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What a long chain

STAHL CraneSystems supplies 210 chain hoists for Indian wind farms

You have no idea of the tremendous dimensions of these systems until you see a wind turbine from up close. Hub heights of well over 100 metres and rotor diameters of over 150 metres are now no longer unusual. In comparison, the nacelles of these leviathans are small and cramped. They have to provide space for the wind turbine and other apparatus at dizzying heights. Wind turbines have integrated cranes to transport spare parts and maintenance tools into the nacelle. These must be as compact as possible, however be able to negotiate the formidable height of lift of around 100 metres in a relatively short space of time. Indian wind turbine manufacturer INOX has found the ideal solution for its systems: designed by Indian crane builder MM engineers, equipped with German crane technology from STAHL CraneSystems.

Wind power is on the advance around the world, including India. The Indian wind turbine manufacturer INOX Wind Ltd. was looking for an experienced crane builder to equip its wind turbines, and develop an extremely compact and yet reliable off-standard crane. It chose MM Engineers, one of STAHL CraneSystems' Indian crane building partners. The Indian engineers, in collaboration with INOX, developed a collapsible slewing crane with two articulations and manual hydraulic height adjustment. The unusual design permits the crane to be collapsed to save space and yet to transport loads not only into the nacelle but also within the nacelle as required. In spite of low-priced offers from other hoist manufacturers, MM Engineers insisted on using German components from STAHL CraneSystems. The ST 10 chain hoists, optimised for the great heights of lift prevalent in wind farms, have already proven themselves in German wind turbines. Thanks to their high reliability, particularly large chain collector and hoisting speed of 25 m/min they were also the ideal choice for the 2 MW wind turbines in India with their nacelles at a height of 90 m. INOX Wind relies on European technology for the wind turbines too: the 2 MW

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turbines are manufactured under licence from the Austrian company AMSC Windtech GmbH.

After final coordination with the customer, MM Engineers started producing the compact off-standard slewing cranes in 2010 and has since ordered large numbers of STAHL CraneSystems' wind turbine chain hoists. 210 of these customised solutions were already in use by the end of 2012. Increased output by up to 18 Gigawatt of wind power in India within the next five years is prognosticated. In the light of this positive development STAHL CraneSystems anticipates increased demand in the near future.

Keystrokes:

Photo material:



Compact dimensions when collapsed: the slewing crane with its off-standard chain hoist is the ideal choice for use in wind farms.



When opened out, thanks to the hydraulic height adjustment spare parts can be moved effortlessly within the nacelle too.

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Wind turbines among palms: wind energy is on the increase in India too. In the light of the positive development of the wind power market STAHL CraneSystems anticipates rising demand for off-standard chain hoists for wind farms in the coming years.