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On the cover:

Large load lifter - Used with any mobile or tower crane the new 'Podlifter' loading platform from UK-based Cranetech Construction Solutions is used to load, lift and then unload almost any large or awkward item such as room pods, on multi storey high rise buildings. (see page 48)



All Terrain cranes





Batteries Energy made better 🕼

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Manitou, Huisman opens

new facility in China, full

year results round up, Altec tracked digger

UK crane hirers facing difficulties, Tadano announces new JV in China, Bobcat to launch new 360° telehandlers, Pop-Up and UpRight join forces, Oshkosh wins appeal, Speedy adds more low level access, Merlo to unveil new concept at Bauma, UpRight Powered Access drops blue, Grove launches 300 tonner with 80m boom, Genie adds high capacity models, Lavendon invests in Nano, MEC unveils Titan Boom, Böcker adds mastclimbers, New compact telehandler from



derrick in Europe. All Terrain cranes 16

After 10 years of rapid development and several of the strongest sales years ever for All Terrain cranes, we take a look at what the future might hold for the mobile crane of choice? We also interview Joe Lyon managing director of Tadano

distributor Cranes UK - one of



Europe's most successful independent mobile crane sales companies - about the issues currently affecting the crane market.

Electric scissor lifts 25 The electric battery powered

scissor lift is by far and away the largest product sector in the powered access market. We review

the recent batch of low-level push around and self-propelled models up to around three metres platform height as well as tall narrow heavy-duty electric scissors with heights of between 15 and 26 metres. Also PB Lifttechnick's Arne Dirckinck-Holmfeld reveals why the company is increasingly turning its attention to export markets.

ALE rebrands 37

Heavy transport and lifting company ALE has unveiled its new global rebrand. Cranes & Access attended the launch

to find out more about the €150 million business.

In the next C&A



After six years of features on batteries, there is at last a development that may have a major impact on the access industry - but not for a few years yet. Cranes & Access

investigates as well as taking the first look at Versalift's new all electric and semi-electric truck and van mounted platforms.



Safety nets 47

FASET - the trade association and training body for the international safety net rigging and fall arrest industry - explains everything you need to know about safety nets.

Lifting Accessories 48

Lifting attachments are becoming an increasingly important part of increasing site speed and efficiency. Here we take a look at two new products

IPAF Summit 50

The 2010 IPAF Summit and International Awards for Powered Access (IAPAs) are just a month away. We run through the event essentials.

Rental shows 64

February was the month for rental shows with the UK's Executive Hire show in Coventry and the ARA's Rental show in Orlando, Florida. Cranes & Access was at both to bring you the highlights.

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March 2010 the spider issue, we feature our main Bauma show preview. along with Spider and Compact Crawler Cranes and Spider lifts.

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Book now for IPAF Summit and Awards Dinner - London 25 March For details visit ipaf.org/events

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For users & buyers of lifting equipment February 2010 Vol. 12 issue 1

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C&a comment

Best of times worst of times

The past 18 months have certainly been hard on companies involved in manufacturing, selling and renting

cranes and access equipment. The severity of the economic downturn (or should that be meltdown) forced most companies to batten down the hatches and take often drastic steps to ensure they survive the storm.

With most economic signs now pointing up (or at least not down), few would question the fact that the world is in recovery mode and signs are already beginning to filter through to the equipment business, albeit in small doses.

What no one knows is the likely pace of the improvement which may yet dip back into negative territory during the turbulent ride out of recession and into solid sustainable growth and prosperity.

While it looks as though the worst is now behind us economically, the next 12 months will for many businesses in our sector, be the toughest yet. It is during the start of an upturn that most companies fail and ironically, when most opportunities are thrown up.

The recession stripped many companies of any reserves they may have had. Banks that have been accommodating and understanding by deferring repayments etc, are feeling stronger and taking harder, sometimes belligerent, lines with their 'customers'. With credit still in short supply this combination can be terminal for weaker companies or perversely for those that don't owe the banks and have a positive balance sheet but are just short of cash.

Those who for whatever reason are better positioned in terms of liquidity and resources can once again start looking for opportunities ranging from snapping up acquisition bargains, attracting first class staff, or taking market share from competitors that are mortally wounded. The key is having a strong forward looking strategy that everyone in the business is involved with and aware of.

The next six months will shape the way the industry looks for the next five to 10 years. For some 2010 will be the best of times, for others it will unquestionably be the worst of times.

How are you positioned?

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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