

PRESS RELEASE

WOLFFKRAN invests in fiber rope with self-monitoring function

Chemnitz – September 2019. **WOLFFKRAN acquires a stake in TROWIS GmbH, a young German company dedicated to the development and production of high-performance fiber ropes for applications in the lifting and materials handling industry. WOLFFKRAN recognized the potential of TROWIS ropes while these were still in the research phase and actively supported the foundation of the company in July 2019. The executive management of TROWIS GmbH is made up of the managing partners Dr. Thorsten Heinze and Peter Streubel.**

TROWIS high-performance fiber ropes are a highly innovative product on the fiber rope market. They are characterized by the integration of a doubly redundant, self-monitoring composite fiber construction, a unique technology guaranteeing maximum operational safety on construction sites.

Intelligent, safe, economical

Sensor elements integrated in the rope monitor possible fiber fracture in the load-bearing rope component and signal these to the crane operator. At this point, the load is taken over by the redundant load-bearing reserve in the rope, ensuring that the load can be lowered safely. Thanks to the integrated intelligent recognition of the discard criteria, TROWIS fiber ropes are much safer than other high-performance fiber ropes, in which the discard criteria can only be determined by an optical inspection of the rope. In addition, there is the economic advantage that a rope is not discarded too early on spec but can actually be used until the end of its service life. TROWIS ropes also have a particularly high stiffness and low initial elongation due to a specially developed heat-setting process, which is essential for safe positioning of the load and eliminates the need to “break-in” the rope.

Steel vs. fiber

When compared to conventional steel wire ropes, TROWIS fiber ropes offer further advantages for crane operation. Tremendous savings on weight of up to 80 percent not only allow for higher load capacities, but also a significantly faster and safer assembly and replacement. Due to its considerably lower rope sag, lighter hook blocks can be used which further increases the load capacity of the crane. In addition, the service life of TROWIS ropes is up to seven times longer than that of steel ropes due to the optimum utilization of the load-bearing rope

**WOLFFKRAN
International AG**
Simone Engleitner
International Marketing
Baarermattstr. 6
Ch-6300 Zug
Tel + 41 41-766 85 00
Fax + 41 41-766 85 99
s.engleitner@wolffkran.com
www.wolffkran.com

PR contact
Noelia Aehnelt
Rumfordstr. 5
D-80469 München
Tel + 49 89 23 23 90 980
Fax + 49 89-23 23 90 99
aehnelt@headline-affairs.de
www.headline-affairs.de

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component and the use of a high-performance lubricant in rope production. This results in significantly lower maintenance costs and increased operating time, while at the same time saving on natural resources.

Currently in testing

TROWIS ropes are produced at the company's premises in Chemnitz, Saxony, on a specially developed rope finishing line. With the conclusion of extensive tests in a laboratory environment, the new fiber rope is now going to be extensively tested on a test stand at the WOLFFKRAN plant in Brandenburg and on WOLFF cranes at select construction sites under live operating conditions. After completion of the field test phase, TROWIS and WOLFFKRAN will launch this promising new product amongst fiber ropes on the market as quickly as possible.

**WOLFFKRAN
International AG**
Simone Engleitner
International Marketing
Baaremattstr. 6
Ch-6300 Zug
Tel + 41 41-766 85 00
Fax + 41 41-766 85 99
s.engleitner@wolffkran.com
www.wolffkran.com

PR contact
Noelia Aehnelt
Rumfordstr. 5
D-80469 München
Tel + 49 89 23 23 90 980
Fax + 49 89-23 23 90 99
aehnelt@headline-affairs.de
www.headline-affairs.de

With a tradition spanning over 150 years, WOLFFKRAN is one of the leading manufacturers and rental companies of high-quality tower cranes in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, North America, Canada, Australia and Hong Kong. The rental fleet comprises more than 700 WOLFF cranes worldwide. Its headquarters are in Zug, Switzerland and it has manufacturing sites in Heilbronn and Luckau, Germany, as well as international subsidiaries around the world. It employs a global workforce of approx. 800 people.