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Manitowoc walks to a different beat

The Manitowoc crane group has announced a radically different lifting solution to high capacity, high reach work such as wind turbine erection. Rather than follow the current trend for big, narrow width crawler cranes it has combined its quick assemble crawler crane, self erecting tower crane and telescopic boom experience into a single hybrid product.

The result, a mobile self erector on steroids, is like nothing else, and yet it employs a concept pioneered by Grove in the early 1970's, the GCI trailer mounted telescopic tower crane.

The new product, currently designated the GTK1100, will offer fast set up times, easy transport and provide up to 140 metres of tip height with a typical lift capacity in the region of 70 tonnes to a hook height of 120 metres.

The complete crane will fit onto four large transporter trailers and require a single five axle mobile assist crane to erect it.

The key components are a six section 81 metre telescopic tower mounted to a tub type chassis, four massive outrigger beams, measuring around two metres top to bottom, that attach to the tub to provide a large cruciform outrigger base and a slewing superstructure with five section 60 metre telescopic boom, which is fitted to the top of the horizontally stowed tower. Once the superstructure is connected, two large lift cylinders raise the tower to the vertical and four lattice spreader arms, that extend horizontally from the top of the tower, are fitted. These are then connected to steel pendants that

The Grove GTK1100 will employ a top boom and superstructure similar to that found on its largest mobile cranes

are attached above the jacks on each outrigger and stow concertina like, on top of each beam. At this point the tower is ready to extend to its full height. When fully extended the pendants are tensioned and act as guys to provide a rigid base for the superstructure.

The GTK1100 is still a project name intended to build on the GMK moniker, with the T standing for tower... Grove Tower Kran? In addition to wind farm work, Manitowoc hopes that the crane will appeal to other work in confined areas such as refineries.



The company says that a great deal of engineering effort has gone into ensuring the 'walk ability' of the crane, which it is claimed will offer greater mobility between towers than big crawler cranes. Phillipe Cohet, Manitowoc executive vice president, said today that the company's aim is to have the new crane on its stand at Bauma in April next year.

New President for Genie

Bob Wilkerson is to finally step down as president of the Terex Aerials business. He has been gradually easing himself out of that role becoming increasingly involved with other Terex businesses, having taken on the leadership of the Terex improvement process in 2004. He is replaced by Tim Ford who joins the group from Toro, the lawn and

ground-care equipment manufacturer where he was executive vice president. Prior to Toro Ford held various management positions with Honeywell International and began his career at General Electric.

Ford will be based at Terex HQ in Westport, Connecticut and will report directly to chairman and chief executive officer, Ron DeFeo. He will also report to Bob Wilkerson until the end of the year.

Wilkerson's move from Genie into Terex at the end of the year will leave only one of Genie's three founder /owners in the business - Roger Brown. Ward Bushnell left the group on April 1 2005. Terex bought Genie in July 2002.

Tim Ford new president of Terex Aerials



Tower crane collapse kills two

Two men died and up to 100 people were evacuated from their homes at the end of September, after a tower crane collapsed on a building site in Battersea, London. The driver of the crane, a 1985 BPR/Richier 222 saddle jib crane owned by Falcon crane hire of Norfolk, was shutting the crane down for the night when the top of the crane parted from the tower, falling onto nearby flats and 'cart wheeling' across the site.

The driver Jonathan Cloke, 37 was flung out of the cab and died after landing on a parked car. At the same time, bus driver Michael Alexa, 23, was crushed by the falling jib while he was working on his car in the street. It took rescuers four days to remove the crane and recover his body.

The wreckage of the tower crane has been removed to an HSE laboratory for analysis. The crane, which was working for Barratt homes, had been on site for around two months and was not lifting a load at the time it collapsed. Falcon cranes has carried out full and detailed inspections on all of its cranes on Barratt sites as well as all similar ones to the 222 that failed. The site is expected to reopen shortly.



The top of the tower parted at the slew bearing

Collection for the driver's family

The United Crane Operators Association's (UCOA) has set up a collection for the crane driver's family. UCOA chairman John Batey said: "We know that no amount of money can ever take the place of a lost loved one, but the money raised will go towards costs involved in unforeseen funeral expenses etc, and hopefully help to ease the heartache of such a terrible tragedy."

If you would like to contribute towards the fund, donations can be made by cheque or postal orders, made payable to:

The United Crane Operators Association Ltd (UCOA)

Crane Accident Appeal, 3 Southview Close, Skegness, Lincolnshire, PE25 3JU.

JLG snapped up by Oshkosh

The access and telehandler markets were taken by surprise earlier this month when speciality truck and fire fighting equipment producer Oshkosh, acquired JLG Industries in a \$3.2 billion cash bid. The deal values each JLG share at \$28, a premium of almost eight dollars on its previous close.

JLG will become the largest of four business segments of Oshkosh which includes Airport and Municipal, Defence and Concrete placement. By 2008 Oshkosh anticipates that JLG will represent around 40 percent of its revenues and operating income.

Bill Lasky of JLG said: "This transaction is a good fit for JLG. Oshkosh has a similar philosophy of offering premier products, creating strong market positions and delivering after-sales service and support. For the JLG team, this combination offers additional growth opportunities. For our customers, JLG will become an even stronger partner in their future success."

Robert G. Bohn, Oshkosh's chairman, president and chief executive officer said: "We expect to realize substantial purchasing and logistical synergies, while benefiting from JLG's already outstanding manufacturing operations."

Full story see www.vertikal.net Oct 16th



A passing taxi was hit by the four tonne section which dropped 100 metres

A close shave in New York

The occupants of a New York taxi cab had a lucky escape on September 29th when it was hit by a four tonne tower crane section that fell 100 metres into the street below. The Favco luffing tower crane was in the process of climbing, when something failed on the climbing hydraulics, causing the top of the tower to rapidly drop with a six tonne balancing weight on the hook. The crane rocked back and forth, causing the tower section that had been removed to fall to the ground where it struck the front passenger side of a passing taxi. Thankfully that seat was empty and apart from shock, the driver and his passengers were unharmed. Three men working in the tower received injuries from falls.

The crane was on hire from New York Crane and working for Tishman Construction. Following the incident, the New York's Buildings Department

issued safety violation citations against Tishman, Broadway Concrete -the firm renting in the crane and Ernesto Tersigni its site safety coordinator and Bernie Stinchcomb, the crane operator.

The climbing frame hydraulics failed causing the crane's top to fall dislodging the tower section from its gantry



Harsh to handle Tirre

Tirre Krantechnik GmbH, the loader crane manufacturer based in Papenburg, North Germany, has appointed York based Harsh UK Ltd as its distributor for the UK and Ireland. Tirre produces a range of knuckle boom cranes with capacities of between 17 and 90 metre/tonnes. Harsh International is a leading producer of tipper hoists which it manufactures in Eaton, near Denver, Colorado. Harsh UK was established in 1987 and is now the leading supplier of tipper hoists in the UK.



Carl Hinds of Harsh UK Ltd (L) with Hans Joachim Tirre of Tirre.

Teupen establish JV in China

Teupen, the truck and spider lift manufacturer has established a joint venture company in China with its distributor Wuhan Fachman. Fachman already produces some lifts for the local market and established a joint venture with Tanfield late last year - Aerial Fachman, Ltd.

The new joint-venture "Wuhan Teupen Manufacturing Ltd." Will build Teupen's smaller Spider models and truck-mounted booms in China, initially for the local market.

JLG to build new lift in France

JLG has announced that it will build its new 12ft platform height 1230ES electric self propelled lift, at its Toucan plant in Tonneins France. The new lift, which will be launched in spring 2007, will go head to head with the UpRight TM12 and Genie Runabout range. It is clear from looking at the 1230 that it has been modelled on the UpRight TM12 with its steel box section mast, and fixed steel platform. However it includes a number of design improvements, including direct electric drive and a multi-stage hydraulic cylinder to extend the four section mast, rather than the single stage cylinder and chains used on the TM12.

This will be potentially the first high volume product to be built at the Tonneins plant, which came with the Manlift acquisition in 2004. Since then JLG has substantially upgraded and improved the facility and moved to production line assembly. JLG says that start up capacity on the 1230ES line will exceed 100 units a month.



The JLG 1230ES will be built in France



Largest Kramer to date can lift four tonnes to nine metres.

Telehandlers extended

Kramer has expanded its telehandler range with the introduction of its largest machine to date the 4009. The new machine will lift up to four tonnes and offers a maximum lift height of nine metres, without the need for outriggers.

The company launched four models - the six metre, 3006 and 3606 and the seven metre 3207 and 4107, at Intermat and SED earlier this year. Two more models, the 4013 and 4017, are due to be introduced early next year with lift heights of 13 and 17 metres respectively. Kramer has high hopes for its telehandler models, estimating that the range will make up 40 percent of its increasing turnover over the next few years.

Product manager Norbert Mingau says that the new model has excellent lift and tear out forces despite its compact dimensions. Frame levelling and oscillating axle interlock are available as optional equipment. The high steering crank angles provide good manoeuvrability, while visibility is apparently enhanced when the boom is fully lowered into a U-shaped chassis, completely out of the driver's field of vision.

Another fine mess

The EU Court of Justice has increased the fine imposed on telehandler producer, JCB to €30.9 million in a case involving anti-competitive distribution contracts dating back to 1973. In 2000, the European Commission imposed a €39.6 million fine on JCB but on appeal four years later, the European Court of First Instance (CFI) reduced the total to €30 million.

JCB refused to accept that judgement and launched a further appeal to have all of the charges quashed. That appeal has now been dismissed by a higher court which has reinstated part of the original fine saying that the CFI was wrong to deduct €864,000 from the original fine relating to aggravating circumstances.

According to JCB, it attempted to comply with European competition laws when the UK joined the EU by applying for exemption for its distribution agreements. JCB has said that it later amended its agreements, on the advice of the European Commission, and believed that the matter was settled. The Court has agreed with JCB that the 27 year delay by the Commission is 'regrettable'.

John Patterson, managing director and CEO of JCB, said: "We are very frustrated indeed that, after six years of pursuing this action in the courts, the European Court of Justice has ignored the failings of the Commission and found against us."

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A Manitou 160ATJ - the first of 10 lifts to Huntley Plant

Specialisation is the key

Newcastle-based telehandler rental company Geoff Huntley Plant has entered the powered access market, purchasing 10 Manitou 16 and 18 metre articulated rough terrain boom lifts from Russon Access. The company currently has a fleet of more than 100 JCB telehandlers and aims to purchase more access platforms - possibly 40 in the first year. Geographically Geoff Huntley covers from the Scottish border south as far as North Yorkshire and to Cumbria in the west.

Founded more than 17 years ago the company started with general plant hire, including excavators and dumpers. However after testing the market for rough terrain forklifts, it decided to specialise about eight years ago with telehandlers and platform attachments. An increasing number of its regular customers prefer to rent a dedicated boom lift rather than tie up a telehandler with basket.

Look but don't touch

Liebherr has been showing off its new telehandler at exhibitions in Germany - but the range is still not yet available in the UK. One of its four model line-up - the TL435-10 - has been seen at the recent Neumunster and GaLaBau fairs. The range is not scheduled for UK release until after Bauma next April.

Hopefully we will then see four models with heights from 10 to 13 metres and lift capacities of between 3.5 and 4.5 tonnes. Liebherr-Werk Telfs in Austria, is responsible for the development and production of the new line which features an oval boom, derived from the company's AT range of cranes.



A £5,000 reward is available for information

Telehandler reward

Height for Hire, of Ireland, is offering a £5,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of two Manitou telehandlers. The units, both identical specification 17 metre MT1740, have serial numbers: 206 851 and 213 558 as well as carrying fleet identification numbers T266 and T267.


The machines were delivered to 'customer' O'Shea Contracts at Liam Regan's pub, Cara Castle/ Charlestown Co. Mayo on 21st September. A local witness spotted the machines being loaded onto a trailer which was later seen heading northwards on the Sligo to Donegal road.


Height for Hire believes that the machines were heading across the border to Northern Ireland and may have been headed for the UK mainland.

If you have any information please contact Mary Beakey, +353 (0) 1 835 2835 or email: marybeakey@heightforhire.com




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Mammoth lifts from Mammoth

A new truck mounted access rental company has been formed in the UK by Andy Ainsworth of AA Access and Mark Butler of Butler Equipment Sales Ltd. The new company, Mammoth Platforms Ltd, is jointly owned by the two, and based at Butler's premises in Oswestry, Shropshire. Both men will also continue to own and operate their own businesses. The new company has ordered a number of new aerial lifts ranging from the Bronto Skylift S46XDT - one of which has already been delivered - to the Bronto S90HLA which is likely to be the largest aerial lift in the UK or Ireland when delivered in June 2007.

Mark Butler told Cranes&Access that the company would consider adding

locations in the future, but that it was also looking to offer its services throughout Europe. With regards to product selection he said: "We have historically had an excellent working relationship with Bronto based upon product range, quality and support and elected to rekindle this for the new company."

Ainsworth was sales manager at Butler Powered Access, working with Butler until he sold it to PTP. He remained with the business until it was acquired by Loxam at which time he left to establish AA Access. Butler Powered Access also concentrated on large truck mounts bringing the first 72 metre Bronto lift into the UK in 1995. That unit, now part of the Loxam fleet, is still the largest in the country. Nationwide Skylift also operates a 72 metre Bronto.

The new Bronto Skylift S46XDT delivered to Mammoth



Universal creditors meeting

A creditors meeting was held for Universal Aerial Platforms Ltd on September 21st at which all the proposals from administrators KPMG were approved. KPMG also announced the sale of the Line of Sight telecoms business to Tyco Electronics UK Ltd of Swindon for £180,000. At the time of going to press, offers on the Spanish access business were going through due diligence, while the administrator was optimistic that negotiations for the assets of the UK business will soon result in a sale. In the meantime a portion of the company's fleet has been returned to the leasing companies and a number of the employees laid off.

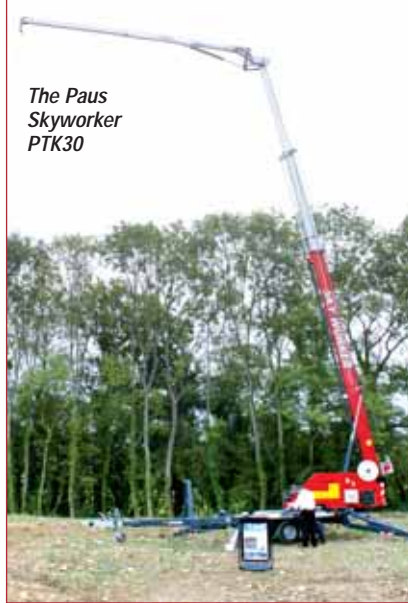
New MD for Nationwide

Peter Whittall has taken over as managing director of Nationwide Access, the UK's largest powered access rental company. Previous MD, Hugh Cole has moved into a new position as operations director for parent company, the Lavendon Group. In his new role Cole will have responsibility for improving the standards of performance across the Group, including network structure, workshops and engineering, transport, fleet purchasing and acquisition support. Whittall, who will report directly to Lavendon CEO, Kevin Appleton, previously held a Lavendon Group management position.

Birthday celebrations

GGR-UNIC, celebrated its 10th birthday with a spectacular open day and its biggest single crane order to date - 10 units for Spain. Held at its offices just outside Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire, in September, the company displayed a full range of equipment including the first Paus self-erecting aluminium trailer crane in the UK and its new Geko glass panel robot.

GGR-UNIC took on the UK distribution for Paus Skyworker trailer cranes in August. Featuring a 1.2 tonne capacity, the Skyworker PTK 30 has been developed for lifting applications in areas where space or load bearing capacity is severely limited. The 2.1 metre wide, 9.1 metre long, 3,490kg unit is self-propelled for easier manoeuvrability when separated from the towing vehicle. The aluminium main boom and 9.2 metre fly jib provide a maximum



The Paus Skyworker PTK30

lift height of 30 metres and a maximum working radius of 25 metres. Radio remote control and 360° slew are standard.

Also on display was the new Gecko mini glass handling robot. The compact unit - which at 672mm wide can pass through a standard doorway - offers 250kg of battery-powered hydraulic lifting capacity with a fully adjustable lifting head.

Icing on the birthday cake was an order for 10 cranes from new Spanish dealer Afron. The order included a mixture of A295CR and A376CL units.



The GGR open day included new products and some racy entertainment

Tanfield sales up 60 percent

Tanfield, the owner of Aerial lift and UpRight has reported first half revenues of £16.5 million, a 60 percent increase on the same period in 2005. Aerial Lift sales totalled just over £3million. The UpRight acquisition occurred in the last few days of the period and therefore had virtually no impact on the numbers. Profits showed a more significant increase, with net after tax profits rising by over 900 percent from £192,000 in the first half of 2005 to £1.73

million this year. Net profits for the full year 2005 were £2 million and if all goes well, the company could triple that for 2006. Details of the UpRight acquisition were also released. It appears that Tanfield effectively paid nothing for the intellectual rights or goodwill. Inventories totalled £5.5 million, the debtor's book just over £1million and the order book £322,000. Tanfield paid £6.8 million in cash.

More space at Tadano

Tadano Faun has extended and reorganised its All Terrain crane plant in Lauf Germany. The covered area has been extended by over 14 percent from 43,000 to 49,000 sq metres. An extended finishing hall is now in full use after being completed in August.

The 158,000 sq metre outside area is also being reorganised in order to improve the efficiency of the space. This includes an expansion to the test pad and new testing equipment to accommodate the increase in production and allow more cranes to be calibrated and put through final inspections simultaneously.

The improvements could boost production capacity by as much as 30 percent.

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Out of the dry ice and into the sun, the GMK4100 makes its appearance

Here comes the 4100

Grove unveiled its new 100 tonne four axle All Terrain GMK4100 to over 400 dealers and customers at its European production plant in Wilhelmshaven in late September.

The new crane, which was announced at Intermat in April, is available with either a 52 metre six section main boom or as a GMK4100L with 60 metre seven section boom. In simple terms, the L version is identical, but the six section boom fits inside a larger base boom section, to become a seven section boom.

The 10 to 17 metre bi-fold swingaway takes the on-board tip height to 72 and 80 metres respectively, while two five metre extensions can raise this to 82 and 90 metres. The new Grove carrier cab is produced by Mercedes,

providing, says Grove, a new level of driver comfort and sound insulation. An additional benefit includes widely and rapidly available replacement parts, such as window glass, at prices well below those of normal crane cab parts.

The 52 metre GMK4100 achieves 12 tonne axle weights with 6.3 tonnes of counterweight, bi-fold swingaway, 16.00 tyres and hook blocks. In the UK though, under STGO rules, the crane can carry up to 21 tonnes of its maximum 26 tonnes counterweight.

Grove has reportedly already booked orders for over 130 of the GMK4100, taking delivery into the second half of 2007. The first unit for the UK has been sold to Aba crane hire of Wolverhampton.

The first GMK4100L was still on the test track



And... a new Grove 35 tonne RT

Grove has introduced an all-new, 35 ton capacity rough-terrain crane - the RT535E. While aimed at the global market, most machines will be built and sold in the States. Grove expects a third its production will be built in Italy for the European region market.

The RT530E, the first unit that the company built in its new Italian plant will be superseded by the new model, although the company may introduce an updated version of the crane at a later date. The RT535E features a four-section 31 metre, full-power boom and a 7.6 to 13.7 metres offsettable swingaway for a maximum tip height of 47 metres. The new crane features a stronger boom, better capacities and an improved cab design.



The new 35 ton capacity RT535E

JLG announces record results

JLG posted another record result for its full year ending 31 July 2006. Sales reached an all time high of \$2.3 billion, a 32 percent increase on 2005, while after tax profits jumped by over 250 percent to \$149 million.

North American revenues grew by 28 percent to \$1.7 billion while in Europe sales increased by 56 percent, reaching \$407 million. Aerial lift sales continue to dominate JLG's business increasing by more than 30 percent to \$1.16 billion while telehandlers grew by more than 50 percent to \$776 million representing 33 percent of total sales. Parts, services and reconditioning for all JLG products is now a \$306 million business.

Haulotte confirms first half

Haulotte has issued detailed results for its first half of 2006. Revenues were up by 26 percent to €236.9 million, while operating income jumped by 41 percent to €40.3 million. Profits before tax were €39.6 million an increase of 43 percent while net profits were a very healthy €26.8 million, nicely over the 11 percent net return that the company is forecasting for the year.

First glimpse at new mini crane champ



The new Maeda C405CRM the largest, longest boomed pedestrian controlled mini crane

Kranlyft has launched its largest pedestrian type crane to date. The 3.8 tonne MC405CRM with six section 16.4 metre full power boom is the longest on this type of crane.

The pentagonal profile boom is a full metre longer than the nearest competitor, with an overall length of five metres, overall width of 1.38 metres and a transport height of 1.98 metres, the 405 is exceptionally compact. The crane on show was the second prototype that had just arrived from Japan, and can be seen at SAIE in Bologna at the end of October.

The new crane takes over from the Unic 506 as the largest pedestrian type mini crane on the market.

Also at the open day which introduced Kranlyft's brand new premises to customers, the company announced a new Hire Maeda fast response network. The initiative in partnership Caledonian Cranes, Kranlyft's distributor in Scotland, has a national free phone number, and web address, allowing customers to book a crane anywhere in the UK. The network comprises a number of independent rental companies working together to provide a national coverage. Current locations include: Bristol, Birmingham, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Leeds and London.

The Hire Maeda fast response team: (L-R) Alan Peck and Terry Marnock of Kranlyft, John Stalker of Caledonian Cranes, Aaron Gould of Oktopus, Tony Gettins of Tracked Access and Will Alderidge of Oktopus with the new Maeda MC405CRM



The world largest under-bridge lift?

E S Access Platforms of Birtley has taken delivery of a Moog MBI 250 under-bridge inspection unit, which it claims is the largest in the World. M.D, Keith Hunwick, says "I worked closely with Alfons Moog and his design team to develop this unique machine to offer our customers a safer and more efficient inspection service. I'm delighted with the results." (Moog died in a tragic accident in August).

The seven axle lift can reach 3.5 metres from its edge to the parapet, a clear metre more than other under-bridge lifts. The deck can be lowered from road level, where it can be used to check the outside of the parapet, to 8.8 metres below deck, where it can extend up to 25 metres. A fitted 'man rider' can take a man up to 50 metres below road level, as well as reaching awkward areas. The machine is fully covered by CCTV with an intercom system between the deck and vehicle. It can also be fully illuminated for night work. Since its arrival the MBI 250 has worked on the Dee Bridge in Aberdeen and the White Rock Bridge in Swansea.



The new Moog MBI 250, the worlds largest under bridge inspection unit, according to owner ES Access Platforms

Lightweight operator

Last year Ploughcroft Building Services of Brighouse, acquired a Cela TJ170 3.5 tonne truck mounted lift with telescopic boom and long jib, allowing it to carry out a certain amount of under-bridge work.

When looking for a driver, the company employed one of the most compact operators available in the form of 5' 5", 50kg Stepney Calvert, 26, from Halifax. Chris Hopkins, MD, said: "Stepney and the cherry picker are a perfect match. She is small and light just like the lift she operates, but she is physically very strong and highly confident in her approach, with a mindset that is all about pushing boundaries and striving to do things better."



Stepney Calvert, one of the few female lift operators in the UK

Tower cranes in the UK

In the Last issue of Cranes&Access we included the top 10 tower crane companies in the UK and Ireland for the first time. And what a mess we made of it! Much of this was due to difficulties dragging information out of some companies. Thankfully everyone has

been keen to point out our failings so we are in good shape going forward. Here is an update of the top tower crane company chart, it is still not perfect but a great deal better than before. Many thanks to those of you who helped with the corrections. If you spot any further errors keep 'em coming.

Company	Total Units	Top Slewlers	Self-Erectors
Select	337	337	0
Falcon	252	230	22
HTC	210	210	0
Arcomet/Midland/Airtek	170	45	125
London Tower crane	160	130	30
WD Bennetts	107	105	2
City Lifting	94	69	25
Kier Plant	90	90	0
Mantis	85	73	12
Ladybird	67	0	67
Irish cranes&Lifting	30	30	0



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- The first tower cranes from **Yongmao**, the Chinese tower crane manufacturer, to be sold in the UK will arrive shortly. **Jin Long** of Brussels has been appointed as the manufacturer's representative for Europe and has employed **Sean O'Sullivan** to help launch the product. He is based in Hatfield on 01707 226522. The first units for the UK are the SST403 and SST293 flat top cranes. More information in the next issue of C&A



- **Valla Cranes UK** and **3B6 UK** are moving into new premises in Hull. The move will separate the two businesses from sister company Peter Hird & Sons.
- **Tony Gettins** previously national sales manager of **Universal Access**, has left and established a specialist sales and rental company - **Tracked Access Ltd** - with **Phil Lomax**, offering compact crawler mounted cranes and access equipment.
- **The Tanfield group**, parent of **UpRight powered access**, has promoted **Darren Kell** to the post of group chief executive recognising the role that he has been performing over the past year. **Brendan Campbell** has been promoted to the position of group operations director.
- The **HSE** has issued a **Tower Crane** alert warning the construction industry on the importance of safe erection, operation, maintenance and dismantling. The alert has been prompted by a number of serious incidents involving tower cranes in recent years, including the recent Battersea tragedy.
- Crawler crane company, **Hitachi Sumitomo** saw revenues rise by 18 percent to 24.5 billion yen (\$207 million) in its year to March 2006. Net income increased to 1.3 billion yen (\$11.1 million) a 362% jump. Sales include shipments to the USA, but not sister company, **Link Belt's** full revenues.

- **Skylift Hire** -the access and telehandler specialist of Limerick and Cork - has opened a new plant in Newlands Cross, Dublin.



The new Skylift Hire depot in Dublin

- **Wizard Workspace**, says that it is investing in new IT systems and a new Technical Support Centre in East Anglia to improve its sales, customer service and engineering support functions.
- **UpLift** has left the **Access Link** following its merger with **AFI** in early September.

- **APEX**, the specialist access exhibition has confirmed its dates for 2008 as Wednesday September 17th to Friday 19th and that it will, as in the past, be supported by IPAF.
- **Gottwald** port technology, has presented its Italian agent **Dottore Paolo Bartoli** of **CIBI S.p.A** with a golden crane, recognising 40 year's of collaboration.
- **SED** is to provide **Free Parking** at next years show, part of a major programme to avoid the congestion and queues that many visitors experienced this year.
- **Bravi** has introduced an entirely new joystick controller and electrical system for its Leonardo lifts, built by **Penny & Giles**.
- **EPL** has purchased a 32 metre working height **CTE Z32** as part of its fleet renewal programme.
- **Vertikal.Net** achieved new records in the 30 days of September with over 1.3 million hits and nearly 43,000 visitors.



- **PM Autogru**, producers of **PM** loader cranes and **Oil&Steel** aerial lifts is expected to finally launch its IPO in November floating the business on the Italian bourse.
- The **HSE** has published a report on its investigation into the death of a construction worker killed when a concrete beam that fell from a mobile crane.

The report raises the issue of inspecting lifting tackle in respect of components that are not visible unless dismantled.

- **JCB** is to sell **JCB** branded ladders and mobile folding alloy scaffold towers. The products, which are made by **Zarges** include two and three part extension ladders and 'Skymasters' telescopic ladders.
- **Atlas Copco** has sold an 85.5 percent of **RSC Equipment Rental** - the second largest equipment rental company in the USA - to **Ripplewood Holdings** and **Oak Hill Capital Management**, two private equity funds, for \$3.8 billion.
- **Two men died** in Le Harve, France in October after being catapulted from the basket of a boom lift after it was hit by a falling structure. Neither was wearing a **safety** harness that might well have saved them.
- The local council in **Worthing**, West Sussex rented an **aerial lift**, to remove the **conkers** from a tree for local children, ending an annual toll of broken windows, as children tried to dislodge prime specimens with sticks and stones.

- **JLG** is launching the 20ft platform height, **Toucan Junior 8 'Lite'** at SAIE in Bologna later this month. The Lite is 1.1m wide and weighs only 770kgs, specifically to meet demands from the 'entertainment and events' industry.
- **Terex** has concluded the sale of its 80.5% interest in **Tatra**, the Czech truck maker, to **Blue River s.r.o.** for approximately \$57.8 million
- **NMT crane hire** has presented a cheque to the **Willen Hospice** for £1,500 following its charity crane event at the recent Bedford festival.
- **Facelift**, the Hickstead based access company, has joined the **British Ladder Manufacturers Association**.
- **Cortex UK**, the lifting gear distributor has purchased **Global Defence Procurement Ltd**, a military and commercial supply and service company based in the Devonport Naval Base in Plymouth.



Tony Stringer, MD of Cortex (L) with Derek Foster, MD of GDP

- **Link Belt** has launched three new models for the American market, A five axle 220 tonne AT - the ATC3250, A 90 US ton Rough Terrain crane, the RTC8090 and a new 230 US ton lattice boomed crawler crane, the 298 HSL.
- **JCB** has sold its 100,000th telehandler, a **Loadall 530-14**, to **BL batiment** a builder in Dieppe France. It also says that it has doubled its UK production capacity.
- **A-Plant**, part of the **Ashtead** group, has purchased **Lux traffic controls** adding 40 UK locations to its own traffic business.
- **Morris Material Handling** has opened a new 7,600 sq ft, 'state of the art' Northern Regional service centre in **Stockton-on-Tees**.
- The **HSE** has announced that it will be visiting **Tower Crane companies** site and head offices to check on compliance with legislation and best practice.
- **Kier plant**, the **Bedfordshire** based crane and plant hire operation, has celebrated a record one million hours of accident free working.

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