

St. Petersburg, Russia

# Lakhta Center

Peak of Europe,  
peak of a career

In the spring of 2015, Donald John received an urgent phone call. On the line was a Schindler Global Large Projects Sales Manager, asking for Donald's CV: "We have to show the client that Schindler's got the right person to lead a huge project," the GLP Sales Manager said.

#### Challenges and client brief

- Tallest building in Europe
- Extreme weather conditions
- Tight schedule and strict requirements

#### Schindler solutions

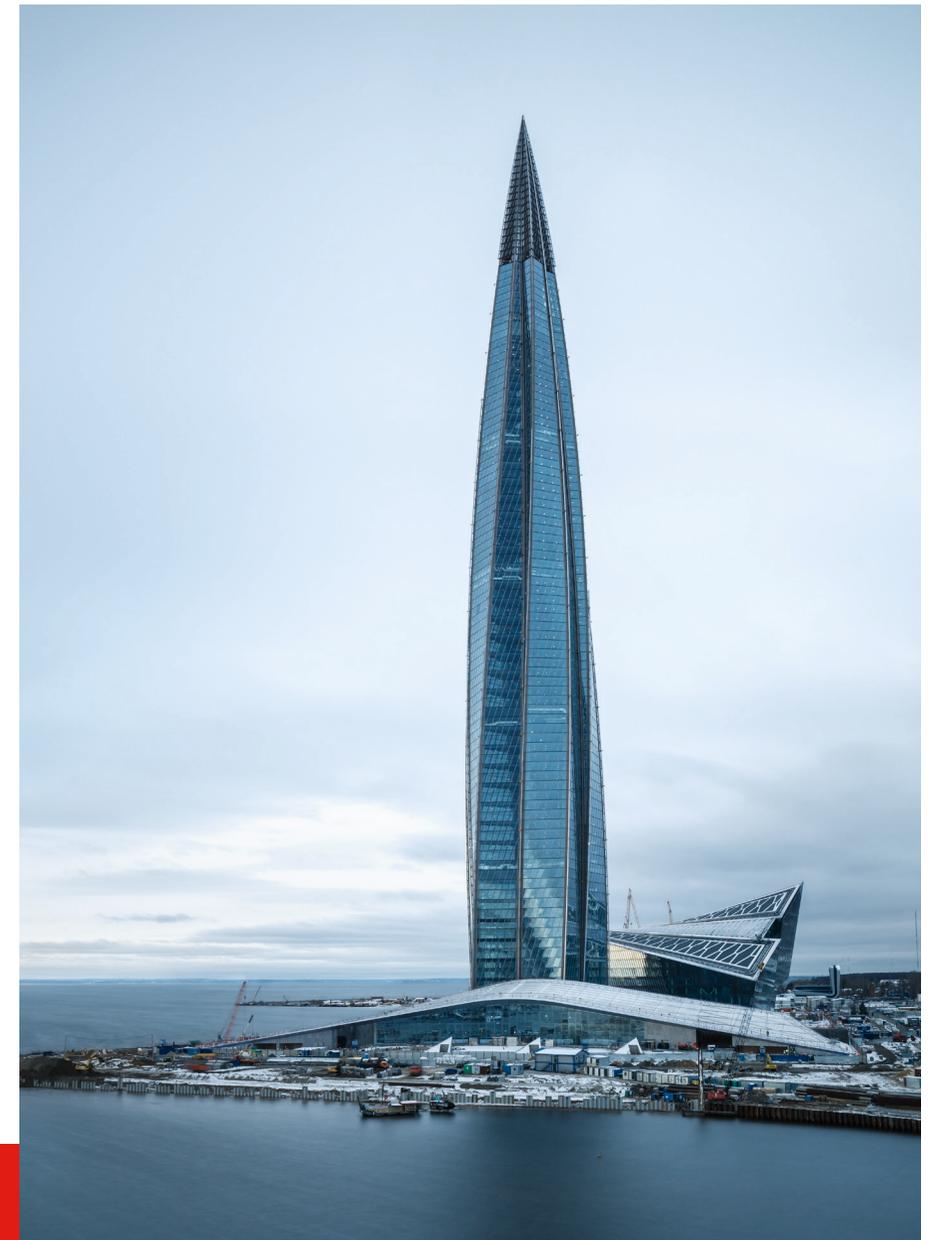
- Tailored solutions, including customized panoramic elevators, with excellent ride comfort
- A veteran project leader
- Schindler installation team worked in 2 shifts throughout the entire installation phase

Investor  
JSC Gazprom

Developer  
Lakhta Center Multifunctional Complex

Architect  
RMJM (Robert Matthew, Johnson Marshall)

General contractor  
Renaissance construction JSC



Project overview

2021

Construction end year

16

Double-deck elevators

10

Single-deck elevators

4

Mid-zone elevators

2

Dumbwaiters

4

Round panoramic elevators

4

Squared panoramic elevators

4

Escalators

348.6 m

Max travel height

8.0 m/s

Max Speed

Schindler PORT & Conventional

Elevator control

Donald, who leads large projects and has almost 50 years of experience at Schindler under his belt, didn't hesitate. Six months later, he was on a plane to St. Petersburg, where he'd go on to spend the next five years to work on what would become the tallest building in Europe: the Lakhta Center.

## Project highlights

**A project of epic proportions.** The 462-meter-high tower, with its 87 floors, would accommodate up to 4 500 office workers. Russian state-owned energy corporation Gazprom, which had commissioned the building, would move its headquarters there.

The sheer scale of the Lakhta Tower's project would be a challenge in itself – but there were other challenges in store for the teams who'd secure the contract. No delays or changes – common in projects of this size – would be allowed, the tender documentation made clear.

# Tailored solutions

Rendering images of the customized panoramic cars, courtesy of Sematic (Wittur Group)

All specifications would have to be followed to the letter. Only a seasoned veteran and an experienced crew could lead this project to success.

Following a fiercely competitive tender process, Gazprom awarded Schindler the contract for 40 elevators.

“If someone had told me how difficult this project would be, I wouldn't have believed it.”

Donald John  
Schindler Project Manager for Lakhta Center



**Tailored solutions.** The Lakhta Center features a restaurant and several observation decks. To keep the daily operation running smoothly in this supertall mixed-use building, Schindler delivered a range of customized elevators equipped with the intelligent transit management system Schindler PORT.

One Schindler 7000 elevator was made to measure to serve the restaurant on the 75th and 76th floors, while three customized circular panoramic elevators were designed to service exclusively the observation deck at the top. These elevators do not only help ease traffic congestion during peak hours – their unique design also make them a nice esthetic addition to the building.

**Tight deadlines met with stamina.**

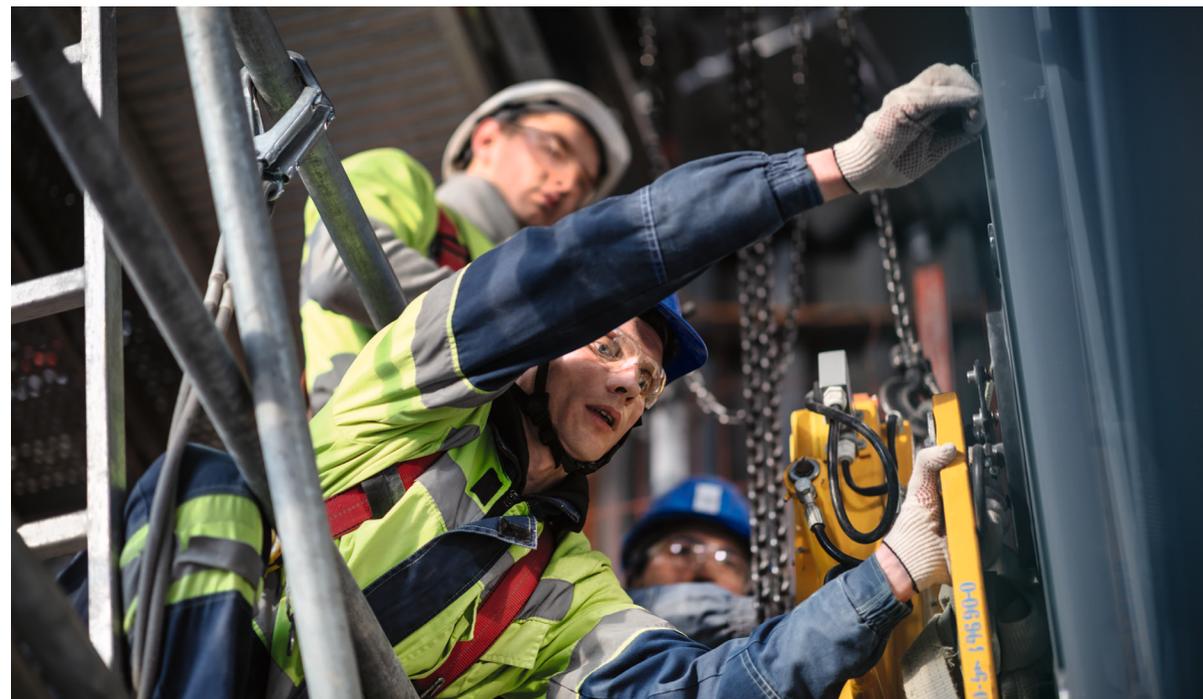
Our Schindler teams had to work within tight timeframes: they had only 26 months to install the 40 elevators before the final handover to the customer.

The Schindler team rose to the challenge. Up to 60 Schindler employees worked in two shifts throughout most of the installation phase. Schindler also provided 50 elevator operators for the 12 construction time use (CTU) elevators, which ran nonstop. Despite the pressure to meet the tight deadline and the complex installation conditions on the 400 000-m2 site, none of our employees got injured.

**Weather conditions an added challenge.** The teams also had to put up with extreme weather conditions. During the winter of 2016-17, temperatures were down to minus 30°C outside and inside the tower, making on-site progress testing. The Schindler team worked in shifts to avoid frostbite. Despite such odds, the teams were able to deliver all elevators on time, and with superior ride comfort.



Upper: Extremely rough conditions on-site  
Lower: Schindler 7000 elevator drive motor installed on the 85th floor



Fast forward to today, the Lakhta Tower soars into the sky with five rotating wings resembling the shape of a flame, a nod to Gazprom's logo.

“We didn't have the luxury of time to feel proud when we were working on-site,” said Donald, matter-of-factly. “But now, looking back, there's a lot to be proud of.”

