

CRANES



The independent magazine of the crane industry

August 2009

Tower cranes
Wire rope
Readers' awards



Liebherr's biggest crane:

MTC goes to sea

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On the cover:

The first MTC 78000 from Liebherr is overload tested at sea. The crane is one of the biggest slewing cranes in the world, and is the first of four ordered so far (p.7)

Accept no imitations

As Frank Bardono said in the previous issue, when a manufacturer pulled him aside at ConExpo last year, and asked how they can help rental companies through the economic downturn, he replied: "Stop making cranes." The point he was making is that the market has been saturated. And it's not good for business.

Cranes aren't the only example. Competition in all industry sectors is sterner than ever, and it represents the challenge and the opportunity that we all have to come to terms with.

Ironically, this fast-paced, digital, virtual world has in fact put greater emphasis on the value of doing business face-to-face. So when the conference and exhibition season begins again next month, you'll be spoilt for choice. But, in the current economic climate in particular, it's important that you plan strategically.

Cranes Today has announced its conference schedule for 2009 and 2010. Building on the success of Middle East Cranes, the magazine will be organising a new regional event in Singapore, covering the crane industry in Asia and Australasia.

We have organised three events in Dubai since 2007, charting the market from its peak. Now that some of the more prominent projects in the emirate have been postponed, the event is even more important: attendees at Middle East Cranes 2010 will receive crucial information on those regions and segments where growth is still strong. MEC will return to the Shangri-La Hotel in Dubai on 23-24 February.

Taking the model to Asia later this year, Cranes Asia, at the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore, will combine vital insight on business opportunities in Asia and Australasia with all of the latest in safe lifting operations from the world's leading safety experts and standards committee members. The event will take place on 9-10 December. In this issue, we unveil the first speakers to sign up.



Richard Howes Editor

rhowes@cranestodaymagazine.com



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EDITORIAL

Editor Richard Howes
tel: +44 (0) 20 8269 7861
rhowes@cranestodaymagazine.com

Deputy editor Will North
tel: +44 (0) 20 8269 7779
wnorth@cranestodaymagazine.com

Reporter David Pittman
tel: +44 (0) 20 8269 7781
dpittman@cranestodaymagazine.com

Director of content John Band
tel: +44 (0) 20 7336 5206
jband@progressivemediagroup.com

Journal administrator Natasha Denney
ndenney@progressivemediagroup.com

Correspondents

Phil Bishop
Heinz-Gert Kessel
Greg Keane
Stuart Anderson

SALES

Group sales manager Martin McCarthy
tel: +44 (0) 20 8269 7848
mmccarthy@progressivemediagroup.com

Display sales executive Kate Hearn
tel: +44 (0) 20 8269 7743
khearn@progressivemediagroup.com

Web sales executive Emma Heath
tel: +44 (0) 20 8269 7746
ehealth@progressivemediagroup.com
fax: +44 (0)20 8269 7803

ADVERTISING AGENTS

Italy: Anna De Bortoli, Ediconsult Internazionale
tel: +39 02 477 100 36 fax: +39 02 477 113 60
milano@ediconsult.com

Japan: Sho Harihara, Yukari Media Inc
tel: +81 6 4790 2222 fax: +81 6 4793 0800
ym4886@cello.ocn.ne.jp

China: Xianbiao Zhou, CMTM
tel: +86 10 642 636 04 fax: +86 10 6428 5925
zhouxb@cmtm.com.cn

PRODUCTION AND DESIGN

Production and editorial manager
Dan Gardiner
tel: +44 (0)20 7336 5228
dgardiner@progressivemediagroup.com

Senior designer Natalie Kyne

Art editor Alpa Shanks

Technical designer Nick Stenning

Online designers Dan Rogers, David Cooper

Production Steve Buchanan

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions manager Ian Bowers
ibowers@progressivemediagroup.com

Cranes Today customer services
tel: +44 (0)845 155 1845 (local rate)
fax: +44 (0)20 8269 7277
cs@progressivemediagroup.com

Cranes Today subscriptions
Progressive Media Publishing,
Progressive House, 2 Maidstone Road,
Foots Cray, Sidcup, DA14 5HZ, UK.

subscriptions@progressivemediagroup.com
Subscribe online at www.getthatmag.com

Group CEO Russ Milburn

**Cranes Today,
Progressive Media Publishing,
Progressive House,
2 Maidstone Road,
Foots Cray, Sidcup, Kent,
DA14 5HZ, UK**



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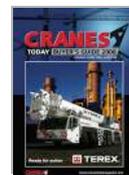
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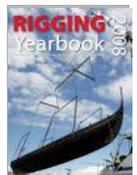
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Buyer's Guide



Rigging Yearbook



Liebherr recently installed its biggest ever crane: lifting the huge components was itself a unique job.

The MTC 78000, the first of four ordered so far, is one of the world's largest offshore slewing cranes. Installation required several spectacular heavy duty lifts, according to Liebherr, which used two of its own LHM 600 mobile harbour cranes with 208t lifting capacities to carry out tandem lifts on loads up to 400t.

This included the 370t slewing platform, the 240t machinery compartment, the 250t lower mast, 160t upper mast and the 87m-long boom.

For the mast upper, the LHM 600s were equipped with tower extensions to enable them to hoist the load up to 43m above pier level, while a specially developed hydraulic pinning machine was used to secure the boom once it had been lifted

into place. Despite the size and scale of the job, a team of 50 specially trained mechanics was able to erect the crane in 23 days.

The MTC 78000 was installed on the OSA Goliath multi purpose offshore construction vessel, for Mexican company Oceanografia. The crane has a maximum lifting capacity of 1,600t at 35m radius. At the maximum 74m radius, it can lift 530t.

Once installed the MTC 78000 was overload tested at sea with two water filled pontoons weighing 1,760t, or 110% of the maximum lifting capacity. OSA Goliath will work in the Gulf of Mexico on behalf of oil company Pemex, and is part of an order that includes two CBO 3600-100 offshore cranes that will be used as auxiliary cranes and supply hoists. 