Almighty crane

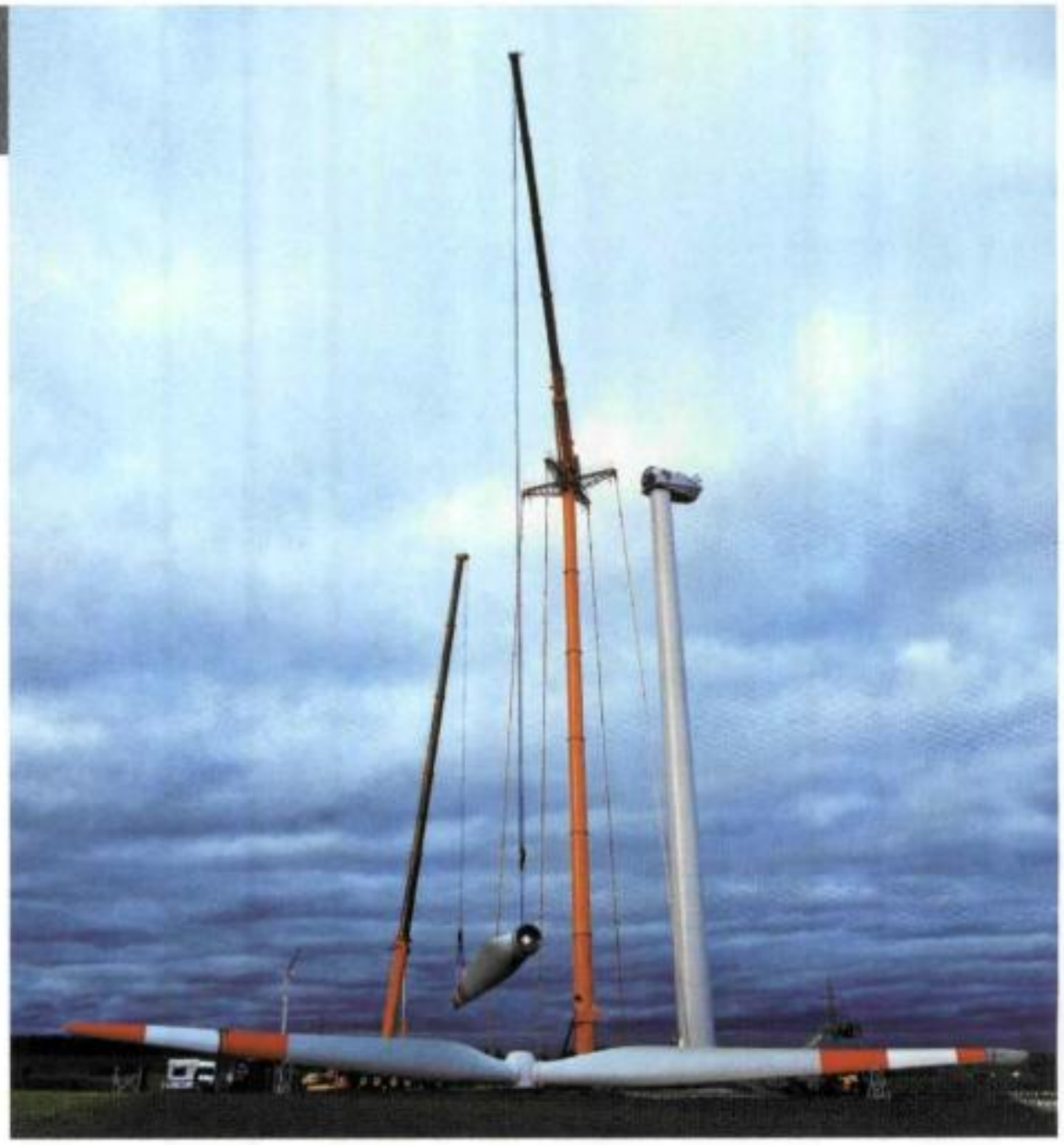
In a major investment of R70-million, heavy lift and relocation specialist Vanguard, in a joint venture with Grindrod and private investors, procured one of the most sophisticated mobile cranes in the world. It was designed and manufactured by Grove Cranes, a subsidiary of Manitowoc from Germany. The GTK 1100 arrived in South Africa in April.

"THIS ACQUISITION IS a massive milestone for Vanguard, who sees the potential of the crane deployed in facilities such as refineries, windturbine farms and power stations. When I saw the GTK 1100 being operated for the first time, during the construction of the boiler sections at a power station outside Cologne, Germany, I was convinced of its capabilities for South Africa. A definite success in the international construction sector, the GTK 1100 brings with it a whole range of opportunities for South African engineering companies in terms of greater flexibility and reduced project costs," says Bryan Hodgkinson, director, Vanguard.

Mean machine

The GTK 1100 was designed to lift ultra heavy loads to extreme heights. It can accommodate lifting 100 t to heights of more than 100 m and has a 56 m working radius, centre operated. It was designed to compete in the super lift market dominated traditionally by large, crawler cranes with lattice booms.

Another of the unique innovations of the GTK 1100 is that compared to other large super lift cranes, which would need between 20 and 40 truckloads of parts to be mobilised in order to perform such heavy lifts, the GTK 1100 only needs



Vanguard's new R70-million crane can lift 100 t to heights of more than 100 m.

four truckloads. Site establishment is therefore expected to be only a third of the cost. A further advantage is that the GTK 1100 can operate at these heights with very heavy loads of up to 100 t without a counterweight. It is a major breakthrough in the heavy lift crane market. The economical edge and extreme flexibility to get it to site and ready for work is a major attribute

This crane is one of only seven of its kind in the world and has a small footprint of 18 x 18 m (including the boom set-up) for a minimised job site area and its self-levelling function results in minimal ground preparation. The vertical rigging of the self-erecting tower contributes to the fast set-up; one of the key benefits of the GTK 1100 is that it can be ready for operation in just four to six hours. ■