

Cologne Cathedral Scaffolding Removal Proves Challenging



Dismantling two hanging scaffold structures from the north tower of Cologne Cathedral in Germany may seem fairly straightforward but presented several challenges. To carry out the lifts with the crane erected on the station forecourt at Cologne Central Train Station meant the operators could only assemble the boom at night.

Technical manager of Wasel in Germany, Jürgen Oprée said, "In the run-up to this job, the assembly gave us some headaches. We had to consider station evacuation plans in our assembly schedules and also had to keep the escape and rescue routes free at all times. As well as all this, we were given a very tight time window for the set-up work."

Further difficulties presented to Wasel during the project included a small assembly site of 90 meters, a result of which was that the boom had to be assembled in a suspended position. In total it took eight hours to configure the basic crane with supports, telescopic boom guys and a telescopic boom extension, including pivot section and ballast, a company spokesperson said.

During the lifts the scaffold sections were lifted between the cathedral towers and positioned in front of the main entrance of the cathedral. A Liebherr LTM 1070-4.2 helped with the final positioning of the sections.



One of the scaffold structures was at a height of 100 meters. To carry out the tasks, a Liebherr LTM 1750-9.1 configured with a maximum hook height of 154 meters was used.

One of the largest pieces of scaffolding was removed in three sections, according to a company spokesperson. Once the sections were separated, the LTM 1750-9.1 was able to lift the scaffold off the cathedral. The sections measured 7 meters wide and 33 meters high. In total, the task took four hours.