



Lovemore Bros.

MACHINE MOVING AND RIGGING CONTRACTORS

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DELICATE RIGGING OPERATION AT OLA ICE CREAM FACTORY

Just in time to beat summer's heat, machine mover and rigging specialist Lovemore Bros replaced a number of giant stainless steel mix tanks in an operation that required superb rigging skills at the Ola Ice Cream factory in Queensburgh, Durban.

The delicate manoeuvre necessitated removing the four aged and smaller mix tanks with new larger ones that the rigging team only barely managed to squeeze in between the iron roof girders on one side and catwalks on the other.

Exacerbating the problem, the crane's reach had to be extended with a fly jib making it harder to lower the tanks into place and ensuring that the process was done without so much as a scratch on the tanks' fragile sides.

According to Luke Smith, Technical Consultant at Lovemore Bros, the project called for the removal of the dou-

ble sided mix tanks because the inner skin had started leaking.

"Before commencing with the project, the suspended ceiling and roof sheeting above the tanks had to be removed. We then called on the expertise of Vaughan Billson, Lovemore Bros' Rigging Engineer to assess the factory's clearances using the Autodesk Inventor three-dimensional software."

The software models the building and tanks to see where the obstacles are and how they can be overcome. We call on his expertise every time a precision assessment needs to be made."

One by one the four tanks were removed and lowered onto Lovemore Bros' low bed trailers using the top and tail method to lay them on their sides onto cradles. They were too high to transport in the upright position.

The new tanks, weighing about three tons each and measuring about a meter higher and half a meter wider than the previous ones made the replacement job a lot trickier.

"We literally had only a few millime-

Simply getting on with it.



Tight squeeze. Note the narrow gap between the roof girders at right and the catwalk on the left

ters between the metal roof trusses on the one side and the catwalk on the other. But our prior assessment and measurements proved it could be done and we did it. There was a heart stopping moment though. While we were busy lowering the last one the wind started to pick up, but in the nick of time we were able to complete the job satisfactorily," added Smith.

Lindani Ncwane Project Engineer at Ola Ice Cream said the installation of the tanks was a job that required some very delicate precision work. "It was carried out exactly according to plan and we were very impressed at the professional manner in which it was done," he said.



Riggers and crane operators start the tricky maneuvering required to install the new stainless steel tanks at the Ola Ice Cream factory in Queensburgh, Durban

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