

Tower Crane safety forum reports progress

The UK's Strategic Forum for Construction's Tower Crane group has issued a progress update, which includes some new initiatives including an email address for Forum members to communicate incidents and near misses. The procedure will be trialled during May with any useful information communicated to the industry as a whole. The initiative will then be rolled out nationally. The HSE has repeatedly said that it suspects that near misses are purposely under reported, eliminating a major tool for improving safety.

Other progress reported included:

- The Site Induction Group is extending its brief to planning, checks and liaison process required before erection, climbing or dismantling cranes and will create a guidance document including management processes with clearer lines of accountability.
- The Competency Group will clarify expected levels of competency for individuals such as supervisors. A final document will be published by the end of June.
- The Maintenance and Thorough Examination Group has completed its Maintenance and Thorough Examination guidance, which will be launched on the 13th of May at SED in Corby and 25th June at Vertical Days, Haydock.
- The Operator Conditions Group will publish a code of practice focusing on hours of work, fitness for work and environmental factors by the end of August.

Public access to information

A proposal has been produced to establish a mechanism for enabling members of the public to easily access information on local tower crane activity. The group says that it is looking into what this might include. The next meeting will take place on the 9th of July 2008.

Hi-Reach passes 2,000

Hi-Reach Access, the Swindon-based aerial lift rental company has taken delivery of its 2,000th aerial work platform - a 41 metre Genie Z135/70 self propelled boom lift - part of a recent order for 60 Genie boom lifts. The latest delivery is one of 12 big booms in the order which will take the Hi-Reach fleet of boom lifts of more than 40 metres to 50 units, placing it among Europe's largest big boom fleets.



Hi-Reach's 2,000th lift

At the same time the company has announced that it increased its revenues by 56 percent in 2007 to £10.9 million. Paul Richards, managing director and founder of Hi-Reach said: "The outlook for 2008 is encouraging with early indications showing growth across all product lines and regions. The Genie order is one of a number of orders for new equipment focused on specific customers and contracts."



Andrew Reid (L) hands over the presidency to John Ball as IPAF MD Tim Whiteman looks on.

New president for IPAF

John Ball, managing director of the Height for Hire group, of Ireland which includes Easi Uplifts, took over from Andrew Reid as president of the International Powered Access Federation at its AGM in Whittlebury in April. See IPAF AGM and Summit coverage on page 45.

Tanfield to supply Manitou

Tanfield, owner of aerial lift manufacturers UpRight and Snorkel, has reached an agreement with Manitou to supply 'certain aerial lift models' on an OEM basis to be marketed under the ManiAccess brand. While not confirmed, it is understood that this will include UpRight's 12ft platform height TM12 mast type self propelled lift. Manitou will include this model with four other new access products it plans to unveil on 1st July.

An UpRight TM12 branded in Snorkel colours, will now also sport Manitou livery



Maxim acquired

Maxim Crane Works, one of the world's largest crane rental companies is to be acquired by Platinum Equity Capital in a merger-deal. Partners II, will purchase all of Maxims outstanding stock for \$42.50 per share in cash. The acquisition is expected to complete by June 30th.

The Maxim Crane Works name emerged in 2000 as a brand for 12 acquisitions, which included the well known names of Dunn Equipment of Texas, Carlisle Crane and Caroline Crane to mention just a few. The company went through chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings in 2004, exiting from the process in early 2005. It conducted a strategic review in 2006 and then held a share buy-back using a Dutch auction process last year, paying between \$48.75 and \$54 a share.



The company rents cranes and aerial lifts from 35 locations in six regions with a fleet of around 1,600 wheeled, 200 crawlers and a small fleet of tower cranes. Platinum Equity specialises in the merger, acquisition and operation of service companies, including information technology, telecommunications, logistics, manufacturing, metals services and distribution. It was founded in 1995 by Tom Gores and has completed more than 80 acquisitions with more than \$24 billion in aggregate annual revenues to date.



Up and down at JLG

JLG, through its parent, Oshkosh, has reported its half year results to the end of March. Comparing the full six months with last year is hard as JLG was only part of Oshkosh for four months in the 2006/7 period and the information provided by Oshkosh on JLG is minimal. The second quarter shows a 20 percent fall in North American revenues, more than offset by a doubling of its international sales. Overall the company saw revenues rise in the quarter by almost 15 percent compared with 2007. Operating income jumped 133 percent to \$123.6 million. The drop in the USA is blamed on major rental company accounts choosing to place small orders throughout the year rather than large orders at the start of the year. However the fall in the US telehandler market, of which JLG has a 60 percent share, must also have made an impact. The company reported that its order book shrank almost 30 percent in the quarter to \$905 million.

(For further details see www.Vertikal.Net 2nd May)

HUNE looks overseas

HUNE, the leading Spanish rental company which previously traded as Euroloc and includes major access rental companies Nacanco and Umesa and crane rental company Homs, has established an international sales division to sell its used equipment outside of its home market. Sergio Cerdan of Nacanco is heading up the new operation and has already started contacting potential partners. The majority of HUNE is owned by London and Boston-based private

equity firm, Advent International. Advent was responsible for arranging the MBO of Loxam in 1999 and then acquired Spain's Euroloc in 2003, buying Nacanco, Homs and Umesa last summer. It is now in the process of merging the four businesses (Homs - Umesa - Nacanco - Euroloc) under the HUNE brand.

The company has a policy of running most of its access equipment for seven to eight years before offering it for sale.

Nacanco, Umesa and HUNE branded lifts

A HUNE branded unit



c&a

news



The new Liebherr LTM1150-6.1 a compact six axle 150 tonne taxi crane

Liebherr unveils new 150 tonner

Liebherr unveiled its new 150 tonne, long boomed taxi crane at the Smopyc show in Zaragoza, Spain in late April. The six axle LTM 1150-6.1 boasts a six section, 66 metre Telematik main boom that can be extended to 93 metres hook height with up to 76 metres radius, when adding the 10.8 to 19 metre bi-fold offsettable swingaway extension plus seven metre insert. The insert fits between the boom nose and swingaway, to extend the swingaway offset point. The swingaway can be hydraulically 'luffed' between 0 and 40 degrees under full load. The LTM1150 can lift 11 tonnes on a 60 metre main boom, making it ideal for tower crane assembly. When the boom is telescoped to its full 66 metres it offers a capacity of 7.7 tonnes.

On the road the LTM1150 can carry up to 15 tonnes of counterweight within 12 tonne axle loads. In the UK where up to 16 tonne axle loads are permitted the crane could feasibly travel with its 30.8 tonne counterweight configuration. Two

eight tonne side slabs take the maximum counterweight up to 46.8 tonnes.

The six axle crane carrier has an overall length of just 13.5 metres, and an overall width of 2.75 metres, which coupled with its turning radius of 11 metres, is only slightly greater than many five axle 150/160 tonne All Terrain cranes.

All six axles steer, avoiding the need to lift middle axles in crab steer mode and Active rear axle steering automatically adjusts rear axle steer angle with travel speed. Pneumatic disk brakes are standard for greater efficiency, longer service intervals and fast exchange of brake pads, which are equipped with wear indicators.

The power train includes a Liebherr V8 turbo charged engine and 12 speed ZF-TC-Tronic gearbox with automatic gear change and dry clutch for improved fuel consumption. A torque converter provides smooth creep speeds during start offs as well as for manoeuvring in tight quarters.

Terex enters under-bridge access market

Terex has acquired Hydra Platforms, the Rock Hill, South Carolina-based manufacturer of truck and trailer mounted self erecting under-bridge access platforms used for bridge construction, maintenance and inspection. The terms of the deal have not yet been disclosed

Hydra will become part of the Terex Road building division, joining

Terex Utilities the manufacturer of truck mounted aerial platforms for the electrical utility market. It will also work closely with the company's Bid-Well subsidiary which manufactures bridge paving equipment in the USA. George Ellis, vice president and general manager of Terex Road building said: "Hydra is a leader in a growing market for under-bridge access. More than

93 percent of bridges in the United States were built before 1980 and 25 percent have been designated as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. It is an excellent strategic fit since Bid-Well serves the same customer base and through which we hope to expand Hydra's national and international reach."



A Hydra under-bridge unit

Volvo Skyjacked



Canadian-based aerial lift company Skyjack - which also owns Carelift heavy duty Zoom Boom telehandlers - has reached agreement to acquire Volvo's material handling equipment business based in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, which includes Ingersoll Rand telescopic handlers and rough terrain mast type fork trucks. Volvo acquired the business when it purchased the Ingersoll Rand Road Machinery business in April 2007.

Ken McDougall, president of Skyjack said: "We are very pleased to see the acquisition come to completion. Over the next several months Skyjack will continue to work closely with the existing dealer networks with a commitment from Volvo to assist us during the transition period."

Genie chooses China site

Terex has announced that its long planned aerial lift production facility in China will be located in Changzhou, a few hours northwest of Shanghai. Construction work is planned to start in June. The facility also has the potential to be expanded to form part of a future Terex manufacturing campus.

Initial production will focus on a line of personnel lifts, but a full range of aerial work platforms is expected to be produced at the facility.

Tim Ford, president, of Terex Aerials said: "The Asian market and in particular China is increasingly accepting aerial work platforms. We want to provide them with world class products, designed and produced locally, to their local specifications."

A Hird of Jekkos

Hull-based Peter Hird has bought six Jekko spider cranes for its mini crane rental fleet and expects to double that figure over the next 12 months.

The machines are fitted with the 'Multi-Power' option of DC/AC and diesel power and will be available with glass manipulators and hydraulic fly jibs.

Managing director Peter Hird said: "After great consideration and investigation into different spider lift products we choose Jekko for its quality, versatility and the back-up that Jekko can now offer."

The first Jekko cranes for Hird.



Expensive limit switch

The death of a 34 year-old Corus employee who was killed whilst working underneath a crane at the company's Brinsworth site in Rotherham in 2003 has cost the company £200,000 including £30,000 costs. Corus pleaded guilty to breaches of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

A limit switch on a two block device fitted to the crane was defective, allowing the hoist rope to over-tighten and break. A 260kg hook block fell onto the worker from a height of seven metres.



Steve O'Hare (L) of Barclays Private Equity with David Shipman of AFI

A sign of the Times

AFI-Uplift achieved first place in the Sunday Times list of Britain's top 100 private companies with the fastest growing profits over the last three financial years. AFI profits have grown by 114 percent a year, rising from £549,000 in 2003 to £5.4 million in 2006. The company's revenues in 2006 were £20.4 million.

The company has 263 staff in 17 depots throughout the UK and a rental fleet of more than 4,300 aerial lifts. The only other company in the chart was privately owned JCB which was 62nd.

Minis in Norfolk

Norfolk-based plant hire company SGS, a division of SG South Construction, has entered the mini crane market with the purchase of two new Maeda units - a Maeda MC285CRME and an MC305CRME. Steve South, group managing director said: "We chose Maeda and Kranlyft after thorough evaluation of

the mini crane marketplace. The Maeda is an excellent product with high build quality and a proven track record. Kranlyft was also able to deliver training to the site within a week of our initial contact."

Steve South with his new Maeda MC285CRME.



Everest not the cleverest

The UK's largest replacement window company, Everest is fined £6,000 with £15,963.25 costs, at Luton Magistrates' Court after pleading guilty to breaching health and safety law including Work At Height Regulations.

Although there was no accident on two neighbouring sites in Luton, a passing HSE inspector saw towers erected without guardrails or suitable protection to prevent workers from falling. The inspector took immediate

enforcement action and served a Prohibition Notice which stopped work at both sites.

Everest Ltd was also recently fined £4,000 in another case prosecuted by HSE, when a Roofline Installer fell from the platform on which he was working.

HSE Inspector, Norman Macritchie said: "The challenge for the construction industry is to ensure that sensible and effective precautions are in place to stem these deaths."

The scaffold tower set up that cost Everest £22,000





One of Huntley Plant Hire's £1.8 million order for JCB HiViz telehandlers

Newcastle-based access and telehandler rental company Huntley Plant Hire has placed a £1.8 million order with JCB for a number of its HiViz telehandlers. The order includes machines from five metres up to 17 metre lift heights, but the majority consists of 12 and 14 metre 535-125 and 535-140 HiViz models.

The company says that this is the first tranche of 100 JCB telehandlers it plans to add during 2008 in order to keep the average age of its fleet at around eight months. Stephen Huntley said: "We have already placed a number of HiViz machines on sites throughout the UK, they have been well received and are considered a marked improvement on the previous models."

Russon and Manitou part

Manitou UK and Russon Access have 'amicably' ended their UK sales agreement. Manitou said the 'decision will enable Manitou UK to further expand its market penetration for the ManiAccess range of powered access platforms'.

Tony Hobbs, product manager for ManiAccess at Manitou UK added: "We have continually grown the sales of ManiAccess over the last few years and are moving onto the next stage of our strategy to meet customer demands for a dedicated nationwide after-sales network, providing a first class support, through the existing Manitou dealer network." Manitou UK recently appointed ex-Russon collaborator, Russell Rowley's new business R2 Access, to help sell its access products through the Manitou UK dealer network.

Crane Care opened

Manitowoc Crane Care, Manitowoc's customer support division officially opened its new 3,500 square metre (37,000sq ft) facility in Shady Grove, Pennsylvania at the end of March. The facility, located in Grove's old engineering building, has been renovated for the purpose and houses more than 100 product support employees responsible for aftermarket support covering Grove, Potain and

National Crane brands for both North and South America.

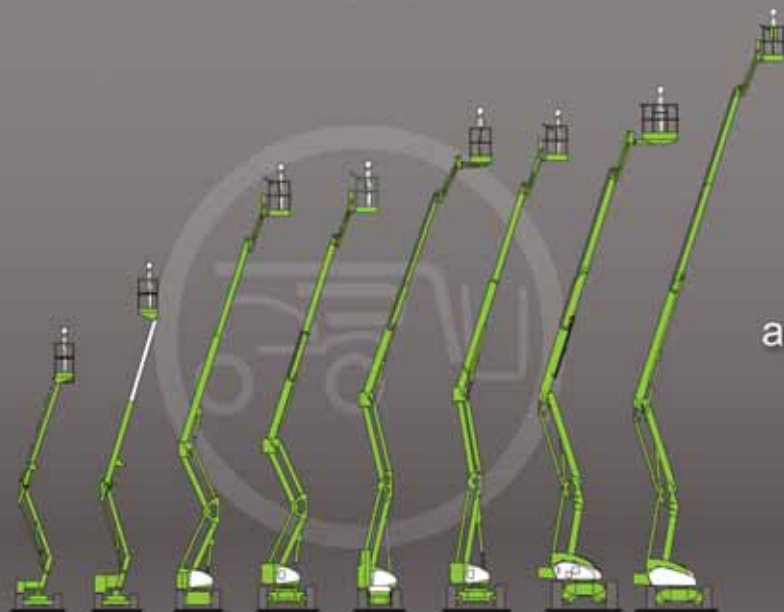
Dave Hardin, vice president of Manitowoc Crane Care in the Americas said: "These new quarters represent a significant investment in facilities and people and demonstrate the value that Manitowoc puts on supporting its cranes and more importantly, its customers."

(L-R) Craig Rockwell of Rockwell Construction; Sharoy Ringer, Glen Tellock and Kevin Flohr of Manitowoc with Woody Rockwell, Rockwell Construction and Dave Hardin of Manitowoc.



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One of A-Plant's new
JCB telehandlers

A big order

A-Plant has placed orders for new equipment worth more than £30 million with Terex, JCB, Doosan, GenSet, JLG, Skyjack and AUSA.

The biggest single order went to Terex for dumpers, rollers and other compaction equipment. The JCB order includes a wide range of telehandlers with lifting heights from five to 17 metres. The powered access orders went to JLG and Skyjack. Sat Dhaiwal, chief executive of A-Plant, said: "This high level of investment ensures we have one of the youngest equipment fleets in the industry."

Falls down

Despite an increase in the total number of fatal injuries to UK workers to 241, latest figures show that in 2006/7 45 people died from falls from height at work, compared to 48 in 2005/6. However falls from height remain the most common kind of accident causing fatal injuries.

Provisional statistics for last year from the HSE show an increase in major injuries from falls from 3,385 in 2005/06 to 3,409 in 2006/07. Falls from ladders resulted in 12 deaths and 1050 major injuries.

Oktopus relocates

Oktopus UK, the UK distributor for Klaas trailer and aluminium cranes as well as Oktopus suction lifting devices and vacuum lifting machines, has relocated to new 930 square metre (10,000 sq ft) premises in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire to develop its research and training facilities. Oktopus managing director Richard Gould said: "We are dedicated to driving forward the message that all suction lifting machines must



An Oktopus suction device fitted to a telehandler.

incorporate a dual system for the suction operation. Our new premises allow us to demonstrate our machinery, which complies with all new legislation and educate users on best practice of installation. It also allows us to expand our team for the necessary on-going development of suction lifting equipment."

£20,000 tip

Solihull-based Rysman Construction, was fined by £18,000 plus £1,600 costs following an accident in which a telehandler it had rented, tipped over and landed in the road in Sutton Coldfield. Rysman was fined for failing to ensure the safety of members of the public after an employee of the company used the telehandler in spite of not being formally qualified to operate it. A trained operator was contracted by the company, but was on a break when the accident happened.

HSE prosecuting inspector Mike Ford told Sutton Coldfield Magistrates' Court: "It shows that even a company with a previously good health and safety record, can find itself in court for not actively monitoring the training and competence of operators and controlling who uses such machinery."

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GENIE

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SNORKEL

UPRIGHT

AND MORE...

New heavy lift record?

Yantai Raffles Shipyard, the largest builder of semi-submersible drilling rigs in China has 'christened' the world's first fixed dual-beam gantry crane. Named 'Taisun' after a sacred mountain in China's Shandong Province to reflect its size and strength, the crane has a maximum capacity of more than 20,000 tonnes. More than 600 guests from all over the world attended the event at



The Taisun, the world's largest crane lifts a 20,133 tonne barge 30 metres above the water.

which 'Taisun' demonstrated its strength by lifting a 20,133 tonne launching barge 30 metres above the water which Yantai Raffles claims is a heavy-lift world record.

New load indicator logs data

Tower crane anti-collision company, SMIE has introduced a new in-cab load and zone display unit designed primarily to keep operators of stand alone cranes constantly informed of critical conditions, while incorporating an advanced data logger, keeping a constant log of the cranes operations. In the event of an accident at least the past 10 lift cycles will be fully recorded. The DLZ342 also allows for setting of specific zoning and records crane operations and where appropriate colour coding and sound alarms help warn when approaching a critical condition.



The DLZ 342 in-cab display.

Milne charged

The USA's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has filed securities fraud charges against John Milne, the former vice chairman, president and chief financial officer of United Rentals, the world's largest rental company.

Milne is the third CFO to be charged in connection with the financial irregularities at United between 2000

and 2002. Michael Nolan, another former CFO at the company was charged in December, while Joseph Apuzzo, a former CFO of Terex was charged with aiding and abetting the two.

Milne was fired by United in August 2005 for failing to cooperate with the company's internal investigation. The SEC says that its investigation is continuing.

Bobcat UK store

Telehandler to skid steer manufacturer Bobcat has opened its first ever company store in the UK. Situated near West Bromwich in the West Midlands the new premises - run by Graham Haigh - includes a showroom, workshop and training centre. Bobcat West Midlands will be responsible for selling and servicing - but not renting - the full Bobcat range in Birmingham and the West Midlands, Warwickshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire and Shropshire.



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Haulotte down 7%

Haulotte - the French based aerial lift and telescopic handler manufacturer - has posted a seven percent 'like for like' decline in its first quarter revenues, but raised its full year projections. Total revenues were €122.2 million compared with €144.2 million in 2007, a decline of 15 percent. However revenues from LEV, its French rental business, were



€7.8 million in the same period 2007. Lev was sold to Loxam at the start of this year.

Lavendon up 26%

The Lavendon Group, the world's largest specialist aerial lift rental company, has reported first quarter revenues up 26 percent. UK revenues increased by 16 percent and Germany by three percent. The addition of DK Rental, contributing for the entire quarter, meant France/Belgium increased by almost 300 percent and Spain by 162 percent. Middle East revenues climbed 12 percent.

Sevenfold Tanfield

Tanfield - the owner of Snorkel and UpRight - has reported access revenues for its full year 2007 of £90 million compared to £11 million in 2006, an increase of over 700 percent. Group revenues, which include the SEV electric vehicles business, more than doubled to £123 million, while pre-tax profits jumped 235 percent to £12.4

million. It also reported a strong first quarter for 2008 with access sales of £43 million (\$85m) and an order book at the end of the quarter of over £101 million (\$200 m), up from £83 million at year's end 2007.

UpRight
 POWERED ACCESS

Loxam on top

Loxam, the French based rental company has posted basic numbers for 2007 showing revenues of €738 million, more than 36 percent higher than 2006. Profits increased 24 percent to €54

million. The company now has over 4,400 employees at 541 locations across 10 countries. However around 70 percent of its revenues still come from France.

Strong quarter for Terex Cranes

Terex Cranes has reported first quarter revenues up 26 percent to \$632.2 million 15.4 percent of the increase due to volume, with the balance due to currency exchange gains from the weak dollar compared to the Euro. Operating income increased 62 percent to \$85.8 million.

And platforms

Terex Aerial Work Platforms which largely trades under the Genie brand, saw first quarter revenues increase by 7.1 percent, to \$586.6 million compared to the same period in 2007. just over five percent of the improvement was due to increased volume with the balance due to currency gains. Income from operations was up 7.5 percent to \$106.6 million or 18.2 percent of sales, compared with 18.1 percent last year.



Manitowoc up 30%

The Manitowoc Crane Group has reported a 30 percent rise in revenues to \$884.4 million. Operating profits jumped 40 percent to \$134 million and the crane order book increased a further 15 percent during the quarter to \$3.3 billion - 72 percent higher than March 2009. The crane group currently represents 82 percent of group revenues. Manitowoc as a whole reported revenues up 25 percent to \$1.1 billion, while pre tax profits jumped 40 percent to \$143.5 million. Manitowoc also reached an agreement to acquire British-based food equipment business, Enodis in a transaction valued at around \$2.1 billion, including the assumption of Enodis' net debt of approximately \$207 million.



Manitou up 7.4%

Manitou reported first quarter sales up by 7.4 percent to €357 million. Sales in France grew by 12.3 percent, while sales to other European markets were flat, mainly due to a €6.5 million foreign currency loss, linked to the fall in sterling. Underlying volume grew by 11.6 percent while sales to other regions grew by a very healthy 19.2 percent. Closer to home, Manitou UK has reported that in 2007 its revenues exceeded £100 million for the first time, being 13 percent up on 2006.

Harsco Access up 20%

Harsco Access Services which owns SGB, Hünnebeck and Patent Scaffolding has reported a 20 percent increase in first quarter revenues to \$379 million. Organic sales growth contributed \$33 million - just over 10 percent - while acquisitions added \$1 million - less than one percent. Currency exchange gains contributed \$29 million. Operating income was up eight percent to \$37.8 million with currency factors representing around 10 percent of that.

Cat strong

Caterpillar reported a strong increase in sales for the first quarter of 2008 and is anticipating another record year. Overall sales revenues grew by 18 percent to \$11.8 billion, \$7.5 billion of which was new machine sales, an increase of 16 percent on the same period last year. Pre-tax profits were \$1.33 billion, an increase of 14 percent resulting from price increases and beneficial currency factors.

Sales slip at Gehl

Gehl, the US based telehandler manufacturer, has reported first quarter revenues of \$82.2 million a fall of 28.5 percent compared to 2007. The company recorded a pre-tax loss for the quarter of \$1.2 million compared to a profit of \$9.8 million in the same three months last year.

Hiab down 4%

Revenues at loader crane manufacturer Hiab declined four percent to €230 million for the first quarter of 2008 due to "the marked fall in demand in

the United States, for which strong growth in Europe and Asia could not fully compensate.

Operating income for the quarter was €17.7 million or 7.7 percent of sales, a fall of 27.5 percent from the first quarter of 2007.



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ANSI models shown.



- Leeds-based truck mounted platform rental company **Wilson Access** has moved from its old Brighthouse location to new premises in Elland in order to accommodate its new spider lift activity.



Wilson's new facilities in Elland

- Speedy Hire**, the UK's largest general rental company has appointed **Michael Averill** as a new non-executive director effective May 1.

- Bronto**, the Finnish based truck mounted lift company has announced first quarter revenues up 18% to \$24 million, while the company's orderbook jumped 70% to \$127 million.

- AFI Arbeitsbühnen**, the Hamburg based rental company headed by Günther Aust has opened a new location in Bucharest to serve the growing Romanian access market, it is managed by Hans Kaiser.

- The **CTE Power Tower** and **PLC TP9000** trailer mounted scissor lift have both been included in the latest Cromwell tools catalogue.



The TP9000

- A tower crane collapsed in **Damascus, Syria** as it was being dismantled, killing four workers and injuring two others.

- Tutt Bryant**, the Australian-based crane, access and equipment rental company has acquired **Caradel Hire** via its **Kingston Industries** subsidiary.

- Revenues at **United Rentals** fell 7.9 percent in the first quarter to \$772 million, rental revenues edged up to \$571 million. Pre-tax profits increased 18 percent to \$59 million.

- Chris Shove** of **Nationwide Access** has won the Wrekin Prize awarded by the Institute of Agricultural Engineers.



(L-R) Peter Douglas, Chris Shove and Peter Jones

- Spanish rental company **GAM**, owner of Vilatel, has reported 2007 revenues up 66% to €307.5 million.

- Three men fell to their death in the **United Arab Emirates**, due to their inability to communicate with the tower crane operator who placed a heavy load of concrete onto the platform they were standing, causing it to collapse.

- Manitowoc Crane Group** has appointed **Michael Jamieson** as a regional business manager covering several states in the Mid West and Central USA.



Michael Jamieson

- Alto** the alloy scaffold manufacturer has supplied a new winners podium to the Aintree racecourse in Liverpool.

- New York City's buildings commissioner, **Patricia Lancaster**, has resigned over the number of fatal construction accidents, including the crane collapse in March that killed seven.

- RSC** one of North America's largest rental companies has reported first quarter revenues up by almost four percent with rental revenues climbing seven percent.

- Sevcon/Tech Ops**, suppliers of electronics to the access and fork truck industries, has reported record first half revenues of \$20.8 million an increase of nearly 12 percent over 2007.

- Hertz Equipment Rental Corporation** has acquired aerial lift rental company, **All Reach Equipment** of Connecticut.

- Terex Utilities**, the aerial lift and digger derrick manufacturer has announced a \$4 million, 3,700 square metre (40,000 sq ft) expansion plan for its Waterdown South Dakota, facility.

- Chinese construction equipment manufacturer LuiGong has acquired **Bengbu Zhencong Anli** and renamed it Anhui LiuGong Crane Co Ltd.

- The **Cornish fire brigade** is considering renting, rather than buying its latest aerial lift device in the face of union objections.

- Australian **Kennards Lift and Shift** has launched **Rig-Release**, a remote-release crane hook.

- New York City** completed the inspection of all tower cranes in the five boroughs, however only 72 percent of them passed the first inspection.

- A 44 year old tower crane erector was killed in **Parole, Maryland, USA** after he was caught in the jib during while dismantling the crane.

- Zarges**, the alloy scaffold tower and ladder manufacturer has appointed **Neil Harper** as UK national sales manager.



Neil Harper

- MRX Engineering Support Services** was fined £100,000 plus almost £17,000 costs following a fatal crane accident.

- A truck with loader crane struck and damaged a railway bridge in **Langley Mill, Derbyshire**, closing the line for a period of time.

- Work has started on cutting up the two quayside cranes in **Felixtowe** damaged in early March when a ship loaded with new cranes smashed into them in stormy weather.

- South Korean **Doosan Heavy Industries** has won a \$117million (£59 million) order for rubber tyred gantry cranes in Singapore from PSA Singapore Terminals.

- Europe's largest container terminal operator **Eurogate** is planning a €1.1 billion investment to manage the rising number of very large container vessels.

- Tanfield's **Smith Electric Vehicles** division has launched the Smith Ampere, an electric powered van designed in collaboration with **Ford**.

- SGB UK** has won a £2 million order to provide scaffolding to Jacobs Engineering at the Lindsay Oil Refinery.

- Early unvalidated figures from the UK's **HSE** suggest a 10 percent fall in construction industry deaths - but warns against complacency.

- Demag Cranes AG** is considering raising its full-year guidance of earnings before interest and tax of €110 million.

- Carlo Bacchiega**, who set up and managed Instant Srl, as part of UpRight in Italy has died following a long illness.

- A tower crane hit one of the main transmission lines in **Manila, Philippines**, cutting power to much of the city.

- Palfinger Bison** has extended its H-Line option on its truck mounted aerial lift that permits full outreach within the vehicle width (down only outrigger jacking) up to its 30 metre models.



A Palfinger Bison truck mounted platform

- Tower crane manufacturer **Wilbert**, has started moving into its new production facility in Waldlaubersheim, Germany.

- Chinese container crane maker, **Shanghai Zhenhua Port Machinery**, is to issue \$286 million of new shares.

- Northern Crane Services** of Edmonton Alberta, Canada has acquired Mullen Crane and Transport of Soda Springs Idaho.

- JLG** has promoted **Rick Alton** to vice president and general manager of the JLG Caterpillar Alliance Group.



Rick Alton

- Scaninter Nokia/Scanclimber** the Finnish mastclimber manufacturer has been acquired by two venture capital firms.

- Vp**, owner of **UK Forks**, has acquired **DJ Tool Hire** and **Arcotherm** through its Hire Station subsidiary.

- Faraone** and its UK dealer - **Kermco** have announced a new 7m push around lift, to be unveiled at SED and Vertikal Days.

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