

Travelling jibs' European flare come to Liebherr's Alberta facility

Project will feature six wall-mounted, travelling five-tonne cantilever cranes and a 30-ton double box-girder overhead crane

MATT JONES

Liebherr-Canada Ltd., part of the Liebherr Group known internationally for its manufacturing and mining operations, has some fairly unusual needs for its remanufacturing facility in the Acheson Industrial Park in Edmonton, Alberta. To accommodate these requirements, Liebherr has turned to PCL Construction and Masco Crane & Hoist.

"In 30 years in this industry, I've never seen anything like this in this region before," said Matt Beck, CEO of Masco Crane & Hoist, which manufactures, services and inspects overhead cranes in Western Canada.

The project, which will support Liebherr's mining operations and is scheduled for installation in late September, will feature six wall-mounted, travelling five-tonne cantilever cranes and a 30-ton double box-girder overhead crane.

"The travelling jibs are very rare over here," said Masco vice-president Steven Beck. "They are a European design."

Beck's company is the Western Canadian dealer for the Street Brand Wire Rope and Chain Hoists, which will be used in Liebherr's new manufacturing facility for both the overhead crane and travelling jibs.

Jeff Reynolds, project manager for PCL Construction, said that, while this type of project isn't the sort his company does every day, PCL has a good working relationship with Liebherr and was more than up for the challenge.



An overhead crane such as this will be paired with six wall-mounted travelling jibs at Liebherr's remanufacturing facility in Alberta. Photo courtesy of Masco Crane & Hoist

"Liebherr requires a remanufacturing facility and configuration that is very efficient," Reynolds said. "It's different from typical remanufacturing facilities in North America. It's modeled around the configuration they've developed overseas."

The facility will house an overhead double-girder crane, which will cover the entire length of the shop. While this crane will be moving larger components into position, the smaller jibs can be used to disassemble and reassemble smaller components without tying up the larger crane.

A project like this presents its fair share of challenges. For Masco Crane & Hoist, now that the parts have been ordered, the next step is planning and preparation.

"The first challenge is scheduling everything so those materials are being brought in and making sure that we can fabricate and get the materials to the site so we're not stockpiling at Masco's facilities," Steven Beck said. "It's too much material and equipment to build and store. Masco will coordinate the building of the cranes with the materials arriving so that we keep a good flow of materials coming in, getting fabricated, and shipped out to the site and installed."

From there, the next big challenge will be the initial set up and fabrication in the shop. "It's pretty intricate, with very little room for error," said Steven Beck.

On PCL Construction's end, the challenge lies in optimizing the structure and foundation system.

"Because of the crane configuration specifically, there's a very large structure involved," Reynolds said. "The foundations, the building frame itself to support the capacities their looking for – that's the most unique aspect of the project for us."

While, traditionally, this type of facility would be placed closer to the mining operations themselves, the facility will be established in Edmonton for easier access to labour and materials. The added bonus, however, is a boost to morale.

"By putting this facility down here, it's better for the workers, keeps them closer to their families," Reynolds said. "It's just more efficient for Liebherr."



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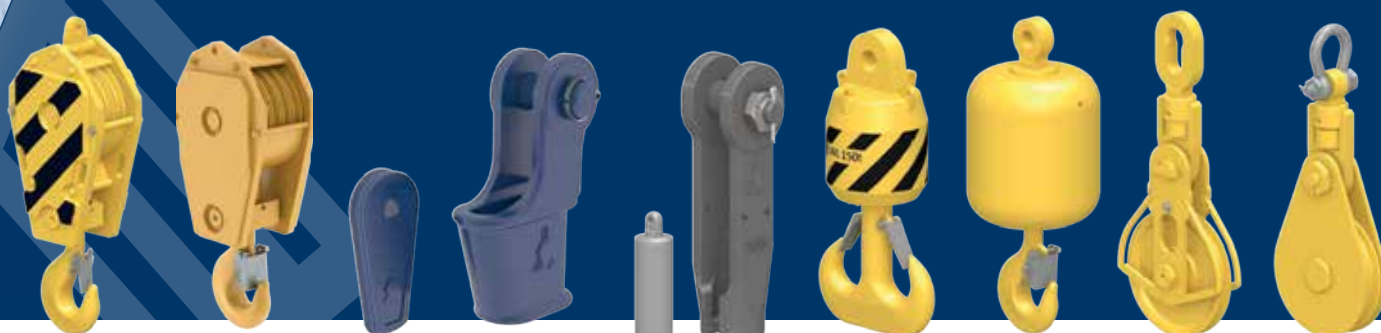
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