

SOMETIMES, BIGGER REALLY IS BETTER

Sarens has launched one of the world's biggest cranes, to tackle the largest construction projects.

Some jobs require the biggest possible equipment in order to complete them, and so it is that in the mining and construction sectors, there is an increasing demand for a crane that can lift practically anything.

Bearing this in mind, Sarens, the global leader in crane rental services, heavy lifting, and engineered transport, launched what is reputed to be among the top three biggest cranes in the world in the fourth quarter of 2017.

The SGC-140 takes over from its now smaller sibling, the SGC-120, as one of the largest cranes available today. Launched in Ghent, Belgium, in October, the latest Sarens Giant Crane (SGC) has a lifting capacity of 2 820 tonnes at 50m and requires a 4 000-tonne counterweight.

According to Kleopatra Kyrimi, head of

marketing and communications at Sarens, the new crane is referred to as "Big Benny XL", in homage to engineer Benny Sarens, a leading figure in the design of both the SGC-120 and the SGC-140, and who also happens to have a seat on the board of the homonym company.

"The new crane has a greater lifting capacity than its predecessor, but it can move weights around a larger radius. This means it is able to work on projects with a greater area, without having to be dismantled and moved to another position. It can be built with a boom of some 130m, to which a jib of up to 99m can be added," she says.

"At its base, the SGC-140 measures an impressive 44m in diameter and the ring is made of 64 steel mats, a circular double rail beam, 64 front wheels, and 32 rear wheels. In addition to supporting the counterweight,

SGC-120 at Newcastle UK after its assembly.



the machinery deck can hold six power pack units, eight winches and of course, the operator's cab."

She adds that Sarens is renowned for its creative and intelligent solutions to today's heavy-lifting and engineered-transport challenges. New demands from clients meant the company could not simply buy new cranes to complete the projects, so instead it chose to design its own, which has set a new standard for the industry.

"It is important to note that, as the SGC-140 bears many similarities to the earlier SGC-120, Sarens expects that commercially, the SGC-140 will have a comparable trajectory to that of its predecessor."

BIG JOB, BIG EQUIPMENT

Kyrimi says the SGC-140's first job will be in support of the Tengizchevroil (TCO) project in Kazakhstan, where it will embark on a multi-year project to help build an oil refinery and instal equipment to increase the reservoir pressure in the giant Tengiz field in the northern Caspian Sea. TCO is the operator of the Tengiz oil field in Kazakhstan and requires that work be carried out to assist in increasing the well pressures and

the production capacity of the existing Tengiz refinery.

"The deal with TCO to assist with this project is in fact the largest contract that Sarens has signed in its 62-year history. Moreover, Big Benny XL is expected to be of seminal importance to the completion of key parts of the TCO project."

She says the crane itself takes a total of six days to assemble and is expected to remain on-site in Kazakhstan for

approximately four years. Once the crane's work on the TCO project has been completed, it is expected to follow a comparable trajectory to that of the SGC-120.

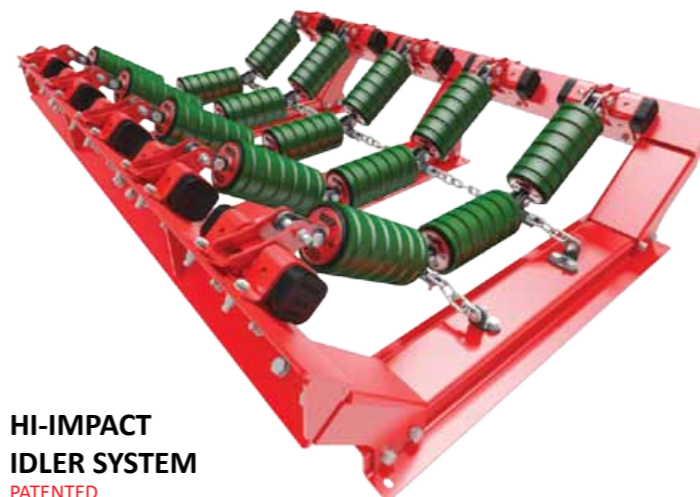
"It is likely, however, that by the time the SGC-140 leaves Kazakhstan, it will have relinquished its title as one of the world's biggest cranes. This is because Sarens has already announced plans to build an even bigger crane in the near future.

Drawing on the company's more than 60 years of experience in crane rental, heavy lifting, and engineered transport, Sarens is already planning to develop and build an even larger crane than the SGC-140. The new version, which is currently on the drawing board, will be known as the SGC-250 and will be a 250 000 tonne-metre crane that is expected to be available in 2019, and will by all standards be considered the world's biggest crane," she concludes. ■



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