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On the cover:

On the cover: A JLG Ultra Boom spotted near the Louvre in Paris. The 1250 AJP has a 38.1 metre platform height, 450kg basket capacity, four wheel drive and four wheel steer.



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Cranes & Access investigates the latest breed of small All Terrain cranes - the Liebherr LTC 1045-3.1 and Terex Challenger - profiles Edinburgh-based crane rental company Bernard Hunter and looks at some interesting applications.

Used equipment 41

We review the changing face of buying and selling used equipment, highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of the different avenues available. We also look at why the market is improving and how buying and selling over the internet may have contributed to this change.



Batteries 47

Batteries are an increasingly important component in the lifting world. Here we see how to extend their life as well as looking at a company that specialises in battery recycling.



Boom lifts 17

Between 40 and 50 percent of all self-propelled aerial lifts sold each year are either articulated or telescopic boom lifts, and there has never been a wider choice of suppliers and models. We review what is available and take a look at Manitou, predominantly known for its telescopic handlers, but with a growing range of access equipment including articulated and now telescopic booms.



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There were several new launches at the recent Rental Show held in New Orleans. We round-up some of the more notable introductions.

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This is an important year for Intermat. One of the three major international exhibitions - the others being Bauma and Conexpo - Intermat's importance and draw for manufacturers has waned over the past two shows. We run through some of the new equipment that will be on show.



In the next C&A

In the next issue of Cranes & Access out March 2012 we will have our second Intermat show preview, IPAF summit report and take a look at RT scissors and spider cranes.



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c&a
comment



Whistling in the wind?

Accidents related to wind turbine and transport installation have reached an all-time high. Even the European

Association of abnormal road transport

and mobile cranes (ESTA) agrees, stating that they have 'sky-rocketed' and the number of related fatalities is 'way too high'.

This of course is not breaking news. Our humble publication and website have been highlighting the dangers and resultant incidents for many years. So for the esteemed ESTA organisation to recognise this and act by holding a summit in Hamburg on the 14th March, the problem must have reached serious levels - perhaps levels that those outside the wind industry are blissfully unaware?

Not wanting to pre-empt the summit, entitled Safety Issues in Wind Turbine Installation and Transportation, it would appear that there are five main problem areas: erecting blades and hubs in winds that are too high for the lifting equipment; inadequate access roads; increasingly remote and difficult to access sites; shorter installation times and possibly the decreasing tender prices for turbine installations which in turn increases the pressure on every aspect of the contract - from choice of lifting contractor and equipment, time allocated and the quality of staff and staffing levels.

Price is also the factor with the ESTA summit, with the association charging delegates €290 a head for what it says is a "non-profit event". Outrageous when the basics - a meeting room and refreshments are all that is needed. Add in travel and hotel costs - a necessity for many - and the total cost of attending will put off many that would otherwise have benefitted from what could be some very constructive discussions.

If clients and main contractors would pay a fair and reasonable rate for the lifting work, sub-contractors could invest more in the equipment while employing sufficient staff and resources to carry out the meticulous planning required and complete the work in a safe manner. Add to that a more open exchange of information following any and all incidents and the industry would soon be a safer place

Perhaps ESTA should adopt the same principals - a more reasonable cost could attract a larger and more varied audience and a more spirited exchange of information.

Mark Darwin

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