

# Crane arrives to give South African mining industry a lift

TRACY HANCOCK | FEATURES REPORTER

**H**eavy lift and relocation specialist Vanguard's R70-million investment, the GTK 1100 crane, has arrived in South Africa. The crane is the only one of its kind in Africa and is the seventh in the world.

The crane is designed and manufactured by Grove Cranes, a subsidiary of Germany-based crane manufacturer Manitowoc.

Vanguard director **Andrew Nordengen** says that the crane arrived in the country on April 21. The first lift it performed was during the installation of a 2-MW wind turbine at the Coega industrial development zone, in Port Elizabeth.

However, Vanguard is positive that the GTK 1100 will spark the interest of the mining industry, as it can be used in any craning application of up to 100 t at 120 m hook height.

"The crane has a number of advantages which are beneficial for the mining industry," says Nordengen.

The GTK 1100 has a lifting height of 140 m, a maximum capacity of 100 t, a maximum working radius of 56 m and can be erected in comparatively small spaces, by crane standards, as it has a footprint of 18 m × 18 m.

The other components of the tower unit are four spreaders, with a tubular lattice

design, intended for bracing at the top of the tower. Each spreader includes a tensioning cylinder and a vibration damper.

The GTK 1100 only requires four trailers for transportation to its intended site and can be assembled in four to six hours. The GTK 1100 is also a far more cost-effective and flexible crane in terms of site establishment, adds Nordengen.

"This crane is one of the most sophisticated mobile cranes in the world. It has a number of unique advantages, such as enhanced site flexibility and reduced project costs, providing new opportunities for the South African engineering and construction industry. In addition, it provides the added advantage of being able to lift ultraheavy loads in small spaces," he explains.

Nordengen says that Vanguard has supplied heavy lifting and specialised transportation services to a variety of mines. "The most recent has involved the transportation of three cold boxes and exchangers for mines in Zambia and Namibia. The cold boxes were transported on Vanguard's modular trailer and then lifted and rotated 90° into position using a strand jacking system," he concludes.

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**ONE OF A KIND**

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