

Sophisticated mobile crane debut

Vanguard recently procured what is claimed to be one of the most sophisticated mobile cranes in the world, the GTK 1100, from Germany in a R70-million investment. This crane, the seventh of its kind in the world and a first for Africa, arrived in Port Elizabeth on April 21 2010. The crane performed its first lift towards the end of May when it installed a 2 MW wind turbine, as part of the first commercial wind farm development in South Africa.

The wind turbine installation included the erection of a 95 m tower (3 m higher than the

Carlton Centre in Johannesburg), a nacelle with hub weighing 97 t and blades of 44,5 m each.

The GTK 1100 crane can lift 100 t to heights of more than 100 m. It only requires four trailers to site establish, compared to 20 to 40 trailers usually required for large super lift cranes. In addition, it has a small footprint of 18 m x 18 m to operate (including the boom set-up), and can be ready for operation in just four to six hours, offering reduced project costs and extreme flexibility to site establish.