

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Port of NEOM Launches KSA's First Automated Cranes, Ushering in a New Era of Smart Port Innovation  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 10:47:44 AM  
**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 flag a story you may be interested in covering—especially as global port infrastructure continues to modernize and embrace automation.

**Port of NEOM**, an emerging gateway on the Red Sea in Northwest Saudi Arabia, is fast-tracking its automation ambitions from welcoming its first fully automated, remote-controlled cranes through to rolling out an advanced workforce development program set to unlock high-tech jobs, shaping a new era in port operations. Located in Oxagon, the reimagined industrial city of NEOM, the port's expansion will see the launch of its new container terminal in 2026 – enabling it to receive the world's largest container vessels, bolstering trade links on one of the world's busiest maritime corridors.

The multi-million dollar fully automated remote-controlled cranes include Ship-To-Shore (STS) and Electric Rubber-Tyred Gantry (eRTG) cranes, the first to arrive in Saudi Arabia, marking a major milestone in KSA's logistics modernization.

What sets this milestone apart is not only the technology but also how it's being deployed:

- Operators will manage the cranes remotely, from secure ergonomic workstations—paving the way for a future-ready, inclusive logistics workforce.
- The automation technology, developed by Siemens, unlocks the potential for high-volume, high-efficiency operations, eliminating emissions and enhancing safety.
- A new training initiative is already underway to upskill Saudi nationals to take on these high-tech roles; 10 women from the Tabuk region are part of this phase of training and on-ground in NEOM

All of this is part of a broader push to fully automate Port of NEOM and position the port as a new gateway on the Red Sea coast enhancing East–West trade.

I've attached and [linked](#) the press release with more information, as well as photos of the cranes and their delivery for your use.

If interested, I would be happy to set up an interview with Port of NEOM's executives to discuss this announcement in further detail / and send through additional facts on the automated cranes.

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

Best,



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

Research Associate, Public & Government Affairs

Mobile: +

**Edelman** 1875 I (Eye) Street Suite 900, Washington, DC, USA 20006

[www.edelman.com](http://www.edelman.com)

*This message and its contents are confidential. If you received this message in error, please inform the sender and then delete it. For information on how Edelman uses personal data and your rights, please see our Privacy Policy. Please reply to this email to notify us if you do not want us to contact you with information similar to the subject of this email communication.*

*This material is distributed by Daniel J. Edelman, Inc. on behalf of NEOM. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.*



## 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.

– ENDS –

**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 reimaged 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.

**For Media Inquiries:**


Ruth Christian, Head of Communications, Oxagon

Email: [ruth.christian@NEOM.COM](mailto:ruth.christian@NEOM.COM)

 PORT OF NEOM

02

SWL Under Single Spreader 65 t  
SWL Under Split Spreader 80 t  
SWL Under Cargo Beam 100 t

 PORT OF NEOM

01

SWL Under Single Spreader  
SWL Under Split Spreader  
SWL Under Cargo Beam





