

Giant crane for Coega windturbine

IN a first for Africa, a sophisticated mobile crane of which there are only seven worldwide, has arrived at Coega to be used in the installation a 2.0MW wind turbine, as part of the first commercial wind farm development in South Africa.

The crane will be performing its first lift this week. Specialised heavy lifting and transportation company, Vanguard, has recently procured the GTK 1100 from Germany in a R70 million investment in a joint venture with Grindrod and private investors. This is one of the most sophisticated mobile cranes in the world

The wind turbine installation at Coega includes

the erecting of a 95 metres tower (3 metres higher than the Carlton Centre in Johannesburg), a nacelle with hub, which equates to 97 tons, and blades of 44.5 metres each.

The GTK 1100 crane can lift 100 tons to heights of more than 100 metres. It requires only 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 metres x 18 metres to operate (including the boom set-up), and can be ready for operation in four to six hours, thus offering reduced project costs and flexibility to site-establish.

