

Image gallery: 11 largest machines in the world

11 technological marvels

- The 11 largest machines in the world

They really exist and you can hardly ignore them. From monster transporters and super dozers up to gigantic excavators, all kinds of machines are included in our image gallery.

Even the smallest machine among them is as long as the "penalty kick" in football and has a tremendous engine of 1,150 hp (860 kW) under the hood. Our number 1, on the other hand, outperforms all other machines with its length, which is equal to about 27 km. All in all, these are among the largest and most powerful machines the world has ever seen.

Many of the machines are so huge that they have made the headlines and even caught the attention of the film industry. Therefore, a number of them played a part in some movies or TV series. Films like *Transformers* or *The Hunger Games* are obviously among those.

We have no intention to hide which machines we are referring to, and will reveal it right away in our image gallery. Have fun clicking through!

Small hint: We wanted to sort these wonders of technology according to a measurement unit and decided on the length in meters. If we had done this according to a different unit, the ranking would of course look a bit different. What is certain is that the machines all belong in this league. And now convince yourself.

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The whole gallery:

<https://www.surplex.net/en/largest-machines/>

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Image sources & ranking:

1. Particle Accelerator // Cooperation of hundreds of university professors and research institutes (26,659 m)
→ Image source: Wikipedia
2. F60 // VEB TAKRAF (502 m)
→ Image source: Wikipedia
3. Prelude FLNG // Royal Dutch Shell (488 m)
→ Image source: Manufacturer
4. Bucket-wheel Excavator 288 // ThyssenKrupp AG (240 m)
→ Image source: Manufacturer
5. Big Bertha // Hitachi Zosen Sakai Works (99 m)
→ Image source: Wikipedia – Model
6. International Space Station (ISS) // international cooperation (97.9 m)
→ Image source: Wikipedia
7. Antonov An-225 // O.K. Antonov (84 m)
→ Image source: Wikipedia
8. Crawler Transporter // Marion Power Shovel Company & Rockwell International (40 m)
→ Image source: Wikipedia

9. BelAZ 75710 // BelAZ (20.6 m)
→ Image source: BelAZ
10. P&H Le Tourneau L-2350 // Komatsu Mining (19.87 m)
→ Image source: Manufacturer
11. D575A-3SD Superdozer // Komatsu Ltd. (11.71 m)
→ Image source: Wikipedia

Note: Length in meters (m).

Image captions:

Number 11: "Small but mighty" is the motto of our place 11 – the *D575A-3SD Superdozer* – produced by the Japanese industrial corporation *Komatsu Ltd.* This superdozer with a weight of 152 t measures 11 m in length, 7 m in width and 5 m in height, which makes it the largest bulldozer in the world.

Number 10: The *P&H L-2350*, formerly *Le Tourneau L-2350*, from *Le Tourneau Inc.* was taken over in 2011 by *Komatsu (Mining)*, the second largest manufacturer of construction machinery, and has made it to the 10th place on our list. The largest wheel loader in the world is 19.87 m long, 6.76 m wide and 6.71 m high. With its diesel engine of 2,300 hp it is able to handle a bucket of 40.52 m³ and weighing 262 t – which is the equivalent of 110 Jeeps (Grand Cherokee) – it really needs such engine power.

Number 9: The *BelAZ 75710* of the homonymous Belarusian manufacturer *BelAZ* is a gigantic dump truck, which carries the title of the heaviest and longest dump truck in the world and is, therefore, ranked 9th on our list. Its dimensions are really impressive: it is 20.6 m long, 9.87 m wide and 8.16 m high. This giant with a total mass of 810 t travels on 8 wheels, each 4 m high and weighing 5.3 t alone.

Number 8: The *Crawler Transporter (or Missile Crawler Transporter Facilities)* qualifies for place 8 and is currently the largest self-propelled land vehicle. It consists of two tracked vehicles and is used to transport rockets. The 14

million US dollar transporter was developed and manufactured by *Marion Power Shovel Company* and *Rockwell International*. The Kennedy Space Center has been using two crawlers, nicknamed "Hans" and "Franz", since its first delivery in 1965. The crawler has also appeared in television series and films such as *Apollo 11* and *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*.

Number 7: The *Antonov AN-225*, also known as "Mriya", a six-engine cargo aircraft developed by *O. K. Antonov* in the Soviet Union, takes the position number 7. It is regarded as the largest cargo aircraft in the world and holds several records for the heaviest cargo ever transported in an aircraft. No wonder, given its dimensions: It is 85 m long, 20 m high and has a wingspan of 88 m in total. It weighs 285 tons when empty and can take off with a maximum of 600 tons. It may sound unbelievable, but this machine is literally one of a kind.

Number 6: What should not be missing from the list of the largest machines in the world is our number 6, the *International Space Station (ISS)*. It is the largest space station in the world and thus the largest artificial object in Earth orbit. It is a joint project of the US *NASA*, the Russian space agency *Roscosmos*, the European space agency *ESA* as well as the space agencies of Canada – *CSA* – and Japan – *JAXA*. With a length of 98 m, a depth of 27.5 m and a wingspan of 109 m, it can circumnavigate the world in just 92 minutes. For those who are interested: a live stream allows you to take a look into space and find out where the ISS is currently located.

Number 5: The *Big Bertha*, named after the first mayor of Seattle: *Bertha Ethel Knight Landes*, from the Japanese company *Hitachi Zosen Sakai Works* holds the 5th place. With a total length of 99 m, a drill head diameter of 17.4 m and a weight of 70 t, it cuts its way through 10 m of rock and stones daily. It's the largest tunnel boring machine in the world and its

performance can provide us several underground lanes either above or next to each other. After a downtime period, it is to be used again this year.

Number 4: What you see here, on the number 4 of our list, is the largest excavator in the world – the *bucket-wheel excavator 288* from the German heavy industry company *ThyssenKrupp*. The world's largest land vehicle was completed in 1978 for the former lignite mining and energy supply company *Rheinbraun*, which now belongs to *RWE Power AG*. It is 240 m long, 96 m high and weighs 13,000 tons. In the excavator world, the bucket-wheel excavator 288 is a true celebrity, as it has appeared in several movies, among which *Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance* with Nicolas Cage in the leading role and *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* with Jennifer Lawrence.

Number 3: The world's largest floating plant for natural gas production, liquefaction, storage and transshipment – the *Prelude FLNG* – holds the third place. It is used by *Royal Dutch Shell* and has even kicked *Emma Mærsk* and *CMA CGM Antoine de Saint-Exupéry* out of the race. It is 488 m long, 74 m wide and to build such a giant, about 260,000 tons of steel were used – just imagine three times the weight of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Number 2: The overburden conveyor bridge *F60* from the former *VEB TAKRAF* Lachhammer stands on place 2. It is the largest movable machine in the world and is responsible for transporting overburden over the coal seam. The F60 justifies its position with its length of half a kilometre, which is why it is also known among experts as the *horizontal Eiffel Tower*. In addition, it is 204 m wide, 80 m high and weighs slightly more than the total mass of the Eiffel Tower – around 11,000 tons. The original maximum removal rate is 60 metres, hence the name F60.

Number 1: Our undisputed number 1 is the *Particle Accelerator* ("Large Hadron Collider"). This is currently the largest and most powerful particle accelerator in the world, and is being used at the European Nuclear Research Centre CERN in the border region between Switzerland and France near Geneva, at a depth of around 100 m. In the particle accelerator, particles with unimaginable energies are brought into collision in order to analyse the by-products of such processes. These collisions provide many insights into the structure of the subatomic world and the laws of nature that govern it, which contribute to answering the key questions of particle physics. But that requires space: The tunnel tube of the particle accelerator has a diameter of an impressive 3.80 m and a circumference of – believe it or not – an astonishing 27 kilometres. Its greatest success to date has been the experimental detection of the Higgs boson particle.