



Three Potain cranes chosen for iconic new London skyscraper

IMAGE SOURCE: MANITOWOC COMPANY, INC.

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- Sir Robert McAlpine is utilizing three Potain tower cranes for the 2 Finsbury Avenue development in London.
- Manitowoc's Lift Solutions Team collaborated with Sir Robert McAlpine to design specialized crane bases and anchorage solutions.
- The project involves one MR 418 and two MR 225 A Potain cranes, with the MR 418 installed on an elevated platform and the others on the 13th and 15th floors.
- The MR 418 crane is equipped with Potain's Cab-IN personnel elevator, marking its first use by the company.

- The cranes will be operational from August 2024 to mid-2025, handling heavy loads such as steel components and MEP elements.
- Main contractor Sir Robert McAlpine is using the luffing jib cranes to construct 2 Finsbury Avenue, a landmark mixed-use high-rise building in London, UK, expected to be completed in 2027.
- Owing to minimal space, one crane was erected on a cantilever-suspended platform while the other two operated on completed areas of the development.

Sir Robert McAlpine is using three Potain tower cranes from its extensive fleet on the ambitious 2 Finsbury Avenue (2FA) development in the heart of London's financial district. This 170 m dual high-rise mixed-use building is scheduled for completion in 2027 and offers multiple unique challenges, including extreme working heights and limited access in the densely populated area.

Manitowoc's Lift Solutions Team, which provides custom design and lift planning services to customers, worked closely with Sir Robert McAlpine during the planning of the project and throughout the cranes' commissioning to design specialized crane bases and anchorage solutions for safety and efficiency.

"Our planning began in 2021, owing to the complexity of this development. The design included specialized crane bases and non-standard anchorage solutions and the developer was confident it would deliver the best result," said Steve Wright, commercial plant manager at Sir Robert McAlpine. "We selected Potain luffing-jib tower cranes for their strong lifting capacities and fast operation, which are crucial for a project of this scale. Our team ran several scenario plans to find the right combination for handling heavy loads in limited space. Their out-of-service radii also provided the flexibility needed in this tight setting."



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Overcoming engineering challenges

The three Potain tower cranes on the project comprise one MR 418 and two MR 225 A models. To fit them within the footprint of the 2FA project, the MR 418 was installed on an elevated platform, and the other two were positioned on the 13th and 15th floors. The lattice steel platform supporting the MR 418 was mounted on vertical legs, which connect directly to the building's piles, ensuring efficient load transfer. This whole installation phase required meticulous planning and specific connection points to attach the cranes to the building as construction advances.

"I would say this is one of the most complex projects our team has worked on, but developing the solution was a great engineering achievement," said Jako Van der Walt, lead design engineer at Sir Robert McAlpine.

"We received excellent support from Manitowoc Lift Solutions to create the desired crane bases and ensure we could properly tie off to the building where needed."

The MR 418 on-site is equipped with Potain's Cab-IN personnel elevator, which transports operators or technicians from top to bottom – an essential feature for a 150 m tall development. This project marks the company's first use of these. All cranes arrived on site in early August 2024 and will remain in use until mid-2025, lifting and positioning heavy loads such as steel components and the roof's mechanical, electrical, and plumbing elements.

The 24 t capacity Potain MR 418 is fitted with 50 m of jib from its maximum of 60 m. The Potain MR 225 A cranes are 14 t capacity cranes working with 45 m and 50 m of jib from their maximum of 55 m.

Sir Robert McAlpine is a family-owned construction and infrastructure company established in 1869 and one of the leading contractors in the UK. The company specializes in designing, developing, building, and preserving some of Britain's most iconic buildings.

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CRANES

TOWER CRANES