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On the cover:

Palfinger's spectacular acrobatic launch of its new range of High Performance models at SAIE last year.



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All Terrain cranes



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Loader cranes



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Despite looking the same, there have been significant developments in the mastclimber world. The latest products offer increased versatility, are easier to erect and transport and offer a much wider capability to be modified for tricky applications with standard systems and components. We take a look at the developments and a few applications.

Conexpo review 25

The sun certainly shone for the Conexpo 2008 with new records for attendance, exhibit space and exhibitors accompanied by blue skies and temperatures in the mid 70's. Even the North American construction industry was in a positive mood. We bring you the show highlights.

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The third SED show at the Rockingham Speedway venue opens its gates next month. This year the combination of free parking and better traffic management should make a huge difference getting in to see the latest machines. Take a look at what's new at the show.

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We chart the history of the All Terrain crane, look at the latest developments and ask whether the once dominant truck crane can make a return.



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C&A

comment



Slow down? What slow down?

Those attending the recent Conexpo show could be forgiven for coming away a little confused. We've all heard what a poor state the US housing market is in and how the battered financial markets are not lending to anyone who doesn't already have the money themselves.

So with all this negative press it was only natural to expect show numbers to be down and attendees to be a little gloomy or at least concerned about this year's prospects. Nothing could have been further from the truth.

Record numbers flocked to Las Vegas, the big manufacturers spent lavishly and visitors were generally upbeat and confident. Slow down? What slow down?

Perhaps Conexpo's visitors are too busy to read the papers or listen to the news? Or if they do, they obviously don't take as much notice as we do in the UK? Residential construction in the USA is significantly down, along with the Dollar, so if you were a small house builder or selling European-built telehandlers in the USA, you could be forgiven for being a tad pessimistic. For the rest, though, business is still pretty good. Commercial construction remains buoyant, infrastructure investment is on the up and a massive spending programme on power stations and other power-generation projects is set to run for many years. All good stuff for cranes and access equipment.

The UK and Ireland are in better shape than the US in terms of economic outlook and yet if you pick up a paper, listen to the radio or watch the TV news, you'd think the great depression was just over the horizon. The big problem is that in the UK we more easily accept the negativity that the mass media seems to revel in and which can then easily become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Certainly 2008 won't be quite as good as 2007, but it's shaping up to exceed the industry's 10-year average and that's no bad thing. Perhaps we should take a leaf from the Conexpo visitors' book.

Mark Darwin

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