
BHP puts 450 tonne mobile Grove to work

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Construction Contractor reported that Manitowoc dealer for Western Australia has delivered a Grove GMK7450 all terrain crane to BHP Billiton Iron Ore. BHP put the crane to work immediately, with its first job the dismantling of the primary iron ore crusher at its main mining facility, the Mt Whaleback Mine in Newman, Western Australia.

Mr Stephen Lazenby sales manager for WATM said that BHP purchased the crane for its mobility and high lift capacity. BHP already owns several Grove all-terrain cranes but the company needs more lift capacity for the maintenance work on the main iron ore crusher."

He said that "Until recently, it was renting high capacity cranes from Perth, more than 1,200 kilometers away. Therefore it made perfect financial sense to purchase a crane the company can keep at the mine."

The job for the GMK7450 on the Allis Chalmers primary crusher was to lift out two of the central components. The crusher has been in service since 1969 and the GMK7450 was responsible for removing the 68t 'spider' and the 62t mantle from the equipment.

This process will be repeated approximately 3 times a year. This first job completed without incident and the crane then moved to other remote sites to perform routine bi-monthly maintenance on other BHP mining equipment.

The GMK7450 all terrain crane is the largest mobile crane from Manitowoc's Grove brand. It has a 450t maximum capacity and a 60m main boom featuring Grove's Twin-Lock pinning system. With jib extensions, reach can extend to 130m. The seven-axle carrier includes a fully automatic Allison transmission and Grove's Megatrak independent suspension system for optimal performance both on-and off-road.

BHP Billiton Iron Ore has a fleet of Grove mobile cranes including all-terrain cranes, rough-terrain cranes and truck cranes, all supported through the Manitowoc Crane Care facility at WATM. Established in 1974, WATM is the exclusive distributor for Grove mobile cranes, Manitowoc crawler cranes and National boom trucks in Western Australia.

(Sourced from Constructioncontractor.com)

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