

Commercial Motor

Innovative trailer design from Goldhofer puts haulier ahead of competitors

25 July 2011 By Andover Trailers

Specialist carrier WMB Heavy Haulage has added a unique trailer to its fleet for the transportation of abnormal loads, from wind turbines and industrial boilers to boats, planes and military equipment.

Designed and built by expert German manufacturer Goldhofer and supplied through its UK distributor Andover Trailers, the new four-axle semi low-loader incorporates innovative features that facilitate the safe transportation of large, heavy or valuable loads.

These include a remote control steering system which can be operated from the cab, removable power-toe ramps for long loads and a built-in floodlighting system for easier loading and off-road driving.

WMB's Transport Manager Jon Smail says the new trailer, which joins a fleet of six, will improve the Dumfries based company's ranking against competitors.

Smail says: "The technical excellence behind this trailer's design gives us a distinct advantage over other specialist hauliers. There are very few fleets operating a trailer of this calibre in south west Scotland.

"Features like remote steering are an indicator of quality, and clients recognise them as a guarantee of safety, stability and payload-protection.

"He adds: "Goldhofer invited us to the factory to build up the list of specifications with their design team, meaning the finished product is a far more exact match for our needs than a mass-produced trailer could ever have been."

The trailer is WMB's fourth purchase from Goldhofer, which provides technically complex transport solutions for equipment ranging from 80 tonnes to 10,000 tonnes. Andover Trailers, which is the only UK company that sells Goldhofer equipment, assisted with the specification and supply of all four.

Constructed with high-quality steel and reinforced with hardwood flooring, the red-finished semi low-loader has a gross weight capacity of 69 tonnes and can support payloads of up to 53 tonnes. Its reinforced extensions allow for a varying load capacity, from 2.6 m to 3.0 m widthways and from 13.0 m to 19.1 m lengthways, and its two hydraulic double-piece ramps can also be extended to accommodate different wheel sizes.

Payloads are held in place by up to 20 pairs of lashing points, and additional smaller loads can sit on the gooseneck platform above the fifth wheel. As well as giving additional stability, the fifth-wheel coupling transmits automatic steering from the tractor cab through a steering wedge on the wheel-plate when the remote-control system is not required. Remote steering is operated through Goldhofer's easyCONTROL comfort system, which realigns wheels and resets pressure after remote steering.