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MODELS



AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...

Our monthly model feature is normally written by Ian Webb Of Cranes Etc. who reviews a different model for each issue. This time however, he reports that there is a dearth of new models on the market, while most manufacturers wait to launch new models at Bauma in April.

So, in the meantime we have several other model reports, including one from our sister magazine Kran & Bühne, that recently reviewed a fascinating new, working model of the impressive new Mammoet heavy lift machine, the SK 6000.

When the Dutch international crane and heavy haulage company Mammoet announced it was building a new, larger land-based crane/mega lifting device about three years ago, Dutch model builder Wim Starreveld immediately became enthused with the chance to create a scale model. He has already built several large cranes using Fischer Technik engineering components and was keen to have a go at the new SK 6000.

After three years of building, tinkering and testing, Starreveld presented his model to the public. It seems he encountered similar issues to the engineers that developed the real crane, having to modify and adapt the build process and design repeatedly until he got it right. Over the past three months he has rebuilt a number of parts to get as close to the real thing as is possible. In total, the model is made up of 10,000 individual parts. To be able to operate all areas that move on the real crane - slew, boom elevate, jib, lift hoists etc - he had to install 15 electric motors. To ensure that the 4.3 metre boom, 2.5 metre counter jib, hook blocks and lifting capability etc functioned proportionally to the real crane, Starreveld installed 35kg of ballast, compared to more than 4,000 tonnes on the real machine.

The resulting model made its public debut at the launch of the real machine last year and as you can see, it is a true monster.

Fischer Technik is a construction and building system with which real functioning models can be made to scale. It was invented in 1965 by Artur Fischer and is made of plastic, mainly nylon (polyamide). The core of the system is a unique sliding/clamping construction, in which cams are slid into a round, half-open slot. This results in a strong connection that can be adjusted to any size. In addition, it can be added in all directions. Pins are both steel and nylon, while larger models use aluminium rods.

