

Potain cranes work on key site

The King Abdullah Financial District is the latest in a line of big projects including the Burj Khalifa where NFT has supplied Potain cranes

Manitowoc's Potain tower cranes are going through a hectic schedule at a prime construction project in Riyadh, the Potain brand's regional agent says.

Some 100 Potain cranes are now on site for the King Abdullah Financial District which is taking shape in the Saudi capital and involves the construction of 40 towers.

"The cranes are working 20 hours a day, six days a week to ensure the project stays on schedule," said Nabil Al Zahlawi, managing partner of Abu Dhabi-based NFT Cranes, sole agent for Manitowoc's Potain brand in the Middle East.

"We have a dedicated team of engineers supported by Manitowoc Crane Care's local operations at the project," Al Zahlawi said. Work on the project began in November 2008 and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Among the main contractors for the project are Saudi Oger, Saudi Binladin Group, Saudi Construction Establishment and El Seif Engineering



Potain tower cranes at the King Abdullah Financial District construction site

Contracting Company.

Several ranges

The cranes on site include the MD, MDT, MR and MC ranges. There are 28 of the seven-tonne MR 225A and 21 of the 10-tonne MDT 208A, among others.

"Many of the cranes will eventually reach heights of 200 m and nearly all are working with their maximum jib," says Al

Zahlawi, adding that "most of the loads weigh between two tonnes and three tonnes although the largest weigh up to six tonnes."

A recent project that NFT was involved with in Saudi Arabia was the Princess Nora Bint Abdul Rahman University in Riyadh. The company supplied 180 cranes for duty there.

"Such high-profile jobs come with a lot of pressure, but our reputation and experience help our customers meet their deadlines. Potain cranes have precise control and excellent productivity, so they get more done, even when several are positioned together," commented Al Zahlawi.

NFT was set up in 1980 and was based in Saudi Arabia for 15 years. In 1995 it decided to move base to the UAE with the aim of covering more countries. The company has been the main dealer for Potain for over 25 years and specialises in turnkey jobs, offering a choice of rental or sale and buyback. It also offers reconditioned second-hand cranes.

The product range includes the world's smallest to largest Potain

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Tower cranes supplied through NFT dominate the skyline during the construction of the Princess Nora University in Riyadh

tower cranes and the world's fastest Pega hoist that has a speed of 120 m per minute and capacity of 3.2 tonnes.

A strong force

With some 650 tower cranes in the GCC area, 300 more around the world and 200 hoists from GJJ/Orbit and Pega, NTT is a strong force in its area of specialisation.

Following the recent economic crisis, the company started expanding operations in overseas markets and is now working in markets such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Azerbaijan and Africa.

The company is also focusing on the oil and gas sector. "The energy sector is new for tower cranes which are being used for erection and mechanical works," said Al Zahlawi.

NFT has started a trade-in centre for used tower cranes and the rental market is picking up as "recent experience has taught people not to invest for the long term," the official adds.

Projects that NFT has supplied to include such major developments as Burj Khalifa, DIFC, Emirates Mall and Jumeirah Beach Residences (all in Dubai) and the Reem Island Development, Adnoc headquarters and ADIA Tower (all in Abu Dhabi).

Hoist tailored for India, China

Demag Cranes seeks to deepen its footprints in the larger Asian markets

Demag Cranes, which is implementing a mid-segment strategy focusing on emerging markets, has tailored its DC-Bas chain hoist to meet the specific requirements of the large Indian and Chinese segments.

The company highlighted that while its DC-Bas chain hoist had been designed specifically for India and China, the product was based on European standards. "In the coming months, the LC-Bas light-crane system, the DR-Bas rope hoist, drive components, crane sets and complete cranes in various designs will be successively launched in the two largest Asian markets. As a second step, the Bas product family is also to be launched in Southeast Asia and Brazil.

Aloysius Rauen, chief executive of Demag Cranes AG, emphasised: "We have set a key milestone in the planned implementation of our strategy with the launch of our new chain hoist for the strong mid-segment market. This is another important step towards achieving the medium-term targets we have set ourselves."

DC-Bas chain hoists feature a simple and reliable design and can be used as rugged user-friendly load handling products for a wide variety of applications. Mainly local engineers were involved in development to ensure that the chain hoist meets specific local demand. "The dynamics and customer demands in the market environment in China and India are quite different to those in Europe," explains Thomas H Hagen, member of the management board and chief operating officer of Demag Cranes AG. "Demag Cranes has already expanded its presence in both countries in recent years and established

international teams which ensure a perfect blend of local expertise and European engineering." The current market launch would not have been possible without this approach.

In its mid-term strategy, Demag Cranes aims to become an established player in markets in China, India and also in Southeast Asia and Brazil. "We are already the acknowledged technology leader in all of these markets," affirms CEO Rauen.

For the Demag DC-Bas chain hoist customers can choose between four different sizes with maximum load capacities between 125 and 2,000 kg.

Outstanding engineering

DC-Bas offers technical benefits including long life, easily adjustable conical brake and a one- or two-stage gearbox with oil lubrication. A slipping clutch, which can be precisely adjusted, protects the chain hoist against extreme overload in accordance with international safety regulations. Demag stresses that the chain drive arrangement and the galvanised round-steel chain are extremely resilient and wear-resistant and fitted with a robust and durable conical-rotor brake motor which operates with two lifting speeds up to 10/2.5 m/min, withstanding high ambient temperatures as well as heavy loads.

The two rugged and ergonomic DSK and DST control pendants, which are fitted with an emergency-stop button as standard, are available for operation of the chain hoist. In addition, the control cable for two/three-axis operation features integrated steel wires for reliable strain relief. Demag Cranes also offers several solutions for operations on crane girders or profile sections.