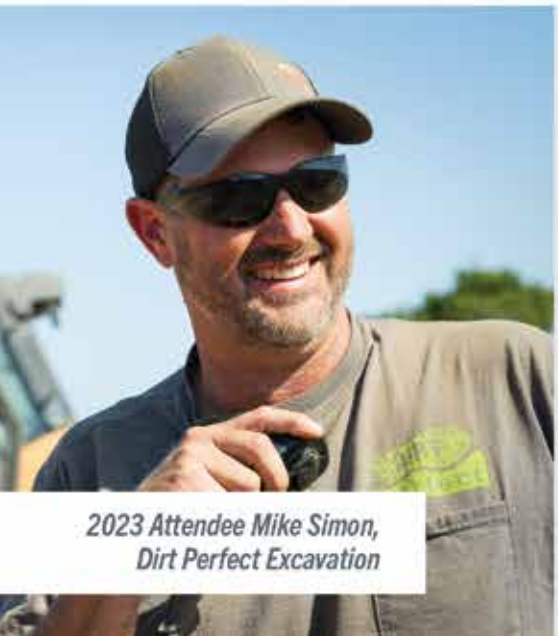
TAKING CONSTRUCTION TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

269,000 net square meters of exhibits / 139,000 attendees / 2,000 exhibitors / 150 education sessions

CONEXPO CON/AGG

MARCH 3-7 / 2026 / LAS VEGAS / NEVADA



2023 Attendee Mike Simon, Dirt Perfect Excavation

No matter what sector of construction you're in, you'll leave **CONEXPO-CON/AGG** with new ideas, new relationships, and new opportunities to grow your business, and your place within the industry. This isn't just North America's largest construction trade show, it's taking construction to the next level.

LEARN MORE AT CONEXPOCONAGG.COM

RPV AND STEAM GENERATORS INSTALLED AT HINKLEY POINT C

The installation of reactor pressure vessels and steam generators in the reactor building at the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station, currently under construction in the UK, required them to be manoeuvred around a complex curved route and involved a custom engineered solution.

Reactor pressure vessel and steam generator manufacturer Framatome approached crane and heavy lift group Mammoet to handle the sensitive components weighing up to 520 tonnes. Framatome required a technical solution that did not use any pre-existing on-site lifting equipment. This was to ensure that the operation could be performed safely and to schedule around other work. The biggest technical challenge was how to deliver all of the components through a small opening in the reactor building.

Mammoet's Darren Watson said: "The congestion around the unit, and the spatial limitations gave us an interesting challenge. We engineered a solution, including a gantry system, running from the identified pickup location to the components location and height. To achieve this, Mammoet engineers designed and constructed the Outside Lifting System (OLS). Using a combination of winches and strand jacks, the OLS lifted the components directly from SPMT transport and lowered them onto a skidding system to move them into the building.

Typically, skidding systems are laid in straight lines, however, due to the shape of the reactor building, a 30 degree curve was needed. This allowed the components to enter the structure at the correct angle for subsequent installation.

The system also incorporated a turntable - tailor made to accommodate the transport saddles for the components - which allowed them to be rotated as they travelled along the skid path. Once inside the building, the components were lifted and rotated from the horizontal to the vertical before being lowered into their final installation position. For this operation, two Temporary Lifting Devices (TLDs) were fitted to the existing polar crane - a high capacity overhead crane on a circular track near the dome's spring line, enabling 360 degree rotation to lift and position heavy components.

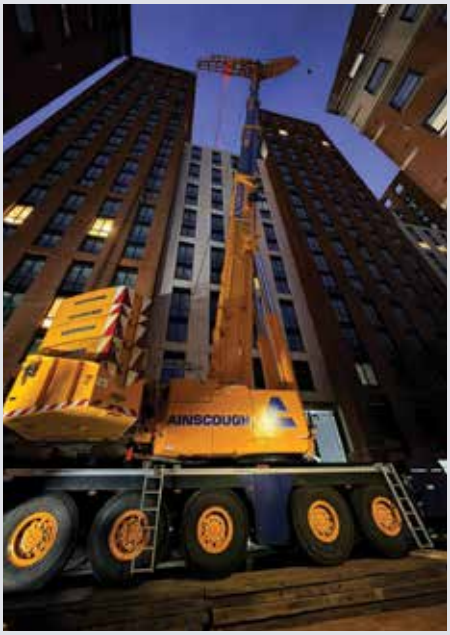
The larger 600 tonne TLD performed the main lifting operation using a containerised winch for the hoist. The second TLD, with a 320 tonne capacity, used strand jacks to complete the reorientation of the loads. This electric powered solution also helped reduce emissions and noise, leading to a safer working environment.

Mammoet benefited from experience gained with a gantry system used for component installation at the Flamanville, nuclear power station in France, while Mammoet's PTC35 crane is helping to extend the Bruce Power facility in Ontario, Canada. ■


Schaften
Cranes
Worldwide Bare Rental
Pushing the limits together
Limits are easier to overcome when we join forces. Our combined expert knowledge is key. And when your challenges become our challenges and our solutions become your solutions, results are propelled to a whole other level. A level of excellence. We master your gravity challenges.
schaftencranes.com

COMPLEX MANCHESTER TOWER CRANE REMOVAL

The dismantling of a Terex CTL 180 luffing jib tower crane in Manchester in the UK posed several significant challenges and required a crane of at least 650 tonnes to extricate it from its challenging position. Ainscough Crane Hire's Heavy Cranes division was given the job at the Echo Street student accommodation development in the city.



The tower crane was originally erected in August 2024 by Select Plant, using one of Ainscough's Liebherr LTM 1450-8.1 All Terrains. Initially installed to a height of 72.4 metres, the tower crane was later climbed to its final height of 90.3 metres following the demolition of existing structures on the site. By June 2025, construction of the 30 storey, three block student accommodation scheme had been completed, allowing preparations for the crane's dismantling to begin.

However, the dismantling operation presented several significant challenges. The crane sat just two metres from the site boundary, adjacent to live railway lines leading into Manchester, along with occupied student accommodation, and the Grade II listed University of Manchester teaching buildings. These constraints demanded a detailed and carefully coordinated planning process.

The project team, led by Ainscough and Select Plant, started with detailed structural checks on neighbouring building basements to confirm suitable ground bearing capacity. Approvals were secured from National Rail, and comprehensive traffic management plans were implemented to control all site access.

Additional route notifications were required, as crane and ballast transport routes differed from those used by the tower crane components due to the restricted working area.

The hard standing for the eight axle 700 tonne Liebherr LTM 1650-8.1 was prepared with a 400mm deep bed of sand beneath four large steel mats. A 60 tonne crane then installed 40 timber Ekki mats on top to form a ramp, enabling safe, easy access for the crane, which arrived the following day. It was rigged with 150 tonnes of counterweight and 28 metres of luffing jib, allowing the Select Plant team to dismantle the tower crane in the shortest time frame with the least disruption.

WALSALL ENERGY RECOVERY FACILITY

Heavy lift tower crane specialist, Marr Contracting has been awarded the contract to deliver specialist crane services on the construction of the Walsall Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) in the UK. The facility - being delivered by leading energy recovery company, Encyclis - will convert up to 436,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste into around 49Mwe of baseload electricity - enough to power 90,000 homes.

Kanadevia Inova was appointed principal engineering, procurement and construction contractor and working with Marr developed a single crane solution using a M2480D heavy lift luffing tower crane, which it claims is the world's highest capacity tower crane.

The M2480D is configured with a capacity of 100 tonnes and will perform critical lifts, including installation of the 78 tonne economiser and a 69 tonne boiler drum. By enabling larger modular components to be lifted directly into position, the solution supports the project's Design for Manufacture and Assembly approach. This reduces the number of lifts required, helping maximise site productivity and maintain construction zone safety.

The crane strategy was chosen to suit the site's ground conditions and reduce foundation requirements. Erected within the footprint of the plant, the M2480D provides a practical lifting solution on an active construction site, minimising the impact on the laydown areas.

Construction of the Walsall ERF is currently progressing, with Marr's crane scheduled to be on site until the end of 2026.