly arrived state-of-the-art cranes will play a critical role in the port's automation strategy, unlocking the potential for high-volume, high-efficiency operations. Importantly, their remote-control capability allows for a future-ready workforce model, where operators can manage equipment from secure, ergonomic environments.

Development of Port of NEOM continues at pace ahead of the 2026 opening of Terminal 1, a next-generation container terminal, with recent infrastructure milestones including the completion of a 900-meter quay wall and the deepening of the port channel to 18.5 meters—enabling the world's largest vessels transiting the Suez Canal to call at Port of NEOM.

Terminal 1 will also feature horizontal transport automation as part of the broader goal to achieve full automation. Once operational, these technologies will significantly expand the port's logistics capacity, driving regional industrial growth, opening access to global markets, enhancing supply chain resilience and unlocking business opportunities.

Sean Kelly, Managing Director of Port of NEOM, said: "The arrival of our first automated cranes marks a tangible milestone as we lay the foundations for an advanced, future-ready port. We're not only accelerating industrial growth in northwest Saudi Arabia, we're setting a new benchmark for performance, efficiency, innovation and establishing a vital trade gateway for the Kingdom and the region beyond."

In parallel with its investments in infrastructure and automation, Port of NEOM is also committed to developing local talent, including training Saudi women to take on high-tech roles. Central to this effort is a pioneering initiative to train the next generation of Production Specialists to gain the skills to become remote crane operators, thereby helping shape a more inclusive future for the logistics and industrial sectors.

Ten participants from the Tabuk region are currently enrolled in an intensive two-year program that blends technical instruction and hands-on training with dedicated mentorship. Hajjer Alatawi, a trainee participating in the program, said: "This experience has shown me that port logistics is far more complex than just moving cargo; it's about teamwork, precision and responsibility. Seeing more

Saudi women entering this space gives me hope for a future where industries are defined by skills, not gender.”

By empowering Saudi workers with high-tech skills, Port of NEOM is supporting NEOM’s vision of being a catalyst for a sustainable, diverse and innovative ecosystem that enables regional economic resilience and advances the goals of Saudi Vision 2030.

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About Port of NEOM

Strategically located in Oxagon, on the Red Sea Coast, Port of NEOM is the primary seaport of entry into northwest KSA and offers unparalleled excellent connectivity to the world’s busiest trade lane. Set to become a benchmark for the maritime industry, Port of NEOM will be a new global port serving the region and beyond. As a critical enabler of the import of materials during NEOM’s development phase, and as an established seaport and logistics hub when operations across NEOM come on-stream, Port of NEOM will support the wider economic ambitions of NEOM and maritime ambitions of the Kingdom.

About Oxagon

Oxagon is the reimagined industrial city in NEOM, in northwest Saudi Arabia, where innovation, sustainability and livability will converge to change industry for the better. The cognitive industrial city will be home to a next-generation sustainable port – Port of NEOM; a dedicated mixed-use innovation district – Oxagon Innovation Bay; an industrial district – Oxagon Industrial Quarter, which will house advanced and clean manufacturing across seven industrial sectors; and integrated urban communities. Strategically located on the Red Sea coast, with 13% of world trade passing via the nearby Suez Canal, and set to be powered by renewables-based energy, Oxagon offers a blueprint for sustainable industrial transformation.

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