

Press information

Liebherr: MK 88 Plus achieves 300 lifts in three days

- Liebherr mobile construction crane utilises high handling capacity to place stop gates for an inspection at the North Sea barrage in Husum
- The MK 88 is designed for continuous operation with high-precision load control
- The barrage renovation has been completed ahead of schedule

An MK 88 Plus belonging to crane service provider Nolte Auto-Krane has completed a veritable lifting marathon as part of a structural inspection of the North Sea barrage near Husum. During its tough eight-week assignment, the Liebherr crane lifted more than 1,800 loads of various types. The placing of the stop gates alone entailed the machine completing 300 lifts in just three days.

Husum (Germany), July 20, 2021 – “The MK crane proved a great success”, reflects Oliver Andritter, who headed the steel work at the Husum harbour barrage, which was built back in 1975 to protect against storm surges. After 46 years, the time had come for the North Sea installation to undergo a thorough inspection. For this to happen, all water had to be removed from inside the barrage.

Stop gates (also known as emergency gates) had to be erected first to ensure a dry working area. The MK 88 placed a total of around 300 stop logs and intermediate posts to keep the water out. It only took three days for the MK to place all elements in the water with absolute precision.

Quick positioning of posts

Commercial divers provided instructions to guide the crane’s operators. Their common goal: to manoeuvre the 11-metre-long and 36 centimetre-wide posts into their correct positions at the base of the barrage. “The ability to move loads quickly via the trolley on the horizontal jib and the prompt, safe positioning of posts were both great advantages compared to what a telescopic crane could offer”, explains Andritter.

Delivering the posts with centimetre precision was essential as the divers were working in murky waters with little visibility and, in some cases, at night. “I’m also very impressed that the crane can be dismantled in fifteen minutes and then swiftly moved to another position on site”, says Andritter, adding, “And its working speed is equally impressive.”

Faster completion

The excellent handling capacity of Liebherr mobile construction cranes was another factor that prompted Jürgen Peters to send an MK 88 Plus to the site. “We’d already had positive experiences with this crane on a similar job in Büsum three years before”, he explains. “We’re simply much faster with an MK on this type of assignment than we are with a regular telescopic crane.”

Peters plans and is responsible for major crane projects at Nolte. As was the case in Büsum, he had a powerful heavy-duty crane at his disposal alongside the mobile construction crane. “We needed our Liebherr LG 1750 lattice tower crane to lift the flood protection gate wings, weighing up to 65 tonnes, off their hinges. The MK was responsible for the construction and dismantling of the gates and supplied the 13 metre-deep construction site chambers with everything that was needed.”

Chris Kubinski and Manuel Krüger used their MK 88 Plus to lift pumps, generators, scaffolding parts, tools and even cherry pickers down to the engineers and labourers working in the emptied barrage chambers. The two experienced crane operators worked in shifts aboard the modern crane cabin.

Infinitely height-adjustable elevating cab is a hit

“We were able to reach and do everything with the 45-metre jib from just two positions”, reports Chris Kubinski, who has previously worked with telescopic cranes. He now doesn’t want to part with the Liebherr mobile construction crane. The infinitely height-adjustable elevating cab, the crane’s fast assembly/disassembly (“It only takes me eleven minutes – that’s simply unbeatable!”) and its high working speed have made him a huge MK fan.

“The way the mobile construction crane works has totally won me over”, says the crane operator, who mainly tackles balcony assemblies, façade work and, of course, roof projects with his MK 88 Plus. “Projecting edges aren’t a problem any more and it’s much easier to keep the safety distance required when working near power lines.”

But what excites him most is being able to move his loads safely from within the crane cabin, which can be positioned at hook height to provide a clear view of the action. He also likes the option of operating the crane via radio remote control, “It’s particularly ideal for assembling glass roofing or façades as I can stand right next to the fitters. Sometimes it’s all down to millimetre precision”, Kubinski says from experience. “I simply enjoy working with all the great options the crane offers.”

Mobile construction cranes always in operation

“We’ve got three MK 88 cranes and a large MK 140 in our fleet”, shares Jürgen Peters. From Nolte Auto-Krane’s location in Hannover, he supplies construction sites all over Germany with some 30 Liebherr machines. His four mobile construction cranes are always in use. “MK cranes are being requested more and more often. Once site managers get to know this crane system, they often don’t want to use anything else for some jobs.”

It was a very similar situation in Husum. It was expected that Peters would deploy the MK 88 Plus on site and especially for the assembly and dismantling of the emergency gates due to the crane’s optimal handling capacity. The 2.2 million Euro barrage project was completed faster than planned, not least

because of the crane's impressive handling performance. The passage to Husum harbour was reopened for skippers and boat owners a whole four days earlier than planned.

About the Liebherr Tower Cranes Division

More than seven decades of experience have made Liebherr a recognised specialist for lifting technology on all types of construction sites. The range of Liebherr Tower Cranes encompasses an extensive selection of high-quality tower cranes that are used worldwide. This includes fast-erecting, top-slewing, luffing jib and special-purpose cranes as well as mobile construction cranes. In addition to these products, Liebherr also offers a wide range of services that complete the company's portfolio: Tower Crane Solutions, Tower Crane Customer Service and Tower Crane Center.

About the Liebherr Group

The Liebherr Group is a family-run technology company with a highly diversified product portfolio. The company is not only one of the largest construction equipment manufacturers in the world, but also provides high-quality and user-oriented products and services in a wide range of other areas. Today, the Group consists of more than 140 companies across all continents, employs around 48,000 people and, in 2020, achieved a total turnover of over 10.3 billion euros. Liebherr has pursued its goal of satisfying customers with industry-leading solutions and shaping technological progress since its founding in 1949, in Kirchdorf an der Iller in Southern Germany.

Images



liebherr-mk88-husum01.jpg

1,800 loads lifted: During the renovation project, the MK 88 Plus had to deliver a variety of loads to the site located at the base of the barrage chambers.



liebherr-mk88-husum02.jpg

Super-sized posts: Around 150 posts had to be lifted into the water by the crane in order to assemble stop gates for draining and isolating the barrage. Divers awaited the mighty posts on the riverbed.



liebherr-mk88-husum03.jpg

Point of no return: Crane operator Chris Kubinski wants to continue working with the Liebherr mobile construction crane and doesn't want to return to the telescopic cranes he used to operate. The elevating cabin offers crane operators an excellent overview when handling loads. This was an invaluable advantage in terms of safety at the barrage in Husum.



liebherr-mk88-husum04.jpg

Crane origami: The clever technology and high-level design expertise present in the MK 88 Plus becomes clear as soon as the 45 metre-long jib impressively unfolds.

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