New angle for Radius

RADIUS Cranes has relinquished its Comedil distribution in favour of Linden Comansa tower cranes from Europe and Comansa Jie tower cranes made under licence to Comansa in China.

Radius Cranes principal Richard Anderson has specified that machines brought into Australia will have the following features as standard:

- Auxiliary brakes on all drums,
- A factory-tested anti-collision set-up in the load moment indicator,
- High-capacity winches for greater versatility on large projects (for example, the Comansa 21LC750 has up to 48t capacity and can freestand up 93m),
- Cameras mounted on the boom head of luffing cranes and the trolley of flat top cranes, providing the operator with a view of the load at all times, and
- A winch view camera for electric luffing cranes, providing the operator with a full view of the winch at all times so that if the crane is working at short radius and a gust of wind lifts the boom, the operator will see the luffing rope go slack and be able to take corrective action.

Anderson believes that if the winch view camera had been available on all luffing cranes in Australia in the past, at least three lives would have been saved.

Comansa electric luffing tower cranes have three frequency-controlled motors that are sequentially powered up as the jib is luffed down, so that simultaneous luffing, slewing and hoisting is possible for greater productivity. Comansa has opted for the simplicity, safety and fast installation speed of fixed counterweights.

Comansa LCL500-24 luffing electric tower crane.

The LCL500-24 is a recent addition to the Comansa luffing tower crane range, and one that Anderson believes will be popular in Australia. This machine comes with 65m of boom, can freestand to 49.5m and can lift 12,000kg at 28m and 4700kg at 65m. A hook speed of 244m per minute can be achieved. The heaviest component is 9t, allowing smaller mobile cranes to be used to erect the crane and also facilitating easy transport.

All reeving for the luffing rope is installed in the factory and this remains assembled during dismantling of the crane, speeding assembly time. In operation the change of reeving to adjust the maximum load capacity from 12t to 24t has been automated, reducing downtime from rigging changes, increasing safety and allowing the operator to quickly shift back to a higher line speed once a heavy lift has been completed.

The LCL500-24 uses new reinforced 2.5m D36 tower sections. These are precision manufactured to small tolerances and allow the weight of the crane to rest on the corner angle sections rather than on the pins, ensuring the pins retain their shape over their working life.

Radius Cranes plans to land its first Comansa cranes in April-May, in part due to the need for potential customers to get existing machines working as the market recovers from the downturn. The company is offering a hire service where it can assist in finding temporary hire work if a customer has an idle machine.

The LCL 190 luffing crane will be Linden Comansa's main launch at Bauma. It will be available in two versions, with maximum loads of 12 or 18 tonnes. Jib length is between 30 and 60 metres, in 5m increments. The standard version will have a maximum height of 49.5m, erected over a 6m cross base and S25 mast sections. – **Greg Keane**