



PROJECT CARGO SERVICES – INDIA TURBINE ROTOR MOVEMENT

CASE STUDY

Expeditors was awarded the movement of multiple turbine rotors currently being used in a power plant in India. The shipment entailed moving the rotors from their service location in India to a refurbishing site in Singapore where the rotors are re-tooled before being returned to the plant in India. Cargo dimensions, weight, infrastructure challenges in India, as well as a tight shipping schedule were the primary challenges that were successfully managed by the Project Cargo team.



OPPORTUNITY

A total of six rotor sections had to be moved from the power station site in Western India to the refurbishing location in Singapore. With a shipping length of 14 meters and a weight of over 105 metric tons, transporting each rotor from origin to port of loading in India was a major challenge due to infrastructure conditions throughout India, poor roadways, and aging bridges and tunnels. A lack of certified schematics and inspection reports for some bridges, as well as roadway conditions, greatly increased the amount of time necessary to adequately plan for this transport leg.

Due to planned outages at the power plant, the available window to move the cargo in and out of the plant was very tight. Having the necessary equipment with proper permissions was going to be a vital part of a successful movement. Ensuring adequate ocean transport options was another area of great importance. The overall objective was to get the rotors from origin to Singapore and back again as swiftly and efficiently as possible while ensuring the safety of the cargo.

Matching the schedules of the onshore activities with the vessel schedules was an obvious concern. Regularly scheduled liner ocean service, although available, was scarce. Ensuring the cargo arrived at the load port (both in India and Singapore) was a constant worry.

OUR SOLUTION

The shipping dimensions and weight of each rotor warranted a very detailed transportation plan to be drawn up and shared with the client weeks before the first rotor moved. With all of the infrastructure challenges in India, the Expeditors' Project Cargo Services (PCS) team in Bombay initiated a very detailed route survey in which our trucking service provider physically ran several routes from the origin site to the port of loading to ensure a safe and permissible route for each rotor. This route survey, in addition to all other aspects of the movement, were included in our transportation plan which was then shared with the client and discussed in detail prior to the first move. Vigilant communication was a key ingredient to our success from the very beginning.

Acquiring permission for an oversized carriage from the local governmental agencies was our first challenge. It took a total of 16 days to obtain all of the approvals, which put us in a major time crunch. If we missed this booking, it would cause our customer's plans to go awry and we could potentially face a dead freight penalty from the carrier.

Due to poor infrastructure throughout India, it became necessary to have several routing options prior to execution. By utilizing our existing relationships with our local service providers they were able to offer us multiple route surveys, to ensure the cargo was delivered to port in the most effective and safest manner.

Providing timely, efficient, and safe ocean transportation was the next hurdle. Utilizing our relationships with several key and suitable ocean carriers servicing this trade lane, PCS was able to present an efficient and realistic ocean service matching the required schedule to the satisfaction of the customer. Securing space on a vessel heading to Singapore greatly enhanced the overall objective especially from a timeliness and cost aspect.

Through the entire shipment, no matter what time day or night, the customer was advised by email and/or phone regarding the progress. They were greatly appreciative of the integrity of our reports and the commitment of our employees.



THE RESULTS

The PCS team escorted the freight from door to port, a distance of roughly 400kms, in a record time of 43 hours. Previous moves had taken more than four days. It was a true validation of Expeditors' resolute nature to get the job done. The freight safely reached the terminal on time to meet the appointed multi-purpose vessel for timely transport to Singapore.