PRESS RELEASE

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**Manitowoc crawler cranes deliver strong performance to wind farm builder IEA Constructors**

* *IEA used four Manitowoc crawler cranes, two MLC650s and two MLC300s, for the installation of turbines at a wind farm in Texas and was impressed with the quality and performance of the cranes.*
* *To monitor wear to the cranes’ undercarriages, Manitowoc’s Lift Solutions developed a custom-made wear gauge system.*
* *Over the course of the project, the four crawler cranes installed nearly 200 tower pad sites and crisscrossed over 600 miles.*

Machine wear on cranes is a significant issue for those working in wind energy applications. The installation of turbines usually requires crawler cranes to travel hundreds of miles in the course of an assignment, which will result in proportional wear in their undercarriages. But on a project in Texas, where two Manitowoc MLC650 crawler cranes teamed up with two Manitowoc MLC300 crawler cranes, IEA Constructors (IEA) was delighted to note that all four cranes completed the work with only minimal undercarriage wear, avoiding downtime to replace worn parts.

“We’re beyond satisfied with the wear, or rather lack of wear, on the MLC650 undercarriages. During this project, our Manitowoc crawlers walked for many miles and yet we saw very little wear,” said Jason Ruggles, director of crane operations at IEA Equipment Management, a division within IEA, responsible for procuring equipment on behalf of all IEA projects nationwide. “Across the whole product line, Manitowoc undercarriages proved to be very durable. For instance, the undercarriage wear on the MLC300 units is significantly less than others in the 300-ton class, even after carrying out several projects. We’re very happy with the life we’re getting out of the Manitowoc undercarriages and components, and it has contributed significantly to a reduction in our operating costs.”

IEA, a renewable energy and specialty civil construction company, used the cranes to install approximately 200 wind turbines on a project near Sebastian, Texas. To better track damage and minimize wear in the undercarriage, Manitowoc’s Lift Solutions engineers worked with Manitowoc dealer Walter Payton Power Equipment (WPPE) to create a monitoring system tailored specifically to IEA’s needs. This enabled IEA to keep a closer eye on any wear these critical parts experienced.

“We needed a way to continually monitor these wear components without physically measuring the movement between each shaft, pin and bushing,” Ruggles said. “Out in the field our emphasis is on production, so we needed gauges that could act as a ‘go/no-go’ indicator and quickly and accurately measure component wear, giving us a visual reference of the rate of wear.”

The wear gauges were applied to all four MLC650 and MLC300 cranes. Small monitors on the cranes provided a visual display and continuously reported data to help the team evaluate wear in real time. The gauges monitored wear through the entire course of the project, during which the crawler cranes traversed a combined 600 miles.

Configured with 331.4 ft of main boom with a 24.9 ft extended upper boom point (EUBP) at 28-degree offset, and outfitted with 661,000 lbs of counterweight, the two MLC650 crawler cranes helped set upper mid tower sections, spikes, blades and V120 nacelles. Performing these lifts on each pad meant the cranes had to travel from site to site fully configured, covering distances of several miles each day. As the practice understandably causes significant undercarriage wear and is a cost consideration for contractors, big advantages come with monitoring this wear.

Walter Payton Power Equipment is a distributor for Manitowoc, Grove and National Crane with full-service facilities in Riverdale, Illinois, Lebanon and New Albany, in Indiana, and Taylor, Michigan. WPPE offers new and pre-owned Manitowoc crawlers and Grove hydraulic cranes for sale and rental.

For more information on the MLC650, click [here](https://www.manitowoc.com/manitowoc/lattice-boom-crawler-cranes/mlc650). To read more about the MLC300, click [here](https://www.manitowoc.com/manitowoc/lattice-boom-crawler-cranes/mlc300).

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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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