

KOBELCO

Issue 1/Volume1
Winter 2019



UK FOCUS

Hinkley Point C
Mersey Gateway
And more...

SHOW NEWS!

Bauma

COMPANY PROFILE:

GH Johnson

KOBELCO

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KOBELCO CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY EUROPE BV
FOR EUROPE, RUSSIA, CIS
TEL: +31-(0)36-549-5510
Jos.verhulst@kobelco.com

KOBELCO CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY EUROPE BV
FOR UK, IRELAND AND SOUTH AFRICA
TEL: +44-(0)1342-301122
Mark.evans@kobelco.com

Hello and welcome to the first edition of Kobelco Cranes Europe's new customer magazine, which is packed with news and features about you and the cranes you use to build the world!

Inside you'll find out how Kobelco crawler cranes are helping build some of Europe's largest, most important infrastructure projects, including the UK's Hinkley Point C energy project and the Mersey Gateway road/bridge link, alongside a special customer focus on GH Johnson, which operates one of the UK's largest fleet of Kobelco crawler cranes!

We'd love to hear your feedback and will be looking to continually improve and update our content and design, so send us your ideas and pictures for a chance to be featured in the next issue.

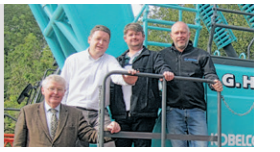
We hope you enjoy reading our first issue!



Masakazu Usami
Division Director Cranes
(Kobelco Construction Machinery Europe)

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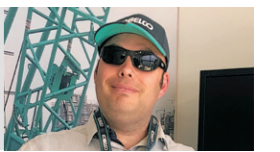
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Cover pic: A Kobelco BM700 crawler crane working for Keating Construction on the Castletownbere -Dinish Wharf Expansion, Ireland. Full report in the next issue.

KOBELCO CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY EUROPE B.V. (The Netherlands)
Veluwezoom 15, 1327 AE Almere, The Netherlands
Tel: +31-36-549-5510

KOBELCO CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY EUROPE B.V. (UK)
Unit 9, The Felbridge Centre, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1XP, UK
Tel: +44-1342-301122

KOBELCO CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY EUROPE B.V. (Germany)
Germany, Austria and Switzerland
Tel:+49 (0)172 7946087

DISTRIBUTORS
Russian Federation
FKR Machinery

105187, Russia, Moscow, Room 1, Office 4, Mironovskaya Street
Tel: +7-495-981-4545

Republic of Turkey
Das Otomotiv ve Jeneratör Tic. A. Gardenya Plaza 5, Kat: 2
34758 Ata ehir - stanbul - TÜRK YE

Tel:+(90) 216 456 57 05

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Manyl Machinery Centre des affaires AL-Qods, bureau 08-07 niveau 04
Chéraga Alger – Algeria.
Tel:+213 (0) 21-343-173

HEAD OFFICE – JAPAN
KOBELCO CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY CO., LTD
Tokyo, Japan
Tel: +81-(0)3-5789-2121

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Words: Richard High

Family fortunes

Family owned G.H. Johnson Crane Hire has over 25 years' experience in the lifting industry and owns one of the largest fleets of Kobelco crawler cranes in the UK.

GH Johnson Crane Hire owner and managing director Glyn Johnson has construction in his blood. At the age of 24 he started to get involved with construction equipment hire (known as plant hire in the UK) in the mid-1970s - mainly "bulldozers, excavators and whatever else that came my way" - and hasn't looked back since.

By the late 80s/early 90s the plant hire business was expanding rapidly, and Glyn started to buy second-hand crawler cranes, with the first Kobelco appearing in the yard in about 2000. However, it wasn't until 2004 that it bought its first new Kobelco, a CKE1350.

"We used and sold crawler cranes from the early 90s onwards, we still do today, but we didn't buy our first new Kobelco crawler crane until 2004, which was a CKE1350. Before that we had a 45-tonne capacity 7045 and several other machines from different manufacturers," explains Glyn.

Having been impressed by the CKE1350, GH Johnson started to expand its Kobelco crawler crane fleet, with Glyn preferring to buy the cranes outright - "You never

know what the market is going to do, so knowing we own the machines brings peace of mind" - and now owns one of the largest fleets of Kobelco crawler cranes in the UK, including eight Kobelco CKE1350Gs, two 2500Fs, an 1800F, three CKE1100Gs, five CKE800Gs, an 800F and six CKE700Fs.

Investment

Making the decision to invest was an easy one, says Glyn. "Kobelco crawler cranes are ultra-reliable - some of the cranes we operate have done over 19,000 hours with no problems what-so-ever - have a high residual value and are easy to operate and service. Operators know that if they get in the cab everything is the same throughout the range, so once on site they can get straight to work."

While the machines may be "ultra-reliable", knowing that Kobelco's parts and service team are just a phone call away is also reassuring.

"The service and parts guys at Kobelco are always prepared to go above and beyond the call of duty when needed," explains Glyn, "but the cranes rarely breakdown and the servicing is so easy, the



(L-R) Richard Johnson, Jason Thompson (Operations Manager), Glyn and Paul Johnson in the company's headquarters in Alfreton, Derbyshire.

machines so reliable, that we can do most things ourselves."

High demand

Working across the UK has seen the company involved in some of the country's most iconic construction projects over the last 25 years, including London's Crossrail, Heathrow Terminal Four, foundation work at London's Swiss Re, or "Gherkin", and The Shard, the V&A museum extension, Admiralty Arch, the M6 Toll Road, and the M1/A1 Link Road.

"Demand comes in waves," says Glyn, "and there are hotspots, but London is always busy. From the depot we can cover anywhere, but that's more by accident than design - we were here when we started the

plant business, which you could say was lucky!"

Last year Manchester was a hotspot for the company. It had four cranes - two CKE1100Gs and two CKE800Gs - at the city's airport for four months, and there were several apartment complexes under construction it was involved in too.

In London, a CKE1350G was working on the deep piles for the "floating platform" above the station at Moorgate, while near Lancaster, Lancashire an 80-tonne capacity crawler crane was working on a water treatment plant for 18 months. In Uxbridge in outer London, one of its CKE1100G has been doing some test piles on the HS2 London to Birmingham rail link.

In the northeast it has a couple of CKE2500Gs working on a potash mine near Whitby, while in Knighton, Wales one of its CKE1100Gs is working on the upgrade to a tunnel that carries water from reservoirs to Birmingham.

Changes

While the work has been steady, Glyn notes there have been some major changes to the industry.

"Cranes have got a lot bigger. It used to be, 20 years ago, that anything over an 80-tonne capacity crane was big, now that's considered 'average', while the way customers look at hiring a crane has also changed, with price coming first rather than experience and service, but all our site personnel - crane operators, riggers & engineers - are CPCS/CSCS qualified, says Glyn.

There have been other changes too, adds Glyn. "The sheer volume of crawler cranes available for hire has also increased tremendously, but not the number of qualified operators with the right amount of experience.

"You can't train a driver in two minutes flat, which is why all our operators have at least 20 years' experience on the job," adds Glyn, "but we need to encourage youngsters into the industry and give them the experience to progress their careers."

Future plans

Looking to the future Glyn has his eye on expanding the fleet and would welcome some new additions with open arms. "I'd welcome the introduction of Kobelco's telescopic crane

into the UK market, particularly something around the 70-80 tonne mark."

However, as far as the crawler crane fleet goes, he thinks the company has got the balance right. "I think 250 tonnes is as large as we'll go. Once you get past that you need gangs of men to assemble and safely operate the machines, while transport to and from the site becomes much more of an issue."

The second generation is coming through with both of Glyn's sons - Richard and Paul - working in the business overseeing the workforce of 25, including two engineers in the workshop, three riggers and 13 operators. Richard joined the company in 1996, while Paul joined in 1998, though both had been involved from an early age.

"But," adds Glyn, "our future depends to a great extent on the future of the UK construction industry. If it's up, we're all up, if it's down, we're all down!"

One thing is for sure, the company will continue to upgrade its fleet while looking to expand its re-sale market, explains Glyn. "We'll continue to sell cranes across the world - we've just done a deal in Africa that'll see half a dozen machines go to Nigeria - and we're always looking for new opportunities and that will continue to play apart in our operations going forward.

"Overall I remain positive about the future of the business and will continue to invest in new machines and people."

Gateway to Merseyside



Kobelco Cranes Europe customer Q Crane & Plant Hire plays a starring role in delivering one of the UK's key transport infrastructure projects, the £600 million Mersey Gateway Bridge.

Officially opened on 14 October, 2019, the new Mersey Gateway Bridge spans the river Mersey and connects Runcorn on the south bank with Widnes in Cheshire on the northern bank.

Q Crane & Plant Hire's involvement in delivering the 2.2 km-long, six lane bridge started in 2014, when it was awarded "Preferred Crawler Crane Supplier" status by the Merseylink CCJV (FCC Construcción, Kier Infrastructure

& Overseas Limited and Samsung C&T Corporation), the construction consortium charged with delivering one of the UK's largest and most important road and bridge projects.

Once site preparation was completed, construction began in earnest in May 2014. The crossing, which has a 1 km-long river span, has three traffic lanes in each direction and forms part of a wider project to upgrade the infrastructure around the Mersey

crossings. The bridge has three towers – 80 m-high central tower, a 110 m-high north tower and a 125 m-high south tower - to support the 60 m-wide cable-stayed bridge deck.

The reinforced concrete deck sits 23 m above the river. However, as the water depth was too low for marine construction vessels, a 1.5km trestle was built out into the Mersey to drive in the bridge's pilings. New roads, junctions and



an interchange were then built to connect the bridge to the highway network.

Throughout the duration of the project, Oldham-based Q Crane & Plant Hire had an average of 11 Cranes on hire, including several 50 and 80-tonne capacity crawler cranes, alongside a Kobelco 110-tonne capacity CKE1100G and three 150-tonne capacity Kobelco CKE1350G crawler cranes.

The cranes were used for a variety of jobs across the project, including structural and piling works, as well as construction and de-construction of the trestle.

"It was important for us to source local operators for the project, not only to give back to the local community, but also to support the 24/7 operations required," said Anthony Quinn, Managing Director at Q Crane & Plant Hire.

Making sure the cranes were available to work, saw Q Crane

"I have had the pleasure of working with Q Crane & Plant Hire for the last three and a half years on one of the UK's largest infrastructure projects, the Mersey Gateway. The service we have received has been fantastic and there are no problems, only solutions from the team. From the initial phone call right through to the delivery and rigging of the crawler crane, they are always very professional.



"The Service Team are the best I've ever worked with and having a contact available 24/7 is a major benefit when the site is running on that basis. The crawler crane maintenance and service inspections are carried out regularly and the documentation provided is the best I've seen.

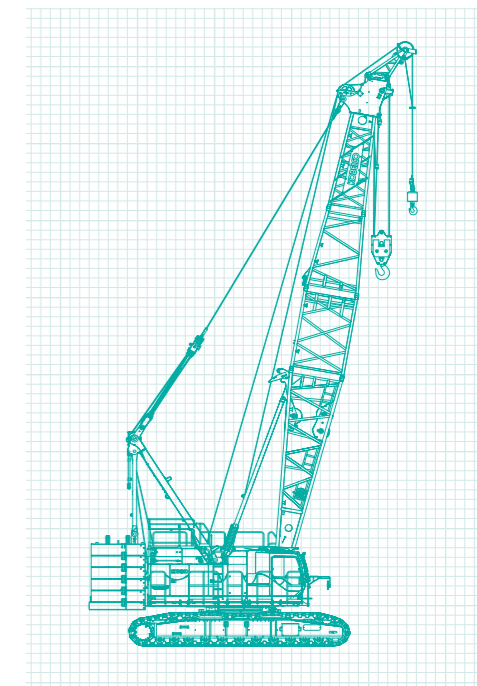
"The operators are fully trained, very experienced and highly skilled which combined with being reliable, has been a winning combination. Competitive pricing and excellent service makes Q Crane & Plant Hire a major force to be considered across the UK."

Allan Eardley, crane coordinator, Mersey Gateway Project

As a local supplier, Q Crane & Plant Hire Limited were proud to play such an integral part in one of the UK's largest transport infrastructure projects. 9

"As a local supplier, Q Crane & Plant Hire Limited were proud to play such an integral part in one of the UK's largest transport infrastructure projects," added Anthony.

& Plant Hire adopt a proactive approach, ensuring an engineer attended site every day. "This approach," said Anthony, "enabled us to support the customer in keeping the project on track, without any unnecessary and avoidable delays caused by breakdowns, unplanned maintenance or mandatory servicing and testing."



Hinkley Point C

The largest energy project currently under construction in Europe, the £20.3 billion, Hinkley Point C nuclear power station (HPC) in Somerset, England is scheduled for completion by the BYLOR joint venture (Bouygues Travaux Publics and Laing O'Rourke) in 2025. Owned and operated by France's EDF and China's CGN its two European Pressurised Water Reactors will produce 3,200 MWe, providing low-carbon electricity for around six million homes.

Kobelco customers, including Hawks, BPH, BYLOR and Denys are playing a key role in delivering the project, with 18 Kobelco crawler cranes currently working across the 160-hectare site, including several CKE800, CKE900, CKE1100, CKE1350 and CKE2500 G and G2 series cranes.

Network connection

Irish Gulf Contracting's Kobelco CKE1350G plays key role in construction of £33.5 million Llanelli WwTW at the Millennium Coastal Park, Llanelli, Wales.

The CKE1350G, on hire from GH Johnson, arrived onsite in May 2019 and is being used to move and install 202 precast concrete elements, which weigh between two and 22 tonnes, steel fixings, rebar, shuttering and a concrete delivery skip at the site.

With a maximum lifting capacity of 135 tonnes, a 76 m main boom maximum length, and a maximum jib length of 48 m, the CKE1350G, which can swing through a full 360 degrees, features a 271 kW engine, 400-litre fuel tank, a full-vision, enclosed cab ROPS/FOPS cab with tool compartment, cup holder, air conditioning and deluxe operator seat as standard. Other features include a counterweight detection system, over-swing prevention system, and a machine inclination sensor.

The Llanelli WwTW (waste water treatment works) was developed by construction services company Morgan Sindall as part of the Welsh Water Capital Delivery Alliance and is designed to help manage the "longstanding challenges faced by the industry from combined sewer networks", according to Welsh Water.

The purpose of combined sewer overflows is to protect homes from sewer flooding during storm conditions. The UK's legacy of a network of combined sewers means that the number of weather-related sewage spills from combined sewers has risen as the effect of climate change and urban impermeable areas and population growth have contributed to an increase in rainfall run off entering the network.

Construction of the Lanelli WwTR started in October 2018 and is scheduled to finish in December 2020.



Innovation of global logistics, minimizing cranes' downtime!



2. Order Entry

You can also place an order 24 hours online. Any orders placed by 12:00 pm (Singapore local time) on the day shipments will be arranged.



1. Quotation

Customers can quote online 24 hours, also regarding air freight charges the price list will be set up on our website allowing you to quote both parts and freight cost.

*: For sea freight and DHL cost please contact your parts coordinator.



6. Customer Satisfied

KGPC will deliver parts to your customer's nearest major airport, within 36 hours*1.



*1: Delivery time is subject to change depending upon the situation of flights and customs.

3. Picking/Packing



After order is placed packing will be arranged using Nippon Express Rewards System to effectively dispatch on the day shipments.



4. Customs Clearance

Customs can be cleared 24 hours in Singapore to facilitate international trade quickly to ship packages to customers swiftly.



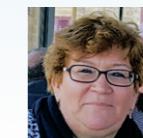
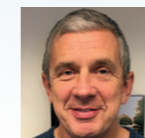
5. Package Shipped



Packages that are ready to be shipped are picked up from the warehouse everyday in the afternoon for shipment.



KOBELCO CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY EUROPE B.V. (UK)
UK, Ireland & Africa
Spare parts: Clive Harber
T: +44-(0)-1342-301122
E: clive.harber@kobelco.com



KOBELCO CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY EUROPE B.V. (The Netherlands)
European countries & Israel
Spare parts: Jo-Anne Lehmann
T: +31-(0)36-549-5510
E: joanne.lehmann@kobelco.com

Active Tunnelling's CKE900G-2 on-site in Birmingham



Award nominee

Coventry-based Active Tunnelling uses CKE900G-2 during construction of £4.2 billion Thames Tideway Tunnel.

Active Tunnelling's new Kobelco CKE900G-2 series crawler crane, which has a maximum capacity of 100 tonnes at 3.6 m and is fitted with a Tier 4 Final engine, KCross and safety camera system as standard, is being used to move and install precast concrete elements, as well as fixings and rebar at the Heathwall site, part of the Thames Water Pumping Station in Battersea.

A key infrastructure project for the capital, the Thames Tideway Tunnel will run for 25 km mostly under the tidal section of the River Thames through central London to capture, store and convey almost

all the raw sewage and rainwater that currently overflows into the river.

Started in 2016, construction of the Thames Tideway Tunnel is due for completion in 2024. Once finished, the main tunnel will have an internal diameter of 7.2 m and will run from -30 m at Acton in the west of London for over 25 km under central London finally reaching -70 m at Abbey Mills in the east.

For its work on the Thames Tideway Tunnel, Active Tunnelling has been nominated for New Civil Engineering magazine's Tunnelling

Festival Awards 2019 under the "Innovation in Tunnel Shaft Design and Construction" category, in partnership with the Ferrovial Agroman Laing O'Rourke joint venture.



Operator focus: Tristam Mayes

Self-confessed "crane head" Tristam Mayes has over 25 years' experience of operating crawler cranes. He started his career straight from school with NRC in 1998, but it wasn't until 2008 that he got the chance to climb inside the cab of a Kobelco, an 80 tonne CKE800, working for BPH Plant Hire on the refurbishment of London's Blackfriars Railway Bridge. "Right from the start," he says, "I loved everything about the Kobelco – from the comfort to the simplicity of the computer."

In 2017 Tristam hit the big time with the chance to operate an 450-tonne capacity SL450 during construction of Tottenham Hotspur FC's new football ground while working for Weldex. But Tristam's favourite Kobelco is the versatile CKE1350. "It's such a fantastic lifter, has brilliant duties and is smooth and steady to operate. In general, the best thing about a Kobelco is it doesn't matter if you get in an 80- or 250-tonner, the cab and controls are the same, the levels of comfort are great and you always get superb vision, with no big blind spots."

For Tristam, the best thing about being a crawler crane operator is "literally everything! You get such a variety of work, with no one day the same. You could be skipping concrete on a small site in London using an 80-tonner one week, then loading piles on a barge with a 550-tonner the next."

What would he like to see Kobelco do with their cranes in the future, we wonder? "Well, that's hard," replies Tristam, "because you can't really improve on perfection!" Thanks Tristam.



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SHOW TIME

This year's bauma construction equipment show (April 8-14, Munich, Germany) was, as always, a fantastic opportunity to meet our world-wide Kobelco Cranes family. And you didn't disappoint...



KOBELCO

KCROSS

- Crane Remote Observation Satellite System -

KCROSS

KOBELCO has developed a remote operation management system for our cranes. Machines fitted with this system transmit working condition, location, and maintenance history to provide owners with fact-based information that gives tremendous advantages for their asset management.

Main Functions



Acquire Working Condition and Location of the Fleet

The system is based on satellite mapped images, Internet connection, and other means to remotely monitor a crane's working condition and its location. This information is useful in planning maintenance schedules and providing guidance to operators, helping to ensure that crane owners can maximize their fleet efficiency.



Managing Safety/Operational Records and Monitoring Working Status

Crane owners can monitor and record the working condition and operational status of onsite machines on entire fleet basis, promoting greater crane safety.



Remote Failure Diagnosis

It is possible to narrow down possible failure causes quicker and more accurately by remotely accessing to the current and historical status of the machine, helping to minimize the machine downtime.



Preventive Maintenance Ensures Good Machine Condition and Protects Value

The system recommends appropriate parts replacement timing based on the machine working hour. Regular maintenance can help the machines running at peak performance at all times.

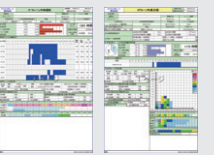


Viewing of machine data via the Internet allows provision of complex machine data

Using the Internet, customers can check on a crane's operational status from the office, and its location can be checked with GPS. Operation data such as whether or not a crane is in operation, total operating and idling hours, etc., is displayed in easy-to-read graph and table formats.



Location display



KCROSS reports (Possible to customize data)

Detailed Machine and Operation Data Can Be Accessed over the Internet

Operating data for a given crane can be accessed and accurately monitored from the Internet terminal in the crane owner's office.

Main Data Handled

- Map: Shows past and latest locations and travel history of all machines in the owner's fleet.
- Performance record: Hours of operation, Lift operations, and Safety record in the period of a day, a week, or other desired span.
- At-a-glance function: Outputs a report (in the form of a record log or sheet) that shows whether or not the machine is currently operating, its total operating hours, and other operating data.



Operation data can be received on a mobile phone

When necessary, this system can send data as a text message to a mobile phone



Equipment required

- IT controller
- IT antenna, GPS antenna
- Set-up package (including bracket, signal relay harness and software)
- Computer with broadband connection for internet access (Microsoft IE6.0)
- Excel software (Microsoft Office 2000 or later) to view downloaded documents

Equipment required

- KOBELCO hydraulic crawler cranes, including some existing models

KOBELCO

KOBELCO CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY EUROPE B.V. (The Netherlands)

Veluwezoom 15, 1327 AE Almere, The Netherlands
T: +31-36-549-5510

European countries & Israel



Sales: Jos Verhulst

M: +31-(0)6-5346-8439
E: jos.verhulst@kobelco.com

European countries & Israel



Service & Technical support:

Rene Kraakman

M: +31-(0)6-5335-3552
E: rene.kraakman@kobelco.com

European countries & Israel



Spare parts: Jo-Anne Lehmann

T: +31-(0)36-549-5510
E: joanne.lehmann@kobelco.com

European countries & Israel



Service & Technical Support:

Marcel Thole

M: +31-6-2123-4180
E: marcel.thole@kobelco.com

KOBELCO CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY EUROPE B.V. (UK)

Unit 9, The Felbridge Centre, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1XP, UK
T: +44-1342-301122

UK, Ireland & Africa



Sales: Mark Evans

M: +44-(0)-7880-381310
E: mark.evans@kobelco.com

UK, Ireland & Africa



Sales: Alex Burt

M: +44-(0)-7471-994460
E: alex.burt@kobelco.com

UK, Ireland & Africa



Service & Technical support:

James Mcculley

M: +44-(0)-7795-552182
E: james.mcculley@kobelco.com

UK, Ireland & Africa



Service & Technical support:

Sam Clarke

M: +44-(0)-7879-554686
E: sam.clarke@kobelco.com

UK, Ireland & Africa



Spare parts: Clive Harber

T: +44-(0)-1342-301122
E: clive.harber@kobelco.com

KOBELCO CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY EUROPE B.V. (Germany)

Germany, Austria and Switzerland



Business Development & Sales:

Daniel Hohmann

M: +49 (0)172 7946087
E: daniel.hohmann@kobelco.com

LOCAL CONTACT (Distributor)

Russian Federation

FKR Machinery

105187, Russia, Moscow, Room 1, Office 4, Mironovskaya Street
T: +7-495-981-4545
E: info@fkrm.ru
W: www.fkrm.ru/

Republic of Turkey

Das Otomotiv ve

Jeneratör Tic. A.

Gardenya Plaza 5, Kat: 2 34758 Ata ehir - stanbul - TÜRKYE
T: +90) 216 456 57 05
E: info@dasoto.com.tr
W: www.dasoto.com.tr

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Manyl Machinery

Centre des affaires AL-Qods, bureau 08-07 niveau 04 Chéraga Alger - Algeria.
T: +213 (0) 21-343-173
E: rahmani@manyl-machinery.com
W: www.manyl-machinery.com