

Robotic tank cleaners brought to market

A robotic tank cleaner suitable that can tackle tough and sticky sludge left in a tank has been brought to market by Gerotto.

The company, which produces remote controlled technology for industrial cleaning operations, was approached by a Singaporean tank cleaning company to design a device that can enter tanks and clean them without any man-entry operations, improving the safety of their workers and eliminating the risks associated with the traditional tank cleaning operations.

Dan Chua, MD of CYC International, says: 'The only way we could eliminate the type of risks that are associated with people inside the tank is to come up with a robotic solution that

could actually do the job of a human without a human being inside such a dangerous environment. We also think that these robots could improve productivity, which is important to reducing costs, to remain competitive and also maintain our bottom line.'

In response to this need Gerotto developed the FTC-NME and the Auger Tank Cleaner, both of them certified for ATEX zone zero, which performs cleaning operations in different types of tanks.

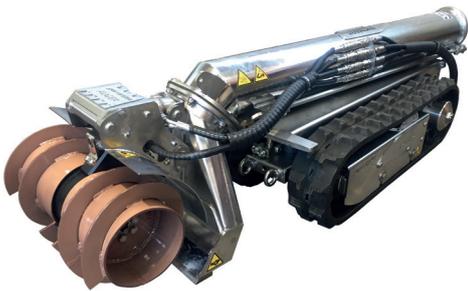
The FTC model is used for underground fuel tanks which traditionally have limited access. Previously, workers would need to climb down into the tank to start cleaning it, but the FTC-NME can be lowered into the tank. Once inside it can lift up its arm remotely and open up its nozzles, which can turn in 360 degrees.

The Auger model has been specifically designed for above ground storage tanks, with very tough and sticky sludge. The robot has a built-in device that collects the sludge and then push it into a vacuum truck or a disposal bin. It requires three workers to control the robot.

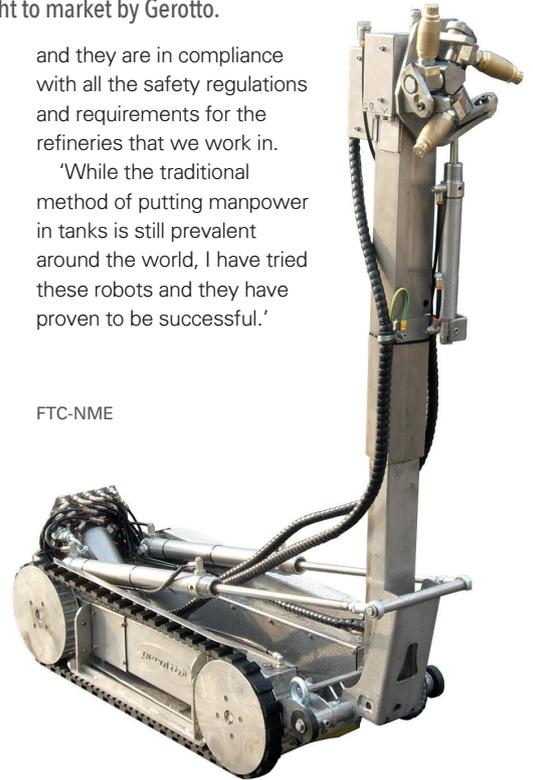
Chua adds: 'These robots are explosion proof

and they are in compliance with all the safety regulations and requirements for the refineries that we work in.

'While the traditional method of putting manpower in tanks is still prevalent around the world, I have tried these robots and they have proven to be successful.'



Auger Tank Cleaner



FTC-NME