



– the first night

The first ever European association for special transport and mobile cranes (ESTA) awards held during bauma week in Munich recently was attended by anyone who is anyone in the world lifting industry. *C&A* dropped in on the celebrations.



Crane Job of the Year – WINNER

MAMMOET from The Netherlands snapped up first prize for a €450,000 contract for the transport and installation of a vacuum column on the Miro Karlsruhe refinery upgrade project in Wilhelmshaven, Germany. After transporting the 265 t module across 14 km of local roads and waterways, the column was eventually met by a 750 t capacity LR 1750 lattice boom crawler crane, which Mammoet had erected in the middle of the plant with just 1 m clearance at the back of the crane and 30 cm at the front.

The column was then lifted into the vertical position, using a 650 t capacity Demag AC650 as a tailing crane, was before the LR 1750 was relocated. At this stage, space limitations at the new location meant that the LR 1750's superlift mast had to be extended by 14 m to 45.5 m to overcome the lack of room for the superlift ballast wagon. The ballast was subsequently stacked in an open area, before being skidded into position. The column was then installed at a radius of 36.5 m with 70 m of main boom and using 400 t of superlift ballast.

Crane Job of the Year – RUNNER-UP

BMS of Denmark was awarded second place for its response to the collapse of two, 70 m long wooden trusses on the Siemens Arena in Ballerup, Denmark. After being contacted by the main contractor immediately after the collapse to provide support for the arena's 10 remaining roof trusses, BMS quickly distributed 12 of its largest telescopic from depots all over Denmark.

On site, the cranes were required to work at various radii of 20 to 40 m to secure the remaining trusses, which varied in weight from 2 to 26 t, while numerous other truck-mounted cranes and aerial work platforms from BMS' fleet were brought in to assist in the erection of scaffold support towers inside the structure. The job was completed within 24 hours at a contract value of just over €1 million.



Crane Job of the Year – THIRD PLACE

THE UK's very own Ainscough claimed third prize with this lift which comprised the hoisting the world's tallest mast onto the privately owned *Mirabella V* sailing yacht at Southampton Docks under contract from VT shipbuilding. Ainscough supplied a 500 t Liebherr which was operated at a 26 m radius, fitted with 47 m of 'Y' guyed main boom and a 49 m luffing fly jib to lift the 40 t, 90 m tall mast onto the 740 t yacht. A 300 t Demag was also supplied with a 49.4 m main boom for tailing duties, while a 160 t Liebherr was equipped with 60 m of main boom, plus a 12 m fly jib, to remove the lifting tackle from the mast at a height of 65 m.

Ainscough had previously supplied two, 100 t Liebherrs to load the 15 t bare mast on to a barge at Portsmouth before sailing it to Southampton Docks, and also a 500 t crane to lift the 60 t hydraulic fin into the hull of the *Mirabella*. The lift co-ordinator and Ainscough's Southampton Depot Manager, Bob Barnes, commented: "The height of the hook was the main issue, this is the tallest structure to be lifted by a crane in this country. We have lifted 900 to 1000 t before, but this is different. We are delighted that we have been involved with such a large and interesting project."

Heavy haulage Job of the Year - WINNER



TRANSPORTS Capelle pulled off the heavy haulage job of the year of 2003 with the transportation of several Airbus A380 components approximately 250 km from Langon to Toulouse in the firm's native France. A total of six convoys were needed to transport the components, the largest of which weighed in at 250 t, and measured 50 m long, 14 m high and 8 m wide.

Transports Capelle had been researching and planning the operation for two years prior to the move, which resulted in the construction of specially-built vehicles, the development of a unique driver-assist computer system and the construction of full-scale component models used in dummy runs.

Heavy haulage Job of the Year – RUNNER UP



ACCEPTING its second award at the ESTAs this year, Mammoet also claimed the runner up title in the heavy haulage category for its part played in the relocation of a slag reprocessing plant in Amsterdam. The 6,900 t concrete building had to first be dug out from its foundations, which included cutting the structure's piles, before being gradually laid to rest on eight lines self-propelled modular trailers (SPMT), which were driven underneath the building, gradually replacing the piles as they were cut away.

Once the SPMT had taken the full weight of the structure, the entire building, measuring 50 m long and 32 m wide, was then moved approximately 1,000 m from its original location. Mammoet supplied a total of 1,112 wheels for the €800,000 contract.

Heavy haulage Job of the Year – THIRD PLACE



IN what was always going to be an extremely high-profile operation, Spedition Kübler of Germany was awarded third place in the heavy haulage category for the transportation of this 89 t Air France Concorde from Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris to Technik Museum in Sinsheim Germany. After several weeks of detailed planning and searching for the best available route, it was decided to truck the aircraft from Paris to Baden-Baden in Germany, where it would be floated down the Rhine river to Rheinmünster for the main part of the journey. The last 40 km to Sinsheim was completed by road.

During the final stages of the operation, it was required to close down 30 km of freeway, which took the convoy seven hours to complete travelling at walking speed. On arrival, the Concorde was lifted straight from the freeway onto the adjacent museum grounds using two mobile cranes. Transportation took three days to complete at a cost of around €100,000.

ESTA Personality of the Year awards 2003



FRIEDRICH Bär (*right in pic*) who retired just a few months ago after more than 30 years as managing director of Liebherr-Werk Ehingen was the receiver of one of two crane personalities to be the first ever recipients of an ESTA Personality of the Year award.

Among the many achievements attributable to a long and distinguished career, Bär playing a fundamental role in taking Liebherr to market dominance in the all terrain crane sector. He is pictured here receiving his award from ESTA president Christian-Jacques Vernazza.



AWARDED with the second Personality of the Year award was Frans van Seumeren, who at 55 also announced his surprise retirement from the crane business this year at the award ceremony. van Seumeren is currently president and CEO of Mammoet Global BV, one of the world's leading heavy lifting companies.

The company was formed back in 2000 following the purchase by his company, Van Seumeren BV, of Mammoet. A year later, and in what was one of the most high profile lifts to be undertaken in recent times, van Seumeren led his company in successfully salvaging the 18,000 t Russian submarine, the Kursk, which sank in the Barents Sea in August 2000 killing all 118 crew members. van Seumeren is pictured here (*right in pic*) with Christian-Jacques Vernazza.