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Game changer?

Tadano launched its eagerly awaited, all-new 600 tonne ATF 600G-8 All Terrain crane with triple boom system at an event attended by around 1,000 guests in Nürnberg, Germany, near its head office and manufacturing facility in Lauf. The company also unveiled its new four axle ATF 70G-4 which has the choice of a longer, 52.1 metre main boom and Euro 4/Tier 4F engine with 90 percent reduction in particulate emissions and 80 percent less nitric oxides than Euro 3a/Tier 3 engines. It can carry 11 tonnes of counterweight without exceeding 12 tonne axle loads. The crane continues with Tadano's two engine design for 70 tonners which according to the company offers a saving of five litres an hour in terms of fuel consumption.

The main star of the event however was the new ATF 600G-8 which is most notably differentiated by its triple boom design concept - an alternative to the Sideways Superlift/Y-Guying cable suspended booms used by competitors.

The 56 metre boom is triple pinned and it can take a 90 metre luffing jib. Load chart comparisons indicate that the crane can outperform or at the very least lift alongside cranes working with cable supported booms, but requires no installation and has a much tighter tailswing

and working footprint. Tadano maintains that the lifetime savings in transport and setup costs alone (40 jobs a year over 15 years) could amount to €1.8 million. As well as cutting rigging time, its other key benefit is the greatly reduced tailswing - 6.3 metres less - than most guyed boom cranes allowing it to work in more constricted sites such as city centres. The crane also features the latest Euro 4 Mercedes engines, all wheel steer, new disc brakes and a new asymmetrical automatic outrigger set up system.

The Tadano ATF 600G-8 with its

The Tadano compared to other eight/nine axle cranes

	Tadano ATF 600G-8	Liebherr LTM 1500-8.1	Terex AC 700	Terex AC 500-2
Max lift capacity	600t@3.5m	400t@3.5m 500t@3.0m	473t@3.5m	500t@3.0* 346t@4.0*
Capacity at 40m on main boom	35.4t	28.6t	27.6t	28.2t
Main boom	56m	84m	60m	56m
Axles	8	8	9	8
Max system length	147m	145m	149.5m	145.8m
Max counterweight	180t	165t	140t	180t
Length o/a carrier	20,479mm	18,140mm	18,640mm	17,150
Engines chassis/upper	460kW/ 260kW	500kW/ 240kW	480kW/ 205kW	480kW/ 205kW
o/s turning radius	16,298mm	16,470mm	16,500mm	15,780mm
Max speed	85kph	80kph	75kph	75kph
Outrigger spread mm	9,600x 9,605	9,600 x9,990	12,193 x12,360	9,600 x9622

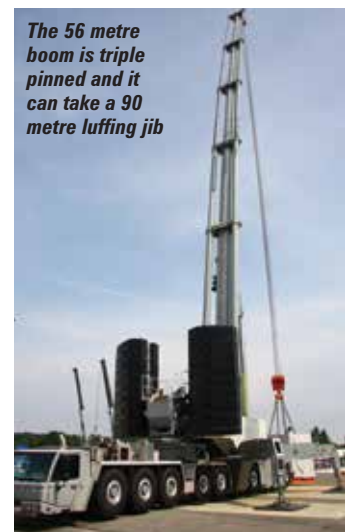
*over rear



The Tadano ATF600G-8 triple boom matches capacities of cranes equipped with sideways superlift systems



Conventional Vs the triple boom system



The 56 metre boom is triple pinned and it can take a 90 metre luffing jib

new boom system is undoubtedly a strong crane and can lift its maximum capacity at 3.5 metres, way more than the other eight axle cranes and even more than the Terex AC 700, 700 tonner. Its maximum system length is good but helped by the only option of main boom and 90 metre luffing jib. Overall carrier length is almost two metres more than the nine axle AC 700 but turning circle is second only to the AC 500-2. Largest counterweight, good road speed and a compact outrigger spread complete the impressive package.

Judging by the general comments at the launch most customers thought the new Tadano was a great

concept. However some, while liking the concept and the claimed advantages, were concerned that the main boom was too short. Had it been longer then it would then it really would have been a game changer. Tadano had planned for it to be longer, but the weight would not allow.



Its other key benefit is the greatly reduced tailswing - 6.3 metres less - than most guyed boom cranes.



The new four axle ATF 70G-4

Niftylift plant opening

As we reported in the last issue of *Cranes & Access*, UK-based aerial lift manufacturer Niftylift held the official opening of its all-new greenfield production facility in Shenley Wood, Milton Keynes in June, with hundreds of customers and distributors from around the world attending the event culminating in a dinner in the evening. The open day included an impressive outside display of the full range of Niftylift products, while visitors were not only able to tour the plant and offices but also able to view an indoor exhibition covering the company history, its innovations, production systems and initiatives with the local community, which include co-operation with local schools and colleges.

The company - also celebrating 30 years in business this year - has been gradually moving production across town from its old plant in Stonebridge since the start of the year as the massive new building was completed. So far six of its eight assembly lines are installed. The old facility was an all-new purpose-built facility when the company moved in 1994, having outgrown its first plant in the town. It has though been bursting at the seams for years, as demand for its boom and trailer lifts has grown.

Finally early last year work began on the new state of the art facility which has taken production up to around 80 units a week, although capacity is expected to be around 130 units a week. The company's biggest challenge at the moment is keeping pace with demand and reducing the current lead times. So it is retaining the old Stonebridge facility to handle used equipment, repairs, service and rebuilds, while possibly coming into service to help with production.

Future expansion plans

The 12 acre site has plans for two more phases of expansion

including a dedicated Research and Development centre and visitor/training centre. Adding to the current 12,000 square metres (130,000sq ft) under cover - with seven acres of the site currently covered with building and yard. As might be expected of the market-leading manufacturer of hybrid boom lifts, a good deal of attention has gone into the 'sustainability' of the new plant. One of the most interesting aspects of this is lighting in the production hall, which is largely from natural light, but supplemented with automatically adjusting artificial lighting which gradually boosts the natural light as and when necessary.

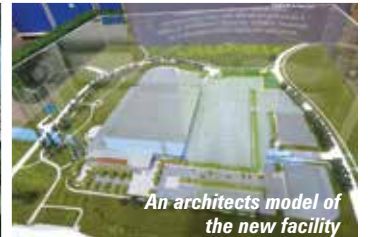
While it is still early days in the relocation, the company says that not only has the move gone relatively smoothly, but that production efficiency and product quality - as measured by hours taken to build a specific model, and faults picked up at the end of the line - have both improved significantly. Niftylift currently employs 245 in Milton Keynes, which this scheduled to grow to 335 as the new plant gets fully underway. It also has a fabrication plant in the Nottingham area.



The company had the full range of products on display



A large display covered a wide range of material



An architect's model of the new facility



Demonstration stations showed some of the company's assembly methods



Production hall lighting is largely natural



The HR28 production line



The mid range self propelled boom line



The new facility covers over 12,000 square metres

Liebherr lift spectacular

C&a

Liebherr open day

Liebherr held its tri-annual, Customer Days at its Echingen manufacturing facility in Germany last month. The two day event - its sixth to date - is held the year before Bauma and showcases new products and spectacular lifts in a crane extravaganza. This year was no exception even though a little rain dampened spirits for the 1,500 or so visitors on the second day.

Three years ago the spectacular 'four crane mobile' involving a 3,000 tonne LR 13000 lifting an LR11350, lifting an LR1350/1 which in turn was lifting an LTR1100 with a crane model on its hook was thought to be hard to surpass. However Liebherr once again wowed everyone with two displays - a dramatic centrepiece using two 750 tonne LTM 1750-9.1 All Terrains locked by their booms, mounted upside down onto the rotating slew ring of a crawler undercarriage and two lifts involving the clever use of crawler cranes as ballast using an LR 11350 with an LTR 1060 on its hook, two LR 1600 (one either side) and two LTR 1220s.

As well as the jaw-dropping lift Liebherr used the event to showcase its current AT and crawler cranes as well as unveiling two new models. The LR 1500, a compact 500 tonne lattice crawler crane with a variety of boom and jib configurations that the company says is simple and easy to run. And the 250 tonne, five axle LTM 1220-5.2 All Terrain with single engine, Eco-mode fuel saving system and Variobase outrigger set up system.

The LTM 1250-5.1 is said to offer capacity improvements of between 15 and 20 percent over its predecessor the LTM 1220-5.2 thanks to a larger counterweight - 88 tonnes compared to 78 tonnes - which Liebherr claims makes the



The LR 11350 in the centre - with LTR 1060 on the hook - is being lifted by two LR 1600s each using an LTR 1220 as ballast



The new 250 tonne Liebherr LTM 1250-5.1 makes its entrance

new 250 tonner the strongest five axle All Terrain on the market. The main boom stays at 60 metres, as does the bi-fold 12.2 to 22 metre swingaway while the maximum hook height has increased seven metres to 110 metres, with the use of seven metre inserts and a connecting section between boom nose and extended swingaway. The 'jib' can be manually or hydraulically luffed by up to 45 degrees.

The main thrust of the LR 1500 is a 500 tonne class load chart coupled with the dimensions and transportability of a 400 tonne crane. All components are less than 45 tonnes and a three metre width. Maximum main boom is 84 metres with an 84 metre luffing jib.

The day was rounded off in style with an evening laser, music and firework show.



The weight of the central LR 11350 with LTR 1060 is calculated perfectly so that the outer tracks of both LR 1600s are balanced in the air



The new compact 500 tonne LR 1500



Two 750t Liebherr LTM1750-9.1 pivoting on a Liebherr crawler chassis



About 1,500 guests attended the Open Day on each of the two days - this is the main marquee just before the show opened



Liebherr had a full range of its ATs on show - this is just a few