­NEWS RELEASE

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**Southern Cranes & Access takes delivery of UK’s first Grove GMK5250XL-1**

* *West Sussex-based Southern Cranes & Access is the first UK customer to take delivery of the new Grove GMK5250XL-1 all-terrain crane launched at bauma 2019.*
* *The five-axle, 250 t capacity crane builds on the compact design and maneuverability of the GMK5250L-1 with an additional 8.5 m of boom, allowing it to work on an even greater range of job sites.*
* *Southern Cranes & Access chose the GMK5250XL-1 based on the equipment hire company’s previous success with the GMK5250L, as well as the sheer versatility of the new model.*

At the end of May, Southern Cranes & Access became the first Manitowoc customer in the UK to receive a new Grove GMK5250XL-1. Manitowoc announced the debut of the new five-axle all-terrain crane at bauma 2019 and its arrival on the UK crane hire market has been hotly anticipated.

At 78.5 m, the GMK5250XL-1 has the longest main boom in its class, while maintaining the 250 t capacity, small footprint and easy maneuverability of the GMK5250L-1 model. The GMK5250XL-1 belonging to Southern Cranes & Access has a 17.8 m bi-fold swingaway extension that can be lengthened to 33.8 m with additional inserts so that it reaches heights of up to 109 m. This makes the GMK5250XL-1 perfect for assembling tower cranes. It can also lift up to 9.9 t within a radius of 22 m.

Other features on the GMK5250XL-1 include the company’s MAXbase variable outrigger set-up, MEGATRAK suspension with all-wheel steering and TWIN-LOCK boom pinning system.

“We already own two GMK5250L models, which have been very popular for erecting and dismantling tower cranes, so as soon as the GMK5250XL-1 was announced, it was a no-brainer for us to add it to our fleet,” said Kelvin Prince, director of Southern Cranes & Access. "The proof is in the pudding. Since this is our third 250-ton machine, Grove must be doing something right. As far as we are concerned, it’s the best of its class. We have full confidence in the crane and how to run it – and that 8.5 m of extra boom makes a big difference to the range of jobs it can complete. I can see this being a very busy crane,” he added.

And busy it has been. The new GMK5250XL-1 has barely spent any time in the Southern Cranes & Access yard so far, having been hired out continuously since its delivery. The crane’s first job was to disassemble a Potain MCT88 tower crane in Bristol.

**The perfect all-rounder**

“The beauty of the GMK5250L and GMK5250XL-1 is that you can confidently put them on a smaller job site – and job sites are getting more and more confined these days. So if it’s not needed for a big job, we can get more use out of it by deploying it for smaller jobs too,” Prince explained.

Southern Cranes & Access has been a Manitowoc customer for many years and offers several Grove models in its 50-strong fleet of cranes, including one GMK3055, one GMK4080 and four GMK3060 models.

“Manitowoc always offers a strong product and is very good with service. I have a lot of time for the service team at Manitowoc UK. If I have an issue, I can pick up the phone and get it sorted right away,” he said.

Family-run Southern Cranes & Access was founded in 1997 and supplies a range of mobile crane hire, contract lifting and powered access solutions in the UK; in Sussex, Surrey, Berkshire and Hampshire, as well as London and the surrounding areas. The company has vast industry experience at every level of the business, and its loyal customers count on the safe and reliable service it provides every time.

Visit the Manitowoc website for more information on the [Grove GMK5250XL-1 all-terrain crane](https://www.manitowoccranes.com/en/cranes/grove/grove-products/all-terrain/GMK5250XL-1).

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ABOUT THE MANITOWOC COMPANY, INC.

The Manitowoc Company, Inc. (“Manitowoc”) was founded in 1902 and has over a 117-year tradition of providing high-quality products and support services that are tailored to customers’ needs. Its 2019 net sales were approximately $1.83 billion. Manitowoc is one of the world's leading providers of engineered lifting solutions. Through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Manitowoc designs, manufactures, markets and supports comprehensive product lines of mobile telescopic cranes, tower cranes, lattice-boom crawler cranes, boom trucks and industrial cranes under the Grove, Potain, Manitowoc, National Crane, Shuttlelift and Manitowoc Crane Care brand names.

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