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On the cover:

Several Wolff tower cranes including the new 355B luffer at its launch in Munich. Note the hoist access.



Tower crane trends



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Crane refurbishment



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New image at Lavendon, New president for Terex Cranes, Israel Celli to leave JLG, Terex cranes buys in India, New lifts from Aichi, Terex

Demag to supply 65

cranes to UK army,

JLG launches new

telehandler and builds

telehandler network.

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Hewden orders telehandlers, Terex starts UK lift production, Record results for Liebherr. Haulotte announces radical new boom. European expansion for Skyjack, Loadwise launches new wireless range Niftylift expands in S.Africa

Review of 2007 16

We take a look back at the lifting industry and general news and events of 2007. Although the year seemed to zip by in no time it is amazing how much happened.



It has been almost two years since we last took an in-depth look at compact tracked 'spider lifts'. With their popularity

growing month by month and the range of products on the market ballooning we attempt to sort the wheat from the chaff. Mark Darwin visits Lucy Ashburner of Higher Access, a relative newcomer to access rental who is specialising in spider lift rental and has some refreshing views.

Tower Crane Trends 34



We look at some of the general trends affecting the rapidly growing tower crane market in the UK and Ireland. Including regulation, self erectors versus compact city cranes.

In the next C&A



Raising Las Vegas 39

Our main guide to the City of Las Vegas, host to this year's ARA-

Rental show and Conexpo. We highlight the main new products that are scheduled for launch at this year's big show and provide a full lifting equipment exhibitor guide.

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Batteries 48

We take our annual look at batteries for lifting equipment and discuss potential developments for the future.



What began as a look at crane refurbishment has become a history of Jones Cranes and Iron Fairy. Mark Darwin talks to Southdown Engineering about the past present and future.

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The March issue will include a look at Spider cranes with a full listing of what's available, A review of the latest development in the scissor lift market and news from the ARA-Rental show.





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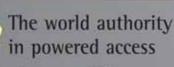
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Cranes &access

For users & buyers of lifting equipment Jaanuary/February 2008 Vol. 10 issue 1

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Time to walk the talk

In this issue - the first of 2008 - we take our now traditional review of the highlights of 2007. And what a year it was. For many, 2007 will be remembered as the year of the tower

crane - and all for the wrong reasons. January set the mood with the Falcon Crane Hire collapse in Liverpool continuing the sombre mood from the end of the previous year. The Select Plant, Croydon 'no bolts' fiasco followed in June.

The tower crane is seen by many economists as a highly visible indicator of the economy. And from the number of tower cranes dominating city skylines last, and this year the economy looks in good shape.

But the grey clouds (hopefully not high winds?) are gathering - not just in the UK but also North America. The main problem is the increased or perceived increase in the frequency of tower crane accidents. Unfortunately, when a tower crane has a significant accident, it tends to be spectacularly visible, very messy and can make global news.

The problem is that legislators, spurred on my unions and campaigners feel that they need to be seen to be doing something about it due to the high profile of these accidents. The tower crane industry has not helped itself in this regard, and has been guilty in the past of cutting corners, often pushed along by contractors who talk from both sides of their mouths - pushing the safety mantra demanding all sorts of backside-covering documentation and yet on site pushing crane operators to carry on lifting when the wind is too high or the load slightly too heavy, not to mention opting for low bids when selecting crane suppliers.

The tower crane industry on both sides of the Atlantic is making great strides to 'get its house in order' and there is a tremendous desire from most companies to be the very best that they can. But you only need look at this month's letter section to see that there are still some cowboys out there that continue to threaten what is generally a diligent and increasingly safety conscious industry.

Of course everyone wants to eradicate accidents and deaths in the industry. There is already more than enough information and training courses. But maybe now is the time for the industry to stop 'talking the talk and perhaps trying to walk the walk'. If not we may be forced into an imposed solution which, everyone knows, is never the best solution.

Mark Darwin

Please mail, email or fax any comments you may have, to the editor, stating if we may publish them or not.



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