

Liebherr crawler crane LR 11000 between Ironman and surfers in Hawaii

- Liebherr crawler crane LR 11000 in use in Hawaii for over three months.
- Crawler crane owned by US company Buckner HeavyLift Cranes erecting wind turbines
- German crane driver working in holiday paradise

Ehingen/Donau (Germany), 15 November 2019 – A Liebherr crawler crane of type LR 11000 from the fleet of Buckner HeavyLift Cranes is currently in use in the holiday paradise of Hawaii. New Vestas wind turbines with a hub height of 105 metres have been under construction there for over three months. A major advantage is the possibility to move the crane without a derrick, as the deployment area is in extremely hilly terrain.

The LR 11000, which has been in use on the Hawaiian island of O’ahu since the beginning of October, is the biggest crawler crane that has ever worked in the American surfers paradise. Buckner’s 1000-tonner will be in use until the end of December erecting new wind turbines of the type Vestas V-136. A total of eight new turbines are being installed here on the island’s north shore. They form part of the Hawaiian energy supplier’s plan to expand the proportion of renewable energies from 18 percent currently to over 65% in the year 2030.

For this deployment, the LR 11000 is set up in the SL3F configuration with a main jib of 108 metres and a fixed tip of 12 metres. In this configuration, the crane has a max. load capacity of 173 tonnes. When erecting the new wind turbines, the heaviest parts – the hub with motor casing and drive-train – weigh about 100 tonnes; the crawler crane has to lift this weight to the hub height of 105 metres. Equipped with 90 tonnes of central ballast and a slewing platform ballast of 250 tonnes, the crane can be used without a derrick. This was an important criterion when selecting the right crane for this job, as the wind farm sits in extremely hilly terrain on which the crane has to be frequently moved and occasionally converted. Deployments without a derrick can take place much more easily here and thus faster, too.

In addition to the LR 11000, other auxiliary cranes are used, including a Liebherr crawler crane of type LR 1350/1. The biggest challenge on the island, which lies far from the US mainland, is the supply of spare parts. Buckner and Liebherr have made provisions for this, as Kevin C. Long, Director Sales at Buckner, explains, “Our construction site is supplied from the new Liebherr warehouse in Lodi, California, but for safety’s sake we also have various tools and spare parts available locally for this job. So far, however, we have managed to do entirely without spare parts and erection engineers.”

The crane driver for Buckner in Hawaii is Burkhardt Hartinger from Germany. “The offer to work in Hawaii was very tempting. And I also have a little free time to explore the island after work.” Hartinger himself actually lives in Warburg-Rimbeck near Kassel and has a lot of experience operating an LR 11000 crawler crane, which is also present in the fleet of his own crane company.

Buckner HeavyLift Cranes based in Graham in North Carolina is very keen on the Liebherr brand, particularly when it comes to heavy-duty cranes. Kevin C Long explains why: “We prefer Liebherr cranes simply because of their quality. Both their design and production quality are better than other manufacturers.” Buckner has been completing heavy lift projects of all kinds for over 70 years and is one of the largest crane contractors in the USA.

Captions

liebherr-lr-11000-hawaii-1.jpg:

A crawler crane of type LR 11000 has been working in Hawaii for three months.

liebherr-lr-11000-hawaii-2.jpg:

The Liebherr crawler crane of Buckner is erecting eight new wind turbines in the surfers paradise.

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