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2006

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Caa comment

Are we so unattractive?

Why is it so hard to find good people?

In the lifting world, whether you're a manufacturer, dealer or rental company, finding good technicians, excellent sales

people, dedicated depot managers or even competent managing directors is a challenge that is rapidly becoming more difficult.

Why is this? Is the lifting business so unattractive that those embarking on a career avoid it? It makes no sense. Salary levels are first class and the amount of freedom at work and opportunities to succeed are excellent. The products and the work they do - fascinating, with plenty of variety. It is a very sociable industry with regular, and positive contact with competitors, suppliers and customers. Once in the business few leave it and yet we don't see people lining up to join.

I know that this is an old chestnut and will always be with us, but it's one of those subjects, like rate cutting, that we all like to moan about... but it does seem to be getting worse. At the moment manufacturers, dealers and most hirers are all doing very well, with a bright period ahead of us. Yet I have a list of companies looking for senior managers in sales, service and general management areas with few candidates in mind. Some of the jobs look so appealing I have to stop myself putting the "For Sale" sign up on the Vertikal Press and applying. Yet in the past two or three months we have not had a single call asking if we know of any jobs going in the industry. Those that do leave a company without a job already lined up are inundated with offers.

Perhaps it is time that we all tried to do something about bringing new people into the industry? Some companies have already started. Ainscough, The Platform Company, Mastclimbers, Hewden and Nationwide are just a few that spring to mind with new apprentice programmes for service or installation engineers. The trouble is that the majority do very little, preferring to poach staff once they are trained. This then puts off those that have invested in training and development. Which is why such efforts often do not last.

When it comes to sales or management roles even less is being done to develop staff or bring new entrants into the sector.

Perhaps the CPA, IPAF and ALLMI etc... should attend school and college recruitment fairs, promoting the opportunities that exist in the world of lifting equipment. Perhaps ads should be placed in school and college publications or maybe the industry could sponsor the odd scholarship or two. JCB has just agreed to fund a new academy school which is an excellent but very long term effort.

It's about time we stopped moaning and started doing something about it. When all is said and done, this is a great business but it needs regular infusions of new blood.

Leigh W Sparrow



n e w s



Lavendon snaps up Panther & Kestrel

The Lavendon group, owner of Nationwide access, the largest powered access company in Europe, completely surprised the access industry on St Valentine's Day with the acquisition of Panther Work Platforms Ltd. Less than two weeks later it snapped up Kestrel, the Bristol based platform hirer. Further regional acquisitions have not been ruled out.

Panther Platform Rentals was ninth in the 2005 Cranes&Access Top 20 UK/Ireland access rental companies, with 1,350 units, operating from six locations with 90 staff. Revenues for the 12 months to 31 December 2005 were £10.4 million with a profit before tax of £2.1 million. The company has gross assets of £13.1 million

and net assets of £2.0 million. Lavendon paid £7 million, for the business, £5 million of it in cash and £2 million covered by the issue of 865,800 new shares in Lavendon. An additional cash consideration of between £800,000 and £3.1 million is dependent upon Panther's financial performance over the next two years. Lavendon

Richard Miller (L) and Brian Fleckney



is funding the deal from existing bank facilities and will take on Panthers net debt of £10.3 million. Panther will initially operate as a separate brand within the Lavendon group although the company says that it will take immediate steps to "maximise asset sharing opportunities".

Building brands

Lavendon's chief executive, Kevin Appleton said, "Our existing UK brand, Nationwide, has tended to be seen as a specialist for supplying larger construction projects and services customers, operating throughout the UK.

Panther, on the other hand, has built up some tremendous customer relationships in the regions around its depots, and is less exposed to the construction sector than Nationwide".

Panther is largely owned by joint managing directors, Richard Miller and Brian Fleckney, Miller said, "We believe this is a fantastic move for the customers and staff of Panther. It means we have access to resources which are unparalleled in our industry, while offering tremendous career opportunities for our staff. Both Brian and I really believe in the strategic sense of this move and look forward to being part of a management team which will change the face of our industry".

Kestrel sale predicted

Kestrel was 25th in the 2005 C&A Top hirer's chart, with a fleet of 350 units, a single location and 27 staff. Its revenues for the 12 months to the end of December 2005 were £3 million with a net profit of £1 million. Assets were £4 million gross, £1.6 million net. Lavendon paid £4.3 million in cash, with an additional cash payment of



The Kestrel team.

£600,000 to £2.6 million, dependent upon Kestrel's results over the next two years. It will also assume the company's net debt of £500,000.

Kestrel is managed by Mark May and Tony Ireland, who own the company along with Richard Bryan and Colin Stone. The Kestrel sale was largely expected, with several bidders having considered it. May said "We see this as a great opportunity for Kestrel's staff and customers. We have built a strong business here in Bristol over the past few years but recognised that, if we were to continue growing, we needed to find a way to offer a broader range of products and services. Becoming part of the Lavendon Group offers us the advantages of a large, national company structure but allows us to keep our business culture and customer relationships intact."

See vertikal.net for full story and comment

Is it a crane? Is it a telehandler? No it's a...**Sennebogen**

Sennebogen has announced a radical new product that it is calling the Multicrane 608; the unit offers 360 degree continuous rotation with a 20 metre five section telescopic boom. Its principle use is likely to be as a 360 degree telehandler with forks, but the company says that it will include a fully integrated work

platform, a winch, a loading shovel and a tilting and elevating operators cab.

The 608 will take 4,000kgs to 20 metres and lift up to eight tonnes on its hook.

Maximum lift capacity on the forks is six tonnes, to 10 metres height, four tonnes to the full height of 20 metres and 700kgs at 18 metres radius.

When lifting suspended loads with a winch, the Multicrane can handle up to eight tonnes.

The 608 has been designed with an oversized anti-deformation boom, in order to cope with repetitive handling of rubble in its excavator mode.

The four wheel drive, four wheel steer base machine is only 4.86 metres long, with an overall height of only three metres, although it is 2.55 metres wide. The fully extended outrigger footprint is 4.86 x 4.6 metres.

The new model has hydrostatic drive with a maximum speed of 30kph.

The Sennebogen Multicrane has a very high standard specification

Paris launch for new Grove AT's

On a cold Paris day in early February, Grove unveiled its two latest products, the 80 tonne GMK 4080-1 and 220 tonne GMK 5220 to distributors and customers.



The two units were exceptionally well received, particularly the 5220 with its new seven section, 68 metre twin lock Megaform boom. The 5220's 12 to 21 metre Bi-Fold swingaway offsets hydraulically between five and 40 degrees and for greater heights can be mounted to a straight 8 or 16 metre in–line lattice extension to provide a tip height of 108 metres.

The new crane features a lightweight high strength carrier, incorporating a new hydraulicelectronic "fly-by-wire" steering system, which the company claims reduces tyre wear and improves ride quality. The 13.4 metre long chassis is powered by an 8 cylinder Mercedes diesel and includes eight wheel drive and all wheel steer. A six cylinder Mercedes powers the top. The standard counterweight of 51 tonnes can be increased to 77 tonnes for better duties. The standard unit will lift 14 tonnes to 67 metres and out to 20 metres radius.

An 80 tonner worth waiting for!

The second model at the launch was the replacement for the GMK4075-1, the new four axle 80 tonne GMK4080-1. The new model boasts a six section 51 metre main, twin-lock, boom, which lifts 6.6 tonnes at full extension and out to a radius of 20 metres. A nine to 15 metres hydraulic luffing bi-fold swingaway can be mounted to a six metre straight lattice extension for a maximum tip height of 75 metres.

The chassis length of 10.3 metres and boom overhang of 1.8 metres make it a very practical "taxi". With 9.3 tonnes of counterweight, 15 metre

swingaway, 16 tonne hook block and 16:00 tyres the 4080-1 remains within 12 tonne axle loads. Alternatively in Maxi mode, 19.3 tonnes of counterweight can be carried along with the six metre lattice extension. This is likely to be the configuration for the UK. Several attendees agreed that the new model was first class, and that its only fault is that it is a couple of years late!





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A Grove AT made in Italy.

A third new crane, not at the Paris launch, is a new "No-frills" two axle replacement for the GMK2035, the GMK2035E. This new 35 tonner features the same 29 metre main boom as the older unit but sheds its Megatrack suspension in favour of rigid axles with hydrogas suspension.

Out goes the hydraulic luffing swingaway in favour of a manually offset version. The new model will be built at the new Niella plant in Italy.

While it might seem that Grove is abandoning its much hyped Megatrack system on this unit, for the sake of simplicity and reduced costs, it has been said that benefits of the independent system are in fact limited on a two axle chassis.

> The new GMK2035E offers a simpler specification

JLG sell Gradall division...

JLG has sold its Gradall excavator business, complete with its 40,000 square metre manufacturing facility in New Philadelphia, Ohio and related equipment, machinery, tooling, and intellectual property. The buyer is the Alamo Group Inc. which paid \$39.4 million in cash.

Alamo produces a range of mowing, highway maintenance and agricultural products including tractor and truck mounted mowing equipment, street sweepers, agricultural implements, front-end loaders and backhoes. The Company is based in Seguin, Texas. Its European operations are located in Salford Priors, England.

In addition to the purchase agreement, the companies have also agreed a supply agreement covering those components for JLG's telehandlers that are currently manufactured at the New Philadelphia facility.



The JLG-Gradall exactor, tracked version.

...And reopens Orville plant as its Parts centre.

JLG also announced that it will reopen the 31,000 square metres ex Gradall facility in Orrville, Ohio, which it closed in 2003. Telehandler engineers currently based in New Philadelphia, will relocate to Orville, along with some component production. The company also plans to move its North American replacement parts operation there from McConnelsburg.

This latter move will free up more space in McConnelsburg for manufacturing, to help cope with the extra production capacity required to produce the Caterpillar telehandler range.

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Two New Liebher All Terrains

Liebherr has released pictures of its two latest All Terrain cranes due for launch later this year.

The first is a two axle forty tonner, the LTM1040-2.1, the other, a five axle 160 tonner, the LTM 1160-5.1 both cranes will be on show at Intermat.

A 40 tonner on two axles

The LTM 1040-2.1 will fit into the range between the existing two axle LTM 1030-2.1 on which it is



based, and the three axle LTM 1045-3.1. The new crane features a 35-metre, four section full power boom, five metres longer than that of the 1030, (taking it within range of the Terex-PPM AC35L). Its lift capacities are on average around eight percent better than the 1030, rising to 25 percent in the structural part of the chart at higher boom angles.

A 9.5 metre swingaway jib is available for a 45 metres lift height while providing a maximum working radius of 39 metres. The swingaway can be offset by, 20, 40 or even 60 degrees.

Its six cylinder diesel complies with Stage 3 and EPA/CARB Level III emission rules, while the four wheel drive and steer chassis features anti-lock brakes and wheel slip control as standard.

Another compact five axle

The new five axle LTM 1160-5.1 will replace the LTM 1150-5.1, which was essentially an uprated LTM 1120/1 and an aging 10 year old design. The new crane features a six section 62 metre main boom, six metres longer than the 1150, it uses Liebherr's Telematik rapid-action telescoping system.

A seven metre long lattice extension provides a raised pivot point for a 12.2 -- to 22 metre folding swingaway, that can be lengthened with seven metre inserts, up to 36 metres. Providing tip heights of up to 93 metres and a maximum radius of 70 metres. The jib can be offset by 22.5 or 45 degrees. A hydraulic luffing version is also available. Lift capacities have improved by as much as 30 percent in some parts of the chart. With 11.5 tonnes possible on the fully extended main boom making it ideal for tower-crane erection and dismantling work.

The LTM 1160-5.1 has a maximum counter weight of 46.5 tonnes, 6.5 tonnes of which it can carry within 12 tonne axle loads. The chassis of is only 12.3 m long, and features all wheel steer with the company's active rear-axle steering proving a best in class 10.6 metres turning radius. A new generation Liebherr turbocharged six-cylinder in line engine powers the chassis, through a 12-speed ZF AS-Tronic transmission. The superstructure has a Liebherr four-cylinder power unit; both motors comply with the latest 97/68/EG Stage 3 and EPA/CARB Level III emission limits.

Straight Boom surprise from **Skyjack**

Ca

Skyjack surprised a few people in February, when its long trailed new boom product turned out to be a 45ft straight telescopic rather than articulated. The new boom, the SJ45T, takes the company back into this market after several years absence.

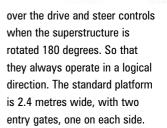
The SJ45T is available with or without a jib, providing 40 and 45ft platform heights. Dave Stewart, vice president of sales and marketing told C&A that the company had focused on maintaining its principles of simple, rugged and easy to service designs, aimed at the aerial rental industry. "The new booms feature the same off-road axles and drive train concept that we use on our larger scissor lifts. All components are easily accessible under easy to repair fibreglass covers and we have not built in any computers of fancy gadgetry" said Stewart".

The company has though incorporated its auto reverse steering system,

SKYACK

that changes

The all new Skyjack SJ45T



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Skyjack has kept to a simple rugged design concept.

Skyjack also detailed an aggressive development plan that will include 60 and 65ft straight booms later this year, a 45ft articulating boom early next year and then a new product every four to six months, with the aim to have a full line completed within four to five years. The SJ45T will be available for European market in the third quarter.

> The new Skyjack S.145T



David Slack (L) takes delivery of the first LTM1200-5.1 from John Mac-Gregor, sales manager at Liebherr

Slack buys out partners and spends £8.5 million

David Slack and his family have purchased the 50 percent of Nationwide crane hire Ltd, also trading as Crane Hire services, that they do not already own, from Bob Dickey and his family. At the same time the company has spent £8.5 million on new Liebherr cranes. The deal includes a 40 tonne LTM 1040-2.1, two 70 tonne LTM 1070-4.1's, two 80 tonne LTM 1080/1's, a 90 tonne LTM 1090-4.1, two LTM 1200-5.1's - 200 tonners, a 225 tonne LTM 1225-5.1, a 400 tonne LTM 1400-7.1. and another LTM 1500-9.1 - 500 tonner, the third in its fleet. This latest LTM1500 offers improved lifting capacities and features detachable front outriggers. In addition to the AT's, Nationwide has ordered its first Liebherr MK110 mobile self erecting tower crane. This is an MK100, equipped with 3.8 tonnes of additional counterweight to provide 110 tonne/metre rating.

The LTM 1225-5.1, is an LTM1200 which the company has specified with the standard five axle carrier (rather than the five plus tag axle). However in order to maximise its potential the company has ordered a supplemental four tonne counterweight section. Allowing it to carry 14 tonnes on board, rather than the usual 10 tonnes (20 tonnes on tag axle version). The benefit is that the additional four tonnes can be added to all counterweight configurations, giving 14, 24, and 34 tonnes etc.. In place of 10, 20 and 30 tonnes up to a total of 76 tonnes in place of the usual 72.

5,000th Crane transmissions

ZF introduced the AS Tronic automatic crane transmission system five years ago, and delivered the 5,000th unit to Liebherr at the end of 2005. The unit was installed in an LTM1200. ZF says that the AS Tronic is becoming increasingly in popular with crane manufacturers thanks to its light weight, installation space, and fuel consumption.

PAT go direct in the UK

With the liquidation of Samuel Walkers Ltd, PAT the producer of OEM and retrofit load moment indicators and other electronic load sensing and weighing systems has announced its provisional plans UK sales and service.

The PAT GB sales and service team, headed by Mike Moore, previously with Samuel Walker, Dave Stebbings and Dick Kitson has joined up with PAT-KRÜGER systems, the Benelux sales and support business to work directly with UK customers.

Railway booms

Specialist road-rail manufacturer Rexquote has delivered the first of five Accessrailer-17s aerial lifts ordered by Readypower Engineering of Wokingham. The lifts combine the chassis of a Terex all wheel steer dumper, with the superstructure of the Niftylift HR17 articulated boom. The Accessrailers offer working heights of up to 17 metres and nine metres outreach, they will be used to reach elevated structures for construction, maintenance and repairs.

Travel of the machine and platform positioning are possible from the controls in the basket as well as on the chassis. The machine has been equipped with additional seats, allowing at least three workmen to travel with the lift.

The Accessrailer offers up to 17 metres working height.



Youngman launch WAHR training programme

Youngman, the newly independent access company, has launched a major training programme for contractors and other end users who need to work at height, as well as those selling or renting access equipment.

Supported by the UK's HSE, the "Knowledge" as it as been branded, is intended primarily for rental store and dealer counter staff, in order to provide them with a good basic knowledge of the requirements of the regulations and be in a position to recommend the most suitable access solutions to customers. It is also suitable for end users including small business owners and health and safety officers at larger companies. The training includes a straightforward review of the rules, how to plan and organise the safe work at height, including how to complete any required paperwork. Duration

is a full day off site with a detailed exam at the end. There is a modest charge per delegate to cover immediate costs. Youngman plan to run a series of the courses all over the UK starting with the first in Nottingham on March 15th.

Youngman has produced a range of materials to go with its Knowledge training courses.



UK Grove and Grove Manlift parts

Manitowoc crane care has written to its customers informing them that it has put additional "operational resources" into its UK parts operation in order to cope with direct orders, following the liquidation of Samuel Walkers. It has also recruited eight service engineers from Walkers, and a parts person. The company will now handle product support on a direct basis.

If you have any problems with Grove parts or service, its Sunderland office is coordinating the situation. Its numbers are: for Parts: 0191 5222047 and for service 0191 5222000.



Street Lighting made easy

Versalift UK has introduced a new package of options on its van mounted aerial lifts, for street lighting contractors. The package allows the user to elevate the platform within a restricted arc over the rear of the vehicle, without deploying the vans stabiliser jacks.

If while elevated the operator wishes to work outside of this arc, which covers up to 30 degrees either side of centre (depending on the vehicle), the jacks can be set from controls in the bucket. Once properly set the turret is freed up for full rotation.

Versalift says that the Street Lighting Package has been developed in response to customer demand, for greater operational flexibility and the desire to work without jacks on such applications. The package also incorporates the company's "walk-in" Insulated platform and a high voltage detector.

Steve Kellett, Versalift's Commercial Manager, said: "The ideal for any user is an access platform without the need for stabilisers. We first offered this with the XS range, which offers one-person operation up to 10.5 metres work height and six metres outreach without the need for stabilisers".

"The new SLP option now brings the benefits of jack-free operation to other models in our range, such as the Eurotel range and bigger vans up to 7.5 tonnes GVW."

Chinese OWER

At the recent Rental show in Atlanta, two companies exhibited alloy scaffold towers produced in China. Beijing Kangde showed towers that it said were compatible with UpRight and were cold formed, while

Australian company Advance told C&A that it's Aluminium and Glass Fibre towers are now built in China.

Oil&Steel go it alone

Oil & Steel the Octopussy and truck mounted lift manufacturer, and the Platform Company have mutually agreed to end their distribution agreement. Simone Scalabrini, general export manager at Oil&Steel said "We are

now looking for new partners in the form of dealers, hire companies and regional sales representative to offer our products. The launch of our, Octopussy 1765 will also launch us into new period of growth".

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Genie's product range is renowned throughout the industry for being rugged and reliable. There is a machine for just about every need and condition. Nothing is ever too high, too wide or too hard to get to.

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n e w s **Nevy mini** telescopic trailer lift

Omme Lift of Denmark is launching a new compact straight telescopic trailer mounted lift, with a 12 metre working height and all the features of its larger models. The Omme Mini 12 has been designed to be towed behind a mid size car or small van, it weighs 1,200kg, is under six metres long, and retracts to under a metre wide, allowing it to gain access to the rear of single family homes and yet boasts eight metres of outreach.

The standard specification includes hydraulic outriggers, a 1.9 metre articulating jib and self propelled drive, allowing one person to move the machine easily over poor ground or on slopes... Being a straight telescopic, the lift not only

offers more outreach, even at lower working heights, but the tail swing remains within the outrigger footprint in all configurations. The Mini 12 is available with on board battery power or AC only.



The straight boom design gives extra outreach, speed and no tailswing.

A new Russon emerges

A new Russon Access has emerged in the form of Russon Access Platforms Ltd. The new company, which has now been appointed as the Holland Lift and ManiAccess distributor for the UK, has moved into offices at The White house, Station Road, West Hagley, Stourbridge.

Until late last year Russon Access was a trading name of Gamble Jarvis Plant hire Ltd. However after the sale of the business by Ian Gamble, Alan Russon left the company. Meanwhile the new owners decided to pull out of aerial lift sales after Manitou and Holland Lift put their UK distribution up for review as is normal in such situations.



Russon Access and Manitou recently hosted an Access Link meeting at Manitou UK's Verwood facility

Russon is joined in the new venture by Russell Rowley on sales, Mel Neal, as office manager and lan Day on service. In spite of the difficulties imposed by the changes of the past six months, the two manufacturers both had record years in the UK, with the UK becoming their largest export markets.



Niftylift HR12 gains muscles

It is 15 years or so since the birth of the original HR10 and 12 and while the original concept is still as popular as ever, Niftylift has bowed to demand and launched the HR12-4X4. The New product incorporates most of the proven componentry from the standard HR12, but has a new chassis with four hydraulic drive motors, greater ground clearance and a larger two cylinder Kubota 452 engine. The lift still retains its bi-Energy battery power pack, allowing it to work inside or in quiet locations and its 1.5 metres overall width.

The standard tyres are lugged tractor tread, the overall weight a very handy 3.3 tonnes and while the unit has greater ground clearance its stowed height is still under two metres.

Hewden going for Growth

Hewden Stuart Plc. the UK's largest rental company saw 2005 revenues rise by 3.2 percent to £297.1 million. **Earnings Before Interest and** Tax grew by 2.1 percent to £25.1 million.

Brian Sherlock, managing director confirmed the company's intention to "further consolidate its market leadership in the face of aggressive competition". "We have no intention of standing still and will continue to move closer to our customer. A major restructuring of the company to make it more customer focused and improve services is now complete, giving

us the edge as the only company able to offer a complete range of Plant, Tools, Access, Accommodation,



Cranes, Hoists, Sites Services and Power Generation equipment from a single point of contact" said Sherlock.

Heavy duty grab cranes

HMF has launched a new range of loader cranes for scrap and grab work. The new 1244, 1444, 1643-z cranes have been designed specifically for grab operations. The specification includes: high speeds, double jib cylinders, compact design, the ability to fold behind the cab with clamshell still attached, excavator duty bearing and bushes and heavily protected hoses.

The new HMF scrap and grab cranes are designed for the job.



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Three New trailer lifts Bil-

Bil-Jax launched three brand new articulating boom trailer lifts at the recent rental show, the 3522A, 4527A and 5533A with 11.3. 13.7 and 16.8 metre platform heights respectively. The company also has a straight telescopic 3632T which it launched last year, which can



be equipped with a lifting attachment or light duty crane work such as the placing of roof trusses. All models now feature a common control box with digital information readout, dual outrigger set lights and hydraulic outriggers with auto levelling giving a fast 30 second set up and level time. The company says that it is already well along with its CE approvals, and plans to launch its products in Europe later this year. Chuck Hutchinson, vice president of sales and marketing told C&A that the company plans to add further trailer lifts, including some larger straight telescopic models.

Technical Information Notes for Tower cranes

The CPA has published a series of 16 Technical Information Notes in order to provide "best Practice" advice for tower crane owners and users. The notes are now available on the CPA web site www.cpa.uk.net and are available for both members and non-members to download free of charge. The Notes cover the following subjects:

- 001 Access to Tower Cranes After Commissioning
- 002 Raising and Lowering of Small Material
- **003 Tower Crane Access Procedures**
- 004 Installing Wire Ropes on Winch Drums and Storage Reels
- 005 Housekeeping on Tower Cranes
- 006 Tower Crane Access Ladders
- 007 Duty Boards
- **008 Tower Crane Edge Protection**
- 009 Security of Access to the Crane Base
- 010 Tower Crane Anti-Collision Systems
- 011 Attachment of Floodlights, Illuminated Signs and Christmas Decorations
- 012 Tower Crane Access Signage
- 013 Rescue of Personnel From Height on Tower Cranes
- 014 Pre-Erection Component Checks
- 015 Risk Assessment General Access to Tower Cranes (including for maintenance)
- **016 Fall Protection Equipment For Tower Crane Operators**

Fixed axle Snorkel

Snorkel has launched what it calls the TB85J fixed axle (non extendingaxles) boom with 85ft (26 metres) platform height, 2.6 metre overall fixed width. With a 170 degree jib and 23.4 metre outreach it looks a

handy machine and replaces the previous TB85J which had an extending rear axle to provide greater stability.

> The New Snorkel TB85J has a narrower operating width, articulating jib and four wheel steer.



VERSALIF



C13 **News** HIGHLIGHTS

- Dino Lift Oy has appointed its current chief financial officer Erkki Hokkinen as its new managing director.
- Dave Faultless, the access product manager at Manitou UK, will leave the company on March 24th. He is moving to Perth Australia where he will join Genie

Australia as its regional sales manager for Western Australia.

Tower prices rise.

A simple survey of major alloy tower manufacturers by C&A in February confirmed that most producers have raised prices by around five percent.

Airo sign Indian JV

Italian aerial lift producer Airo Tigieffe and Indian construction equipment producer ACE, have agreed a manufacturing joint venture. The new company will be held 60 percent by ACE and 40 percent by Airo Tigieffe and will produce models from the Airo self propelled aerial lift range.

- City & Guilds inspectors imposed a ban in February, preventing the UK's National Construction College's five campuses from taking on new trainees. The ban also stops the NCC signing off trainees who have already completed courses. Restrictions have been eased in March.
- Paul Rosevere sales director and joint owner of Kranlyft has finally decided to retire from the crane business. While he has tried to retire before, this time he says it is definite. He told C&A that he will finish at the end of April to tie in with the company's move to new premises. He will be replaced by Terry Marnock, currently the technical director.
- Hiab, has appointed Harri Ahola, currently the MD of, Hiab Cranes S.L. in Spain as senior vice president of the Loader Crane product line with a position on the Hiab management board. Markus Hämäläinen has been appointed as vice president, business development, Mergers & Acquisitions.
- Independent Parts and Service (IPS) the Telford, UK based parts and service provider,

opened IPS France on March first. The French operation will be led by managing director, Frédéric Allier, previously technical manager at Zooom, France, a member of the Lavendon group.



- Dean Pinfold for the Home Counties, Andy Green the M-4 Corridor, Alistair Richards for the East Midlands and Graham Hawkins in Hampshire.
- The Tanfield Group PLC, parent of Aerial Lift, is to raise up to £12 million through an institutional placing of new shares. The proceeds will be utilised by the company to take advantage of "certain acquisition opportunities" that are currently under consideration.
- Ramirent, the Finnish based rental company with operations in Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Baltic states, Poland and Hungary, has reported revenues for 2005 of €389 million, an increase of 23 percent. Earnings increased by 38.7 percent to €107 million.
- Altrex has set up Altrex Svenska AB under Jan Bratowski, previously general manager of JLG Sverige. He will formally join the new operation in April.
- Dean Brooks has joined Genie UK, with responsibility for the sales of Aluminium products.
- Wayne Bingham,

Finning executive vice president and chief financial officer, has resigned his position, for personal reasons.

- Manitowoc has appointed Raman Joshi as global product manager for Manitowoc crawler cranes, reporting directly to Larry Bryce, vice president of worldwide marketing.
- Access Industrie, the access and telehandler rental company based in South West France, with depots in Spain and Portugal, has been the subject of a buy-in, by venture capital company Butler Capital Partners of Paris. Butler has invested €20 million in the form of capital, giving it joint control of the business.
- The Manitowoc Company, Inc has authorised a two-for-one split of the company's outstanding common stock. All holders of Manitowoc shares at the close of business on March 31, 2006, will receive one additional share for every share they own as of that date.

• JLG Industries, Inc. has announced a two for one stock split, doubling the number of ordinary shares in circulation. This is its 12th split. It also declared an increased guarterly dividend of one cent per share. The new shares will be distributed on March 27, 2006 to shareholders of record on March 13, 2006.

- AFI has appointed the following as account managers: 3B6, the Italian based overload device and electronics company, has appointed Peter Hird & Sons Ltd as its distributor for the UK. Hird has established 3B6-UK an independent company wholly owned by Peter Hird, to support 3B6 products in the UK with service engineers, Parts and Product Training.
 - WalkerWeld Engineering Ltd, has been established in Glasgow offering the following services previously provided by Samuel Walkers in Glasgow. Welding and fabrication services, Light engineering works, Test weight rental and Lorry loader rental. The new business is headed by John Kelly, previously with Sam Walkers, while Alan Walker is helping in an advisory capacity.
 - Bobcat up 18%

Bobcat/Club Car revenues for 2005 were up 18 percent to \$2.68 billion, with all of the growth coming from Bobcat. Operating income for the Ingersoll-Rand division rose by 25 percent to \$415 million.

- Terex has completed the restatement of its financial results for 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 and filed its audited results, for 2004. 2004 revenues were \$5.0 billion with net income of \$324 million, Stockholders' equity as of December 31, 2004 was \$1,135 million consistent with earlier forecasts.
- Al Jaber Heavy Lift & Transport LLC of Abu Dhabi, has placed the first order for a **Demag** CC8800 Twin, the 3,200 tonne twin boom crawler crane that was announced at the end



Kamal Ghais, (L) M.D of the

Al Jaber Group and Alexander Knecht, general manager

of last year. The crane will be delivered in 2007 and will be utilised in the construction of large scale projects, especially erection of vessels, reactors and P.A.Us.

Terex-Demag. JLG has released its first half results; revenues were \$972 million for the six months to the end of January 2006, an increase of 47 percent on 2004/5. Net income for the period was \$53 million

compared to a loss of \$1.2 million last

year. Gross margins climbed from

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small & yet Perfections to be any if you had asked a dozen property of the second seco

Not so long ago if you had asked a dozen crane people about mini cranes, you would have attracted a blank or puzzled look from at least 11 of them. "What are you talking about? Model cranes? Or something more exotic"? Ask that same question today and at least everyone will know roughly what you are talking about.

We say "Roughly", because the precise definition of a Mini crane is proving a challenge to those who need to be specific. The CPA is currently working with mini crane manufacturers, hirers and dealers to define what is and what is not, a mini crane, in order to establish an operator training programme for them. To many crane people a mini crane is a small tracked crane with spider type outriggers, perhaps they should be called Spider cranes? Some consider the term should only apply to pedestrian controlled crawler cranes. While others apply it to any crawler crane with less than eight, 10 or even 12 tonnes lift capacity.

No matter how you define mini cranes. the concept, as with most compact equipment, originated in Japan, where mini cranes are widely used for all manner of work. The most popular application for "Spider" cranes is handling large glass panels. The ability of these little cranes to work inside, even on upper levels of new or existing buildings, makes them ideal for such tasks. Rubber tracks spread the cranes low overall weight over a wide area, so they are gentle on sensitive flooring such as marble tiles. Some can even climb stairs. Once in place and using appropriate outrigger mats, significant point loadings can be eliminated.



The spider design of the outriggers offers incredible flexibility, allowing them to set up in places that look impossible to reach, let alone set up a crane. This includes slopes, stairs, corridors and even over voids, generally if you can squeeze a man into a location, then these miniest of mini cranes will also fit.

c<mark>s</mark>a

"We've had cranes used to place altar stones within a church, lift antique garden ornaments, placing gas and sceptic tanks in back gardens and for more prosaic jobs such as lifting blocks, imagination is the only limit for the use of these mini cranes", says Paul Rosevere of Kranlyft.

Who rents them?

In the UK and Ireland only a few crane hirers have added mini cranes to their fleets. A number of "real crane men" regard these things as toys and a distraction from the real job of renting out "proper cranes", "quiche and real men" springs to mind. The few companies that do run them, have found that once end users are aware of and what they can do and a local market developed, mini cranes are far more profitable than mobiles. All of the manufacturers we spoke to said that traditional crane hirers do not generally have the customer base or marketing skills to succeed with mini cranes. It requires a hire company that is used to introducing new concepts to its customers, for this reason access rental companies have often been more successful. In the long term Lift and Shift and general rental companies are likely to move into this market. They have a wide customer base and with their catalogues, shop fronts and other marketing tools, are well placed to introduce the concept to the wider market. Mini cranes are also well suited to the delivery vehicles that most general hirers run. On top of this they are used to bare lease rentals.

A Unic 295 removes a shed from a garden by the back door.

The Spider cranes

mini cranes

The most dynamic market in recent years has been that of the smallest rubber tracked cranes with outriggers, since it began importing Maeda mini cranes, Kranlyft has steadily created a market. The biggest users of these cranes are glass contractors, one such contractor, GGR Glass, bought units for its own use and rented them out between jobs. Appreciating the wider potential of these tiny cranes, and feeling there was room in the market for another supplier. GGR approached UNIC cranes, a division of Furukawa, Japan.



An Imai 260C holds a glass panel steady.

Reluctant to invest in the European market and CE approvals they were not initially interested. GGR purchased some units, had them tested and CE certified and agreed a master distributor agreement for the European region. This included establishing UNIC Cranes Europe, as a division of GGR glass.

The company threw itself into a dynamic marketing campaign which built on the progress Kranlyft had already made, its efforts have helped double the European market for these cranes in less than three years.

The success of these two leaders has encouraged a number of Italian companies to enter the market including Imai,

mini cranes



Heila is launching a new one tonne

which produces both standard and custom built models, Benelli Gru which puts standard loader cranes on tracked chassis with very long outriggers, Kegiom which does much the same and the latest company to enter the market, Heila, a sister business to Italmec. crane, the HRC 999, in the summer. The company is still testing and refining the product, which will offer a full power boom with nine metres hook height and a maximum working radius of seven metres. It weighs 1,800kgs, with a 700mm overall width and compares to the Maeda 285, Unic 095 or Imai 260C. Spider cranes generally fall into three categories: One tonne Gross Vehicle Weight units, such as the Maeda MC104 and the Unic A094C. The 1,750 to 1,850kg GVW models, which includes the Maeda MC285, Unic A295, Imai SLM650 and the new Heila. This is the most popular size for this type of crane. And finally the giants of the sector, the 3.5 to 4.5 tonne GVW cranes, they have chunky booms and very substantial



1,000kg Gross Weight cranes

Make	Model	Weight	Hook Ht	0/A width	Max capacity	outrigger Type	outrigger spread	3m	Lift capacitie 5m	es at radius 6m	8m
Imai	SPD160C	900kg	5.4m	780mm	900kg-2m	drop down	2,040mm	500kg	N-D	N-D	N-D
Unic	A094CR	1,000kg	5.6m	595mm	995kg-1.5m	Spider	3,210mm	530kg	210kg	n/a	n/a
Maeda	MC-104C	1,050kg	5,5m	600mm	995kg-1.1m	Spider	3,330mm	500kg	200kg	n/a	n/a

1,700-1,900kgs Gross Weight cranes

			Hook	0/A	Мах	outrigger	outrigger	Lift capacities at radius			s
Make	Model	Weight	Ht	width	capacity	Туре	spread	3m	5m	6m	8m
Imai	SPD260C	1700kg	7.0m	800mm	1,200kg-2.2m	dropdown	3,650mm	800kg	480kg	380kg	na
Maeda	MC-285	1,720kg	8.7m	750mm	2,800kg-1.4m	Spider	4,530mm	1,220kg	530kg	380kg	150kg
Unic	A095CR	1,850kg	8.8m	600mm	995kg-3.5m	Spider	3,935mm	995kg	520kg	360kg	150kg
Unic	A295CR	1,850kg	8.8m	600mm	2,900kg-1.4m	Spider	3,935mm	1,300kg	520kg	360kg	150kg
Imai	SLM650C	1,950kg	7.0m	1.53m	2,050kg1.59m	Drop down	4,000mm	1150kg	600kg	500kg	n/a
Heila	HRC999	1,9800kg	9.0m	780mm	999kgs	drop down	2,700mm	N/d	n/d	n/d	n/d
Imai	SPD500C	2,800kg	11.0m	1.1m	1,600kg	Spider	3,800mm	1,700kg	N-D	N-D	N-D

3,500 to 5,000kgs Gross Weight cranes

			Hook	0/A	Мах	outrigger	outrigger	Lift capacities at radius			
Make	Model	Weight	Ht	width	capacity	Туре	spread	3m	5m	6m	8m
Unic	A376CL	3,530kg	14.4m	1.3m	2,900kg-2.4m	drop down	4,440mm	2,250kg	1,220kg	800kg	500kg
Kegiom	8700E	N/d	11.47m	1.6m	2,880kg-2.5m	drop down	5,300mm	2,500kg	1,330kg	1,100kg	800kg
Maeda	MC-305	3,700kg	12.66m	1,28m	2,930kg-2.5m	drop down	4,504mm	2,350kg	1,300kg	855kg	540kg
Unic	A506CL	4,660kg	15.8m	1.4m	3,000kg-3.3m	drop down	5,940mm	3,000kg	1,850kg	1,550kg	1,000kg
Imai	SLM1000C	4,700kg	13.4m	1.4m	2,000kg-4.5m	drop down	4,000mm	2,000kg	1,850kg	1,400kg	1,000kg

N/D = not disclosed n/a = not applicable



drop down outriggers. The top of the range in terms of lifting ability is the Unic A506CL with three tonnes capacity at three metres, a full tonne at eight metres and a hook height of almost 16 metres.

Mini or Midi?

At the top end of the mini crane market are compact versions of larger telescopic crawler cranes, complete with operators cabs, capacities of between three and 12 tonnes and the ability to pick and carry loads. Some use outriggers to provide decent top end lifting capacities with a narrower travel width and lighter weight. Manufacturers, include, Maeda, Hitachi, Starlifter and Valla.

The pioneer in the UK, if not Europe as a whole, has been AGD which entered the business some 30 years ago as the IHI distributor and is now based in Stratford on Avon. It has operated a mini crane fleet of around 50 units for some time, and is still the largest in the UK. Sadly its supplier, IHI has stopped making its three and five tonne mini cranes as part its product line rationalisation. Robert Law of AGD said that the challenge from the beginning has been selling them. AGD made a significant commitment to IHI when it developed its five tonner, and ordered a large quantity for stock, hoping to sell a good number. The vast



Mini cranes are ideal for roof applications, here a custom built rail mounted Imai is used to place windows below.

majority of users though prefer to rent rather than buy, and as few rental companies have been willing to dip their toes into this market, AGD simply expanded its own fleet.



Pick and carry compact crawler cranes

Weight

Model

Make

Hook

Ht

0/A

width



Valla	20TRX/E	2.0t - 1.3m	1,900kg	4.0m	950mm	None	n/a	450kg	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Starlifter	3X-CT	3.0t -1.07m	3,480kg	6.05m	1.89m	None	n/a	1,079kg	570kg	n/a	n/a	
Valla	35DSC	3.5t -1.75m	4,000kg	7.0m	1.4-1.8m	None	n/a	1,250kg	500kg	350kg	na	
Valla	40DTRX	4.0t - 1.5m	5,000kg	8.0m	1.6-2.0m	None	n/a	1,900kg	680kg	560kg	n/a	
Maeda	LC755-3	4.9t - 2.1m	9,600kg	16.35m	2.32m	None	n/a	2,980kg	1,400kg	1,030kg	680kg	
Valla	55TRX	5.5t - 1.5m	5,650kg	8.0m	1.7m	None	n/a	1,600kg	800kg	n/a	n/a	
Starlifter	8X-CT	8.0t - 2.0m	9,100kg	12.5m	2.35m	drop down	3,480kg	5,000kg	2,500kg	1,750kg	1,000kg	
Hitachi	160LCT	8.0t - 2.5m	15,400kg	13.7m	2.49m	None	n/a	7,000kg	3,650kg	2,820kg	1,820kg	J
Valla	120D	12t - 2.5m	12,000kg	13m	2.2m	drop down	3.4m	8,000kg	4,900kg	3,500kg2	2,000kg	

Heavy going for manufacturers

This part of the market has proved tough for manufacturers, few have remained in it for long, IHI, Kato, Linamac and Sanderson, with its Starlifter range, have all pulled out. The Starlifter, while offering reasonable capacities and compact dimensions, was quite basic compared to the offerings from Japan. Sanderson sold the designs and inventory to UK crane hirer, Sparrows in Bristol, and concentrated on its lighting tower business. Since the sale a few units have been assembled, from residual inventory and some new ones produced by a German sub-contractor for specific orders. Linmac built the LCC29 in Perth, Australia, along with its tractor cranes, it is no longer in business. Owners have told us that the LCC 29 was the best in its class, it certainly wasn't the most attractive mini crane on the market. But with a tip height of almost 17 metres, and pick & carry or on-outrigger load charts, it was clearly a useful tool.

So who is continuing to produce this type of crane? It seems that Maeda, Hitachi and Valla are the only companies with regular serial production. Maeda make one unit, the 785, a very slick crane, with compact dimensions, a lift capacity of 4.9 tonnes and maximum under hook height of 16.35 metres from a five section main boom. Valla build five models, including the 3.5 tonne 35DSC, the 40D a four tonne 360 degree slew unit, the 55TRX 5.5 tonne

A perfect application for the lighter duty mini cranes. Several manufacturers install Hiab cranes on self propelled crawler chassis.



fixed boom and the top of the sector 120 D, a 12 tonner equipped with outriggers. Starlifter build two models the CX-3T three tonner with two section

the 20TRX and the largest the 120D

six metre boom and the CX8T, an eight tonner with outriggers, 12.6 metre four



Hitachi currently builds one model, the Zaxis 160LCT an eight tonner with four section boom, offering up to 14 metres under hook height and excellent capacities. It offers all of the trappings of its larger cousins, including an air-conditioned cab. According to Rod Abbot of NRC, the UK distributor, it easily justifies a 10 tonne rating. It is though, heavier than those that use outriggers, but then it has the advantages of a compact working footprint and full pick and carry duties a real crane for a real man. We understand that Hitachi is working on a new five tonne model to replace its EX60G, expect to see this at SED 2007.







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mini cranes

The SS Great Britain

The Maeda 285, from AKS, has proved ideal for general lifting work on the SS Great Britain restoration.

Mini cranes big ship

In 1970, Isambard Kingdom Brunel's great ship, the SS Great Britain, returned to Bristol, from Sparrow cove in the Falkland Islands. In the 36 years since, restoration work has been an on-going process. The ships hull, already showing signs of weakness in the 1880's, was threatened with total collapse from rust.

The challenge was to keep the hull away from any moisture, while maintaining the illusion of the ship in water. The solution, developed with help from scientists at Cardiff University, was to seal the ship's hull into a glass roof on her dry dock at waterline level using horizontal 21.5mm thick glass plates. Dehumidifiers remove virtually all of the moisture from the air in the gallery under the glass, making it as dry as Death Valley. Above the glass a 50mm layer of water provides the illusion of a floating ship whilst keeping the glass clean.

Maeda 285 and 305 mini cranes were used to construct the steel and glass ceiling around the ship, the 305 was needed at the rear where its 12.8m boom allowed it to work at up to 12 metre radius, with sufficient capacity to handle the individual components. The 285 was ideal for placing the steel and glass around the bow of the ship, where its low boom pivot height, allowed the contractor to work under overhanging parts of the ship.

The mini cranes, which have also been used for numerous lifting duties around the dock, were supplied by crane hirer AKS. Conventional cranes were already on site, but were unable to get close enough to the ship, due to weight restrictions on Bristol docks, a heritage site in its own right. All of the Maeda cranes are well under four tonnes gross weight, meeting the weight restrictions while the rubber tracks minimise ground bearing pressures.

The cranes compact dimensions made it easier to created isolated work areas, ensuring visitor safety, can move easily around the site and take up very little space when not actually working.

Remote controls proved invaluable

The cranes remote control option has proved a major advantage on the project,



a major advantage on the project, allowing the operator to stay close to the load, working directly with the banks man, ideal during the placement of the glass panels which formed the ceiling of the dry dock. *The Maeda 305 was used at the rear* of the ship for lifts at up to 12m radius.



The SS Great Britain, was launched from Bristol's Great Western docks in 1843, she was the largest ship in the world, over 100 feet longer than her rivals, and the first screw propelled, iron ship. She was designed for the Trans-Atlantic luxury passenger trade, and could carry 252 passengers and 130 crew. The ship was conceived as a paddle steamer, but switched during construction to a 16ft propeller.

From 1845-6 she operated as a luxury passenger ship between Bristol and New York but attracted fewer passengers than anticipated. Her career was cut short when she ran aground on the sands of Dundrum Bay in Ireland in 1846. The hull was not badly damaged, but her engines were ruined, and the expense of refloating and repairs too much for her owners.

1852 - 1876 Emigrant Clipper

New owners, Gibbs-Bright, used the ship to exploit the increase in emigration to Australia spurred by the gold rush. It rebuilt the ship as a fast, luxurious emigrant carrier. A 300 foot-long deck house was added and a new 500 h.p. Penn engine installed. It could now accommodate 750 passengers in three classes. The ship sat lower in the water and featured a much larger superstructure, twin funnels and four masts, later reduced to three. Over the next 24 years she made 32 voyages to Australia, making stops in Cape Town and St Helena and taking around 60 days, extremely fast for the time. In addition to over 15,000 emigrants, she took the first English cricket team to tour Australia in 1861.

Troop Ship

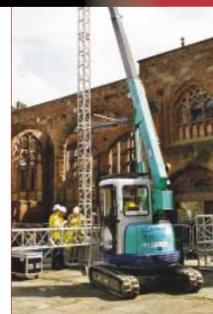
Between 1855 and 1856 the SS Great Britain was chartered to carry over 44,000 troops to the Crimean War. She also carried the 17th Lancers and 8th Hussars to the Indian Mutiny.

1882 - 1886 Windjammer

By the late 1870's the ship was showing her age and maintaining a full passenger vessel registration was difficult. The sleek hull made for an easy conversion into a three-masted sailing ship. Her engines were removed and the hull clad with pitch pine.

1886 - 1970 Coal Hulk

40 years after her launch, she was used to transport Welsh coal to San Francisco around Cape Horn. On her third trip, she ran into trouble around



Spectacularly matched to the job

The IHI CCH30T 2.9 tonne capacity mini crane from AGD, proved invaluable to the Belgrade Theatre for setting up lighting towers for the outdoor production of 'Rootz -The Spectacular' inside the ruins of the old Coventry Cathedral. The rubber tracks, 4 tonnes weight and 1.7 metre width allowed the crane to enter through the arched doorway and work on the stone floor. The 10 metre telescopic boom was ideal for erecting the vertical columns to carry the large number of spotlights used in the production.

the Cape, and took shelter in the Falkland Islands. The repair costs were too high and she was sold as a coal and wool storage hulk in Port Stanley.

During the First World War, her coal fueled battle ships, including HMS Inflexible and Invincible for the battle of the Falkland Islands on 7 December 1914, in which the German cruisers Gneisenau, Scharnhorst, Nurnberg and Leipzig were sunk. By 1937 the hull was no longer watertight, and was towed a short distance to Sparrow Cove, where she was scuttled and abandoned to the elements. Attempts to rescue her in the late 30's failed.

TH SS Great Britain

- Length Overall: 98.15 metres (321.80 feet)
- Gross Tonnage: 3,443
- Net Tonnage: 1,016

mini cranes



Mini crane lights up the alleyways for less

Hull City Council has made substantial savings in its streetlight improvement programme in residential areas of the town thanks to a Valla 20 TRX mini crane, the two tonne crane has increased efficiency in the lifting and removal of unsafe concrete lamp posts from pedestrian footpaths and alleyways by 700 percent.

Once extracted from the ground, each post, weighing up to 275kg, is carried by the crane to a removal vehicle for disposal. In the past an access tower was erected around the post, to allow employees to cut them into manageable sections, which were then dragged by hand to the truck.

The ability of the 20TRX to pick and carry posts, makes light work of removal in a single operation. The crane proved to be ideally suited to this task, thanks to its rough terrain tracks and compact - 950mm wide chassis. In addition to being able to negotiate kerbs and narrow footpaths, the unit's remote controls helps operators to accurately manoeuvre the self propelled crane from a safe distance.

"I'm absolutely delighted with the Valla - we're responsible for over 37,000 lighting columns in and around Hull, The Valla 20TRX has increased efficiency by 700%

Ca



so any efficiency increases in streetlight removal are hugely important," says John Harland, Street Lighting Operations Manager for Hull City Council." Each team has gone from removing around three posts a day to anything up to 21, and by doing away with sawing and manual handling, it is considerably safer too."

Morrison Construction used an IHI CCH50T mini crane and air piling hammer from AGD to install light section sheet piles along the canal in Wolverhampton. Access to the site was so restricted that the crane had to be positioned in a narrow space alongside the towpath and the boom extended over the boundary hedge.



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refurbishment

 Nake

 Identified

 Identified

North America for factory rebuilds of aerial lifts, a year on and it is becoming big business over here. We also report on a major crane rebuild programme by Liebherr at its new facility in the UK.

No matter if it is a Crane, Aerial lift, Telehandler or Lorry loader; increasingly the original manufacturer or its agent is offering a full refurbishment or rebuild service for old or damaged units. A quality rebuild can, for example, make a seven or eight year old boom lift look like new and refurbishment work, with five bays, geared up along production line principles. While we were there a package of 45ft articulated booms were being completely refurbished over five days, ready for repainting. The process includes replacement of all pivot bearings, bushes



The new Genie UK rebuild centre. With five bays and plenty of space

and extend its peak performance by at least five years. A second hand crawler crane from Japan can not only be rebuilt and certified to CE specifications, but also start off with a completely new lease of life.

A used crane traded in for new by a major hire company, can after a week or two be transformed into as new condition, a bargain for an end user or regional hirer or it can be exported to markets where price and value are more critical than the latest specification.

The recycling trend also extends to components, with rebuilds now becoming popular for costly items such as Slew bearings, hydraulic cylinders, Motor control units and more complex joysticks, not to mention bent booms. Sometimes the rebuild option is selected for speed rather than price.

Genie new for old.

Our look at the refurbishment market started with a visit to Genie UK's new refurbishment centre in Grantham.

The company has dedicated one of the buildings on its five acre site to rebuild

and where necessary pins, while all high wear or hard to reach hydraulic cylinders are resealed. New or service exchange controllers are fitted to refurbished boxes; cages are replaced with new or refurbished ones. A thorough engine inspection and service is carried out with repairs as necessary, while hydraulic pumps and valves are checked resealed or replaced. The whole machine is rubbed down and any damage repaired. At the end of the five days the unit goes off for a new high quality two-pack paint job, on return new decals are fitted and a final inspection completed.

The end result? A machine that looks as good as new to all but a detailed under the covers inspection. The cost? Depending on its original condition and what is found during the rebuild process, between £7,000 and £9,000. For a seven or eight year old machine, which might well be written off (or at least down to 20 percent of original purchase price) a user or rental company will have a first class machine for less than half the price of a new one.

Given that delivery times for new booms are now seriously extended, this might be an excellent alternative to new. Companies can either have an existing unit rebuilt or buy a shabby, second hand unit and send it in for rebuilding. Genie prefers to stick with rebuilding its own lifts, as its staff know the machines inside out and it has most, if not all of the parts required in stock. It will take on rebuilds of other brands if a customer requires it, but says that it knows that it is at its best when working on its own products. In addition to rebuilding or refurbishing customer lifts, Genie uses the rebuild facility to dress up or refurbish the used machines that it trades in, prior to reselling them.

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While very few lifts are this bad, a weeks refurbishment and a week in the paint shop and it will be as good as new.

While currently focusing on boom lifts and big scissors, the company also intends to rebuild telehandlers. The rebuild service is also, in theory, available for smaller scissors, but given the amount of labour involved and the relatively low cost of new small scissor lifts, the economics do not really stack up.

In addition to rebuilds for customers looking to give faded machines new lease of life, some work is done on equipment that is simply popular, well loved if you like. A new model is often not available, and even if it was, might not be as good and as Control boxes look as good as new.

reliable as the favoured unit. In such cases, rebuilding is ideal.

At a smaller level Genie is also extending the number of components that it repairs and rebuilds on a service exchange basis, often cutting the replacement cost in half.

The aim is to build up the refurbishment operation to 20 staff, at present it has a team of 10, with active recruitment adding to that each month.

Genie intends to extend the rebuild concept to other European markets in which it operates; interestingly in the USA it uses a franchise type arrangement with appointed regional rebuilders.

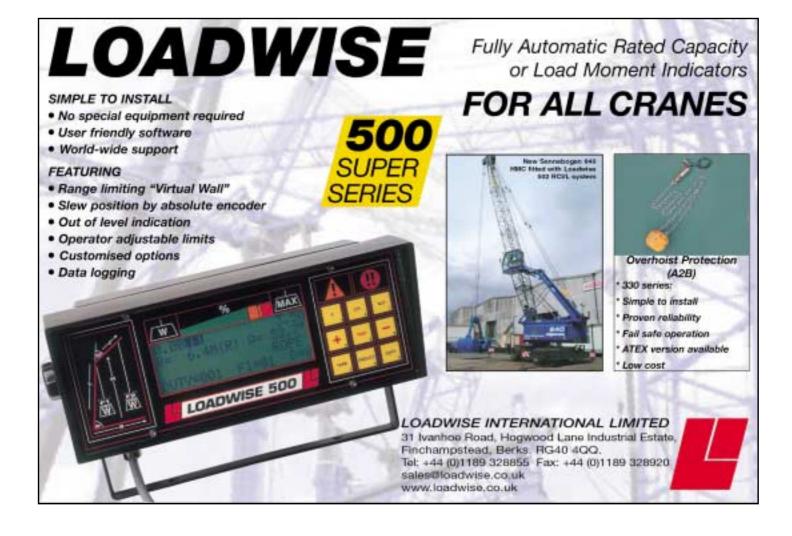
Last year we reported on the JLG

rebuild facility in Tonneins France, that operation is still expanding but has not yet seen the level of demand that American operations operated by JLG, Skyjack and Snorkel are experiencing. As we have already said the longer lead times for new

machines and the increasing difficulty to find good used lifts, might prove to be the catalyst to bring more volume to this sector.



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Once complete the used crane is subjected to a full and detailed final test and inspection.

New continent, new specification, New crane

Crane Business located in Moerdijk Holland, has over the past few years refined and developed its rebuild operation, which includes modifying Japanese market specification cranes to a full CE specification and certification.



The detail that the company go into, to comply fully with European standards, often working with the manufacturer, results in a crane with a European compliance at least as good as the manufacturer's efforts. Another advantage is that the company can supply models that the manufacturer has decided not to market in Europe, for reasons such as low volume potential etc...



A good example of what the company does is represented by the recent sale and delivery of a Kobelco MB600 to Dutch stevedoring service company Potter BV. The used crane looks like new, even under the covers.



Electrical system is renewed hydraulics revised

All of the re-engineering work and modifications including the addition of a high cab, was done in-house and on completion approved by a Notified Body prior to delivery. The crane was then given a new high quality "two-pack" paint job in the Potters red house colour.



The BM600 features a high cab and 30.5 metre boom, specifically equipped for port operations.



A BM600 refurbished for Potter by stevedores



Truck mounted rescue

Wumag the German based manufacturer of truck mounted lifts is offering its customers a level of refurbishment for older lifts that takes a used platform up to virtually new condition. Wumag says that given that safety is not an option on aerial lifts, it doesn't define any aspect of its complete refurbishment service as cosmetic, and in doing so takes a wholly different approach to that practised by many other workshops. Its "complete refurbishment", programme



restores a used lift to like-new condition, providing years of further safe use for the platform.

Each platform going through the process receives:-

- · Completely new covers and mudguards
- Fully revised and updated hydraulics and electrical connections
- · New switchboxes made of high-grade steel and new control panels
- A fully refurbished driver's cab or in the worst cases a new chassis
- · A full overhaul of the boom assembly
- · New tyres
- · An in depth engine service and check by the manufacturer
- · A special brake inspection with renewal of any suspect components
- · Remedial paint is carried out, in the worst case this comprises a sandblasting and full repaint.
- When the unit is completed the lift is subjected to a detailed final quality inspection.

ne back ve n first

The Wumag rebuild team was recently given an unusual project, a customer wanted to have his first ever aerial lift completely rebuilt. The 16 year old Wumag WM 200 was in a poor state of repair and out of action. However the platform had a special place in the owners heart, it was machine that had put him into business.

Wumag guoted a total price of around €95,000 to make the lift like new. This included a brand new chassis. All structural steel components were sandblasted and repainted.



to new condition

The electrical and hydraulic circuits were almost completely replaced with new as were most of the covers, sheet metal work, platform, gates and railings.

Finally this machine was fitted with a new aluminium basket and new control panels. It was then inspected and tested as a new machine with new documentation.

While the reason for the rebuild was driven partially by sentimentality, economic factors also proved decisive. This kind of articulated platform is no longer manufactured and the unit had a well established clientele which specifically wanted the machine back in the fleet.

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Insulated rebuild

When working on high tension overhead power lines it is essential that the aerial lift is in tip top condition. There is no room for error, allowing a machine to age and risk compromising its insulation effectiveness is simply not an option. Versalift UK, the market leading producer of insulated platforms, offers a full UU in-factory rebuild facility. Users of these machines are typically obliged to have all critical areas of the lift rebuilt every five years.

The five year UU refurbishment usually takes around six to eight weeks to complete and involves the fitting of new insulated hoses, chains, pins and bushes etc.. The lifts boom sections are stripped back down to the bare fiberglass, inspected with ultra violet lamps for signs of cracking, before re applying three coats of gelcoat and then repainted.

The entire machine is finally retested dielectrically to ensure its insulation integrity and finally re-certificated to go back into service.



A Versalift VOE36 insulated lift mounted on a Mercedes Unimog chassis belonging to United Utilities is currently being refurbished.

Do it yourself in style



When The Platform Company, the UK's third largest rental company (C&A Top 20), looked at the ongoing refurbishment of its 2,300 unit fleet, it decided to set up its own centre, with the idea that it could also take in refurbishment work from others at a later stage. The company has equipped a 1,600 Square metre, workshop in central England for the task. The new centre is home to a team of dedicated engineers who, in addition to performing a strict six monthly PAC test on every Platform Company machine, completely refurbish an average of 10 lifts a week.



The "refurb" team includes mechanical experts and body work specialists who operate two new state of the art spray booths. The Investment also extends to additional delivery vehicles bringing machines into the centre and delivering them back to the depots. So far the company has not extended the refurbishment centres remit to include work for other companies as it has been kept fully employed by the Platform Company's own fleet.

Lee Perry, sales director at the Platform Company said "The new investment. Reinforces the Platform Company's commitment to customer service excellence through our eight regional branches, it means more machines are on hand to provide safe access when and where they're needed whether it's an electric scissor in Newcastle or an 80 ft boom in Southampton."



refurbishment

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Liebherr gears up

With its new service centre in Biggleswade, Liebherr GB is gearing up to take on crane refurbishments on a scale rarely, if ever, seen before in the UK. Phil Bishop reports

If you need your mobile crane rebuilding or refurbishing there are only a handful of UK numbers you can call for a quote, if you want the job done well. It is a highly specialist business. A couple of the major rental companies like Ainscough and Weldex could probably help you. Samuel Walker would, of course, have been another name on the list, although having gone into administration in January, the future of its operations is now in doubt. You might also want to try one of the manufacturer-owned operations. Of these, Liebherr GB

assessing its UK/Irish after market coverage - but for the moment it is Liebherr that is setting the pace.

On a new business park in Biggleswade, a stone's throw from the A1 in Bedfordshire, Liebherr GB has a 3.7ha site with 2,500 square metres of office space in a threestorey building and a workshop measuring 90metres long by 66 metres wide and 18metres high. Among the equipment in the workshop are five double-girder Abus overhead travelling cranes, four of which are 25 tonne capacity



Dotted strategically around the floor are points for attaching exhaust extraction tubes so that fumes are all taken out below ground rather than having services at height, tangling with the overhead cranes.

There are three mobile computer stations that can be plugged in at any of 17 points around the workshop. On these computers the fitters can call up detail design drawings, complete with all the parts reference numbers, of every Liebherr machine ever built. There is also a rope spooling machine that makes a tricky job much simpler.

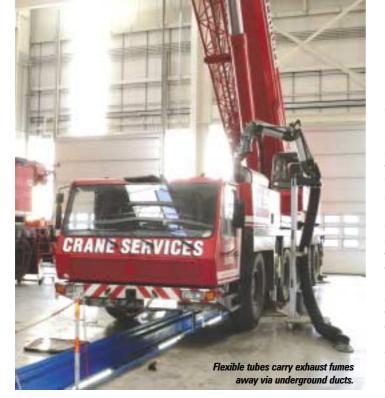
Outside a rolling road is strong enough to take 20 tonnes per axle, which positions Liebherr to carry out MoT inspections if or when such roadworthiness tests ever come in for mobile cranes. David Slack, managing director of Crane Services and a loyal Liebherr customer, says there is nowhere else in the country with the capability to carry out major repairs on large cranes. Staffordshire Public Works used to take on a lot of crane repairs in the past, he says, but no one has anything like what Liebherr has at Biggleswade. Norman Kelsey, national service manager at Hewden Crane Hire, is also impressed. "Liebherr's operation at Biggleswade is an excellent facility. They can do anything you want with regard to repairing cranes." Ten years ago there were just 130 Liebherr mobile cranes in the UK and Ireland, says David Milne, managing director of Liebherr GB. Today it is roughly 900 and Milne confidently expects it to pass the 1,000 mark by the end of this year - "I'm quite convinced of that," he asserts.



This mess came in from a customer in Ireland.

has without doubt the most modern, efficient and impressive workshops at its new Biggleswade headquarters, which opened in July 2004. Terex-Demag is known to be planning new facilities to keep pace, or perhaps even overtake, its prime competitor. At the same time the Manitowoc crane group is in the midst if (one also has a 5 tonne auxiliary hoist) and one is 20 tonne capacity. There are two service pits sunk into the floor, one 21 metres long and one 18 metres. They were pre-made in Germany, ready fitted with lighting, oil removal systems, 110V electricity supply and compressed air for pneumatic tools.





The new Biggleswade facility is part of Liebherr's corporate global strategy to improve product support for the growing number of Liebherr crane owners. It also allows Liebherr to play a leading role in the used crane market, by taking in old used cranes in part exchange and either selling them straight on, or offering them to the market serviced, repaired, refurbished or even fully re-built with factory warranties. Liebherr GB itself is "probably the UK's biggest used crane dealer," Milne says, having sold close to 100 used ones in 2005 - most of which were not Liebherr models. The Liebherr group probably comes close to claiming the title of worlds largest retailer of used cranes. The strategy is not unique to Liebherr, but it has pursued it the most aggressively. As well as in the UK, it is building new service centres at various sites around the world. Facilities similar to Biggleswade have already opened in Dubai and Houston, Texas last year for example.

Biggleswade, like Hatfield before it, is not just a crane centre. It covers Liebherr's entire range of construction machinery - a £100 million business in the UK, says Milne. But it was primarily the demands of the crane industry that meant a new facility was needed. The old premises in Hatfield, where it had been since 1966, were good enough for most of the things the company wanted to do, says Milne, but they were too small to service, repair and refurbish mobile cranes. Much of the work was outsourced. At Biggleswade everything can

(or soon will) be done in-house. Currently, an average of about seven mobile cranes a week pass through the Biggleswade workshop, reckons workshop general manager Shaun Manning. Of these, two might be new machines coming in for pre-delivery modifications, such as mounting tackle boxes on the rear, since the tackle boxes are fabricated here. Most, however, are used machines. Occasionally a Liebherr customer will have had an accident - tipped over and buckled the boom, for example - and they need some swift repair work. More often the cranes are old ones that have been taken in part exchange and are being sold on maybe to the Middle East or to Dutch trading houses. "The really old stuff we just sell into the trade. We don't do any work on them - just sell them," Milne explains. "The better ones, we tidy up, overhaul and repaint. The plan for later this year is to start doing complete overhaul work."

The amount of work done on the crane depends on the deal done with the buyer. Typically they just want it in proper working order, which means a full service - oil, filters, antifreeze, check tyres etc and resealing cylinders where needed. Occasionally, rather more work is needed, such as when a crane is turned over and the boom is smashed up. An 80 tonner belonging to luxury yacht builder Sunseekers tipped over last year when the operator forgot to deploy the outriggers, narrowly missing several millionpound yachts but successfully buckling the boom.

A 500 tonne crane needed a new engine last year because the owner



had been running it with only one of the nine axles actually driving, Manning says. He sees plenty of crane abuse. A six-axle 300 tonner came in from Scotland with no working brakes on three of the axles. "The biggest job we are taking on at the moment is replacing slew rings," says Manning. "We have done about 10 now. Because of the overhead cranes here we can just take the upper off. On the [250 tonne capacity] LTM 1250 upwards, we need to use two overhead cranes. To do that type of work in the field, the customer has to tie up two of his mobile cranes."

Just before Christmas a major customer needed a rapid turnaround on a 250 tonner. "Normally for a big crane like that you're looking at three or four days," Manning says. The workshop pulled out all the stops, it being 23 December, and five men had the job done in 24 hours. So far, most of the work has been repair work rather than full refurbishments and rebuilds. Manning explains the distinction between repair and refurbishment. "From a Liebherr point of view, repair is fixing what the customer asks you to do. Refurbishment is making it in perfect, good-as-new condition."

"We will progressively get into more extensive refurbishments," Milne says.

There are two obstacles standing between where the workshop is now and where it plans to be, they admit. Firstly, the infrastructure needs to be completed. Liebherr GB still has to outsource painting, although there is a dedicated paint shop in place waiting to be fitted out. It is in the budget for completion this year. And, until now, booms have had to go back to Ehingen for repair since the boom alignment tool is not yet set up. Manning says it will be in the next few weeks, which probably means whenever it is next needed.

The second problem is less easy to solve swiftly. As anyone in the industry knows, skilled experienced fitters do not grow on trees. There are six fitters and a foreman in the workshop at the moment, working on earthmovers and concrete trucks as well as cranes. To build that number up to 10 there are four trainees on four-year apprenticeships across all machine types. "We need to train people," Milne says. "We've been sending the

says. "We've been sending the guys to the factory [in Ehingen] for training and we've got three Germans in the shop right now. You don't get that kind of expertise overnight. It takes time to build experience levels up."



mast climbers Cha

Climbin the walk

Powered Access is gradually replacing traditional forms of mechanical or fixed access. Self-propelled booms and scissors have been at the forefront of this phenomenon, arguably replacing scaffold towers along with some ladders and steel scaffold. However the biggest single form of traditional access equipment has to be façade scaffold. No matter how big a fan you are of self propelled or truck mounted lifts, in many applications they are simply not a substitute for a big façade scaffold. However the mast climbing work platform IS, at least for most applications.

The mast climber, however, is not habitually the first access solution that springs into a contractors mind when he is planning a job. Although this does vary enormously from country to country. Unlike self propelled lifts the market penetration of mast climbers is not closely linked to GNP/Head or sophistication. The most developed and mature mast climber markets are Holland and Sweden, no surprise then that the leading producer is a Swedish Dutch group.

The UK and Ireland lagging behind

Sweden and Holland are also the most developed markets for self propelled lifts and alloy towers, so clearly what they have in common is a desire to replace as many ladders and façade scaffolds as possible and an appreciation for efficient powered access. Other surprisingly developed markets include Spain and parts of Canada. So where does the UK and Ireland fit into all this, in terms of product acceptance and market penetration?

Mastclimbers can be free standing or anchored in.



<image>

Well down the list, behind Holland, Belgium, Sweden, Norway and Denmark possibly on a par with France but at least ahead of Germany.

Why is this?

Our investigations threw up two theories:

1) The conservative nature of most UK builders, a reoccurring theme when it comes to the adoption of new ways of working. Surely though Disenchantment soon set in as it became clear that their salesmen were not calling on the right customers at the right time in a projects life. - No good turning up on site and offering to cut the rate with mast climbers.

- On top of that the salesmen did not have the expertise to be able to advise a contractor and recommend the right build.

- Hirers also lacked the skilled and



it cannot all be down to blinkered British builders can it? The second reason is

2) Availability, the limited number of rental suppliers and the low profile that many mast climber hirers adopt is probably also a factor.

What went wrong?

15 years or so ago mast climbers were the next big idea when it came to powered access products, a good number of self propelled hire companies, flush with profits from a very strong access market, jumped in feet first and added fleets of mast climbers to their product range. highly efficient installation teams needed to design, install and when necessary modify, mast climbers. In some ways mast climbers are better suited to façade scaffold hire companies. However contract scaffolders tend to bill by the hour for installation and modification, the idea of investing heavily in new equipment which results in fewer hours billed, hardly excited the entrepreneurial juices with them!

With the largest part of the potential mast climber applications closed to them, hirers chased the simple end of the market in the only way most of them knew-how in those days -

30 cranes & access March 2006

Canadian producers in particular, offer amazing cantilevers on their platforms

They cut the rental rate! As night follows day the outcome is no surprise, most companies lost heavily on their investment which also co-incided with the construction downturn of the early 90's. They quit the business as fast as they were able. Sadly the process had an effect on the few companies that were more dedicated to mast climbers. Investment ceased and one by one they abandoned the market.

The UK and Ireland, more than anywhere else in Europe prefers to rent its equipment. So if a product is not widely available to rent it simply does not catch on. The self erecting tower crane is another good example of this phenomenon.

One man saw the potential

In the darkest days of the Mast climber in the UK, one person was canny enough to spot the longer term potential and while everybody else was bailing out of mast climber rental he was buying in. Andrew Reid, barring an upset, the next president of IPAF, was that man. Having retired from the self propelled business to buy a hotel in Scotland (which he quickly discovered was not to his taste) he bought into the mast climber market, establishing Mastclimbers Ltd in Glasgow.

He applied a totally different approach, mirroring the better contract scaffolders and building up one of the most highly qualified management teams in the rental business; he was on hand to take over the mast climber businesses of other companies as they pulled out of the market.

At one time Mastclimbers was virtually the only show in town,

with a market share approaching 80 percent. The company also appeared to prefer a low profile, probably not wishing to attract the other hirers back into what has become a profitable and growing market again. In recent times companies such as Alimak-Hek UK and Universal have built up significant fleets and contractors are increasingly replacing their façade scaffold with mast climbers.

The use of mast climbers is growing again

The key benefits that are driving this steady move are:

1. Aesthetics: A mast climber installation does not mask the building while it is being worked on; in fact on larger buildings a mast climber can be almost invisible.

2. Security: No ladders are required and the platforms can be "parked" in the fully lowered or an elevated position preventing intruders from using it to gain entry to upper floors.

3. Safety: Eliminating ladders means no climbing, tradesmen enter the fully guard railed platform at ground level and power up to the work location. No chance of any safety components being left off.

4. Efficiency: The work is carried out at the optimum height, no need to stretch or bend over to reach work areas so quality of work improves too.

5. Erection risks: Many accidents with façade scaffold occur during its erection, mast climber elements are added from the safety of the platform.

6. Material handling: With the ability to load material at ground level, smaller telehandlers can be used and tower crane time saved.



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Self propelled rail mounted mast climber solves **T5** façade challenges

The main facades of Heathrow airports new Terminal Five building, T5 as it is known, are now virtually complete, although the terminal itself is not due to open until March 30th 2008. The four facades are made up of 3,565, three by two metre special glass panels a significant contract in itself; however the structure presented some major additional headaches for the Swiss based contractor, Schmidlin. The company is no stranger to glass façade challenges, the last big project it completed in London was the Swiss Re building, better known as the "Gherkin". It has created an unbeatable reputation for manufacturing and installing bespoke facades.

At Terminal five, the longer East and West facades presented particularly challenging access and installation problems. The two 400 metre (quarter of a mile) long facades slope outwards from the base by 6.5 degrees, are 27 metres high and in places are located over massive voids down into the underground railway and station. Each of the 3,565 individual glass panels weigh almost half a tonne and has its own unique location, thanks to the random location of the mounting bracket supports.

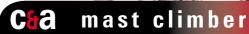
As if all this was not enough the special curved roof overhangs the façade by eight metres and no tie-ins to the building of any kind were allowed. This eliminated the use of scaffold, as did the contract time and the edict not to block the large entrance points to the building. Suspended access or use of cranes to place the glass was ruled out by the roof overhang and lack of anything to suspend from. Big scissor lifts were considered, but given the capacity requirements, ground conditions particularly on the eastern side with its



The pallets sat in motorised stillages.

large voids, not to mention the possible side loadings from pushing a half tonne glass pane into position, ruled them out. The solution for lifting the glass panels into place was solved with a specially modified Hiab crane arm, fitted with a vacuum lifter. The crane was mounted to a base that, allowed it to move nine metres side to side and back and forth





from the rear of the platform for picking up the panels to the front to reach the façade. The manipulator on its own weighed 1.7 tonnes.

Having considered the various access options, or rather, lack of them, Schmidlin contacted Alimak-Hek in order to investigate a mast climbing solution. Hek proposed custom built, free standing, twin mast, A-Frame mast climbers, using HEK MS Pro-Max work platforms and components. The solution arose from a meeting between the project management team set up by the two companies, using two Hek mast climber scale models they leant one against another and had a Eureka moment! The 'A' frame configuration could free stand to the height without any need of anchoring and could easily be self propelled.

Given the contract time, Schmidlin ordered four units, two heavy main glazing units, one for each façade, and two lighter versions for mounting shading and ancillary components.

The glazing units featured a 16 metre long platform with nine metres between the two masts which sloped by 6.5 degrees to match the façade. Special supporting brackets compensated for the angle, levelling the deck. The masts are mounted to a special steel frame chassis, incorporating Demag electric motors to drive each of the four rail track wheels.

In addition to the main deck, a material storage platform was built into the chassis between the two frames, using HEK MegaDeck platform sections. These have sufficient space to hold at least two pallets of five glass panels on motorised stillages. The mast climbers were also subjected to a third party CE certification and incorporated numerous safety features, including a highly accurate overload system.

Tested in advance

This contract was unusual in that before Schmidlin and Alimak-Hek's unusual machine was allowed anywhere near a final structure, it was tested on a life size section of the façade erected in Thirsk Yorkshire. In this way the concept and the working procedures were able to be fully tested well before they were required on site. In the trial the mast climber ran on a standard rail track with timber sleepers and Rock ballast. This proved to be impractical due to the sheer volume of rock required, so a special I-beam track was developed. It consisted of three 72 metre sections, once the façade



The solution to the access and lifting problem was solved with a twin mast A-Frame.

was completed over one of the lengths it was moved from the back to the front.

Just in time with storage on board.

The T5 contract calls for just in time delivery of all materials, so Schmidlin rented a 10,000 square metre warehouse nearby, to store the glass and other material as they arrived from the Swiss plant.

The procedure for a days work, involved the arrival from the warehouse of two, 2.3 tonne pallets of glass each with five panels. All carefully marked and stacked in order of installation. A Manitou 1744 telehandler, rented from Universal offloaded the pallets and placed them into the stillages on the storage platforms. When the main deck is in the fully lowered position, the pallets are travelled towards the deck, within range of the manipulator, which grasps a single glass panel. The retaining bands holding it to the pallet are cut with a long handled tool, releasing the glass to the manipulator. In this way there was no need for anyone to go onto the storage platforms avoiding a potential hazard.

mast climbers

Manipulation

The manipulator crane is then moved to the central point of the platform, between the two masts, in order to ensure equalised loadings. Safety switches prevent elevation unless the load is centralised. The platform was then elevated at 11 metres a second, to the required position and the panel carefully lifted to a point above its location and then slid down into its retaining brackets.

The installation process requires access to both sides of the glass in order to ensure that the glass fits into the gaskets and mounting brackets correctly. Four fitters worked on the mast climber, while the two fitters on the inside, used one of the four specially purchased 38 metre, Palazzani TSJ 38 spider lifts, supplied by Powered Access Sales and Service (PASS).

Shading from Lighter duty models

In total there were four of the special inclined HEK mast climbers working on the building, two of the main glazing units already described, one for each of the two long facades, and two 19 metre long versions used to install the hundreds of brise soleil (sun shade) systems. The brise-soleils, are assembled in situ and comprise three metre long 50mm diameter stainless steel rods, which are supported on a suspension system connected under the roof sofit. After installing a set of rods, the mast climber's platform descends and loads up with the six metre long by 1.8metre wide aluminium blades, each weighing 250 kgs. These are then attached to the rods. These "lighter duty" mast climbing rigs incorporate a secondary platform to facilitate the installation of



the long blades, and an extended width to the rear of the masts to allow sufficient storage space for the various components.

Andy Turnbull, Schmidlin (UK) Ltd's on site contract manager, said, " Work on both the west and east facades progressed well, exceeding the 10 glazing elements per day target. The Hek machines have worked very well and been exceptionally reliable. We have an Alimak-Hek engineer based on site to ensure correct operation and to maintain the machines. We have installed wind monitors on each Hek machine so that the operators can bring them down should the wind speed exceed the imposed limit of 12.7 m/s - even though the machines can withstand higher."

The North and South facades are each 176 metres long but are vertical with no significant roof overhang, thus far simpler than those on the east and west. So heavy duty suspended platforms working in tandem with JLG 1350 SJP booms and internal scaffolding, were used.

The Hiab manipulator crane with vacuum head places the 2x3m glass panels, note the Palazzani platform.

Welbro Building corporation is currently completing what will be one of central Florida's largest full-service convention hotels and resorts at **Rosen Shingle** Creek Orlando.



The hotel is designed in 1900's Spanish Revival style architecture, with high-carved arches accented by natural earth tones, and ranges in height from 25 to 50 metres. Welbro had a tight deadline on the external works and needed to have full coverage of the multi sided building, it called in Sunbelt rentals, part of the Ashtead group. In order to satisfy the brief, it supplied 65 Scanclimber mast climbers to provide complete access to the hotel exterior for specialty

contractors during the various phases of construction, including window installation, painting, insulation, and exterior finishing.

The mast climbers were positioned side by side in order to completely wrap the hotel exterior during construction. Fourteen of the platforms were installed on mini-chassis and positioned inside the building and extended through the rooftop. Sunbelt Rentals provided a turnkey installation service, including design, erection, and power generation from three 350 KW diesel powered generators.

The 230 acre Rosen Shingle Creek, is scheduled to open in September 2006, and will offer 1,500 guest rooms and suites, along with 24,000 square metres of convention and meeting space.

"It was a great selling point for us, being able to provide everything needed for the job," said Phil Bohenkamp, Sunbelt sales manager of Mast Climber Services. Sunbelt also provided traditional scaffolding and other equipment.



The 65 Scanclimbers provided wall to wall coverage with infill sections on most corners.

Leon Clement, site manager for Welbro, said : "Sunbelt Rentals has been excellent to work with on this project. They have provided exceptional response times, whenever we needed service."

Bring your own Mastclimber

Canadian manufacturer, Fraco is best known for heavy duty and special mast climbers. It is now promoting its lightweight mast climbers, including the new FRSM 1500 model that will be on display at Intermat. Weighing between 1,900 and 2,334kgs it can be towed behind larger cars, vans and 4x4's. Once on site it can be set up by one person in around 30 minutes to its maximum free standing height of 11 metres, without the need for any lifting equipment.



With a platform capacity of 680kgs it is ideal for a variety of applications, including painting, rendering, re-pointing and window installation etc ... The Fraco 1500 tows behind a van and can set up in 30 minutes to 11 metres.



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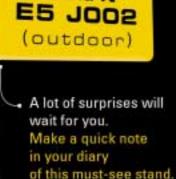


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WITH DE N

Hanging offence or useful tool

A new European standard for man-baskets suspended from cranes has been published. Phil Bishop explores the implications.

The issue of lifting persons in baskets suspended from cranes has been a hot topic for several years. There is a strong body of thought that argues that cranes are designed for lifting goods and not people and therefore is contrary to the EU Use of Work Equipment Directive 95/63/CE 1995.

When crane hire company NMT offered rides in a basket suspended from a crane to visitors to the 2002 SED show, the International Powered Access Federation swiftly called in the Health & Safety Executive. After some discussion the authorities put a stop to the rides (which, it should be added, were merely to raise funds for charity). The basis for stopping NMT was that it was deemed to be using the crane and basket as a fairground ride rather than as industrial equipment.

The same rules apply to loader cranes



It is, in fact, perfectly legal in the UK to ride in a man-basket suspended from a crane, although some crane owners feel that clearer guidance is required from the HSE.

The HSE says that its attitude to riding in baskets suspended from



This large gondola is fitted to an Australian canopy crane, sadly driver Dick Cooper (far Right) fell to his death earlier this year.

cranes is very similar to its attitude to the use of work platforms attached to forklifts. In each case, LOLER says that it may be done only in "exceptional circumstances".

In effect, this means where a risk assessment has demonstrated that there is not a more appropriate, safer alternative readily available. This is also in line with the Work at Height Regulations' hierarchy of risk.

There is also a requirement that the basket is designed for the purpose, firm guidance on the design and use of man-baskets suspended from cranes comes with the publication of EN 14502-1 Cranes - Equipment for lifting persons - Part 1: Suspended Baskets. This European Standard was approved by CEN on 25 May 2005 and will be published by BSI within the next few weeks.

The new standard has not been mandated under the Machinery Directive, which means that it takes the form of guidance rather than a legally binding document. However, anyone facing a law suit will be in a



weak position if they have not adhered to published best practice, which the standard represents.

Nor does the standard take precedence over national laws governing the use of man-baskets on cranes (France, for example, takes a much stronger line than the UK against the practice).

Among the demands of EN 14502-1 for the design of baskets are the following key points:

Suspended baskets shall be incombustible and protected against corrosion.

The basket shall have a minimum free standing height of two metres.

When the suspended basket is designed to be used in situations where falling objects may be a hazard, the basket shall have a roof, able to withstand the impact of a steel ball weighing 7kg, falling from a height of two metres.

When calculating the rated capacity, the weight of each person shall be taken as at least 80kg plus at least 40kg of equipment for each person. A safety factor of at least two must



Installations such as this platform fitted to a Locatelli city crane, is governed by EN280 and not the new suspended platform standard

be used in design calculations.

The basket must be attached to the crane hook with either steel wire rope slings according to EN 13414-1 or chains according to EN 818-4 with a safety factor of at least: eight for chains, and 10 for wire ropes, including the end termination.

The slings shall be fitted to the basket in such a way that they can only be removed with tools.

The vertical distance between the floor of the basket and the crane hook shall be no more that three metres.

The floor of the basket shall be secured to the frame by welding or some other equally effective means. The floor must be slip resistant and have drainage.

Free space on the floor shall be at least 600mm x 600mm for one person, and at least 400mm x 400mm more for each additional person.

Suspended baskets must be designed so that if a load 1.5 times the rated capacity is applied at the worst position on the floor, any resulting inclination shall not exceed 20°.

Any gate shall not open outwards and shall have an automatic catch to prevent it from being opened inadvertently.

Baskets shall have anchorage points in accordance with EN 795 for personal protective equipment and people in the basket shall wear a harness with lanyard.

The standard also sets out detailed requirements for hand rails and contents of the instruction manual.

The manual must state that the suspended basket shall only be used in combination with cranes which are designed for the lifting of persons. The only clue as to which cranes are considered "designed for the lifting of persons" comes with the proviso that cranes must have powered lowering and not free-fall winches.

The manual must also state that:

The crane and the suspended basket shall only be operated by people trained in the safe use of the combination, including the operating procedures for egress in case of power supply failure or control failure.

for the record Cha

The lifting and supporting should be made under controlled conditions and under the direction of one appointed person.



Suspended baskets are used in conjunction with tower cranes for forest canopy research.

A crane driver should always be present at the normal crane control station when the basket is occupied.

Visible and audible communication should exist between the persons in the basket and the crane driver at all times during the lifting operation. The required equipment necessary to perform an emergency rescue shall be available throughout the lifting operation.

During operation the employer should not require the crane driver and signaller to do other work at the same time, or direct a second crane and/or Basket.

Lifting slings for suspended baskets should not be used for any other purpose. Suspended baskets should not be used in wind in excess of 7m/s (25km/h), electric storms, ice, snow, fog, sleet, or other adverse weather conditions that could affect the safety of personnel.

Machines which can be operated simultaneously in the same place with risks of collision should be stopped.

Unintended movement of the basket should, where possible, be prevented e.g. by means of guide ropes or anchoring.



The suspended baskets, hook, catch, and fixed load lifting attachment should be inspected prior to each use.

The hook must have a safety catch.

The basket shall be positioned on a firm surface when entering or exiting.

Although many in the powered access industry would doubtless like to see a ban on the use of cranes for lifting people, Peter Oram, the UK's representative on the crane committee that produced the standard, says such a step would be madness. "I'm a realist," he says. "You'd grind industry to a halt. You'd have no Channel Tunnel for a start and you'd have no imports because you wouldn't be allowed to have anyone on spreader beams on containers.

Oram does say, however, that industrial machines like cranes should not be used to lift people for entertainment purposes. This suggests that all those who use cranes to offer bungee jumping may soon find themselves targeted by the HSE.



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In the January/February issue of Cranes& Access, our comment covered the fact that the UK treasury is aiming to withdraw the use of rebated red diesel in vehicle mounted aerial lifts, but retaining it for cranes. We posted a letter from Scott McCall of Nationwide, on Vertikal.Net which then spurred a response from IPAF and others. We reproduce those letters here to kick off what we hope will become a regular readers letters page.

17 February 2006

Dear Sir,

At present, truck-mounted access platforms and mobile cranes are permitted to use red diesel which does not carry such a heavy tax burden as the white diesel used in road-going lorries, buses and cars.

Because they are designed to be primarily used on site, cranes and access platforms are classified along with other construction plant and agricultural vehicles and hence qualify for the cheaper fuel, which is dyed red to discourage its illegal use.

Nationwide Access went to court in 2000 to reverse a decision by HM Customs & Excise to prevent us using red diesel. We won that case, but now the Government has announced plans to ban the use of re diesel in truck-mounted access platforms. The Treasury proposes to remove a number of vehicle types from the red diesel category in the 2006 budget, although the operators may be given up to 12 months in which to comply.

Our truck-mounted access platforms only use the public highway when travelling to and from the worksite and as such are not primarily intended for road use. An analysis of our operators working hours during 2005 showed that 90% of their time was spent working on site therefore there is no logical justification for banning the use of red diesel.

White diesel carries an additional Hydrocarbon Duty, which means it costs roughly 65 pence per litre more than red diesel. Our current operated hire rates are calculated with the vehicles running on red diesel and with such a significant increase in costs it is not possible for the hire company to absorb them. It is therefore inevitable that these costs will be passed on to the end-user, which will mean an estimated increase of 20% per hire.

Powered access use has increased rapidly during the past few years, many industries now depend on it and their end products and services are priced with its use included. But this growth hasn't just been in construction, for example the mobile telecommunications industry spends around £10 million per year on powered access equipment for infrastructure expansion and maintenance. A 20% increase on this is significant - and that is before you look at their use of other plant that could be affected.

With the ever increasing use of 3G mobile phone technology, the coming years will be a busy time for telecommunications infrastructure work, and the mobile providers will simply pass any increase in installation costs straight to their customers - that's you and me.

However, my greatest fear is not the cost being passed on, but that these cost-hikes could undermine the government's own safety agenda: If it gets too expensive, people will be tempted to find other ways of working at height, which would undermine everything that The Work at Height Regulations (2005) have done to encourage people to use the most suitable method of access for every job.

Even though steps, ladders and scaffold towers are sometimes cheaper than powered access, many access users from a variety of business sectors are now putting safety before cost. My greatest fear is that the ban on the use of red diesel won't help to encourage that trend, but it might help to reverse it.

Scott McCall Marketing Manager Nationwide Access

Cla readers letters

February 20th, 2006.

Dear Editor,

Scott McCall's letter about red diesel and vehicle mounted platforms is absolutely correct. If VMPs are prevented from using red diesel then other forms of temporary access will benefit and the HSE's hard work on preventing falls from height will be seriously

IPAF has held meetings with Treasury officials and is lobbying both Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs and the Health & Safety Executive to ensure that this penny pinching measure is not implemented. A very small number of vehicles will be affected by the proposed change and evidence presented to HMRC suggests that less than £1 million of additional revenue will be raised. The unintended side effects of the move could, however, be grave with cranebaskets, fork lift trucks, temporary stages and other unsuitable equipment becoming much more cost effective than purpose designed, safe, powered access.

Vehicle mounted platforms use the highways to reach the job site and should be allowed to use red diesel. Yours faithfully

Tim Whiteman

Managing Director International Powered Access Federation

February 24th, 2006.

Dear Leigh,

I read with interest Tim Whiteman's letter regarding "Red" diesel and the benefit to the Revenue of a piddling £1,000,000.00 pa.

Has anyone calculated the cost of investigating accidents at height, which could/will increase, if unsafe methods of access are used in an attempt to reduce costs...!

A single death on the road costs "£1,000,000.00 to clear up and investigate being Highways Agency figures. What is the cost of a death on a construction site(?), perhaps the HM Health & Safety Executive should be asked the question.

Food for thought.

Regards

Bill Green PLC Sales

> The UK budget will be announced by the chancellor on March 22nd, the final decision on this issue will be announced then.

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over 200,000 buyers of construction equipment from all over the world, no matter if you are a manufacturer, distributor, rental company or end user, taking a couple of days out of your busy schedule may pay dividends and possibly even be fun. So Why should you go?

Manufacturers

If you are thinking of exhibiting and have not yet booked a stand, it may well be too late. The organisers say that it is sold out, however from experience it is still worth asking, especially if you do not need a large stand. Intermat is a great show for finding distributors for certain markets as well as meeting buyers, particularly from Southern Europe, the Middle East, South America and North Africa. If you are not exhibiting, it is still well worth visiting, in order to see what you competitors are up to and meet some of your customers in the aisles, although given its size this a bit hit and miss. If your potential customers are among the exhibitors, the larger companies bring along their engineers and buyers, in order to seek out new components and suppliers, so it can be an excellent opportunity.

Distributors

As we have already said Intermat is a great show for potential principles and dealers to meet, you will find some exhibitors at Intermat that you are unlikely to see elsewhere.

Rental companies and other buyers

A number of manufacturers are planning to use Intermat to launch new products and concepts, some of which they have already announced and others which they have not. You will also see products you won't find at other shows. A show is also a good opportunity to meet new people and "feel" the mood and tempo of the market. If you have money to spend, many manufacturers love to justify the expense of exhibiting, so closing a deal on their stand may well win you a little more discount or some

better terms. You have the chance to meet not only your usual contacts but also the company's senior managers. So a great opportunity to settle an outstanding issue or problem.

End users/contractors

This is as much a show for you as anyone, the idea is that at a big show like this the worlds manufacturers display new ideas, new equipment and attachments that can make your trade more efficient, safer or simpler. With 1,500 companies from all over the world showing off their latest and greatest wares, you are sure to pick up a few good ideas and learn something. With the steady stream of new regulations and directives, this is also a good chance to learn how manufacturers are dealing with such rules.

Pick up a copy of Vertikal Intermat, guide to lifting exhibits and Paris

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Seminars

Intermat is not the best for conferences or seminars, but a number of events and demonstrations are planned, including some special areas such as Mecabat, where talks and reports will be presented on the mechanisation of small and medium job sites. CETIM, where the focus is on innovations and expertise, including the future use of computers on construction sites. The IPAF demonstration area where working safely at height is demonstrated. The scaffold area, where the French scaffold association. SFECE, will present and demonstrate the latest scaffold training ideas.

If you are to get the most out of a visit you do need to work at it and plan ahead.

Basic facts

When: April 24th to 29th

Where: The Paris Nord, Parc des Expositions in Villepinte, near the Charles de Gaulle airport.

Hours: 9:00 till 18:00

How to get there: Free shuttles run every 30 minutes from the airport. The RER line B, regional train between the CdG airport and Paris, stops at the "Parc des Expositions" station.

Where to stay? Paris has plenty of hotels, so no problem finding one, the challenge is finding one that is close by. Airport hotels are likely to be fully booked already, so look for hotels along the RER line B through Paris, It only takes 20 minutes and in the evening you will appreciate being close to all the restaurants and, for some, the nightlife!

How to find your way around: Pick up a copy of Vertikal Intermat of course! In English, French and German, this fantastic free guide sorts the "wheat from the chaff" and only covers, lifting related products. It also includes a guide to Paris, with the best map of the Paris Metro and RER, a selection of restaurants and things to do. You'll find copies on most crane and access stands, on the Vertikal stand or from one of the Vertikal hostesses.



ALLMI focus Cla

Safety Systems

The frequency of operators consciously overriding crane safety systems is increasingly concerning ALLMI. Crane safety systems relate to various aspects of the crane, whether it's to prevent unsafe use during operation or to ensure that the crane is safely stowed for travel. The following points highlight the most common abuses and how dangerous the consequences of these actions can be:



 When a load on the crane exceeds the rated capacity, a crane's Rated Capacity Limiter (RCL) prevents the functions that would increase the overload and cause instability or structural damage. However, with the override activated on used, as there is a danger of the operator being hit by the boom, unless there is a safety system in place to prevent this. In both of these examples the operator may be tempted to override the motion limiter, allowing the crane to be used over its full range of movement. It is not uncommon for this kind of reckless behaviour to have expensive consequences for the company in terms of damage to equipment and even more serious consequences for the operator should he come into contact with the boom.

3. A Height Warning Device is an in-cab system which warns the driver that the



the RCL dump valve, the crane can be made to extend the load outside the permitted radius because the RCL system cannot drain to tank. Such overloading can stress the crane beyond its design limits, which will shorten its life and increase the risk of structural failure. 2. Motion limiters are used to restrict certain crane functions, such as the slewing range or boom height. For example, if the crane hasn't been tested for use over the cab then the motion limiter will prevent the operator from slewing the crane into that particular position. Motion limiters may also be necessary where stand-up controls are

travelling height stated on the notice in the cab has been exceeded. These devices are sometimes overridden so that the crane can be placed on top of a load, thereby allowing the vehicle to carry more goods. This is more likely to happen with cranes using a brick grab or a clamshell bucket. If the stowed height warning device itself isn't overridden it has been known for operators to stick chewing gum on the in-cab warning buzzers or to remove the bulb from the in-cab warning light so that they can travel with the crane in a raised position without being irritated by the devices that have been put there to warn them. Obviously these irresponsible actions can result in "Bridge Bashing" and can lead to costs that could put a company out of business (railway bridge repairs are often in excess of £1 million). It also endangers the lives of the driver and the pedestrians in the vicinity of the accident.

4. Another system which is commonly overridden is the device which prevents the handbrake of the lorry being released unless the stabiliser legs are fully up and fully in. The system is fitted to ensure that legs are correctly stowed for travel. This system is sometimes overridden to allow the operator to move the vehicle with outrigger jacks only partially retracted in order to move more quickly from one part of a site to another. As with the examples given above, this corner-cutting attitude endangers the lives of innocent



people and can prove very costly to the operator's employer.

The overriding of safety systems is an ongoing problem for the industry that is difficult to stop completely. There will always be people who will take risks and

Contractor fined €100,000 for Lorry loader death

The South Midland Construction Company Ltd has been fined \in 100,000 for breach of health and safety regulations which led to the death of an employee in Blanchardstown in November 2001.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that Michael Murphy, employed by the company as a truck driver, died from severe brain trauma, after he was hit in the head by the clam shell bucket of the lorry loader crane on his truck.

investigations into Murphy's death revealed that sensors on the lorry loader that would have stopped the bucket from coming into the vicinity of Murphy had been removed from the machine.

Mr O'Dea said that location of a compactor which he was preparing to unload using the lorry crane also contributed to the accident as it had been too near the control station from which Mr Murphy was operating the crane. sacrifice safety in order to make the job quicker or easier.

However, the situation can be improved by educating operators as to why these safety systems are in place and what the possible consequences are of overriding them. Operators should also be informed of the fact that they are breaking the law by tampering with safety systems (contravenes the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974). Providing this information is a crucial part of ALLMI operator training.

A two pronged approach

In today's increasingly litigious world, servicing companies should ensure that overridden safety systems are detected and the appropriate action taken. In order to achieve this, service companies should ensure the following points are checked every time a member of its staff works on a crane.

 The engineer should be familiar with the crane's systems. If they are not, the company should consider whether they should be undertaking work on the crane.

2. Carry out a visual check that all overrides are engaged and check that seals are in place and are functional.

3. Carry out a functional check on the emergency stop system. Document any fault in this system and replace seals

after any necessary repairs have been made if the system is functioning incorrectly

4. Ensure that the paperwork is signed by an employee from the owner's company and inform them of what has been found.

5. Consider attaching a notice to the crane controls advising that under no circumstances should the crane be operated until a repair is effective.

6. If the company/owner shows a tendency to consistently offend and adopts a cavalier attitude to the law and safety, you should consider reporting them to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). You should also consider whether they are worth working for, as eventually it may be your company in the dock.

7. Make customers aware of companies that are not carrying out inspections properly.



Cia ALLMI focus New ALLMI Vebsite

ALLMI has recently launched its new look website. The site contains all the relevant information relating to ALLMI's Instructor and Operator training programmes, as well as details regarding the structure and functions of ALLMI and the publications it produces.



It also includes full details of all accredited training providers and a list of ALLMI members and the services they offer. In addition, a new 'Articles & News' page will include all the editions of ALLMI Focus from Cranes & Access magazine, available for downloading free of charge. Please visit the new ALLMI site today at www.allmi.com



The training accreditation service of Lorry Loader Manufacturers and Importers ALLMI Second Floor Suite, 9 Avon Reach, Monkton Hill, Chippenham, Wiltshire. SNI5 IEE TEL:01249 659150 email: enquiries@allmi.com web: www.allmi.com

New heights are being achieved in lifting gear, powered access and scaffolding.

Here's a few of those raising their game in the SED 2006 Cranes & Access Village. All eyes will be on the Hitachi Sumitomo SCX 800 2HD from NRC Cranes, never seen before in the UK. Lorry loaders up to 180 ton-meter from Ernest Doe. Tower cranes from Vanson and Dunham. Battery powered booms from Manitou. And the doorway-slim Oktopus MC-285C mini. Look out for Safestand mast climbing systems, Versaliff's extended outreach system and SAFI work platforms from INSA Scaffolding.

Components, tackle, remote controls and support gear are in the all-new Pavilion. Plus there's £100 and a trophy to be won every day in the Hiab/ Vertikal Challenge.

Whichever way you view it, here at SED 2006 things are looking up.

SED 2006 - 16, 17 & 18 MAY

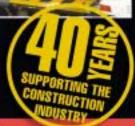
Rockingham Performance Park, Mitchell Road, Corby, Northants. NN17 5AF

We will run courtesy coaches from Kettering Mainline Railway Station to and from the site. Look out for the yellow double decker buses. See www.sed.co.uk and click on 'Useful Information' for the bus timetable.

IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY, NO ADMITTANCE TO CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS. THOSE OVER 12 YEARS AND UNDER 16 YEARS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT, ENTRY TO THE SHOW IS BY REDISTRATION AND FREE OF CHARGE, CAR PARKING \$5.00 PER CAR.

Register at www.sed.co.uk or call 0870 429 4374







June 1

21



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new man^{ca} at **Genie**

In December Jim Otley took over the top job at Genie Europe, following the departure of Jacques Catinot. Cranes&Access visited Genie Europe Headquarters in Grantham early in February to meet the new man.

Jim Otley has just celebrated his seventh full year with Genie, during which time he has been a major influence on the business. First of all in the UK where he was responsible for "operations" and latterly throughout the European, Africa and Middle-East region with responsibility for all Non sales and marketing activities as European operations manager.

In spite of the important role that he has unquestionably played in Genie's success, Otley has kept an exceptionally low profile, so much so, that when his appointment was announced even many Genie customers said "Who"?

First impressions on meeting Jim Otley are positive; he comes across as open, friendly, relaxed and on top of his job. Prior to joining Genie he spent 25 years with Tarmac, the construction group, including a spell in the USA. The job at Genie came up by chance a few weeks after he had left Tarmac and returned to the UK.

Otley joined Genie in 1999, at a time when sales of aerial lifts were

growing very rapidly in the UK, placing new demands and challenges on suppliers such as Genie, in the area of logistics and product support. His first job put him in charge of UK operations, responsible for managing these challenges. Having successfully set up a structure that enabled Genie to maintain its growth path and secure a dominant position in the UK market, he took over as operations manager for all of Europe reporting to Jacques Catinot. This was again a critical time at Genie as it aimed to replicate its UK set up in Germany, Spain, France and Scandinavia.

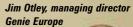
When Catinot decided to move on at the end of last year, Otley allowed his name to be considered for the top job, adding sales and marketing to his other responsibilities. When asked about this Otley points out that he started off in finance and accounting, and had branched out from there with a good deal of commercial responsibility along the way. So while the top position in what is a \$300 million-plus business was, he admits, a little daunting at first, he has taken on the new role with enthusiasm, something that shines through when you talk to him.

Genie Europe currently employs over 140 staff, 80 of whom are located in the UK. The business is currently halfway through a 25 percent expansion in staffing levels across Europe, as it adds more sales and support services. The Grantham operation includes the European parts centre, aerial lift logistics and inventory holding. Around 70 percent of Genie shipments to Europe pass through Grantham, so most mornings see a line of trucks waiting at the sites entrance, delivering containers of lifts and parts from the USA.

The site, new about five years ago and covering five acres, with 9,300 square metres (100,000 sqft) under cover, is already bursting at the seams. Otley says that Genie is now looking for additional space, with the idea to move the warehousing for self propelled lifts to a separate location. This would leave the current buildings to cope with parts, service, refurbishment/ rebuild, training and aluminium

product inventory.

While only in the role a few weeks, Otley is full of plans and ideas to expand the business and has already taken on two roving parts sales managers, whose job will be to assist large fleet owners and dealers, while helping expand sales of replacement parts. He has also transferred the sales



face to face



and management of the Aluminium products, including the AWP push around lifts, super lifts - Genies original product, and possibly trailer lifts, to the parts operation. "Logistically and commercially if is a better fit" he says, and a new salesman is being recruited to handle Aluminium products. This will leave the current sales force to focus on the self propelled range.

"The Aluminium products tend to be sold to end users and smaller tool hire companies". Says Otley, "for the parts guys a material lift is a big, high ticket item, whereas for the self propelled team it can hardly compare with a 135ft boom lift".

Anther challenge Otley is just getting started on is the absorption of the entire Terex telehandler European distribution business into Genie Europe. He says that while the company has no firm or final plans on distribution and branding yet, given the complexities of the Terex telehandler distribution structure, it is likely that all Terex telehandlers will in future be branded as Genie in Europe as they now are in the USA.

Genie is currently investing heavily in its support services; Otley explains that there are several reasons for this. On the one hand it is necessary in order to win and maintain customer satisfaction, while on the other hand it will help when the business cycle dips, as it inevitably will. When that happens, sales of parts, service, used equipment rebuilds and refurbishments etc... are all likely to continue or even grow, as new machine sales soften.



face to face **C**a

The parts operation is an area that Otley is keen to expand. As part of this strategy, the business headed by Phil Taylor, carries around 25,000 separate line items, giving an off the shelf availability of over 92 percent, the majority of which is shipped for overnight delivery. The seven percent or so not in stock is usually filled within three days via a direct shipment from the USA. Genie keeps a wide selection of "Policy-stock" on hand, items that cannot be justified statistically but which would take six weeks or more to supply, such as Scissor lift decks and big boom telescope cylinders etc...

We asked Otley for his views of supplying parts for competitive lift brands. "We know that some other companies are beginning to do this" He said " We have not done it yet, we don't like to do anything that we cannot do really well and selling other peoples parts is a risk on that front"

"There is plenty out there for us to do, without getting in to that, so I do not see us starting off down that road" he continued. "We do our own stuff so much better"

Another area that is subject to a significant investment at the moment is the refurbishment and rebuild centre. Genie is employing 20 staff to man the operation and has dedicated and set up one of its workshops for refurbishment contracts. When we visited, the company was well into a contract for Nationwide, restoring 45ft booms to near new condition. (See refurbishment feature page 23).

Once again Otley prefers to focus on Genie equipment, although the company will accept refurbishment work for other brands from its customers. "We will not though go out aggressively seeking to restore other makes" He savs. This relates back to his concern with concentrating on what the company can do well. It can complete a 45ft boom restoration in five working days, "with other brands you are at the mercy of their parts delivery performance" He says.

Two other ancillary services that Genie has added recently are a tyre foam filling service, which obviously comes in handy in the

refurbishment area, but Genie is keen to expand this by offering the service to a wider customer base such as the local agricultural trade. This approach also applies to another new venture, a mobile hose replacement service.

Clearly the main benefit here for Genie customers is a dedicated

mobile service, knowledgeable on Genie products, rather than the general equipment hose replacement services.

One of the first things that Otley did on taking over was to organise the region, into four three larger territories, appointing four three regional sales managers. For example, John Fuller of the UK, one of the four, is now also responsible for the UK. Benelux and the Middle East. Stein Adolfsen is in charge of sales in Scandinavia, Germany and Eastern Europe whilst

Jose Miguel Pena looks after sales in Southern Europe (France, Italy, Spain and Portugal).

As usual we asked:

<u>'what</u> is your favourite..?'

C&A:	Film?
J0:	Papillion starring
	Steve McQueen
C&A:	CD/Music?
J0:	Queen – Probably
	"These are the days
	of our lives" from
	their last album
	before Freddie died.
C&A:	Book?
J0:	Anything by
	Wilbur Smith
C&A:	Gadget?
J0:	Satellite Navigation.
00.	I have just purchased
	this option for my
	car and is proving
	invaluable, particularly
	when travelling
	across Europe.
C&A:	
-	Hobby?
J0:	My two grandchildren
	 Nick and Kaya



Joystick boot dust and Dirt

Penny + Giles has developed a protective boot for its JC120 single axis fingertip joystick. Designed for aggressive and hostile environments, the boot gives a high degree of protection against the ingress of dust and dirt.

The boot is made from Neoprene, chosen for its resistance to deterioration from oils, greases and many other petroleum-based products. It has excellent weathering properties and is self-extinguishing, making it ideal for the conditions often found in the production and storage of materials such as aggregates, chemicals and agricultural foodstuffs.

Sealed to IP67 with the boot fitted, the JC120 is a small, compact joystick measuring only 26.5mm wide (28.5mm with the boot fitted) typically used in remote control 'chest packs' as used for loader and other cranes. It features a pivoting lever design that provides one axis of forward and reverse movement and a spring-return to centre.





Ievv poppets

Integrated Hydraulics has introduced a range of new 2-port, 2-way directional control poppet valves for 160 litres/min systems. Spool type valves rely on the close fit of the spool and sleeve to limit leakage across the spools lands when closed.

The poppet valve, however, uses a piston pressed against its seat by fluid pressure to prevent flow, with suitable surface finishes on the mating parts, flow past the valve will be minimal, in this case less than 5 drops per minute at 210 bar pressure differential.

The poppet valve also offers excellent flow conditions when the valve is open, thereby reducing pressure losses. Additionally, when the valve is open the flow washes over the poppet and seat removing any contamination that may be present, even the smallest particles of

which can cause havoc in a hydraulic system. These new valves are suitable for flows to 160litres/min and pressures to 210 bar in both Normally Open and Normally Closed versions and they will fit cavities common to several other manufacturers. The solenoid in these valves operates a small pilot piston in the main poppet, which controls the pressure of fluid behind the main poppet and the balance of pressure moves the piston to the desired position. This arrangement reduces the power required by the solenoid, permitting high flow, high pressure applications.

mie has applied its tower

crane experience to the

industrial sector.

The Integrated poppet valve.

Crash barrier vacuum lifter without hydraulics

Al-Vac has developed a two head vacuum lifter for its **Combat lifting machine, the** first of the new heads is designed for all S type barrier profiles while the other suits square box section types.



The vacuum head grips a length of barrier, allowing it to be lifted from its pallet rotated, and then aligned with the mounting posts for precise installation. The Combat is battery operated and completely self contained; it can be suspended from a loader crane without a need for any hydraulic or other connection. The vacuum head will safely handle up to 500kgs, more than enough for even the longer sections. The system includes a battery saving feature to maximise battery life and an accumulator which retains a partial vacuum after a section has been placed, both to save energy as well as to be ready to immediately pick up the next section.

The Al-Vac Combat has two specialised motor way barrier vacuum heads, which when utilised with a loader crane and remote control can provide large boosts to productivity

Anti Collision overheads

Smie, the crane anti collision specialist, has developed a new anti collision system, for overhead or gantry type cranes. The AC140 manages the interference between overhead or gantry cranes on one or more parallel and/or vertically separated tracks. The device not only helps improve safety, but thanks to its deceleration sensing can also boost productivity.

The AC140 provides Real-time communication of all parameters between all cranes that have the possibility to interfere with each other. The cranes can be on the same track or on several levels of parallel tracks. In the case of the system sensing a possible interference the AC 140 will either slow down one or both cranes or stop one or both. The AC140 is designed to cope with dusty or greasy environments and even where visibility is limited.

Each crane is fitted with a single AC 140 system, it indicates the actual location of the crane on its rails, therefore allowing limits to be set for the cranes travel without the need for mechanical stops. The system can be set to maintain minimum distances between two cranes on the same track or even with a third crane in between and linked to prevent track overload. It can also control the spacing of two cranes on parallel tracks at several levels. The AC 140 also measures the travelling speed and direction of the crane, so that it can calculate the stopping distance. Smie says that the reliability and accuracy of these systems is such, that stopping distance between cranes can be substantially reduced, increasing productivity.

Are your staff properly trained?

Don't risk it call a certified local company today



trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

See **www.ipaf.org** for full listing

training

Cita A there is the citation of the second of the second

He is wearing a harness, but in a way that boggles the mind!

We have been at the forefront in encouraging the wearing of a full body harness with short lanyard in boom lifts (but not scissor lifts). However it is clear that with some operators nothing can be taken for granted!

In January a man was spotted working on the façade of the SBB station in

Where is the operator?

Basel with a 60ft articulated boom lift. It certainly looked like text book stuff in the beginning; the operator even appeared to be wearing a harness. However once up close to the work area it became clear that the operator had not spotted the machine close enough to the work. Instead of moving it, he climbed out of the platform extended his 2.5 metre long lanyard with an extra length of webbing and a nice big knot and attached it to the guardrail. He then proceeded to crawl along a ledge on his hands and knees!

Once again we say has this man been trained?

Another day another challenge Cordon off the area? What's that?

A few days later, and a different crew are working on the station canopy, this time at least the operators remained in the platform, however they were working directly over the main exit from the station. Pedestrians were passing under the lifts boom oblivious to the work going on just over their heads.

The innovative harness attachment point is still in place, but neither man seems to be harnessed up today.



Roof walk costs firm £4,000

Venturi Steeplejack Company Limited, of Basford near Nottingham, was fined £4,000 after pleading guilty to contravening work at height regulations. In April 2005, Leicestershire HSE Inspector Roger Amery was making a routine visit to a firm in Loughborough, when he saw two men working on the roof of Fisher Scientific Ltd, Bishop Meadow Road.

Amery said: "While at a nearby premises, I spotted the two men walking across a fragile roof and quickly made my way over to them. Although happily in this case no one was injured, every year people working at height lose their lives or suffer serious injury. Contractors and their clients need to exercise sufficient control to prevent this sort of thing happening".

"Firms need to ensure they have devised a proper method for doing the job and then stick to it; it is no good starting without the right equipment. Employees have to play their part and should not be putting themselves at risk, some employers need to raise their game to stay on the right side of the law."

Two key tips include:

 follow the risk assessments you have carried out and make sure all work at height is planned, organised and carried out by competent persons;

• choose the right work equipment and select measures to prevent falls such as guardrails and working platforms, before those that only mitigate the distance and consequences of a fall (such as nets or airbags) or which may only provide personal protection from a fall.



Your Region

Place your training ad HERE

Call: +44(0)8707 740436 • Fax: +44(0)1295 768223 or Email: info@vertikal.net

All training centres above offer IPAF approved and audited courses for Operators of Mobile aerial work platforms, European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

See www.ipaf.org for full listing

IPAF Summit C:a Summit Summit C:a Summit C:a

"Work safely at height" is the theme of this year's IPAF Access Summit. Entrance to the Summit is free and open to all interested parties, not just IPAF members. It will be held on April 4th at Whittlebury Hall, near Milton Keynes. The event will round off with a complimentary cocktail reception and dinner (at £49.95 per person, discounts for large groups available).



"We warmly welcome non-members as well as IPAF members to attend the Access Summit," said Tim Whiteman, Managing Director of IPAF. "Do bring along your colleagues and customers, and everyone who is involved in work at height. You will gain an in-depth view of the powered access industry, meet business contacts and spend an enjoyable time in a first-class location. You will also learn a lot from the panel of expert speakers that we have lined up."

The Summit

The Summit features speakers who will address issues related to safety, training, market trends and technical standards.

The speakers and their subjects

Are you working safely at height? Gil Male, IPAF Technical Officer and



former HSE principal specialist inspector, analyses accident statistics collated by the HSE. Male played a key role in formulating and providing practical input and comment

on health and safety regulations related to the use of mobile equipment and continues to be closely involved in developing the British standards for the safe use of MEWPs and for delivery of training for work at height. At the Summit, he will also discuss the ongoing revision of EN280, which is expected to allow an over-ride of load and moment sensing systems to rescue trapped operators. *Will platforms be safer for it?*

IPAF issued a record 53,646 PAL Cards (Powered Access Licences) last year. Is the market for

operator

Kevin Appleton

training reaching saturation? Kevin Appleton, CEO of Lavendon, the parent of Nationwide in the UK and Zooom in continental Europe, and the largest IPAF training provider, argues that the market is just startingto take off.

What about the market for platforms? How many are there and how many will be sold this year?

Richard Lockwood Murray Pollok,

Editor of Access International and International Rental News, has been writing about the access industry for over 10 years, and will present a snapshot of the current UK access market. Improving safety is not just an issue for large corporations. Small and medium sized enterprises can profit too. Richard Lockwood, Head of the Construction Division at the HSE, looks at how the HSE is encouraging small

businesses to work safely at height.

Safety also means being able to select the right equipment for the job, ranging

David Walker

from MEWPs to scaffolds and ladders. David Walker, Chairman, and Don Aers, Vice President, of the British Ladder Manufacturers Association, examine where and when ladders can be best used to work at height.

Mast climbing work platforms (MCWPs) are profiting from growing interest. Kevin O'Shea of Mastclimbers LLC discusses what it is like to pioneer use of the PAL Card and MCWPs in the USA.

Can aerial platform companies be a good risk? Joe Henderson, CEO of Henderson's Insurance Brokers, believes that they can.

Special guest speaker at the Summit is Oliver Favre. Oliver holds the world record for high diving, having jumped 54

metres into a Swiss lake. He reveals the intense preparations needed for a high diver to work safely and draws some general lessons to be learned. Favre will be

demonstrating his skills during Intermat in Paris this April, as part of the live demonstrations hosted by IPAF.

Oliver Favre

The Summit will be followed by a cocktail reception and the IPAF Annual Dinner.

Work Safely at Height Conference. AGM and Annual Dinner Whittlebury Hall, Northamptonshire,UK Tuesday, 4th April 2006

After-dinner entertainment will be provided by Quentin Willson, who is best known for his hit series *Britain's Worst Driver* on Channel Five.



He also remains one of the best known motoring authorities in the UK, recently winning the prestigious Motoring Writer of the Year award. Quentin pens a weekly column for *The Sunday Mirror*, and has appeared on scores of radio and TV shows.

IPAF Council

Several IPAF Council members are up for re-election at the AGM, while Andrew Reid of SGB-Mastclimbers is running for president, replacing Pierre Saubot, who completes his two-year term.

Bill Lasky of JLG Industries will stand for deputy president, while John Ball of Height for Hire, Ireland is standing for vice president.



agenda

14.00	Introduction from Tim Whiteman, IPAF managing director, and Andrew Reid, incoming IPAF President	
14.10	Gil Male, IPAF technical officer and former head of Engineering Plant Group - HSE	т
	What are common accidents on MEWPs and what can we learn from them?	с Т
14.30	Kevin Appleton, CEO of Lavendon	·
	PAL Cards – are we just scratching the surface? Is the UK market for operator training approaching saturation? Nationwide is the UK's biggest provider, but Appleton thinks the market is still in its development stage.	p d T s
15.00	Murray Pollok, Editor of Access International and International Rental News	t
	How many platforms are there in the UK hire fleet? How many will be bought this year? What is the average age of the fleet?	V T
15.15	Richard Lockwood, HSE, Head of Construction Division	S
	Protecting decorators and SMEs from dangerous falls from height – how the HSE is encouraging small businesses to work safely at height.	ti e fa
15.45	Tea and coffee	IF
16.00	Gil Male, IPAF technical officer	
	Will the current revision of European Standard EN280 make platforms safer? How do design requirements change as a result?	F
16.20	David Walker, chairman of the British Ladder Manufacturers Association (BLMA), and managing director of Ladder & Fencing Industries (Newent) Ltd, and Don Aers, vice president of BLMA and technical manager of Youngman Group Ltd Walker and Aers enter the lion's den with a presentation about where and when ladders can be the best way to work at height.	IF S D T
16.40	Kevin O'Shea, Mastclimbers LLC	
10.40	What is it like to pioneer the use of the PAL Card and mast climbing work platforms in the USA?	L
17.00	Joe Henderson, CEO of Henderson's Insurance Brokers	
	Henderson talks about how aerial platform companies can be a good risk.	N
17.20	Oliver Favre, holder of the world record for high diving	C
	Favre became a world record holder with a 54m leap into an icy Swiss lake. He reveals the meticulous planning that is needed for a high diver to work safely and looks at what lessons can be learned.	
18.30	Cocktail reception	1
19.30	IPAF Annual Dinner	3
	After-dinner speaker:	4
	Quentin Willson, from the hit TV series	5
	Britain's Worst Driver	6
	One of the best known motoring authorities in the	1

One of the best known motoring authorities in the UK, Willson draws on his wide experience to deliver some hilarious entertainment.

IPAF Summit

ΗΟΨ ΤΟ ΒΟΟΚ

Access Summit is free and open to all interested parties. To register, 015395 62444 or e-mail info@ipaf.org

kets for the Annual Dinner must be booked in advance and cost £49.95 /AT per person. Book a table for 10 and get an extra ticket free. Total e for 11 tickets is £499.50 + VAT. Book a table for 25 and get a 15% count. Please call 015395 62444 or e-mail info@ipaf.org

book accommodation at Whittlebury Hall, call 01327 857857, e-mail es@whittleburyhall.co.uk or visit www.whittleburyhall.co.uk. Mention special IPAF Summit room rate and booking reference number 10352.

THE VENUE

ittlebury Hall, Whittlebury, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 8QH +44 (0)1327 857857 Fax: +44 (0)1327 857867

ail: sales@whittleburyhall.co.uk Web: www.whittleburyhall.co.uk in the Northamptonshire countryside next to the world famous erstone formula one track, Whittlebury Hall is one of Britain's leading

ning and leisure facilities. It offers ellent accommodation and golf lities, with a gym and health spa. F is organising a free shuttle from don Luton Airport to the venue. ntact info@ipaf.org for details. further directions, t www.whittleburyhall.co.uk



IPAF GOLF CHALLENGE

F is holding its Golf Challenge on Monday, April 3rd the day before the nmit. The four-ball tournament is free and open to golfers of all standards.

book early as places are limited. register, call 015395 62444 e-mail info@ipaf.org

ie:

et at 13.45 on Monday, April 3rd ation:

ittlebury Park Golf & Country Club



EVENTS AT A GLANCE

nday, April 3rd 2006 IPAF Golf Challenge

sday, April 4th 2006 IPAF Council Meeting and AGM, Access Summit, ktail Reception, Annual Dinner

dnesday, April 5th 2006

& Ireland MCWP Committee Meeting, IPAF Rental + Meeting

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

- et valuable insights from expert speakers on issues related to work at height.
- earn how to select the right machine for the job.
- Vetwork with customers, competitors and suppliers.
- ind out what powered access can do for your business.
- Catch up on the latest news and trends in the industry.
- njoy top-class entertainment at the IPAF Annual Dinner, the ideal place to entertain staff and customers.
- 7. Take up the IPAF Golf Challenge the day before the Summit.

IPAF Focus Cta

International standard for mast climbers

On IPAF's proposal, the British Standards Institute (BSI) Committee MHE/12 has agreed to submit the relevant paperwork to the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) requesting the drafting of an international standard for training on Mast Climbing Work Platforms. The draft international standard is expected to draw upon as a basis for discussion, the existing British standard BS 7981:2002 Code of practicea for the installation, maintenance, thorough examination and safe use of MCWPs.

Red diesel IPAF lobbies for MEWP exemption

IPAF is pushing for Vehicle-Mounted Platforms to be classified as Excepted Vehicles in the same way as cranes, following the Revenue and Customs' plan to withdraw the right to use discounted red diesel. IPAF has consulted its members to collect data on the extent of fuel use on and off the road, with the aim of proving its argument that the fuel usage patterns of platforms are similar to those of cranes.

"There is no compelling reason why platforms should be treated differently from cranes in this respect," said Tim Whiteman, IPAF Managing Director. "There is a risk that platforms will be put at a competitive disadvantage compared with other means of access. This contradicts the Health and Safety Executive's efforts to promote the safe use of proper equipment to work at height."

A clean bill of health to use MEWPs

As the assembly and use of mobile elevating work platforms can be physically demanding, users should be physically fit and in good health and should, generally, not have problems with eyesight, hearing, literacy and language comprehension.

IPAF has issued a health and fitness statement stressing that as the safe use of MEWPs requires that users consult safety notices and read and thoroughly understand the manufacturer's instruction manual, literacy and language comprehension are important requirements for any user. Users should generally also not have problems with heart disease, high blood pressure, epilepsy, fear of heights/vertigo, giddiness/difficulty with balance, impaired limb function, alcohol or drug dependence or psychiatric illness.

Those having any problems with literacy or language, or having any doubts about their fitness to use MEWPs, must bring these to the attention of their employer. This need not preclude them from using the equipment, provided that their employer conducts an assessment and is able to put into place adequate measures to take account of any difficulties they might have. Visit www.ipaf.org to view the IPAF policy.



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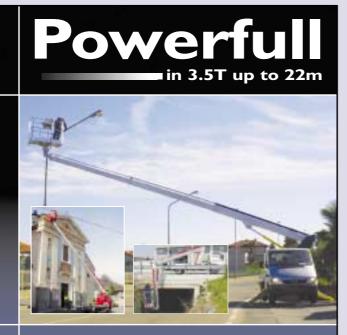
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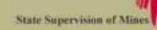
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Narrow access hoist. 72ft work height. Hyd. Jacks. Choice 2001 - £ 29,500 - € 42,500) 2002 - £ 34,000 - € 39,000)

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Manitou MT1637

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4wd articulated boom. 86ft work height. Deutz diesel engine 86ft work height (26m) 2003 – POA 2004 – POA 2005 - POA

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Trailer mounted hoist. Battery powered. 40ft work height (12m). Rotating Jib. Choice 2004 – POA 2005 - POA

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Trailer mounted hoist. 56ft work height (17m). Hyd. Jacks. Kubota diesel and battery. Choice 2003 – POA 2004 – POA

Scanlift SL185

4wd all terrain hoist. Crab steer. 60ft work height (18.5m) Hyd. Jacks. Kubota diesel. Choice 1999 - £ 15,000 (€ 21,750) 2000 - £ 19,500 (€ 28,000)

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