

Liebherr WOWS customers

Liebherr wowed thousands of customers and visitors at its '2012 Customer Days' event at its Ehingen manufacturing facility in Germany. As well as unveiling two new cranes, visitors were also treated to a spectacular 'four-crane mobile' using the 3,000 tonne LR 13000 crawler crane the first time most had seen this monster crane. Other attractions included visits around the manufacturing site, equipment demonstrations and a spectacular firework/laser show finale. This is the fifth such event held at Ehingen since 1999 – and the two day event attracted almost 4,000 visitors from all over the world.

The new cranes included the 750 tonne LTM 1750-9.1 nine axle All Terrain and the 220 tonne LTR 1220 telescopic crawler crane. With the first LR 13000 now sold, unit number two took centre stage for a 'four crane mobile' in which it lifted a 1,350 tonne capacity LR11350 with an LR1350/1 on its hook which in turn was lifting an LTR1100 - a mere 100 tonner - which in turn supported a scale model doing the same. This particularly tricky lift was the brain-child of Hans-Dieter Willim, Liebherr's chief crane designer and was a master-class in balance. Any deviation would immediately have affected the working radius of each crane, triggering a chain reaction.

With all cranes in the final position, the load lifted by the LR 13000 at 30 metre radius was 1,430 tonnes almost in balance with its 1,400 tonne derrick counterweight suspended at a radius of almost 30 metres. The combination of counterweights, base machine, booms and load meant that a total

weight of 5,000 tonnes was applied by the LR 13000 tracks to the concrete base.

LTM 1750-9.1

The new LTM 1750-9.1 slots in between the LTM 1500-8.1 and the LTM 11200-9.1 and should be ready from the fourth quarter this year.

With a 52 metre main boom, Y-Guy boom suspension system and array of lattice jibs the crane has a variety of combinations up to 154 metres hook height. While the crane would normally travel with its 52 metre main boom, front outriggers and complete hoist gear for a GVW of 108 tonnes -12 tonnes an axle this can be reduced to 11 tonnes by removing the outriggers or stripped to a GVW as low as 40 tonnes if necessary. The drive system for the crane superstructure - engine, hydraulics and integrated ballast device - is transported to site separately, fitted by self-assembly and connected via quick connect couplings - a Liebherr first. If there is a problem with the superstructure drive, all crane functions can be driven by the chassis engine.

The rear four axles of the nine axle chassis are actively steered and speed dependent to improve manoeuvrability and reduce tyre wear. In crab steering mode, all axles are steered.

LTR 1220

Liebherr also extended its telescopic crawler range with the addition of



the 220 tonne LTR 1220 – the first two being ordered at the launch by UK crawler crane specialist Weldex. The 60 metre main boom - derived from the LTM 1220-5.2 - can be extended with a 12.2 to 22.2 metre swingaway, which can be further extended by two, seven metre lattice inserts. The extension can be luffed under full load from 0 to 45 degrees. The undercarriage extends from 4.5 to 5.88 or 7.25 metres. The basic machine weighs 90 tonnes.

Ehingen is the world's largest production facility for All Terrain cranes, covering an area of 840,000 square metres with 220,000 square metres of buildings and 2,800 employees. Liebherr claims a market leading 44 percent share of the All Terrain market and in spite of the recent economic slowdown the facility has grown steadily over the past 10 years and achieved revenues of almost €1.5 billion (at factory gate prices the business achieved €1.74 billion overall). Deliveries this year should total around 1,450 cranes an improvement on 2011.



LTM 1750-9.1

Investment in the facility continues with €30 million planned for 2012. Currently under construction is a new hall - 120 metres long by 90 metres wide - in the northern part of the plant to handle special projects as well as for testing.

LTR 1220.

