

Press release

## Crane power for the climate revolution

---

- Liebherr crawler cranes are building wind farms to the south of Vienna
- An LR 11000 and LR 1750/2 from Felbermayr are erecting 30 wind turbines
- The speed delivered by V-Frame and VarioTray when short time frames are available is key to this process

Ten months ago, Austrian group Felbermayr started operations with its third Liebherr LR 11000. Since then, the crawler crane has been erecting Enercon wind turbines in Burgenland to the south-east of Vienna. Working with an LR 1750/2, the 1000 tonne crawler crane has erected a total of thirty wind turbines. Felbermayr will be sending another LR 11000 to the wind farms near the Austrian-Slovakian border in May to support the rest of the work. The erection work is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2022 at the latest.

Ehingen (Donau) (Germany), 11 April 2022 – Renewables are taking on an increasingly important role in supplying electricity within Europe. One of the main sectors in this respect is wind power. Austrian group Felbermayr and its cranes has been involved in this sector for decades and has developed into a major erection contractor for wind turbines, primarily in Austria and Eastern Europe. Felbermayr has 13 large cranes with lifting capacity classes of 600 tonnes and over, primarily working on the construction of these massive wind turbines. All these machines bear the Liebherr logo. Another modern LR 1800-1.0 crawler crane will roll out of the factory in Ehingen during May to expand Felbermayr's impressive crane fleet.

One hot spot in the process of expanding wind energy is currently around half an hour's drive to the south-east of Vienna, close to the Slovakian capital Bratislava. Two of Felbermayr's large cranes in their blue corporate livery are currently operating here in Burgenland, the second main area of wind turbines in Austria alongside Lower Austria. The flagship of the crane fleet, an almost new LR 11000, and an LR 1750/2 equipped with the more powerful SX boom version have been erecting wind turbines with hub heights of up to 160 metres for several months. The cranes hoist three steel tower segments onto the waiting concrete towers and then install the gondola, generator, hub and rotor blades. The work is always carried out when the wind conditions allow. For the LR 1750/2, the more powerful SX boom increases the maximum permitted windspeed from nine to ten metres per second to ensure less downtime during the assembly work. At this windy level of the area known as the Vienna Basin, waiting times which can last for weeks, are a major challenge to the crane crews and erection teams.

To ensure that the ambitious schedule is met (all the crane work should be completed by the end of the year), a second 1000 tonne crawler crane from the Austrian group will arrive shortly to help. The two LR 11000 cranes will then be in action at the same time just a few kilometres apart.

## **140 tonne hoists possible with a small amount of suspended ballast**

“We are actually building slightly larger systems with a rating of 5.5 megawatts for which the cranes have to hoist the generator, for example, weighing around 130 tonnes to a height of 155 metres,” says Oliver Masch, Enercon’s General Project Manager at the site. “The gross load case is then slightly over 140 tonnes”, adds Jan Kürner, Supervisor and Site Manager at Felbermayr. “To do this, the VarioTray with around 100 tonnes of ballast, which we call the “Baby Tray” because of its size, is extended to its maximum radius of 30 metres. The large suspended ballast pallet containing a further 450 tonnes of weight remains suspended throughout the erection process and is only required to raise or lower the boom, which measures over 180 metres in length.”

In view of the fact that waiting times are often quite long due to strong winds and powerful gusts, it is extremely important for the project management team that the crane operations go smoothly. “The time frames with wind speeds in which we can hoist and install components often open and close very quickly, sometimes even on an hourly basis”, explains Oliver Masch. That means that time-consuming ballast in work can be a real hindrance, of course. The highly flexible V-Frame means that this work is simply not necessary on the LR 11000 at the wind farm. Urgency is always the order of the day. “And if we actually have a crane defect at any time”, continues Oliver Masch, “we are very satisfied with the service we received from Liebherr. Generally, it is only a matter of hours. But the reliability of the Liebherr cranes is almost perfect anyway.”

Supervisor Jan Kürner is also extremely impressed with the LR 11000 and its great flexibility: “I operated the first crane of this type that we purchased in 2014 myself for several years. It is a modern crane and has a very compact design and is much easier and therefore also safer to set up older cranes. And now with the V-frame – it truly is a top quality crane.”

## **“V-Frame means that the crane is no longer the limiting factor”**

So when it really becomes necessary, the disconnecting derrick ballast and the hydraulically adjustable frame make it possible to work at very high speed. Or as Gernold Mailänder, the operator of the LR 11000, puts it: “The crane is no longer the limiting factor for getting on with the job. When the wind speeds are suitable, I can position one component after another without having to adjust the ballast in between. That means I can complete a wind turbine in just three or four days.” The experienced expert sits satisfied in his large operator’s cab. “The V-Frame is tip top. There is absolutely nothing to be said against it.”

Heavy loads, mega transports, massive infrastructure and special projects – the Felbermayr Holding GmbH portfolio contains all this and more. The company has expanded massively, above all in the states of Austria, over the last 30 years. The Austrian company’s empire now encompasses 75 sites in 19 countries throughout Europe.

## About Liebherr-Werk Ehingen GmbH

Liebherr-Werk Ehingen GmbH is a leading manufacturer of mobile and crawler cranes. Its range of mobile cranes extends from 2-axle 35 tonne cranes to heavy duty cranes with a lifting capacity of 1200 tonnes and a 9-axle chassis. Its lattice boom cranes on mobile or crawler crane chassis deliver lifting capacities of up to 3000 tonnes. With universal boom systems and extensive additional equipment, they can be seen in action on construction sites throughout the world. The Ehingen site has a workforce of 3,800. Extensive, global service guarantees the high availability of Liebherr mobile and crawler cranes. In 2021, the Liebherr plant in Ehingen recorded a turnover of 2.33 billion euros.

## About the Liebherr Group

The Liebherr Group is a family-run technology company with a highly diversified product portfolio. The company is one of the largest construction equipment manufacturers in the world. It also provides high-quality and user-oriented products and services in a wide range of other areas. The Liebherr Group includes over 140 companies across all continents. In 2021, it employed more than 49,000 staff and achieved combined revenues of over 11.6 billion euros. Liebherr was founded in Kirchdorf an der Iller in Southern Germany in 1949. Since then, the employees have been pursuing the goal of achieving continuous technological innovation, and bringing industry-leading solutions to its customers.

## Photographs



liebherr-lr11000-felbermayr-1.jpg

The Liebherr LR 11000 crawler crane is erecting wind turbines at a wind farm in Austria.



liebherr-lr11000-felbermayr-2.jpg

Minimal space requirement – looking from above, it becomes clear how little space the LR 11000 with V-Frame requires on site.



liebherr-lr11000-felbermayr-3.jpg

Retracted – the slewing process slides perfectly past containers and vehicles on the site with little space required for the VarioTray .



liebherr-lr11000-felbermayr-4.jpg

Staying on the ground – the large 450 tonne pallet for the suspended ballast is only required to raise and lower the lattice boom.



liebherr-lr11000-felbermayr-5.jpg

Crane speed counts when short time frames are available – the fast operating speed of the LR 11000 with V-Frame and VarioTray is decisive for Oliver Masch, Enercon's General Project Manager.



liebherr-lr11000-felbermayr-6.jpg

A matter of routine – Jan Kürner, a Supervisor at Felbermayr operated the group's first LR 11000 for a long time himself.



liebherr-lr11000-felbermayr-7.jpg

"The V-Frame is tip top" – Gernold Mailänder has been in the operator's cab of the crawler crane in its blue company livery for almost a year.

## Contact

Wolfgang Beringer  
Marketing and Communication  
Phone: +49 7391/502 - 3663  
Email: wolfgang.beringer@liebherr.com

## Published by

Liebherr-Werk Ehingen GmbH  
Ehingen (Donau) / Germany  
[www.liebherr.com](http://www.liebherr.com)