Scissor lifts **Bauma first** preview Mastclimbers and hoists Mobile selferecting tower cranes

February 2016 Vol.18 issue 1

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Dingli takes stake in Magni.... New Klubb van mounts......Zoomlion bids for Terex...

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Scissor lifts Bauma first preview Mastelimbers Mobile self-Preview

Scissors

On the cover:

Part of a Skyjack delivery of 47 slab electric scissor lifts to S Rental - one of South Korea's largest rental companies. Benjamin Lee of Skyjack dealer Sky Korea gives the new machines a final inspection prior to hand over.

Mastclimbers and hoists 35

Unfortunately mastclimbers still fall

into the 'nearly but not quite category' when it comes to fulfilling their potential market penetration. Given the right contract they can save time and money but so often clients stay with the traditional forms of tried and tested access equipment. We ask why and highlight several interesting applications.

Bauma first preview 41

Once every three years the industry gears up for the world's biggest equipment show - Bauma in Munich, Germany. As is usual

manufacturers are gearing up to unveil a raft of new products. We preview some of the more significant launches that that we already know about. Part two of this review will appear in the March issue.

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Dingli takes stake in Magni, Gelev Group launches new Klubb van range, Palfinger to launch 75m truck mount and first spider lifts, New name for Fork Rent/One Call, Zoomlion bids for Terex, New Grove RT, Ainscough operators' strike update, New owners for HWS, Skyjack to launch new booms and scissors, Link Belt HTT for Bauma, Hewden acquires Interlift, Haulotte to launch Heavy Load telehandlers, 15m spider

> from Hinowa, Palfinger fall protection system, New Snorkel scissors, €7.3 million Ruthmann order, om from Omme, Mammoet



New trailer lift and boom from Omme, Mammoet sells salvage business.

Scissor lifts 17

Compact, inexpensive, clean, quiet and relatively cheap to run sums up the appeal of the battery

powered mini scissor lift. We take a closer look at the sector and in particular the growth of the 14 metre working height platforms, safety and productivity developments and an application involving a scissor stack and Wurlitzer theatre organ.

Mobile self-erecting tower cranes 25

One of the great mysteries of the modern crane market is why the self-erecting mobile tower crane is still such a niche product, given the

advantages it offers. We review the latest products from the major manufacturers as well as looking at some of the more specialist cranes.

In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access - scheduled for mid March - will feature: Tower cranes, Small booms and mast booms, Rental/hire show reviews, Batteries and the Bauma second preview. If you have any contributions or suggestions, or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.

When I went to school they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. When I wrote down 'Happy' they said I didn't understand the assignment, I said they didn't understand life

John Lennon





Mobile self-erecting

tower cranes

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CH2

comment

Try harder

Market leaders must always be on their game to avoid complacency and maintain their position, as their commanding market share comes under constant attack from competitors.

In 1962 advertising executive Paula Green created the iconic Avis car rental slogan "We try harder". The company was number two

in the market to Hertz and wanted to demonstrate its desire to win new customers and increase its market share. The phrase was adopted as the company's manifesto and in four years the company had overhauled every facet of its business, taking its market share from 11 to 34 percent. Avis had established a new standard for car rental and 'We Try Harder' remained the company's tag line for the next 50 years.

But what has car hire to do with cranes or access equipment?

Over the years we have seen dominant players come and go. Grove once dominated the mobile telescopic crane market, while a long list of others - Mark Industries, Simon, P&H, Lorain - have vanished completely. In the mini excavator market Kubota had the market to itself in the 1980s, today it faces at least 20 competitors and is a long way from being the dominant player.

In recent years Versalift has held a dominant share of the European van mounted aerial lift market, comprehensively seeing off numerous attacks from competitors tempted by the blue chip market and lack of a major competitor, but it seemed that its combination of quality, design, performance, reputation and professionalism always kept them at bay.

However, over the past year or so the European van mounted lift market has entered a new phase. Versalift UK lost its managing director of 10 years to equipment and product support distributor IAPS - no problems there. But six months later IAPS agreed a sales and assembly partnership with existing bit part player Aldercote, providing a sales, marketing and product development boost that could transform it into a credible contender.

Then in December Versalift's dealer/partner in France - another of its major markets - announced that it was forming a new company to manufacture its own van mounted platforms, with its sights firmly set on dislodging Versalift as market leader.

The van mounted market has been stable for many years with a handful of competitors fighting for the scraps from the Versalift table. This developing chain of events shows how challenging it is to hold onto big market shares over the longer term. Challengers can focus their efforts on vulnerable parts of the leader, and if there are several at the same time, buyers tend to sit up and take note.

Changes in dominant market shares only have one direction - down - no matter how big the company - Microsoft, Google, Kubota or even Versalift. The leader has to try and adopt the underdog mentality while still being out in front. It has to work even harder to persuade customers that it is still the best.

In this case the new competitors have their sights set high and have the benefit of knowing their adversary from the inside. Interesting times.

Mark Darwin

Comment and feedback is most welcome via post, email, fax or phone stating if we may publish them or not: editor@vertikal.net

