

Temporary Support of the Atlantic Bridge, Panama Canal



Description

New larger vessels (New Panamax class) with dimensions of 366m x 49m x 57,9m navigating the Panama Canal required the construction of a new stay cable bridge which would also cope with the increasing local- and transit traffic.

Concrete bridge elements of approx. 1'500t weight were casted. For the temporary support of the formwork HEBETEC Engineering Ltd. delivered a self-erecting tower system.

Facts

Total Bridge length:	approx. 3'000	m
Cable stayed concrete bridge:	1'050	m
Span between the 2 main pylons:	530	m
Height of pylons:	212.5	m
Clearance above canal:	75	m
Traffic lines:	4	pcs

Handling equipment

MegaSteel self-erecting system	350	t
Strand jack H-70	12	pcs

In addition to the concrete weight the 120t weight of the formwork had to be taken up by the 350t weighing support towers.

Because of Panamas' geographic position seismic resistance is a fundamental requirement to a bridge design. The hence resulting weight of 1'500t for a bridge element remained as a big challenge for the design of the support towers.

