

First Section of World Trade Center Spire hoisted into place

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Workers at the World Trade Center this morning installed the first section of a 408-foot spire that will top off the site's main office tower. When fully installed, the spire will put the total height of the tower at 1,776 feet. The developer of the tower, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, says completion of the spire will make it the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere. Two cranes were used to hoist a 67-ton section of spire into place on a concrete base on the building's roof, more than a quarter mile above lower Manhattan. The spire is made up of 18 sections, which were transported by barge or truck to the site from Quebec, Canada late last year. The agency said the full spire will take two to three months to complete. It will serve a state-of-the-art broadcast facility housed in the \$3.8 billion, 3-million-square-foot office tower. The Durst Organization, the New York City-based real estate firm with a minor equity stake in the tower, will oversee construction and operation of the broadcast facility.