NEWS RELEASE

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**Manitowoc MLC650 delivers lower costs and flawless performance on Korean wind farm**

* *Innovative VPC on MLC650 delivers close to half a million dollars’ saving.*
* *Unusually soft soil means VPC’s easier ground preparation is an advantage.*
* *Lifting power of the MLC650 allows the placement of 120 t nacelles in one piece.*

When Shinui Petra, one of South Korea’s largest construction equipment rental companies, was asked to supply a crane for a complex and compact assembly project for Young-gwang Yak-su Wind Power, there was only ever one choice—the MLC650 from Manitowoc, the new rising star of its fleet.

Choi Byung Eun, president and CEO of Shinui Petra, said the crane performed flawlessly on the job and its use resulted in significant cost savings for the overall project. By using the MLC650, the customer achieved savings through fewer workers on site, lower ground preparation costs, lower rental fees for assist cranes, plus lower transportation costs.

“Compared with alternative cranes capable of handling the work, the MLC650 delivered significant time and cost savings,” he said. “For a start, it’s smaller than the other options available, which means fewer trailers to transport the crane and less time to set it up. It took only 45 trailers to mobilize the MLC650 and three days to erect it, compared to five days and many more trailers for alternative options.”

Over 12 weeks the MLC650 worked at the new wind farm located in Young-gwang in Jeolla-namdo province on the southeastern coast of South Korea. It assembled six turbines and lifted components that weighed up to 140 t. The original plan was to lift the turbine nacelles in separate sections, one of which weighed 80 t and another at 60 t. However, the 650 t capacity of the MLC650 enabled the company to lift and install the nacelles as a single 120 t unit which was then lifted to a height of 120 m at a radius of 30 m. This delivered considerable cost and time savings for the company.

Choi said that when compared with other cranes, the MLC650 brought savings that were clearly quantifiable.

“We calculated the savings translated to $75,000 per turbine installation when compared to other 750 t capacity cranes, or $155,000 per turbine installation against a 1,350 t capacity crane,” he said. “News of these savings has spread through the industry in South Korea. We already have a further two turbine installations booked, and many other enquiries which we are currently processing.”

These savings were generated by the MLC650’s patented Variable Position Counterweight (VPC), which is an extending, suspended counterweight that allows the crane to achieve superior lifting ability without the need for a ground-mounted counterweight solution. The VPC design also means the counterweight does not have to be fully extended to the rear of the crane during set up, nor does it touch the ground, saving space on the job site.

Choi also explained that the need for less time to prepare the job site’s grounds was a real advantage.

“The job site is located in a landfilled area that was previously used as rice fields, so the terrain is very soft—extra attention was needed in the ground preparation” he explained. “In addition, the site was designed to work within the minimum possible space constraint, so it was impractical to use cranes with fixed counterweight trays extended to their rear. On top of this, access to the site was via a 4 m-wide farming lane, so we wanted to minimize the number of vehicles on the job site. The MLC650 and its easy erection proved the perfect choice for the site and enabled us to complete the job quickly and efficiently.”

The MLC650 has a standard 650 t maximum capacity that can be increased to 700 t with VPC-MAX attachment while a total of 203.8 m tip height can be attained by the crane when combining its 101 m luffing jib with its 104 m of main boom.

Thanks in part to the MLC650, the new Young-gwang Yank-su wind farm in South Korea is now up and running. The facility is generating 22,176 kW of energy a day and is expected to record a turnover of $4.9 million a year.

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CONTACT

**Punitha Govindasamy** **Ben Shaw**

Manitowoc SE10

T +65 6263 7863 T +65 6408 3861

[punitha.govindasamy@manitowoc.com](mailto:punitha.govindasamy@manitowoc.com) [ben.shaw@se10.com](mailto:ben.shaw@se10.com)

ABOUT THE MANITOWOC COMPANY, INC.

Founded in 1902, The Manitowoc Company, Inc. is a leading global manufacturer of cranes and lift solutions with manufacturing, distribution, and service facilities in 20 countries.  Manitowoc is recognized as one of the premier innovators and providers of crawler cranes, tower cranes, and mobile cranes for the heavy construction industry, which are complemented by a slate of industry-leading aftermarket product support services. In 2015, Manitowoc’s revenues totaled $1.9 billion, with over half of these revenues generated outside the United States.

MANITOWOC CRANES

2401 South 30th Street - PO Box 70 - Manitowoc, WI 54221-0070

T +1 920 684 6621

[**www.manitowoc.com**](http://www.manitowoccranes.com)**­**