

LA goes Hi-Tech

San Diego-based APS Technology Group recently installed optical character recognition (OCR) systems at APM Terminals' Pier 400 facility and Trans Pacific Container Corporation's (TraPac) terminal in Los Angeles. APS is the North American sales, integration and installation partner for Israel's Hi-Tech Solutions.

Hi-Tech has developed a range of products using proprietary image processing software architecture and algorithms to identify container, chassis and vehicle licence plate numbers and transfer the data to terminal operating systems. APM selected Hi-Tech's products after inviting a number of vendors to take part in a month-long comparative test earlier in the year. In November APS completed the installation at Pier 400, claimed to be the world's largest

application of OCR technology within a container terminal.

APS installed pedestal gates to identify container and chassis numbers at 36 in-bound gates at the north and south entrance plazas. The 20 gates at the out plaza were also equipped with cameras to identify vehicle li-

cence plates. APS also supplied a data network to link the OCR data to Pier 400's Navis software.

Earlier in the year, APS installed a nine-lane pedestal gate system to capture container and chassis numbers at the Water Street exit plaza at TraPac's LA terminal, again after initial tests on

a single lane. TraPac has since purchased a single lane portal system to capture the licence plate as well as container and chassis numbers at one entry lane and plans for three pedestal systems at exit lanes are being finalised.

APS and Hi-Tech are also claiming the world's first large scale operational OCR installation on a quay crane. TraPac has contracted APS to

equip its 10 Paceco Portainers with SeeCrane, Hi-Tech's OCR system for capturing container numbers at the quay during vessel loading and discharge with cameras mounted on the sill beam.

Hi-Tech, together with the International Security Group of Sweden, first installed a crane-mounted system on a single crane at Copenhagen. □

Container trucks at the outgate of APM Terminals' Pier 400 complex in Los Angeles

