

PRESS RELEASE

Of Wolves and Bears – Three WOLFF Cranes at the BäreTower in Berne

Ostermundigen – May 2021. Its name is reminiscent of the historic Bären (Bear's) Inn, which has been an institution in the Swiss municipality of Ostermundigen for over 100 years. The new BäreTower will now rise in the same location. The 100-meter-high building will provide 152 rental apartments, a hotel and a medical center offering grand views of the Swiss Alps. It will also be home to a new panoramic restaurant serving more refined versions of the dishes to be had at the original inn. Contractor Estermann AG rented three flattop WOLFF Clear Cranes for the project. The complex construction site required intensive teamwork early in the planning phase.

In particular the location of the construction site near the Bern-Belp Airport had a significant impact on the crane concept. The planning team opted for WOLFF Clear Cranes, due to their lower assembly heights and easily discernible maximum overall heights. Both the crane assembly and operation had to be reported to the Federal Office of Civil Aviation and the two highest cranes equipped with obstruction lights and warning sleeves on the slewing part. Due to the immediate proximity of the construction site to a rail line, all three cranes were also fitted with a working range limitation to comply with the safety requirements of the railroad.

Special facade solutions for tie-ins

The highest crane, a WOLFF 6031.8 Clear, was initially assembled to a hook height of 81 meters, then climbed and tied to the building twice during the construction process to its final height of 126.5 meters. "Due to the design of the facade elements, the tie-ins could not be attached to the floor slabs as is usual but had to pass through window and door openings to be fixed inside the building," explains Johannes Eckert, Head of Sales at WOLFFKRAN Schweiz AG. The attachment points of the tie-ins on the building and crane tower had to be precisely determined prior to the crane assembly and the foundation of the WOLFF 6031.8 Clear calculated accordingly. The facades are installed in one go as soon a floor is completed, which is typically every seven days. "The order in which the facade components are installed is thus fixed and a later installation almost impossible," explains the certified Crane Expert Beni Buchs. "Door and window frames of the affected facade elements have therefore been modified to allow for an installation around the tie-ins.

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Contractor Estermann and WOLFFKRAN Switzerland have been working together since many years and are currently also collaborating on the Claratum mixed-use high-rise and the Baloise Park commercial redevelopment in Basel. “The WOLFFKRAN team brings its vast experience to every construction site and building phase,” says Buchs. “Their detailed planning and reliable advice help us ensure a smooth building process every time.”

Two of the three WOLFF cranes have since been dismantled. The 126.5-meter WOLFF 6031.8 Clear will remain on site until June, relentlessly lifting concrete and facade elements into place in lofty heights. While the last of the 32 floors are still being built, interior work on the lower apartments has already been completed and two-thirds of the 152 units have already been leased.

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WOLFF	Crane base	Jib radius, m	Hook height, m	max. load capacity, t	BGL Group (tm)
6031.8	Foundation Anchor	60	126.5	8.5	224
6031.8	Cross Frame	65	70.2	8.5	224
6015.8	Cross Frame	35	38.4	8.5	140

WOLFFKRAN is a leading manufacturer of premium quality tower cranes with a tradition spanning over 150 years. With its own rental fleet of some 800 tower cranes, it is also one of the largest crane rental businesses in the world. WOLFFKRAN is headquartered in Zug, Switzerland and has manufacturing sites in Heilbronn and Luckau, Germany, and Likhovitsy, Russia. It currently employs a global workforce of approx. 860 people in its three manufacturing sites and its sales and service subsidiaries located across Western and Central Europe, the Middle East and the United States.

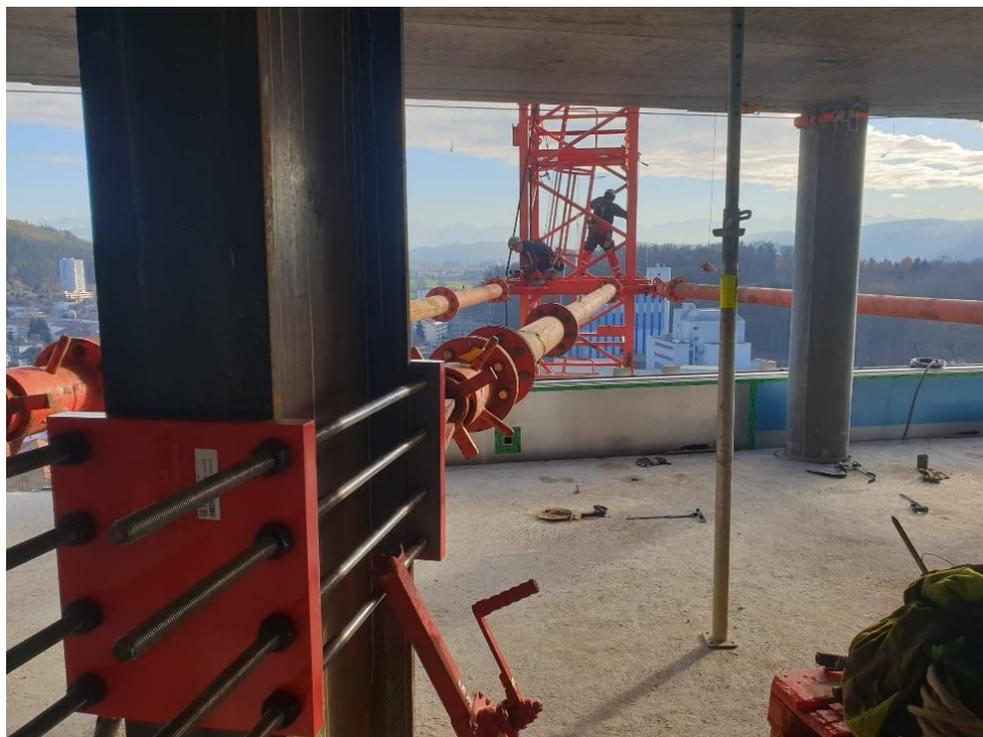
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Workplace with a view: The 126.5-meter WOLFF 6031.8 Clear crane surpasses the soon-to-be 100-meter-high BäreTower by 26 meters.



The two tie-ins, which connect the WOLFF 6031.8 Clear to the building, had to be attached to columns inside the building and the facade elements built around them.

Source: WOLFFKRAN

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The WOLFF cranes are not only used for building the residential tower, but also a stand-alone building located directly on the newly designed Bärenplatz and a low-rise annex that connects to the BäreTower.



The BäreTower will reach a height of over 100 meters. Nevertheless, the architects abided by an unwritten law and made sure the Berne Cathedral remained taller than the new high-rise by just under 10 centimeters.

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Numerous legal requirements had to be met due to the construction site's location near the train tracks (below left) and the airport.

