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Central European rental companies

The world's largest on-line listing of mainland European crane and access rental companies is available to you now. Just click the link below to go to Vertikal.net/Vermieter where the bi-lingual site will guide you to hire companies throughout Europe. www.Vertikal.net/Vermieter

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KOBELCO CRANES EUROPE Ltd. For U.K. and Ireland:
Tel: 00-44-(0)-1473-716-302 • Fax: 00-44-(0)-1473-716-301
andrew_brown@kobelconet.com

FOR MAINLAND EUROPE: Almere, Netherlands
Tel: 00-31-(0)-36-549-5510 • Fax: 00-31-(0)-36-549-5520
jos_verhulst@kobelconet.com

WWW.KOBELCO-CRANES.COM

On the cover:

A 30 metre GSR D300TJ supplied by Skyking, and operated by Power Platform Services, repairs guttering at the 'House of Clouds' in Aldborough, Suffolk. The building is a converted Water Tower.



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Tel: +44 (0)8707 740436 Fax: +44 (0)1295 768223
E-mail: info@vertikal.net

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Hewden changes crane strategy, Universal files for administration, Alfons Moog dies in accident, Builder hit for £124,000, Demag announce new 1,000 tonner, Long boom for new Grove 100 tonner, Half-year financials - Haulotte, Palfinger, Manitowoc, Terex Cranes, Genie, Manitou Tadano and Liebherr. Platform Company, Access Rentals, AFI and Ainscough open new depots. Unic takes on Paus cranes, New 16 tonner from Ormig, New Yardboss from Grove. Wolffkran launch new flat-top city.

UK/Ireland Top 30 rental companies



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Now in its eighth year, the Cranes&Access Top 30 UK/Ireland Crane, Access and Telehandler rental companies has grown and now covers more companies than ever. We highlight new entrants and companies that are on the move.

Heavy and Alternative Lifting 25

Everyone is fascinated by the worlds largest cranes 'doing their stuff'. Here we chart a brief history of 'big' cranes in the UK and take a look at clever alternative solutions to lifting heavy loads.

Keep On Truckin' 33

Mark Darwin looks at the ups and downs of the truck and van mounted sector and discovers that the 3.5 tonne GVW machine is currently the plate to be. Developments at the top end of the market sees machines breaking through the 100 metre barrier.



Vertikal Check 41

This year we Check Out 14 to 16 metre spider lifts in the side by side specification comparison carried out by our German sister magazine Kran & Bühne. Here we publish the results and comments of the judges for Teupen, Hinowa and Oil&Steel.



Holland Lift 43



Holland Lift is going from strength to strength. We talk to sales director Menno Koel about his plans for the future and take a look at the company's new plant which has just been completed.

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NMT is celebrating 30 years in the crane business. Leigh Sparrow visits the three Ambridge brothers and discovers what makes the company tick.

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October is our tracked equipment issue with features on Crawler cranes - the latest and the greatest in what is now a growing market. Crawler mounted aerial lifts, including telescopic boom and scissors mounted on tracks. SAIIE - the Bologna show preview, Outrigger pads and mats.

Your powered access expertise



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Tel: +44 (0)15395 62444
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IPAF Ltd, Bridge End Business Park, Milnthorpe LA7 7RH, UK.
Also in France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland and USA.



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The Vertikal Press

PO box 6998 Brackley NN13 5WY, UK
Tel: +44(0)8707 740436 Fax: +44(0)1295 768223
email: info@vertikal.net
web: www.vertikal.net

In Germany:

Vertikal Verlag

Sundgaualle 15, D-79114,
Freiburg, Germany

Tel: 0761 8978660 Fax: 0761 8866814
email: info.vertikal@t-online.de
web: www.vertikal.net

Germany, Scandinavia,
Austria and Switzerland

Karlheinz Kopp, Vertikal Verlag,
Sundgaualle 15, D-79114, Freiburg, Germany
Tel: +49 (0)761 89786615
Fax: +49 (0)761 8866814
email: khk@vertikal.net

Italy

Fabio Potestà, Mediapoint,
Corte Lambruschini,
Corso Buenos Aires 8, V Piano-Interno 7,
I-16129 Genova, Italy
Tel: 010 570 4948 Fax: 010 553 0088
email: mediapointsrl.it

The Netherlands

Hans Aarse

39 Seringenstraat, 3295 RN,
S-Gravendeel, The Netherlands
Tel: +31-78 673 4007 Mobile: +31(0) 630421042
email: jfwaarse@planet.nl

UK and all other areas

Pam Penny

PO box 6998 Brackley NN13 5WY, UK
Tel: +44(0)8707 740436
email: pp@vertikal.net

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Tel: 01707 642141 Fax: 01707 646806
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Editors:

Leigh Sparrow
Mark Darwin

Associate Editors:

Ian Boughton
Rüdiger Kopf
Alexander Ochs

Sales & customer support:

Pam Penny
Karlheinz Kopp

Production:

Nicole Engesser

Publisher:

Leigh Sparrow

**Vertikal
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MEMBERS OF



Letters, emails, faxes and
phone calls are welcome and
should be sent to:

The Editor,
cranes & access,

PO Box 6998, Brackley
NN13 5WY, UK

Tel: +44(0)8707 740436

Fax: +44(0)1295 768223

email: editor@vertikal.net

c&a comment



Who will blow the whistle?

How are some people allowed to break the law right in front of our noses, simply because it is left for us, the members of the public, to take action against them and to do so is too much hassle and cost?

A case in point is the Major Contractors Group. It is planning to ban anyone from its members' job sites who does not carry a card issued by or affiliated to CSCS Ltd and CPCS, both of which are tied in with CITB through Construction Skills. All three are 'fuzzy' companies with the CITB related to the Construction Skills Council - a quango. While trading as Ltd companies the organisations behave very much like official bodies.

The MCG says that it 'prefers a single card training system and is working with CSCS Ltd to achieve this aim'. While the intentions behind this move may be admirable, this policy could contravene European competition law. In fact, it would appear to be a flagrant abuse of the law.

If the MCG's concern was to have a single standard of training then it could easily achieve this by having CSCS and/or notified bodies, set, approve and audit a common minimum standard of training and qualifications. They would essentially license training schemes, such as those run by ALLMI, the CITB and IPAF, allowing them to add the CSCS/CPCS logo to their cards in the manner that Visa and MasterCard license their trademarks to banks for use on credit and debit cards. That way there would be a lot more training capacity and at least some form of choice. It would also be legal.

The group says that it will refuse to accept any card scheme that's not affiliated with CSCS/CPCS, with the exception of a handful of well-established cards, such as the IPAF PAL card, which are grudgingly recognised without being 'affiliated'. The only option open to other training programmes is to succumb completely to the CPCS and CITB which, even if it accepts the standard of training and testing provided, insists that cardholders migrate to a version of its own card and take its Health and Safety test, for which it charges a further £17.50. In the second year of association things get even more restrictive, essentially emasculating any 'competitive' card scheme.

This action would appear to have little to do with safety and everything to do with money. It looks suspiciously like one of those construction industry cartels.

So who will stop the MCG? I hear now that it is also looking at banning unapproved equipment from coming on to its sites. Is this just another money spinner dressed up as a safety measure?

Leigh W Sparrow

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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