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Job report

LB 30

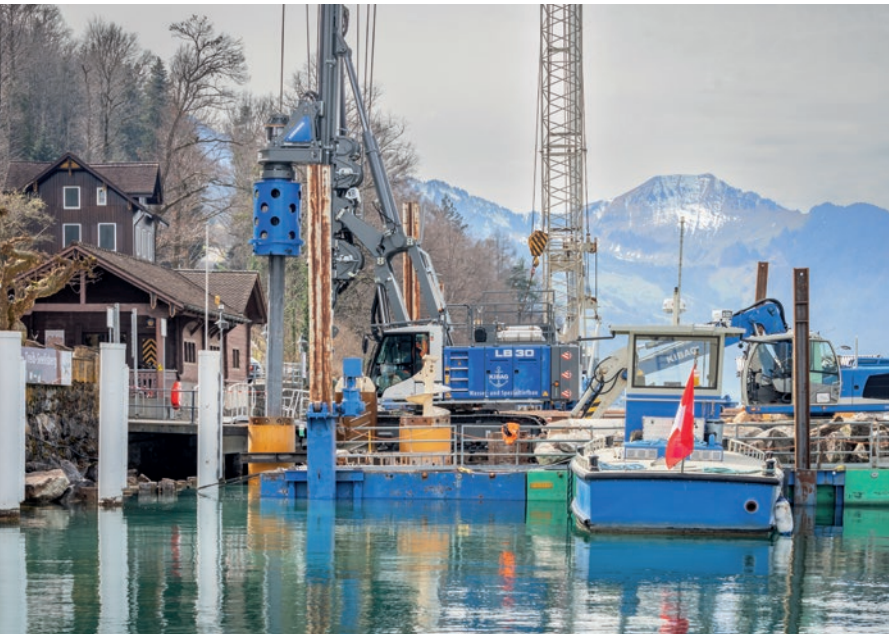
Seelisberg, Switzerland

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LIEBHERR

Deep foundation





The Swiss company Kibag is installing new mooring piles for the Lake Lucerne Navigation Company. For the first time, Kibag is using a drilling rig from Liebherr's LB series. The LB 30 is facing challenges which literally couldn't be harder.

Put to the test

"The problem is that we can't drive the piles here," explains Markus Waldis, Foreman at Kibag. "The ground is too hard. We have to drill the piles and then fill them with concrete." In Seelisberg on the southern shore of Lake Lucerne, Markus Waldis' team is drilling the piles from a pontoon using the LB 30 from Liebherr. From the surface of the water around 12 metres deep and with a diameter of 1200 millimetres. After 3 metres of water comes a stone segment and then at least 6 metres of drilling in the rocks.

This rock is an endurance test for the construction personnel and especially for the new LB 30. "The stone is exceedingly hard! The whole machine vibrates," Markus explains the extreme challenges. Also, the fact that insufficient pressure can be applied from the pontoon with the drilling rig makes it even more difficult. "Otherwise, we just lift the pontoon. We have to secure it very well so that it holds during drilling," so Markus Waldis describing the different conditions when drilling on water instead of land.

Successful premiere

Gianluca Diaco has been a machine operator for 14 years and this is his first time on a water construction site. "Because the ground is very hard, we have to change the chisels on the auger starter quite often in order to be able to drill through the rocks." Despite the difficult conditions he is pleased to be operating the Liebherr LB 30. "It's very strong, compact and moves fast. You can really do everything."

After the hydraulic engineering specialists from Kibag have concreted the outer casings, the mooring pile is inserted. A rubber strap between the outer casing and the pile ensures that the pile is not too rigid and can move a little when the boats moor. To prevent the mooring pile from rotating, it must be secured under water by a diver.

The construction site demands everything from the personnel and the drilling rig. Nevertheless, Markus Waldis is pleased with the successful premiere of the LB 30, "The machine works perfectly - tip-top. It has to withstand huge vibrations. It is a great endurance test for the machine. So far it is coping wonderfully."

***“It’s very strong, compact and moves fast.
You can really do everything.”***

Gianluca Diaco
Machine Operator



Liebherr LB 30 put to the test - YouTube

