The boat lift close to Lüneburg in the northern part of Germany went into service 1974 and was at that time the largest ship lift in the world. Two water-filled troughs lift ships of the Europa class to help them master the 38 m height difference from the Mittellandkanal to the level of the Elbe river.

Each of the troughs has a length of 100 m, a weight of 5800 t and is lifted by a set of 240 wire ropes which run over large sheaves on top of the 4 large concrete towers. To minimize the needed power for the lift the whole system is counterbalanced with heavy concrete plates attached to the ropes. After some decades in use the ship lifter has been refurbished completely and the owner decided to update the lifting technology. With the support of the University of Stuttgart the application was recalculated. The top requirement to increase the guaranteed service life to 35 years or 350,000 cycles led to the recommendation of high performance ropes with a plastic covered steel core and finally to selection of CASAR Stratoplast ropes with a diameter of 54 mm in Lang’s Lay. In total 26 km of CASAR Stratoplast has been delivered and installed, the first half in 2012 and now the second tower will follow to complete the rework. This well proven solution will guarantee the required performance over the next decades.

Welcome to our first edition of World of Rope, with more to come on a regular basis. We are excited to share with you developments that pertain to our offering of steel wire ropes as well as industry and company updates. The pace at which information is shared today is ever increasing and we selected this form of communication to better connect to our customer base and to provide meaningful information about our products, applications and solutions to help you improve your business.

We look forward to sharing future editions of World of Rope and we look forward to your feedback.

Best regards,

Blake Chandler
WireCo WorldGroup
Senior Vice President Sales