



Rescue convoy

Terex Chiangjiang, the Chinese joint venture crane manufacturer, has sent a convoy of 105 new cranes to help with earthquake rescue efforts in the region.

The Terex company is the only crane maker located in the affected Sichuan province, with its production plant in Luzhou some 300 km south of the quake's epicentre. The cranes left the plant in an impressive convoy towards the stricken area. Luzhou certainly felt the quake - 8.3 on the Richter scale - however there was no serious damage was done to the plant itself.

HSE prosecuteseventually

After years of waiting, the UK's Health & Safety Executive has finally decided to prosecute W.D.Bennetts Plant & Services and Eurolift (Tower cranes) for the tower crane accident at Durrington High School in Worthing in February 2005. The charges relate to claimed breaches to sections of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996.

The accident involved one tower crane which collapsed hitting a second crane and killing two tower crane erectors. A third man, the driver of one of the cranes, suffered serious head injuries after falling from the cab. The cranes were being dismantled at the time.

Mine's bigger than yours!

The battle for the highest truck mounted aerial work platform is hotting up driven by wind turbine work. Finnish manufacturer Bronto is working on a larger, 104 metre version of its 101 metre working height S101 HLA. When launched in mid 2009 it will retake the title of the world's highest reaching aerial lift. The first unit has already been sold for wind turbine maintenance work.

However, Italian platform manufacturer Sogage has also confirmed that it is to produce a 100 plus metre truck platform which should be completed at the end of next year. According to Angelo Pansera, Sogage managing director, the platform will definitely have a maximum working height of more than 100 metres but there is the possibility that the final working height may be as high as 105 metres. The first unit is being built for an Italian customer for wind turbine work and a further two orders have also been received.

Bronto is also working on a new 78 metre S78 XDT straight telescopic boom lift that when launched be the highest ever built - eight metres higher than the current tallest unit. The first unit is scheduled for delivery in the spring of 2009.



Another New York collapse

A Kodiak luffing tower crane working on the corner of first Avenue and East 91st street collapsed in New York City killing two construction workers and damaging a number of buildings. Another construction worker was also critically injured as well as a passing pedestrian who received minor injuries.

The crane - owned by JF Lomma/New York Crane Service - was not lifting anything at the time and was luffing its jib to maximum elevation to slew round to lift another load when a large bang was heard as a weld in the slew bearing support structure apparently failed, causing the superstructure to fall backwards off the tower.

The superstructure crashed into the building across the street, wiping out the penthouse and then striking and seriously damaging several apartments below.

JF Lomma/New York Crane Service is also the owner of the Favelle Favco crane that killed seven New Yorkers in mid March. The Kodiak crane is said to be at least 24 years old.

Investigations by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health

Administration have revealed that the weld that failed was part of a replacement bearing assembly made in China for New York Crane Service. Investigators are unsure if the welding in China was at fault or if the weld had been adversely affected when the part was welded into the turntable assembly by Brady Marine, a welding company in Elizabeth New Jersey. The Chinese part was made to repair the turntable which had been damaged on another New York building site a year ago.



New York crane inspector arrested

James Delayo, New York's chief inspector for Cranes and Derricks has been arrested and charged with receiving bribes from crane operators and crane companies, falsifying business records and tampering with public records.

The arrest is a result of the District Attorney's investigation into construction site incidents in Manhattan for the period of 2002 to 2007 and is not connected to this year's crane accidents.

Delayo is responsible for crane operator examinations, both written and practical, the supervision of other crane inspectors and annual crane inspections.

New York's Department of Buildings has since issued stop-work orders on the 14 cranes operating in the city that are owned by Long Island-based Nu-Way Cranes. The company has been linked to the bribery scandal involving Delayo.

Order, order...



The massive new Liebherr MTC78000

Liebherr has launched the MTC78000, a massive 78,000 tonne/metre offshore slewing crane and already has four orders.

The massive crane, which can handle 1,600 tonnes at up to 35 metres radius is designed for mounting on large barges or similar vessels. The first two units will be mounted on jack-up barges for erecting offshore wind farms with five megawatt class turbines.

Fitted with an 87 metre boom giving a lift height of 106 metres above deck and 120 metres above sea level the crane can handle 500 tonnes with a 74 metres maximum radius.

The two other cranes that have been ordered so far will be used as heavy lift cranes for working on existing offshore platforms. The MTC 78000 design and production involved all of Liebherr's maritime crane divisions with final assembly destined for the company's facility in Rostock, Germany.

Double Dutch



Javier Gómez González
general manager of Clem

Riwal, the Dutch-based aerial lift and telehandler rental company has made two acquisitions significantly extending its market coverage in Europe.

The first and largest is the long rumoured purchase of a 70 percent stake in Spanish aerial lift and telehandler rental company, Clem. With a fleet of around 2,000 units, 12 locations and around 25 million revenues the Clem acquisition gives Riwal a significant position in the Spanish market.

Clem emerged out of a company founded in 1945 by Jose Noguera and will be managed on a day to day basis by general manager Javier Gómez González.

Jose Jaime Noguera, the current owner, who will retain 30 percent

of the equity and Riwal's chief executive Dick Schalekamp will sit on the Clem board of directors. No details of the transaction have been revealed.

Riwal has also acquired a 70 percent stake in 123Lift of Estonia and Lithuania, 123Lift both sells and rents JLG, Genie, Haulotte and Nifty products and operates throughout the Baltic region. Aivar Brock of 123Lift will continue to manage the company, while holding the remaining 30 percent of the equity.

Riwal has also announced a number of new appointments; Jacques Catinot the general manager and minority shareholder in Riwal France, has been promoted to group commercial director with responsibility for sales throughout the group. Mark Tracey, whose father Roger until recently owned Holland Lift, joins Riwal France to support Catinot, Jeff Eisenberg, the UK based consultant has been appointed to manage mergers and acquisitions. Eisenberg was previously with Genie Europe, Universal, and Smartrent. Riwal now boasts a fleet of more than 10,000 aerial lifts making it the second largest in Europe behind Lavendon.



John Ball at ERA convention concluding the deal for Manitou MRT30 with Alain

Its all too Easi

Easi UpLifts/Height for Hire - the Irish based aerial lift, crane and telehandler rental company - has ventured further into continental Europe by acquiring a controlling interest in Strojné Centrum Slovakia, (SCS) the Košice based aerial lift rental company. SCS runs a fleet of around 100 aerial lifts - mainly JLG and Genie - as well as a few telehandlers.

In April Easi UpLifts opened its first operation in continental

Europe with a sales base in Holland headed up by Ronan MacLennan who has been responsible for the company's used equipment business.

Height for Hire is Ireland's largest aerial lift rental company and has expanded into the UK in recent years where it is currently implementing a major expansion programme. As part of this programme it has placed a large order with Manitou, for telehandlers which includes the first MRT30 in the UK.

Profits leap at Tadano

Tadano the world's fourth largest mobile crane manufacturer revealed revenues up by more than 20 percent to ¥174 billion (\$1.67 billion) and profits up by more than 40 percent to ¥17.96 billion (\$174 million) in its financial results for the 12 months to the end of March 2008.

After a slow start strong replacement demand for its RT cranes helped increase sales in its domestic market by 10.7 percent to ¥92.8 billion (\$898). Overseas demand increased in North America, Europe and the Middle East with export sales rising by almost 34 percent to ¥81,6 billion (\$790 million). This took export sales to a record 46.8 percent of total revenues.

Disneyland spectacular

Potain launched several new models at an event at Disneyland, Paris earlier this month with the highlight being the unveiling its new Igo 42, a replacement for the HD40.

The crane has a maximum capacity of four tonnes and is available with a 36 metre or 32 metre jib and can lift a maximum of 1.1 or 1.4 tonnes at its jib end.

Also shown was the six tonne capacity, 45 metre maximum jib length Igo T 85 which replaces the GTMR346; the Igo MC 13 which has a maximum lift of 1.8 tonnes and maximum jib of 22 metres and completing the new line-up an MDT 268 top-slewing tower crane - the largest in the MDT range with a



New Igo 42 self erecting tower crane

maximum capacity of 12 tonnes and a maximum jib length of 65 metres. This model replaces the MDT192 and complements the recently launched MDT218.

MCG also announced a new Manitowoc Crane Care centre in Nantes and the opening of its brand new factory in Saris, Slovakia.

Up the 'Pool

Two articulated boom lifts from AFI-Uplift have helped create a large-scale planter as part of Liverpool's European Capital of Culture programme. The planter will form an eye-catching centre piece of a new garden being created on derelict land in the middle of a housing estate.

The two Haulotte booms proved ideal for working on the big planter



The two 13.7 metre platform height Haulotte HA16PX booms with nine metres outreach and rented from AFI's Liverpool depot, helped attach expanded mesh to the outside of the steel sculpture to encourage plants growing inside to spill out over the outside of the structure.

Take five

Sennebogen UK distributor EH Hassell has sold an 80 tonne Sennebogen 683 HD telescopic crawler crane fitted with twin winches, a 42ft full power boom and a high lift operator cab to Morgan Est, the infrastructure services company. The company is the first contractor in the UK to take delivery of a 683. The unit was displayed at SED where the official hand over ceremony took place. Morgan Est will be using the new crane at sites across the country and expects it to increase productivity and safety. It has also purchased five Sennebogen lattice boom crawler cranes including a 650HD, two 680HD and two 6100HD - the first of this type in the UK.



(L-R) Phil Hodges, of E H Hassell, Donald Steele, Morgan Est mechanical plant manager and Ian Hassell of EH Hassell

Coal mine collapse

A 1,100 tonne Lampson Translift crane working at the Black Thunder Mine in north east Wyoming, USA, collapsed at the end of May injuring three people, including an operator and blocking one of the USA's busiest railway lines.

The accident happened as the crane was moving a 250 tonne, 70 metre long section of conveyor tube which passes over the railway lines. A section of the tubing blocked the main line tracks, which carries around a third of the nation's coal.

The crane was working on the construction of a load-out silo, which is used to move coal into freight cars. Lampson is quoted in the local press as saying that the ground shifted under the crane, causing the accident.



The Lampson Translift and its fallen load



ESTA 2008 awards

ESTA - the European crane and heavy haulage association - announced its 2008 awards at a users night in Amsterdam. The winner of the award for a lift involving cranes up to 100 tonnes was Mediaco of France for the installation of a tower crane in the old town centre of Draguignan in southern France.

The winner of the award for lifts involving cranes of over 100 tonnes was BMS of Denmark for the installation of a 193 tonne foot bridge in Copenhagen.

ESTA's Innovation Award 2008 went to Peinemann, the Rotterdam-based crane and access company for its new bundle lifter which offers an alternative to web slings, while this year's Excellence Award went to Terex Demag's CC8800-1 Twin crawler crane. The first unit has been shipped to Al Jaber in preparation for its first lift.

And finally, the Personality of the Year 2008 went to Leo Spierings, founder of Spierings Kranen - the Dutch manufacturer of truck-mounted self erecting tower cranes.

Proud in minis

West Midlands-based Dewsbury & Proud has entered the mini crane rental market with the launch of Mini Crane Hire Midlands. Tim Proud, managing director, decided to enter the expanding mini crane market after looking at the changes within the heavy mobile crane rental sector and the difficulties in sourcing new mobile cranes.

Initially three Maeda mini cranes

Tim Proud (l) and Alan Peck at the official handover



have been purchased - a LC785 and two MC285CRM-E both with radio remote control systems - although the intention over the coming months is to add the larger MC305 and M405 fly jib models and maybe the LC1385 which will be coming into the UK later this year.

JCB trio

JCB has announced that chief operating officer Matthew Taylor has taken over from long serving chief executive John Patterson from June. Patterson, 58 will continue as a main board director as well as retaining his role as chairman and CEO of JCB Inc, its USA

business. Taylor, 48, joined JCB in April 2006 as managing director of JCB Sales and in January last year became group chief operating officer.

The company has also announced its numbers for 2007, revenues were up 30 percent to a record £2.25 billion while pre-tax profits rose 25 percent to £187 million - the best in its 62 year history. The company says that it built over 72,000 machines last year - up from



Matthew Taylor

55,000 in 2006 - a figure that it claims makes it the world's third largest manufacturer in terms of the number of units built.

JCB also announced a joint venture partnership with BNP Paribas Lease Group which will offer a full range of leasing and other retail finance programmes to JCB customers, as well as providing flexible facilities to support dealer inventory and demonstration equipment requirements.

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Jonathan Till (centre) with UpRight's Tony Jennings (L) and Jim Daintith (R).

Big GT Access order

Bromsgrove-based GT Access has ordered 150 scissor lifts from UpRight, the order valued at around £1.4 million, is the largest from a UK rental company since the manufacturer was acquired by Tanfield in 2006. The bulk of the order which was placed through UpRight Powered Access Sales UK is made up of X32 and MX19 electric scissor lifts, along with some X26, X26Narrow, X27/X33RT's and SL30 Speed Levels.

GT Access managing director Jonathan Till, says that the new models will replace up to 130 older UpRight machines, expanding his existing fleet to about 350 units. Most machines have been delivered over the past few weeks.

"We are as busy as we have ever been, probably because we concentrate on the industrial rather than building sector of the market," said Till.

Tower block record

When construction company Skanska and Legoland Windsor recently got together to build the world's highest tower from Lego bricks, it called in Nationwide Access to provide an aerial lift to gain access as the structure grew in height. The tower took four days to build using nearly 500,000 bricks and reached a record-breaking 95.99ft (29 metres) in height.

Before selecting the lift, Nationwide carried out a site survey to identify the ideal machine for the delicate outdoor building work. The application called for a rigid platform, large outreach and enough space for an operator and the Lego builders, so a 37 metre - 22 metre outreach Ruthmann T37B truck mounted unit was chosen. With a



A Ruthmann T37B truck mounted platform helped build the record-breaking, 29 metre high Lego tower.



platform size of 2.30 x 1.05 x 1.20 metres there was also the space required to hold a large quantity of Lego bricks and the Legoland staff.

New training centre

A-Plant, one of the UK's largest rental companies, has opened a new National Customer & Technical Training Centre in Nottingham. The training courses initially available will include Manual Handling, Abrasive Wheels, Working at Height, Safety Harness Awareness, Fall Arrest, Driver Load/Unload and Site Safety Awareness including CSCS test preparation. All are designed to enable companies within the construction, manufacturing, water, medical, health, process, service and allied sectors to comply with changing industrial and legislative demands. A-Plant is an accredited IPAF and PASMA training provider.

Maeda 4u?

Hampshire-based industrial engineering and heavy lifting specialists FSR Maintenance has become the latest company to join the Maeda Rental Network in the UK after purchasing two 3.8 tonne capacity Maeda MC405CRM(E) spider cranes from Kranlyft UK. The new cranes join a new division within the company 'cranes2u.com'.

Mark Roberts is confident that the Maeda can handle his prized replica car



Mark Roberts, director of both cranes2u.com and FSR Maintenance said: "Our new initiative dovetails well with our existing business. It fills a void in the marketplace that has evolved due to the demands of legislation relating to the safety of lifting operations."

..... and Maeda 4 Europe

Kranlyft has appointed Prague based Pragotechnik as the Maeda spider and mini crane distributor for the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Founded in 1992, Pragotechnik has sold Grove cranes for many years in the Czech Republic, while modifying and trading in the Czech-built CKD cranes on Tatra chassis. In 2004 the company was officially appointed as the Grove distributor and service centre for the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

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Hey-ho up she rises!

Offshore cable laying specialist Oceanteam recently called on Facelift to provide a Bronto aerial lift to help them survey the massive 60 tonne lift capacity 'A' frame at the rear of its 92 metre long, 1,700 tonne multi-functional cable installation barge, the CLB Explorer.

The 34 metre Bronto allowed the surveyors to access all areas of



Facelift's 34m Bronto S-34MDT truck-mounted lift is lifted onto the deck of the CLB Explorer

the structure for inspection from a single location, minimising disruption to both the crew and deck activities."



Steve Huntley seals the deal with Alan Russon of Russon Access.

Six for Huntley

Newcastle-based Huntley Plant has confirmed an order for the first six Holland Lift X-105EL12 narrow aisle electric scissor lifts in the UK from distributor Russon Access. The 10.5 metre platform height self-propelled lifts have an overall width of 1.2 metres and weighs just over four tonnes.

Stephen Huntley says he is convinced of the potential demand and expects most of the new units to be used carrying out internal dry work along with a number of atrium access duties.

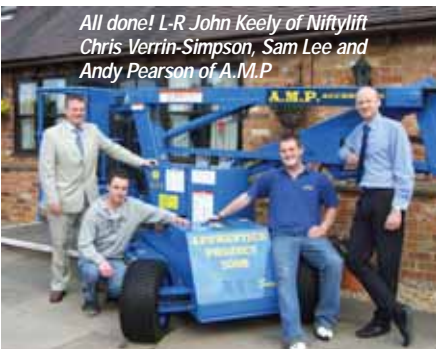
Speedy expands

Speedy Hire, the UK's largest equipment rental company has reported a 39 percent jump in full year revenues to the end of March at £465 million, while pre tax profits rose 18.8 percent to £48.1 million.

Revenues were boosted by a number of acquisitions, including Hewden's tool hire business and Waterford Hire

in Ireland last summer, but they had a negative effect on margins.

The company has also acquired the temporary accommodation business of Carillion Asset Management for £11 million in cash plus £1.5 million of debt and signed a five year Strategic Partnering Agreement with Carillion, one of the UK's largest contractors.



All done! L-R John Keely of Niftylift, Chris Verrin-Simpson, Sam Lee and Andy Pearson of A.M.P.

Job done

The AMP/Niftylift Apprentice Project 2008 is now complete with awards presented at the recent Access Days event. Both apprentices - Chris Verrin-Simpson and Sam Lee - attended SED and Access Days where the machines were on display.

There was some debate as to which was the best of the two rebuilds - either way, both were a credit to the two youngsters. And finally, congratulations to both Niftylift and AMP for creating and carrying out this worthwhile exercise which not only provided some excellent practical experience for the two concerned, but also highlighted the need to bring young people into the industry and provide a solid training programme.

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New Cat telehandlers

Caterpillar has launched three new telehandlers, the TH406, TH407 and TH414, all three have a maximum lift capacity of 3,700kgs. The 406 has a lift height of 6.1 metres and forward reach of 3.1 metres. The 407 a lift height of 7.3 metres and forward reach of 3.7 metres while the 414 offers 13.7 metres height with up to 9.2 metres forward reach.

Cat claims that the load-sensing, flow-sharing hydraulics deliver high digging and lift forces and allow all

boom functions to be operated simultaneously and proportionally. The Z-bar linkage on the TH406 and TH407 delivers strong break-out forces when using a bucket.

A 74.5 kW (100 hp) Cat C4.4 turbo charged engine is standard on all machines with a more powerful 93.1 kW (125 hp) C4.4 engine with ACERT™ technology available on the 406 and 407. Both engines are certified to Stage IIIA (Tier III) emission regulations.

Alive and well thanks to a harness

A man working five storeys up, is alive today thanks to his harness after his 135ft boom lift tipped over at Melbourne University, Australia. It is still unclear what caused the machine to tip however, as the lift went over its boom struck the boom of a crane working alongside and came to rest on the top of the crane's counterweight, while the basket ended upside down in the branches of a tree.

The 27 year-old operator would have been dashed to the ground with the full force of the fall, accelerated by the catapult effect when the boom hit the crane, but thankfully he was wearing a full body harness and short lanyard and was left suspended three or four metres above the ground.

Colleagues quickly freed him from his harness and he was in the first aid room being treated for minor scratches by the time the paramedics arrived.



A harness allowed the operator to walk free

United to take a \$14 million hit

United Rentals, the world's largest rental company has filed documents stating that it will book a \$14 million charge in the second quarter 2008. The money is to cover the expected cost of the Securities and Exchange Commission investigation concerning a number of sale and leaseback transactions aimed to inflate the company's results during the period 2000 to 2002.

Two senior executives were dismissed and face personal fines and possibly imprisonment. Michael Nolan the former chief financial officer, has already pleaded guilty to filing false documents, while former chief executive John Milne has been indicted for securities fraud and insider trading.

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Geoff Gibson, Director, AFI-Uplift



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Skyjack scoops award

Skyjack UK managing director Charlie Patterson (centre) receives the 2008 'Supplier of the Year' award at A-Plant's annual conference at the Celtic Manor, Newport, Gwent. The award is chosen by the A-Plant depot and sales managers across the country, who cast a vote in favour of the supplier they feel offered the most exceptional all-round service during the past 12 months.



Patterson received the award on behalf of the Skyjack UK team from A-Plant's senior purchasing manager, Tony Grimshaw (left) and chief executive officer Sat Dhaiwal.

New Locatelli RT crane

Locatelli has launched a new rough terrain crane, the 30 tonne capacity GRIL 8300T. The new model has a four section 25.5 metre telescopic boom and increases the company's rough terrain crane range to eight models with lifting capacities from 12.5 to 60 tonnes.



The GRIL 8300T has several new safety features including a new outrigger configuration control system, a new CLS integrated control system with graphic display, a safe key in case of load limiter or load moment indicator failure and new audio and visual signalling devices.

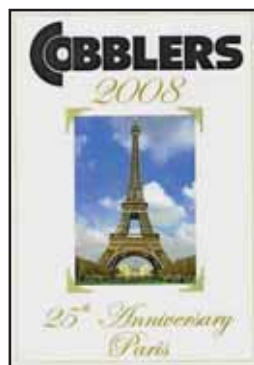
A load of COBBLERS!

More than 60 crane and access industry veterans who worked at one time or another for Coles Cranes, made their way to Paris in mid-May to celebrate the 25th anniversary of COBBLERS - Coles Old Boys, Been, Left & Early Retired Society.

Founded at Bauma in 1983 by six ex-Coles colleagues the 'COBBLERS fraternity' has met on a regular basis over the years at various venues and has grown to a membership of more than 80 people.

The celebrations included a boat trip on the River Seine, a visit to the old Coles France facility at Cergy-Pontoise, now home to Grove and the Manitowoc Crane Group and a garden party hosted by ex-Coles director André Faes.

To see the full story and a selection of photographs, see www.vertikal.net



The Cobblers outside a chateau



Roy Wren, John Massey, John Atkinson and Simon Pedrazzini with a Coles 5/7T yard crane

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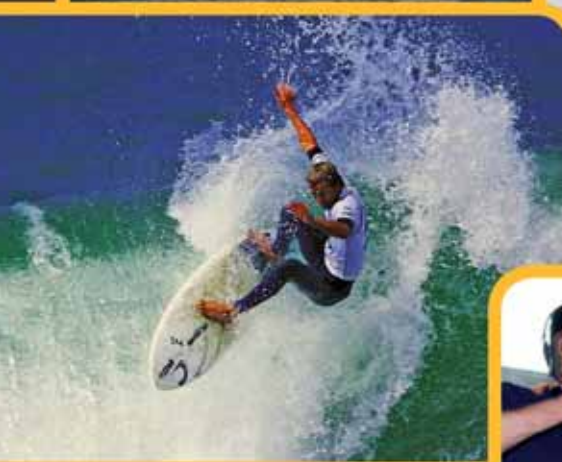
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- **Bryan Cronie** - previously with Mammoet Holding in the Netherlands - has joined **Ainscough Crane Hire** as its safety, health, environment, quality and training director.



Bryan Cronie

- **Terex** has appointed **Eric A. Nielsen** as president, Terex Materials Processing and Mining, replacing Rick Nicholls who recently took over as president of Terex Cranes.

- **Cramo**, the Finnish-based international rental company has reported first quarter sales up 18% while profits slipped marginally.

- **RSC Holdings** - one of the largest equipment rental companies in the USA - is buying American Equipment Rentals of Providence, Rhode Island.

- Yorkshire-based **CAT Access Solutions** has ordered the first Bil-Jax 5533A trailer lift in the UK.

- **ZF**, the truck, crane and off-road transmission company, has appointed Professor **Giorgio Behr** as the new chairman of its supervisory board.



Giorgio Behr

- Canadian-based aerial lift and telehandler company **Skyjack** has posted flat revenues for the first quarter and made a temporary lay-off around 100 employees in its large scissor facility.

- Harbour crane company **Demag Cranes Group** has reported second quarter earnings up 10% to €353.0 million with the order book up 22.2% to €492.2.

- **Lavendon Access Services**, the management company for Lavendon's UK businesses has launched a new employee training initiative, the Lavendon Academy.

- **TIL** - the India-based Grove crane licensee says that it will build a new component production facility in West Bengal.

- International rental company, **Ramirent** has increased its revenues by 19% in the first quarter, while profits slipped marginally. At the same time president **Kari Kallio** is to retire.

- **AJ Access Platforms** was all over the sports sections of the UK press as top jockey, Frankie Dettori, wearing its colours, kissed Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson.

- **AFI-Uplift** has achieved full 'Building Confidence' accreditation from Achilles Information. Joining SGB as the second access company to achieve this status.

- **Palfinger** has reported another strong quarter with revenues up by nearly 29% although profits lagged behind growing just 11%.

- A 40 metre **Bronto** was called in to bring a man down from a tower crane after he scaled the crane and threatened to jump in Doornfontein train station in South Africa.

- Finnish crane and aerial lift rental company **Leinolift** celebrated its first anniversary in June with an open day.

- Three **Sun Crane/Yongmao** tower cranes, two in Seattle and one in Renton Washington state, were designated unsafe and have been stopped from working. The cranes had mixed component and electrical problems.

- **Boss Services**, the Colchester-based rental company, has appointed Barry Beavis as its new md.

- The **European Rental Association** closed its third convention with the surprise announcement that next year's event will be held in London.

- **VP** the owner of UK Forks, the telehandler rental company has confirmed its full year results to the end of March with revenues up by 23 percent to £149.3 million, while pre tax profits jumped by 39 percent to £20.2 million.

- **Allan Chew** the Malaysian-based access equipment representative has joined **MEC**, the Californian-based aerial work platform manufacturer.



Allan Chew

- **Malcolm Jackman** CEO of **Coates Hire** in Australia, is to leave the company next month.

- **HWS Verhuur**, the Dutch aerial lift rental company, celebrated the opening of its new headquarters in Noordwijk with a big beach party.

- Congratulations to **Paola Comi** and **Sandrino Ferrarini** of aerial lift company, Leader Italia on the birth of a son.

- **Niftylift** has obtained full Russian type approval for its range of trailer, spider and self-propelled lifts.

- **Snorkel Australia** has promoted Bruce Maclean to the post of state manager for Victoria.

- **Metalcorp Recyclers**, trading as **Onesteel Recycling** in Australia has been fined \$26,000 following a crane collapse at Point Augusta rail yard in 2005.

- Swedish investment company, **Nordstjernan AB** has increased its stake in Finland's Ramirent to almost 26%

- **Manitou UK** has made several appointments and promotions to its after sales team which will be headed by **Richard Clark** and four regional service managers **Gregg Hampshire**, **Alisdair Evans**, **Richard Brocksopp** and **Ian McConnell** with **Andrew Hazell** the service manager for powered access and industrial products.

- Italian loader crane manufacturer **Fassi** has been awarded its largest order in the Far East - a 57 unit deal worth €1 million to the Thailand Highway Authority.

- **Erik Bengtsson** has been promoted to senior vice president and MD of **Cramo Sweden**, replacing Magnus Rosen.

- The **LEEA** has appointed **Geoff Holden** as its chief executive designate, replacing **Derrick Bailes** when he steps down in December.

- **Tat Hong** the Singapore based international crane sales and rental company has reported full year revenues up 33% with profits up 35%.

- **Bil-Jax** has appointed **H&E Equipment Services** as a dealer for its trailer lifts and self propelled X-Boom range in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

- **Genie** has appointed Alan Lofurno to the new position of global general manager for the Genie boom line.



Alan Lofurno

- A jury took less than a day to throw out a \$21 million claim against **Demag** for damages caused after one of its mobile cranes tipped over after the operator had not set the outriggers.

- **IPAF** has issued a statement clarifying its position and that of the working group looking at the risk of overhead crushing in MEWPS, following a Bulletin issued by **Balfour Beatty** in the UK.

- **Loxam Denmark** has purchased 10 UpRight SL30SL Speed Levels from Danish distributor **KK Materiel**.

- We bring the belated news that **Roy Richards**, the founder of crane hirer, **Richards and Wallington** and the UK's National Motorcycle museum has died.

- **TNT Crane & Rigging** of Houston, Texas, has purchased the assets of **Kuhn Crane Service** of Corpus Christi, Texas.

- **JLG** has appointed **Aerial Parts**, of Monterey, Mexico, a subsidiary of Grupo Ventumex, as its master parts distributor for Northern and Central Mexico.

- **United Rentals**, the world's largest rental company has appointed **Joseph Dixon** as vice president sales.

- **JLG** has promoted **Denny Buterbaugh** to vice president of government products and programmes.

- A 750 tonne Manitowoc crawler crane tipped over at a Kansas power plant, with several injuries and a fatality.

- **Airworx**, the Indianapolis-based aerial lift and telehandler rental company has been purchased by **HKW**, a private equity firm.

- UK-based aerial lift rental company **AFI-Uplift** has appointed **Les Wood** as customer services manager of AFI Direct



Les Wood

- **All Erection & Crane Rental** has opened a new location for All Carolina Crane Rental of Wilmington, and is expanding its existing facility in West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania.

- A federal court has called for a temporary halt to **Miami Dade's** plans to tighten up tower crane inspections and certification.

- **Davide** and **Virna Agosta** of **Svelt** the Bergamo based scaffold tower and ladder manufacturer have a new baby daughter, Alice, their first child.

- Leading Australian rental company, **Kennards**, has ordered its 200th **Niftylift**.

- **Alimak Hek** has won a large order for its Scando 650 hoists from Perth, Australia-based **D&G Hoist and Crane hire**.

- **Airtrax** the US based manufacturer of fork trucks and aerial lifts with Omni-directional wheels is to cease production to focus on technology licensing.

- **Blade Access** of Bradford, UK, has acquired a new 58 metre **Wumag** WT580 truck mounted lift as it expands into larger aerial work platforms.

- **Kimberly Access** has appointed **Keith Hartis**, previously with Ainscough Crane Hire, as its health safety and environment director.

- A **Minnesota**-based employer has been fined \$15,000 for the death of an employee who was crushed between his aerial lift and an overhead beam.

- **Bobcat** has confirmed that it is intending to launch a new telehandler range although no details have been released.

- UK hire company **Fork Rent** was at SED for the official handover of the largest JCB Loadall order ever - 2,000 units.

- **Wolfgang Anzengruber** will remain as CEO of Palfinger for a further five year term.

- Mastclimber and scaffolding specialist contractor the **Brogan Group** has won the Specialist Contractor trophy

- **Cramo Sweden** has purchased **GMM Hyrservice**, a general rental company based in Lund, north of Malmö.

- **Cramo Norway** has acquired the rental operations of **Kranentreprenören** a spider crane rental company based in Lorenskog near Oslo.

- Four construction workers died on a site in **Bangkok** after the cage they were being lifted in fell to the ground.

- **Terex** has appointed **Thomas J. Hansen** and **David C. Wang** to its board of directors.

- **Ahern rental** of Las Vegas, has reported first quarter revenues up 32% to \$93 million but profits slipped by 9%.

- **Portacover Machinery** of Swansea, Wales, is adding Maeda spider cranes to its machinery moving business.

- German crane rental company **J Bruns** has taken delivery of a new 500 tonne Liebherr LTM1500-8.1 All Terrain crane.

- **Peter Whittall**, previously MD of Nationwide Access in the UK has joined **Genie Europe** as director of after sales services.

- **Gottwald Port Technology**, the manufacturer of harbour cranes has made a number of senior appointments, including a new CEO **Dr Robert Wassmer**.



Robert Wassmer

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