

LookingUP

A MANITOWOC CRANES MAGAZINE

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Rugged conditions

Extreme working conditions means PAR Electrical Contractors depends on its dealer, Custom Truck Equipment, to modify its boom trucks for extreme conditions. Leslie Shalabi reports.

PAR Electrical Contractors, based in Kansas City, Mo., U.S. is one of the largest electrical contractors in North America. With 22 satellite offices in 15 states, the company builds electrical transmission, distribution and substation infrastructure throughout the United States.

Because PAR Electric has projects in so many areas through the United States, the lifting equipment they use to install electrical transmission lines must provide lift height, be easy to

transport and be durable in rugged working conditions. National Crane boom trucks are a perfect fit.

Installing electrical transmission lines often requires work in extreme, rugged conditions. The right-of-ways for electrical lines are often in remote, undeveloped areas in mountains or other difficult terrain.

PAR Electric calls on its National Crane boom truck dealer, Custom Truck Equipment, also based in Kansas City, to modify the

crane's trucks in order to work in extreme conditions.

Modifications

When Custom Truck Equipment modifies the trucks, it focuses on two main criteria: First, equip the truck with the proper type of transmission to power through rugged terrain and second, create enough ground clearance.

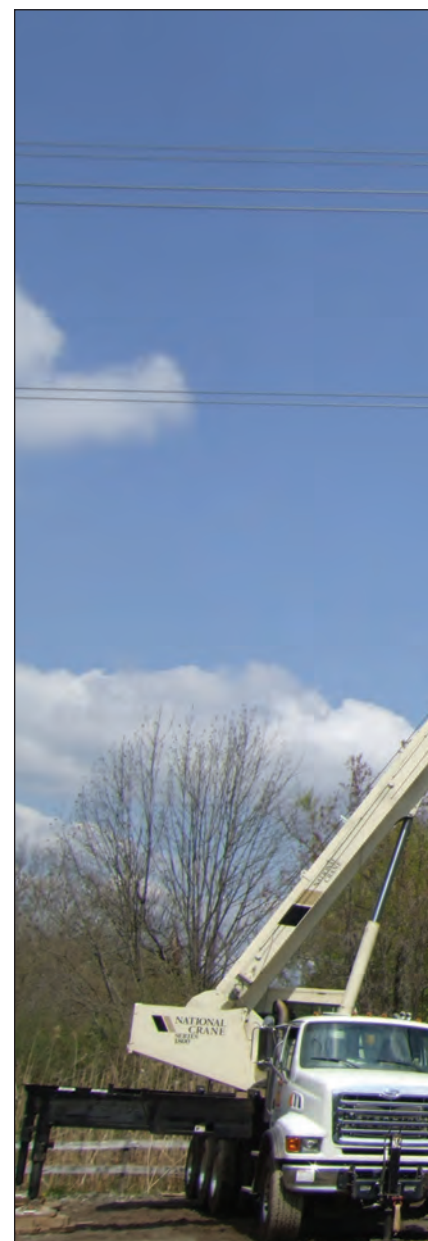
Fred Ross, president of family-owned and run Custom Truck Equipment, says there are a number of practical modifications they do to PAR Electrical's equipment.

The fleet

PAR Electric's fleet of National Crane boom trucks is continually growing. They are primarily adding 1800 series cranes and 1400 series cranes.

According to Dave Swett, fleet manager for PAR Electric, the 1800 series with the 142 ft (43 m) boom and 127 ft (39 m) boom are the most common configurations in the company's fleet.

"We like the 142 ft boom on a lot of jobs because it reaches lift heights without a



A National Crane 1400 series and National Crane 1800 series, owned by PAR Electric, work in tandem to install power transmission lines.



Custom Truck Equipment, a National Crane dealer, modifies PAR Electric's trucks to include more powerful transmissions and higher ground clearance.

jib," he says. "Which saves us time and money."

Swett added that the nature of aerial transmission work is changing. Increased power requirements around the country are requiring more electrical transmission lines. But limited space in the right-of-ways means wires are being stacked vertically.

"On most jobs the right-of-way clearance is fixed," he says. "We can't expand



called upon to drive from coast to coast for a job. Maintaining a legal gross vehicle weight, helps reduce the cost and time involved in securing permits.

Custom Truck Equipment also installs 6 x 6 transmissions on the National Crane 1400 series trucks that PAR Electric buys. Typically, this type of transmission adds a lot of weight to the truck, but Custom Truck can add this transmission while keeping the truck within legal weight limits.

Service

The relationship between PAR Electric and Custom Truck Equipment dates back over a decade. Over that time, PAR Electric has purchased over 100 boom trucks. Not only because of the dealer's ability to modify the trucks, but also because of the company's willingness to service the trucks in the field, as part of its Manitowoc Crane Care commitment.

PAR Electric trucks are spread out around the country, and Custom Truck is committed to servicing them wherever and whenever they are needed.

"We'll fly a technician out to a downed truck if we have to," says Ross. "Whatever it takes to get the job done." ♦

"For most of PAR Electric's 1800 series trucks, we add a tri-drive system," he says. "This allows for increased tractive effort in rugged conditions, but keeps the vehicle weight down."

FRED ROSS, PRESIDENT, CUSTOM TRUCK EQUIPMENT

wider to increase the number of power transmission lines, so we must expand up."

In the instance where increased lift height is needed, PAR Electric specs its National Crane 1800s with a 127 ft boom. Along with a two-part jib,

this configuration allows working heights of 195 ft (59 m).

More wheel drive

Being able to drive through the rugged conditions that PAR Electric often has to work in is a major priority. But this means

that typical truck drivelines have to be upgraded.

According to Ross, Custom Truck Equipment uses one of two driveline configurations on PAR Electric's trucks.

"For most of PAR Electric's 1800 series trucks, we add a tri-drive system," he says. "This allows for increased tractive effort in rugged conditions, but keeps the vehicle weight down."

Maintaining gross vehicle weight below a certain level is a priority for PAR Electric. Because the company's fleet is so mobile, trucks can be



Superior reach is just one of the reasons PAR Electric chooses National Crane boom trucks.