

Liebherr crawler crane in action inside giant cooling tower

- Wasel replaces clean gas pipes at Weisweiler power plant using LR 1600/2
- Gross loads of 14 tonnes hoisted over the top of a cooling tower at a height of 117 metres
- Crane erected over three days with a roller head height of 182 metres

Ehingen / Donau (Germany), 13 September 2019 – A Liebherr LR 1600/2 crawler crane was in action completing modification work in one of the cooling towers at Weisweiler power plant in North Rhine- Westphalia. Crane and heavy haulage logistics contractor Wasel based in Bergheim near Cologne received an order to replace parts of the pipework system over the top edge of the massive cooling tower. The crane was erected with an impressive roller head height of 182 metres to carry out this job.

Three days and 54 low loader journeys were required to erect the enormous crawler crane between the two cooling towers at the lignite power plant. Set up with its main 102 metre boom and a 78 metre luffing fly jib, the Liebherr crane hoisted the glass fibre-reinforced plastic components weighing up to 12 tonnes out of the power plant's 117 metre high tower. The LR 1600/2 had to handle radii of up to 61 metres in the process. In fact, the Liebherr crawler crane required around half of the total of 525 tonnes of ballast used for the job just to raise and lower its impressively long lattice boom. The pallet with the suspended ballast was generally not required for the actual crane work. An additional 60 tonnes of ballast were used on the derrick boom for hoists involving a large radius.

There was no alternative to using the route over the opening in the internally hollow concrete body to replace the awkward components that make up the clean gas pipework. It was not possible to replace the pipe components using the only access point to the tower at a height of around ten metres as a result of their massive dimensions.

Captions

liebherr-lr-1600-2-wasel-motiv1.jpg

Up, up and away – the Liebherr crawler crane with a roller head height of 182 metres soars well above the top of the massive cooling tower.

liebherr-lr-1600-2-wasel-motiv2.jpg

In the air – part of the old clean gas pipework is placed on the ground between the two enormous cooling towers. The LR 1600/2 had to move with the load on the hook in some cases for this purpose.

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