

## OVERHEAD CRANES

# Up and over



**Plymouth-based Princess Yachts is now using a total of 30 Street EOT cranes for its yacht manufacturing operations**

**B**uying lifting equipment is an expensive business and overhead cranes used in production operations are no exception. Get the choice wrong and an entire production process could grind to a halt.

Before a purchase is made, a whole range of selection criteria need to be addressed including: What is the required capacity? How often and regularly will the crane be used? What is the required span? How high must the hoist lift? Will the crane be motorised, hand-gearred or a combination? If motorised, how fast? Will it be controlled by pendant or remote control? And, it doesn't end there. Once the crane has been installed, an increase in production output or equipment wear and tear may mean the modification and modernisation of the equipment further down the line.

Sometimes there will be an old crane already on site and then you have to take a decision on whether to modernise or replace. This can be determined by several factors. Safety issues are obviously of vital importance and should be in any users best interest, economically and in

Whether used for shipbuilding, papermaking, maintaining existing equipment or as part of a general production line, electric overhead travelling (EOT) cranes form an integral part of manufacturing capabilities. *Cranes & Access* takes a look at this vital piece of lifting equipment.

terms of personal health. It is also generally accepted that if a machine spends more than 10 per cent of its life as a dysfunctional machine, a user should seriously consider either updating its components or, if cost analysis permits, complete replacement.

### **Regeneration**

According to Morris Material Handling, the refurbishment and modernisation of

older EOT cranes is often a more cost-effective alternative to opting for new equipment. Ageing equipment can be enhanced almost back to its original factory specifications and the implementation of modern technology will often increase the functionality and capacity of an ageing EOT crane's performance.

The company focused its own EOT crane manufacturing capabilities on supplying Vestas Celtic Wind Technology earlier in the year, when the company ordered a total of 10 EOT cranes from Morris for installation in what is the UK's first wind turbine factory in Machrihanish, Scotland. The cranes range from 10 tonnes to 30 tonnes lifting capacity and are currently being used for the production of wind turbines for Scotland, the UK and the Republic of Ireland. According to Morris, all ten units incorporate zoning and anti-collision technology, load monitoring systems and feature Morris' dual speed 400 series wire rope hoists. Morris is also providing a service contract for the cranes from its Southern Scotland Material Handling centre.

Konecranes UK's premium condition monitoring acted as a strong selling tool ▶

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with Shotton Paper, which has selected Konecranes UK to supply two EOT cranes at its Deeside, North Wales paper recycling facility. The £375,000 contract will see the installation of a 30 tonne capacity unit, featuring two, 15 tonne CXTD trolleys on a 38 metre span bridge, and a 90 tonne capacity SMD unit with two, 45 tonne trolleys on a 28 metre span bridge fitted with Konecranes' power rotational lifting beam. Both cranes will be fitted with Premium Condition Monitoring technology.



**Shotton paper has ordered a 30 tonne and 90 tonne Konecrane unit, similar to the crane in the picture, to boost its paper handling capabilities at its Deeside plant**

The cranes are taken from Konecranes' CXTD and SMD Spacemaker lines, which feature state-of-the-art DynA Inverter control technology for load positioning accuracy on all of the cranes motions. The units will be delivered in two stages during January and March 2003 and are scheduled to be fully operational by April 2004, boosting the facility's paper handling capabilities by 320,000 tonnes per year.

## EOTC online

If choosing the correct equipment seems a little daunting, help is always at hand from the likes of Street Crane Company, which has just launched its latest EOT crane dedicated web site, [www.street-crane.co.uk](http://www.street-crane.co.uk). Visitors to the site will find the company's extensive range of heavy duty EOT cranes, as well as its full line of hoists and components for lifting applications in the safe working capacity range of 20 kilograms to 200 tonnes. A full Parts and Service portal offers details of the company's maintenance, inspection, performance upgrades and re-classification services, while engineers have access to a broad range of information for overcoming overhead handling and lifting problems.

Crane control options, automation and other accessories for unique and unusual applications are also extensively detailed on the site. As one of



**Fresh off the production line. Morris Material Handling is supplying two, 20 tonne Goliaths to an undisclosed customer. The two units are designed to run in tandem allowing the customer to handle containers up to 12.2 metres**



**The UK's first Wind Turbine factory is relying on a total of 10 EOTC from Morris Material Handling**

the UK's leading EOT crane producers, Street Crane manufactures and distributes approximately 400 complete EOT cranes globally every year for installations ranging from motor vehicle production to military airforce maintenance.

## Making waves

The company is currently involved with an order for 10 brand new EOT cranes for Princess Yachts of Plymouth, boosting the luxury yacht producer's number of Street machines to more than 30 units across four manufacturing sites. The cranes form an integral part of the yacht production, moving moulds from the store to the laying up area, moving fabrications and fittings into the build area, for the actual assembly of the yachts and transporting the finished products from final inspection into the water.

The new units will form part of a major redevelopment program, contracted out to Dean and Dyball Construction, at Princess's Newport Street facility. Street says that eight out of the ten cranes are single girder units with a maximum safe working load of 6.3 tonnes and feature underslung hoists and dual speed control on all motions. The remaining two cranes are 25 tonne capacity units, each comprising 12.5 tonne twin hoists enabling independent or tandem use.

Whether modifying existing equipment, or installing specially designed units for those otherwise unapproachable applications, the EOT crane remains an extremely popular choice among today's users. And, certainly for the foreseeable future, it is hard to see where a cost-effective alternative will come from. ■