October 2016 Vol.18 issue 7

Heavy lifting RT boom lifts

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Outrigger mats

...Genie SX-135XC launch....24,000 tonne ultra-lift crane....Fassi buys into Jekko......

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On the cover:

Turnkey solution provider Mammoet Wind successfully transported the world's longest wind turbine blade from LM Wind Power's pilot plant in Lunderskov to the Blaest Test Center in Aalborg. The blade measured 88.4 metres long and 4.47 metres high when loaded on the truck.





Rough Terrain booms



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The APF Show



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Genie launches SX-135XC telescopic boom lift, Voluntary road inspection scheme for UK cranes, New Link-Belt 298 Series 2, New 24,000 tonne ultra-lift crane, Fassi invests in Jekko, Palazzani

> to provide Palfinger spiders, Genie acquires PSR, Fish moves from Nationwide to Ardent, Palfinger launches 25m Light, Alimak sells US rental operations,



Retractable windsail for tower cranes, new Potain Hup self-erecting crane, New Klubb pick-up, Maxim gets Essex Crane assets, New 10/12 tonne Comansas, Potain luffers from China, Ardent orders big with JCB, Teupen books largest UK order and financials round-up.

Heavy lifting 17

Nearly all the recent activity in the ultra heavy lift sector has been with the specialist heavy lift companies such as ALE, Mammoet and Sarens. All three already have their own mega-lift machines, and all three are in the process of launching new versions or building more of their largest cranes for contracts around the world.

> We round-up the latest news from the sector as well as interviewing Grant Mitchell of Sarens UK and highlight some interesting applications from around the world.

Rough Terrain boom lifts 29

We delve into the history of Genie which



formally celebrated its 50th anniversary in September at the same time launching its new SX-135XC telescopic boom lift. Also,

this year has seen the introduction of two new self-propelled boom lifts equipped with levelling outriggers. We review both the ATN and Dinolift and compare them with the lighter semi-self propelled platforms.

Caa contents

Outrigger mats 41

With the number of overturning incidents refusing to decline we take a look at how one UK truck mounted platform rental company dealt with the problem. Also Paul Koolmees of mat supplier Welex sheds an expert eve



on the advantages and disadvantages of the various hard and tropical woods used for heavy timber mats.

The APF 2016 show review 47

This year's UK bi-annual International Forestry Exhibition - APF 2016 - took place last month at Ragley Estate in Alcester, Warwickshire with

more than 300 exhibitors and around 18,000 visitors. We bring you the highlights including the new 42 metre Teupen Puma, a Versalift boom on a Mercedes 6x6 Oberainger chassis and the new 4x4 Multitel MJ 226.

Crane Interest Group Open Meeting <mark>52</mark>

We review last month's CPA Crane Interest Group Open Meeting which although attendance numbers were down, still represented most of the UK crane sector.

regulars

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In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access scheduled for mid-November will feature: Rough terrain and telescopic crawler cranes, Trailer/SD aerial lifts and Telehandlers as well as a review of Les JDL Med in Marseille, France. If you have any contributions or suggestions or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.

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Preaching to the converted

The vote by UK crane companies belonging to the CPA to introduce a voluntary programme to inspect and test mobile cranes for roadworthiness (MOTs) must be seen as considerable progress in the on-going saga that has been 'in consultation' since 2009.

The decision was driven by the realisation that the issue was 'not going to go away', with member companies well-aware that it was

the right thing to do, both to improve the safety of the crane fleet and restore public confidence following some high level prosecutions of companies involved in fatal road accidents relating to maintenance or repair issues with the crane. But will it work?

In any industry you will find a hierarchy of professional and competent companies at the top and 'cowboys' at the bottom, and those in-between. Those at the top ensure that everything is done to the best standards possible, often viewing legislation as a minimum requirement. They are also more likely to be active in trade organisations, helping improve the industry as a whole. These companies already inspect and maintain their fleets, so the new initiative will merely formalise current procedures.

The main problem for the crane - or access - industry are the companies which for whatever reasons, are not as professional and competent, and which run a fleet that reflects this attitude. The worst of them tend not to be members of a trade body and certainly don't get involved in association work that does not directly benefit themselves.

The new scheme will initially apply to CPA members, but should it be accepted as a government backed scheme, should 'oblige' all mobile crane owners to adopt it. But human nature is to follow the path of least resistance and cost - so the worst offenders are likely to ignore it, especially if it is not policed.

Work at height related associations have also experienced this lack of cooperation. IPAF's voluntary accident reporting programme for members was only followed by the most diligent, so IPAF UK has now made the reporting of incidents involving lost working days mandatory. Similarly FASET has had zero accident reports submitted since its scheme was initiated.

Perhaps naming, shaming and expelling members which do not comply will make a difference. Membership of an association that demands minimum standards and refuses or expels those which fail to meet them is far more valuable - especially if membership is promoted to contractors as a sign of safety and professionalism. At the moment the proportion of cranes operated by non-CPA members is surprisingly high. If nothing changes then legally mandated tests with heavy fines will be the only solution. Perhaps that is what should have been introduced from the start?

Mark Darwin

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



