

MOBILE CRANES

Mobiles advance on

Keren Sall previews the new mobiles that will hit the UK market and the staple favourites of the UK crane industry.

Crane Services bought the new Liebherr LTM 1500 500 tonne mobile last year.

In the past 12 months, manufacturers of mobile cranes have been slugging it out in the five tonne axle 100 tonne capacity machine sector. Grove, Liebherr, Mannesman Dematic and Tadano Faun all introduced mobiles in this sector. This year, however, the big four are changing their tactics now that this niche market has been exploited. They are looking to plug other gaps in their range

Mannesman Dematic will be introducing two new machines at Bauma in April a 300 tonner – the AC300 and the 60 tonner – the AC60. Grove's offering at Bauma will be a new 4-axle, 75 tonne capacity mobile crane – the GMK4075.

Barry Barnes, sales manager of Dematic believes the highlight of his company's stand will be the AC60. "It is the first 4-axle crane of the proven CityClass concept, which like the AC25 and AC 40-1 is conspicuous for its compact design, improved manoeuvrability and a main boom of 50 metres."

Also making its debut at the stand in Munich will be Dematic's new AC 300-1 telescopic crane, with increased lifting capacities achieved through optimised boom cross sections and the use of high strength materials, plus an maximum boom length of 131 metres.

Surprisingly, Grove will be unveiling a new 4-axle, 75 tonne capacity mobile



Grove will be launching its 75 tonne GMK4075 at Bauma 2001

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◀ crane – the GMK4075. It will replace the existing 4-axle models, the GMK4070 and the GMK4080.

The GMK4075 is described by Grove as “a fully self-contained taxi crane capable of operating within the European 12 tonne per axle limit with a 10.1 tonne of counterweight.” It has been conceived as “the crane which bridges two classes – outperforming as it does all the existing 60 and 80 tonne cranes in the self-contained taxi configuration”.

The GMK4075 incorporates Grove’s latest high tech boom technology with the electronically controlled single cylinder, ‘Twin-lock’ (two-pin) boom extension and locking system, and the new, rounded ‘Megaform’ U-section boom as in the latest GMK100 model.

The new 5-section, 11.2 metres main boom extends to 43.2 metres and incorporates Grove’s advanced (ECOS) Electronic Crane Operating System to monitor and control the automatic setting up and operation of the various boom configurations. Together with the EKS4 Load-Moment Indicator, it gives the operator a continuous graphic display. The boom also features a 10-17 metres bi-fold swingaway jib with hydraulic powered offsets (5 degrees to 40 degrees) with full-power luffing capability with load. Inserts can extend the jib of the GMK4075 to 27 metres giving maximum lift heights up to 60 metres, and reach of 46 metres.

Liebherr will be announcing the launch of several new models. Preliminary details are now available on just three models. David Milne, director of Liebherr -Great Britain revealed the company would be launching a 50 tonne crane – the LTM1055/1 which has a 40 metre boom and a 16 metre fly. It will also be showcasing its brand new 5-axle 150 tonner – the LTM1150/1 with a 36 metre boom and 28 metre fly and a 200 tonne 5-axle crane with a 60 metre boom and a 36 metre fly.

Kato plans to give its CR400 – a 40 tonne crane its first outing at Bauma while Tadano Faun plan to debut a 45 tonne and a 80 tonne crane at the show. Kevin Bell, sales manager for Tadano Faun in the UK, says the new 80 tonne crane will fill in the gap following the company’s decision to stop manufactur-

ing its 90 tonne model last year. Unlike Demag and Liebherr’s 80 tonners which have a single engine, it will instead have two engines.

Terex PPM reacted last year to criticism that its cranes did not meet the 12 tonnes per axle weight limit by introducing two new mobile prototypes at Montceau-les-Mines in the second half of last year – the 35 tonner ATT 400-3 and 50 tonner ATT 600-2. The cranes have a completely redesigned chassis



Baldwins has 24 Grove GMK3050 50 tonne cranes in its UK fleet



Bob Kerslake managing director was so impressed with Mannesmann Dematic’s AC50-1 he bought the machine at SED.

Mike Lamb, managing director of Grove UK, says an important benchmark has been reached with the delivery of its 100th GMK5100 unit. Lamb believes the appeal of the GMK5100 is the combination of Grove’s new Megaform U-shaped boom design, with single-cylinder extension and ECOS (electronic crane operating system) in the 5-section main boom which gives it impressive lift duties right through the range, together with a maximum tip height of 54 metres. Jib extensions extend maximum lift height to 88

metres. It can lift its maximum rated capacity of 100 tonnes, even with the 11 tonne counterweight (in ‘taxi crane’ configuration of 12 tonnes per axle), and counterweights can be increased to 31 tonnes for maximum duties.

Such has been the demand for GMK cranes, Grove has invested DM1.65 million (£0.5 million) at its Wilhelmshaven plant to streamline production, by extending and refurbishing under-utilised facilities. Lamb says these improvements will increase the output of GMK cranes to more than 500 units in 2001.

Barry Barnes is an equally happy man. Sales for the AC100 were slow earlier in the year but are now picking up nicely, he says. “Customers like it because they can see its potential. It is narrow as a 80 tonner and yet carries most of the counterweight. Plus it is a driver friendly machine.”

The AC100 can lift 5.4 tonnes at 30 metres radius while working with 50.2 metres of main boom and has been bought by Ainscough. Dematic is also offering a longer version of the AC100, using a five-axle version of the AC120.

100 tonners

All four manufacturers of 100 tonne cranes report that sales for this capacity machine are more than satisfactory.

Called the AC 100L, it is aimed primarily at countries such as the States where the regulations might require different axle spacings.

Liebherr has sold 20 of its 100 tonners – 10 to the overseas market. Features that stand out on the LTM1100/2, according to David Milne at Liebherr, are the integrated engine transmission system, self-levelling and the drive steer which come as standard.

Best sellers

The LTM 1030/2, a 40 tonne 2-axle crane and the LTM1080/1, – a 80 tonner are Liebherr’s best sellers in the UK market. It has sold 60 of the former over a period of three years and 40 of the latter in the past two years. Says David Milne of the LTM1030/2: “It is very good value for money and covers capacities from 25 to 40 tonnes. Other manufacturers have two cranes covering the same spread of payload while we have one.” The LTM1080/2, Milne says, is by far the best 80 tonne machine in its class. “It is very popular with rental companies.”

Grove’s GMK3050 has already reached a significant landmark this year by reaching the 500 sales figure worldwide. The GMK3050, introduced six years ago, in November 1994,

was an immediate success, with the first 100 machines being delivered in less than 18 months. “It has continued to gain in popularity because of its combination of compactness, mobility and a useful 38 metre, 5-section main boom,” says Mike Lamb, managing director of Grove UK. “It is a thoroughly good all-round performer and is frequently included in multiple machine deals to give added versatility to big crane rental fleets. It is by far the most manoeuvrable crane in its class as it has a hydraulic off-settable jib which can be off-set under

Charlesworth, director of European Cranes. “They are very simple, reliable cranes with excellent value. Plus they are good value for money. Our customers don’t want very technical machines with the latest computer technology. They don’t want overspecified machines for day-to-day work in this payload capacity. However, it is a different matter for cranes that have a capacity of over 120 tonne.”

Tadano Faun’s 25 tonne truck cranes remain just as popular as a bread and butter machine and sales of the 35 tonne

Crevo, are not too bad, according to Kevin Bell. Kato’s 25 tonne City Crane remains a firm favourite with UK customers. “We have sold 80 over three years,” says Paul Rosevere, sales director at Kato. “It is a very reliable machine with lots of features including air conditioning in the cab as standard.”

Other notable launches last year included Liebherr’s

load making it particularly suitable for use in confined spaces.”

Baldwins Industrial Services in the UK has purchased 24 units altogether and the Belgian Army has taken delivery of seven. The latest machine to be delivered in the UK was to Macsalvors Plant Hire in Truro, Cornwall.

Terex PPM 35 tonners remain a staple favourite with European Cranes’ UK customers, according to Simon

new LTM 1500 500 tonnes capacity mobile crane which was bought by Crane Services and Mannesmann Dematic’s AC 50-1 which was purchased by Commhoist.

The mobile crane industry has a lot to offer customers – whether it be the staple favourites, recently introduced machines or those cranes about to make their debut. As manufacturers will say there is something for everyone. ■

Mobile Cranes on 5 or less axles

Listed by maximum height under hook

Manufacturer/Model	maximum hookheight	maximum boom height	maximum extension	maximum capacity	axles
1 Liebherr LTM 1200/1	100 m	60 m	36 m	200 t	5
2 Grove GMK 5180	96 m	60 m	38 m	180 t	5
2 Liebherr LTM 1160/2	96 m	60 m	36 m	160 t	5
4 Grove GMK 5100	85 m	51 m	34 m	100 t	5
5 Liebherr LTM 1120/1	84 m	56 m	28 m	120 t	5
6 Tadano Faun ATF 100-5	82 m	51 m	30,1 m	100 t	5
7 Tadano Faun ATF 120-5	81 m	49 m	30,1 m	130 t	5
8 Demag AC 120	78 m	60 m	17 m	120 t	5
9 Terex ATT 1354	75 m	54 m	20 m	120 t	5
10 Liebherr LTM 1100/2	72 m	52 m	19 m	100 t	5
10 Liebherr LTM 1090/2	72 m	52 m	19 m	90 t	4



Customers appear to have shown a lot of interest in Tadano Faun’s ATF 100-5 but none have yet been sold in the UK