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Brogan on the up

Last month the Sunday Times International Track 200 listed the UK's fastest growing mid-sized companies. The highest company within the cranes and access sector - in 32nd place - was specialist access supplier Brogan Group, which had increased its export sales almost 98 percent over the past two years thanks to large contracts in the UAE and Ireland. And the company says it is looking forward to another year of growth in its powered access division which includes mastclimbers and hoists.

Brogan has increased its presence significantly across the UK, Ireland and the UAE over the last 12 months. Its mastclimber and hoist divisions have grown extensively, and it is taking on further projects and growing its fleet enabling it to carry out large and complex projects requiring a combination of different types of access equipment.

One contract with a large number of mastclimbers is the Osiers Point development in Wandsworth, South London. The residential scheme consists of a total of 275 flats and 3,508 square metres of commercial floor space with the building reaching 21 storeys high.

The project uses a mixture of 27, light and heavy-duty mastclimbers



Apex House - tallest modular building in Europe

providing a comprehensive package particularly along the south elevation which is overlooking the live Network Rail track. Mastclimbers were proposed to allow bespoke shaped platforms to be installed and to avoid overhanging elements encroaching into Network Rail space. They were installed across the project's three blocks with nearly half being within the Network

Rail zone.

Working closely with both the client and Network Rail, Brogan engineers needed to ensure the proposed solution met all regulations without affecting the Network Rail infrastructure. Bespoke cantilevered platforms were fabricated and several of the mastclimbers were equipped with mechanical sliding

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**Battersea
Power Station**



**Osiers Point
development
South London**



platforms to navigate balconies and terraced areas.

Brogan is also set to begin work on another London development in Kensington with one of the largest mastclimber packages to date which includes more than 50 mastclimbers as well as scaffolding and hoists providing access for the various subcontractors. The overall development will see the creation of more than 1,000 homes, a new school and landscaping across areas of Kensington and Chelsea.

Brogan says that 90 percent of its business is repeat custom and it works closely with clients to offer advice on access strategies, requirements and best practice. The company has already worked on iconic projects such as Battersea Power station phases 1, 2 & 3, Apex House - the tallest modular building in Europe - and Madison Tower in Canary Wharf, London. It is currently working on level 42 of the 54 storey Madison Tower project, a £150m residential development that is being built by Balfour Beatty for LBS Properties.

The project involves using an aluminium alloy common tower - developed by Welsh specialist CAS Scaffolding - together with a twin passenger/goods hoist and its Stros Colossus hoist, manufactured specifically for the project. The common tower - measuring five metres by five metres - was chosen to accommodate the height of the prefabricated bathroom pods which Balfour Beatty wanted to get into the building via the hoist rather than

monopolise valuable tower crane time.

"The Madison project has two large programme critical components - the bathroom pods and the curtain wall stillages - both of which must be transported vertically and distributed to the floor plate via the Colossus hoist specifically sized to ensure the largest pods - measuring 2.7 x 2.8 x 2.55 metres - can be delivered safely to site," said Jack Bird, Balfour Beatty's façade manager on the project. "Considerable time and engineering assistance were required at the early stages of the design to ensure that Brogan could get the common tower and hoist to work with the pod heights," he said.

The Colossus hoist is believed to be the largest of its kind on the UK market. With a length of five metres and a width and height of 3.1 metres, the electrically driven hoist can safely carry 40 passengers or 4,000kg to a height of 350 metres at a speed of 40 metres per minute. The Colossus, twin passenger/goods hoist and a staircase all run off the common tower to provide access to the building through an entry point just three metres wide. This means that the amount of façade and internal finishes that must be left unfinished is kept to a minimum. The combined system of common towers and hoists for high-rise construction allows for faster and more efficient builds as the lower floors can be fitted out while the upper floors are still under construction.

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