



*A Grove RT540E-2 helps harvest the Christmas tree displayed at the United States Capitol building.*

## Special harvest

Late last year, two Grove cranes helped harvest the Christmas tree displayed at the United States Capitol building in Washington D.C. The 70 ft (21 m) tree was harvested from the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming, U.S.

Overseeing the harvesting was the U.S. Forest service which used expertise and equipment donated by Hemphill Trucking and Honnen Equipment, both of whom have offices in Rock Spring, Wyo.

The tree was rigged with nylon straps and then, as it was cut, Hemphill's Grove TMS900E held the 9,000 lb (4,082 kg) load aloft. The second crane, a Grove RT530E-2 belonging to Honnen Equipment, was then attached to the base of the tree to hold it steady while the TMS900E laid it flat. Finally, the tree was hoisted high enough so a trailer could back up underneath it.

With the tree secured to the trailer, the arduous journey down the mountain began. The tight curves on the winding mountain roads meant the trailer was not able to make many of the corners, so the Grove RT crane followed, lifting the entire backend of the trailer around 15 to 20 corners.

## New Manitowoc crawler for Alfasi

Alfasi Hire has purchased a 77 t (85 USt) Manitowoc 8500 crawler crane and first job for the crane was helping its sister company on a major rebuild in the Docklands area of Melbourne, Australia. Following delivery late last year, the crane went immediately to help Alfasi Steel Constructions, also part of Alfasi Group, on the rebuild of the Southern Star Observation Wheel, a Ferris wheel that arcs over the Waterfront City skyline.

Gary Murphy, general manager of Alfasi Hire, said the new delivery will form part of its growing crane fleet.

"We purchased this crane for



*Handover of a Manitowoc 8500 to Alfasi Hire. Left to right are: Gary Murphy, Alfasi Hire; and Jason Pearce, Manitowoc.*

our growing crawler crane division which we send to projects for our sister company and which we rent externally," he said. "We've been in business over 30 years

and have developed operations in Singapore and the Middle East, as well as here in Australia and we expect the Model 8500 to be a useful addition."

## Manitowoc presents cranes at SMOPyC



*The Manitowoc booth at the SMOPyC show in Spain.*

Manitowoc's presence at SMOPyC 2011 this past April represented the first time the company has exhibited in Spain since introducing a direct sales network for Grove cranes last year. The company used the opportunity to highlight the improved service and responsiveness of its direct sales operation.

The new set-up is based around a regional service for Manitowoc Crane Care. This localized program gives customers faster product support, spread over a wider area.

The new regional set-up runs in parallel with the operations of Ibergruas, Manitowoc's long-standing dealer for Potain tower cranes. Both Manitowoc and

Ibergruas shared a booth at SMOPyC, highlighting the strong relationship between the two.

On the company's booth were a Grove GMK4100L all-terrain crane and a Potain Igo 30 self-erecting crane. In addition to the cranes, the new Ultra View cab for Potain tower cranes was shown for the first time in Spain.