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**Quality Changes The World** 

## MEC







## v Manitowoc?

As well as the usual array of new cranes, access and telehandler equipment at the recent Conexpo show in Las Vegas, several manufacturers were using custom bikes to

attract visitors to their stands.

Two of the best bikes - not to mention most relevant to us - on show were those on the MEC aerial work platform/telehandler and Manitowoc stands. By definition, custom bikes are individually designed and built, however both of these bikes could not have been more different.







The MEC bike was designed and built by the company's managing director Jim Tolle (pictured) who did all the design and build work himself in his own style. Tolle said that he regularly builds custom bikes often for the rich and famous particularly rock stars.

The Manitowoc bike was built by the infamous Teutuls of Orange Country Choppers (of American Chopper) fame as a corporate marketing/publicity machine and therefore was themed to reflect









the crane side of the Manitowoc business. The bike formed part of one of their television bike-build programmes shown in the States on May 1st.

Since Conexpo we have been asking Vertikal.Net readers to vote on their preferred bike. Obviously not a typical Vertikal. Net poll question, but more than 700 votes have been polled to date. The MEC bike took a huge early lead but over time this has been whittled away so that it is now has only a six percent lead in the voting. So the MEC bike wins - just, with 53.1 percent of the votes.









For those of you into custom bikes, Tolle did say that he was starting to export some of his bikes into the UK through a distributor in Shropshire for a reasonable £15-25,000 depending on specification.

We have not been able to secure a ride on either bike so 'rideability' is not an issue. The winner is purely

down to the kind of bike you like. Both bikes have really nice features - the MEC is more minimalist, the Manitowoc clearly crane themed. Check out the pictures and make up your own mind.