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NEWS

Hebetec at Schwerlasttagung 2012

"Don't be afraid of heavy lumps" was the theme of this year's Schwerlasttagung, the conference for the heavy lifting industry that is held in Potsdam every two years. A wide range of manufacturers and leasing companies swapped experiences gained in the course of their activities in the heavy lifting technology sector. Hebetec Engineering AG gave a presentation on the possible uses of their equipment, illustrated with project examples and some new developments.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Polygon Bridge in Berne, Switzerland

The old Polygon bridge was built in 1936/37. The bridge's bearing capacity was being impaired by extensive corrosion damage, making renovation of the ageing bridge essential. The restricted space in the city center location presented a major challenge to realization of the project. This problem was resolved by taking up a suggestion from Hebetec Engineering AG, which proposed that the new arched bridge, which had a span of 23 meters and a total weight of 140 tons, be installed over the old bridge on the MegaSteel towers built over the abutments. Under the new bridge HTE installed a skidway that enabled the bridge to be pushed out and pulled down in four stages during night-time closures. After the demolition work had been completed and the bridge seats renewed, the new bridge was lowered 5 meters into the final position using four H-70 strand jacks. Thanks to excellent cooperation between all parties, all the works were finished on schedule.

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Credit River Bridge, Canada

For the essential renovation works on the bridge, which was built in 1935, a platform stretching over its whole length was built underneath it. Particular care had to be taken because nature conservation regulations prohibited any impairment of the river and shore area. The 950 ton-heavy platform was built up element by element under the bridge to the assembly height and was gradually pushed forward over a distance of about 190 meters between the bridge piers. In a second phase the platform was lifted by about 8 meters to the working height along the entire length on 10 MegaSteel towers. Excellent cooperation between all those involved enabled the installation to be finished on time.

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Liakhvi Bridge, Georgia

Ongoing works on extending the highway system in Georgia include the construction of several new bridge structures. Hebetec Engineering AG, as a contractor of the Freyssinet group, provided the shunting equipment for one of these structures. The equipment comprised four H-400 type strand jacks as towing machinery (total towing capacity 1600 tons). These were joined by four H-200 strand jacks, which acted as a brake mechanism (total braking capacity 800 tons) and were required because of the longitudinal slope of the bridge. Shifting of the individual bridge sections and finally the entire bridge deck began in January 2012 and was brought to successful completion in September 2012.

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Module lifting in Sousse, Tunisia

In the middle of 2012, Hebetec was able to lift several heating surface banks (modules) in a combined gas and steam power station located near Sousse as part of work on expansion of the Tunisian energy grid. Hebetec used 24 type H-140 strand jacks and 6 type H-70 strand jacks. The total lifting capacity thus came to just over 4,000 tons. It took two months to pull the modules in several phases up a height of some 25 meters.

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Indian River Bridge, USA

The Indian River Bridge, which is located in Delaware in the north-east of the USA, is a new four-lane cable-stayed bridge with a length of 790 meters. The works were done on land and progressed step by step towards the middle of the bridge. Each of the built lane elements was held and anchored along with the feeder system towards midstream with one type H-400 strand jack per pier until the actual bearing cable could finally be suspended. Altogether, four type H-400 strand jacks were used on four piers for one year.

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EQUIPMENT

5000 kN load cells

To enable greater accuracy when measuring loads, Hebetec Engineering AG makes use of load cells. With a maximum deviation of only 0.5%, they have proved themselves to be much more accurate than measurement by hydraulic pressure. Furthermore, the load cells also give the option of defining the center of gravity of the loads to be lifted or moved much more precisely. They were used for the first time to shift a platform, delivering good results.

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EMPLOYEES

Dirk Balzer

Dirk Balzer has been a project manager at Hebetec AG since January 2012, having previously been in charge of assembly planning and supervision in steel construction. His main areas of activity were in the construction of power stations, steel structures and bridges. With many years of experience in the preparation and handling of complex assembly projects, Mr. Balzer is a welcome addition to the company. We wish him every success and all the best in his new role at Hebetec Engineering AG!

HEBETEC ENGINEERING AG

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