

Between wind turbines and railway bridges – Wiesbauer completes all sorts of projects using a Liebherr crawler crane

- Wiesbauer's Liebherr LR 11000 hoists railway bridge with large radius
- Performance parameters and perfect handling were the criteria behind the purchase
- Investment aimed at infrastructure projects and jobs in industry

Ehingen / Donau (Germany), 07 February 2019 – Crane contractor Wiesbauer, based between Stuttgart and Heilbronn, has been operating a Liebherr LR 11000 crawler crane since autumn 2017. The company operates on a nationwide basis and has five sites in Baden-Württemberg, concentrating on heavy haulage and industrial assembly work in addition to its classic crane business. The new 1000 tonne crawler crane is currently the most powerful machine in the crane contractor's fleet. Whilst the LR 11000 initially exclusively tackled jobs in the wind industry, the large crane has now also shown what it can do for the first time on an infrastructure project.

The new crawler crane had its first job in the south of Germany no more than 20 kilometres as the crow flies from the company's head office in Bietigheim-Bissingen involving the removal of a decommissioned steel bridge. As a result of the location of the 100 year old railway bridge in a flora and fauna habitat conservation zone, the crane had to be set up a considerable distance away. The crawler crane had to remove the so-called fish-bellied bridge using a radius of around 60 metres. Fitted with its 96 metre main boom and a derrick boom, the crane moved the decommissioned lattice construction, weighing around 60 tonnes, out of the nature conservation area.

A total of 405 tonnes of ballast, 225 tonnes of which were on the derrick pallet, ensured that the crawler crane had sufficient counterweight. However, before the load could be placed on the ground, the fish-bellied girder, an arch running under the bridge support, had to be removed using flame cutters. Hoisting in and assembling the parts for the temporary bridge was then a matter of professional routine for the team from Wiesbauer.

“Perfect handling, well-planned and practical”

Marco Wilhelm, authorised signatory and project manager at Wiesbauer was also at the site. He planned the job on the old railway bridge in minute detail from setting up the massive site area on a slope to the actual hoist. The later second phase of the job also had to be included in the planning because a new steel bridge weighing 150 tonnes is to be assembled and then hoisted into place in two years time on the large site. This will replace the temporary structure which is currently in position. The complete performance potential of the LR 11000 will be required for this crane job.

The crawler crane could have several hoists like this to complete over the next few years. “We have already had several enquiries”, confirms Wilhelm. “We do not just want to use the crane in wind farms, but we are also trying to attract jobs in industry and on infrastructure projects.” Wilhelm can quote several clear reasons behind the company’s decision to buy a Liebherr LR 11000: “Just from a handling point of view, the crane is perfectly designed, very well planned and practical. And, of course, the performance parameters of this crawler crane class are ideal.”

Crane operator Thomas Kley, who alternated in the cabin of the 1000-tonne crane with his colleague Hans-Günther Zelewski, is delighted with his new machine. After almost three years operating a crawler crane from a rival brand, he says the switch to Liebherr was not a problem at all. “When I arrived in Ehingen for the crane handover, at first I thought that the switch would be difficult,” admits Kley, “but then things went relatively quickly because the crane has a very logical design.” The set-up procedure, crane controller and the whole crane logic system is much easier for the user. “They are worlds apart. Worlds.”

Captions

liebherr-lr-11000-wiesbauer-motiv01.jpg

Decommissioned – after around 100 years of service, the crawler crane hoists the old railway bridge out of a nature conservation area.

liebherr-lr-11000-wiesbauer-motiv02.jpg

Landing – the so-called fish-bellied girder prevents the load being placed on the ground. First of all this arch, which is important for the bridge's structural integrity, must be removed.

liebherr-lr-11000-wiesbauer-motiv03.jpg

Getting to grips – the Wiesbauer professionals overcome the heavy material required for handling the bridge.

liebherr-lr-11000-wiesbauer-motiv04.jpg

Well planned – Wiesbauer's Project Manager Marco Wilhelm was responsible for the successfully completed crane job.

liebherr-lr-11000-wiesbauer-motiv05.jpg

Feeling good – crane operator Thomas Kley is more than satisfied with his new machine: "My LR11000 is very user-friendly."

Contact person

Wolfgang Beringer

Telephone: +49 7391 502-3663

Email: wolfgang.beringer@liebherr.com

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www.liebherr.com