

The **Vertikal** Guide to Conexpo

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A look back at 2016

Political events during 2016 fell mainly into the shock category and included the British prime minister David Cameron falling on his sword following the Brexit vote and Donald Trump's victory in the USA. Terrorism was never far from the headlines with several events early in the year including the Brussels explosions which killed 34, double that in the Pakistan Easter attack and even more in Nice, France when a truck drove into a crowd during July 14th celebrations.

Generally, the economy around the world was reasonable with oil prices rising from the lows of 2015. The cranes, access and telehandler sectors were once again generally busy but several major manufacturers struggled as uncertainty and low oil prices choked off investment. The following are some of the industry news highlights.



Federal Signal sells Bronto Skylift to Japan's leading producer of fire-fighting equipment Morita for €80 million.

UK-based Baldwins crane Hire was fined £900,000 after being found guilty of the corporate manslaughter of operator Lindsay Easton due to crane brake failures from lack of maintenance.

Kato delivers one of the first new 20 tonne CR-200Ri city type All Terrain cranes to Coussens of Bexhill in the UK

UK rental companies Speedy and HSS dismiss any discussions regarding a possible merger.

New York crane owner James Lomma files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy after the families of two men who died in a 2008 tower crane collapse - won a civil action for \$96 million.



Jimmy Lomma

Chinese aerial lift manufacturer Dingli appoints Andy Northwood as its first European sales representative to sell direct in the UK.

Manitowoc Cranes appoints Barry Pennypacker as chief executive.

Five senior officials are found guilty in Saudi Arabia of involvement in the failures leading to the overturn of the 1,350 tonne crawler crane that killed 111 people at Mecca's Grand Mosque in September 2015.

Zoomlion makes a \$3.25 billion hostile bid for Terex.

Versalift distributor Time France launched its own range of van mounted aerial lifts under the Klubb brand and severed all ties with Versalift.



Dingli purchases a 20 percent stake in Italian telehandler manufacturer Magni for €14.4 million.

Mr. Riccardo Magni and Mr. Xu Sughen.



Valla launches an all-new nine tonne pick & carry crawler crane, the 90TRX.

Dutch rental company HWS is acquired by three ex-Rival veterans Dick Schalekamp, Allard May and Coert Nodelijk.

Lavendon orders 42 Ruthmann truck mounted lifts worth €7.3 million.

ALE reveals plans to build a 3,400 tonne, heavy-duty jib for its ultra-heavy lift AL.SK190 and AL.SK350 cranes.



APS/IAPS completes the redesign of the Aldercote van mounted lift range.

Grove launches the new four axle 100 tonne GMK4100L-1 All Terrain crane.



The company formed by merging Fork Rent and One Call Hire rebrands as Ardent Hire Solutions.

UK rental company Hewden takes delivery of 21 new Tadano cranes from 70 to 220 tonnes worth £11.5 million.

Snorkel launches two small electric scissor lifts - the 15ft S3215E and 20ft S3220E.

Manitowoc suspends production at its Passo Fundo plant in Brazil.

Omme Lift launches a new 13 metre trailer lift - the 1300 e - and a new boom system for its 37 metre spider lift the 3710 RBDJ.

Haulotte launches three heavy-duty telehandlers with lift capacities of 5.2, 6.5 and 7.2 tonnes and lift heights of eight and 10 metres.



Ascendant Access launches an 18 metre tracked All Terrain work platform, the A18-13TJ.



Skyjack unveils three new products - the 40ft SJIII 4740 DC Scissor lift, the 36ft SJ30 ARJE boom lift and 17 metre SJ1056 TH telehandler.

Skyjack SJ30





UK-based **Falcon Crane Hire** pleads guilty to failures in the Battersea tower crane collapse in 2006 after charges against managing director **Doug Genge** were dropped.

Genie launches the 60ft Z60/37DC electric articulated boom lift with 4x4 AC wheel motor drive and oscillating axle.

MEC launches the 13ft 3130SE micro scissor.

Zoomlion increases its offer for Terex to \$3.4 billion following **Terex's** decision to suspend merger planning with Finland's **Konecrane**.

Tadano Mantis launches a new 80 tonne Global Telescopic Crawler crane - the GTC-800

Maeda unveils the six tonne CC1485S-1 mini crawler crane replacing the LC1385.



Vp, owner of **UK Forks** acquires spider lift rental specialist Higher access for £4.1 million.

Japanese rental company **Nishio Rental** acquires an 80 percent stake in **Skyreach**, one of Australia's largest privately-owned powered access rental companies.



Dutch rental company **Kuiphuis Kraanverhuur** introduces a seven tonne HRP477R crawler mounted self-erecting tower crane using a **Spierings** SK 477-AT4 superstructure.



Vertikal.net celebrates its 15th anniversary at **Bauma**.



Kobelco ships its biggest crawler crane to date - the 1,250 tonne S116000J-H - to lead customer Japanese crane rental company MIC.

Ruthmann acquires a 60 percent stake in Italian company **Marti Group**, owner of **Bluelift** spider lifts and **RAM** truck mounted lifts.

German manufacturer **Böcker** launches a spider crane/access platform with a 36 metre boom and 2,400kg maximum capacity.

Liebherr unveils the 450 tonne, eight axle LTM 1450-8.1 All Terrain crane at **Bauma**.

Terex Cranes reintroduces the **Demag** brand and AC/CC nomenclature for All-Terrains of 100 tonnes and over and crawler cranes over 400 tonnes capacity.

Teupen's 40 metre Puma 42GTX mounted on a Menzi walking spider chassis is one of the highlights at **Bauma**.



Bronto launches the 70 metre S70XR - the largest platform with an overall length of under 12 metres, on a 32 tonne four axle chassis.

Potain unveils the four tonne **Hup** 32-27 self-erecting tower crane replacing the Igo.

ALE announces plans for the 8,000 tonne capacity the AL.SK700 heavy lift crane with a load moment of 708,000 tonne metres.

Ruthmann launches the radical 51 metre two axle T510 HF truck mounted lift.

JCB builds its 200,000th telehandler, having launched its first unit in October 1977.

JLG launches the world's largest articulated boom - the 150ft 1500AJP - with 23.5 metres of outreach and 18.3 metres up and over reach.



Zoomlion terminates its bid for the **Terex**.

Terex sells its **Demag** overhead crane and Gottwald port crane business to Finland's **Konecranes**.



Dick Schalekamp, **Coert Nodelijk** and **Allard Majij** acquire **Eurosupply Hoogwerksystemen** the Netherlands dealer for **Niftylift**.

Teupen launches five new Leo spider lifts which use a modular concept and the latest high-strength steels.

Palfinger Marine acquires the **Harding Group** from Norwegian private equity fund **Herkules Capital**.



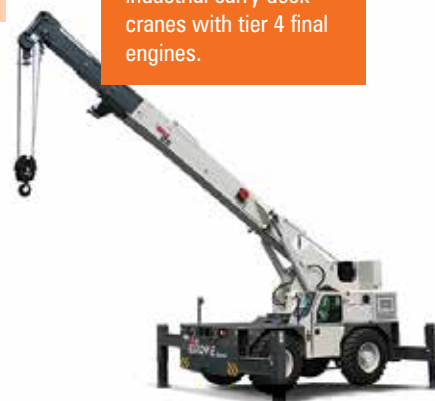
GGR unveils the UK's largest vacuum lifter, the 6,000kg Hydraulica 6000.

Apollo Global Management acquires US-based crane rental companies **AmQuip** and **Maxim Crane Works**.

Dingli Australia retrofits additional counterweight to its early slab scissor lifts to comply with Australian Standards for full outdoor rating.

Italy's **GSR** establishes a direct sales operation in the UK.

Grove upgrades its industrial carry deck cranes with tier 4 final engines.





King Vehicle Engineering - the parent of **Skyking** and the UK distributor for **Palfinger Platforms** - is acquired by **H W Martin Group**.



Raimondi Cranes unveils the 10 tonne, 65 metre jib MRT159 flat-top tower crane.

Thai rental company **The Crane** - a subsidiary of **Chu Kai** - adds a new 1,250 tonne **Terex CC6800** crawler crane to its fleet, the first in Thailand.

TVH acquires Romania's **Industrial Access** from **Balkan Accession Fund** and founder **Stefan Ponea**.

Custom Equipment appoints Netherlands-based **Collé Rental & Sales** as European master distributor for its Hybrid low level scissor lifts.



Custom Hy-Brid 1030 Scissor-Lift

Teupen formally opens its new UK facility in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

The joint owners of **Nordic Crane Group, Kynningsrud** and **Stangeland Gruppen** split the business into two and go their own ways.

Liebherr combines most of its business in the USA under a single corporation - **Liebherr USA**.

Liebherr books the 20th sale of the new 500 tonne LR1500 crawler crane launched at **Bauma**.

Lifting gear and materials handling specialist, **Interlift** adds six new UK locations following its acquisition by **Hewden**.

The **Australian Competition and Consumer Commission** issues a recall notice for seven **Tadano** All Terrain cranes over a braking issue.



Nationwide Platforms in the UK takes delivery of 35 new **Hinowa** spider lifts.

Klubb appoints **Kraan & Truck Service (KTS) Maes** and **Mondia** as distributors for the Netherlands, Flemish Belgium and Wallonia respectively.

The 10th annual **Vertikal Days** attracts a record number of visitors and exhibitors.



The four senior directors of UK crane rental company **Baldwins** have their right to hold a transport licence revoked and are disqualified along with up to 18 drivers caught falsifying records.

Belgian tower crane specialist **Arcomet** takes a majority stake in a new venture with UK-based **Skyline Tower Cranes Services**.



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Hiab launches several new cranes topped by the X-HiPro 558 - which it claims is the strongest crane that will fit on a three axle truck.

Böcker delivers the first 2.4 tonne RK36-2400 spider crane to Lift mini cranes in the UK.

Manitowoc relocates all crawler crane manufacturing from Manitowoc, Wisconsin to the **Grove** plant in Shady Grove, Pennsylvania.

UK-based **Ainscough Crane Hire** appoints **Janet Entwistle** as chief executive following the resignation of **Robin Richardson**.



ISO publishes a new standard ISO 11031 for tower cranes working in areas at risk of earthquakes.

Speedy sells its fleet of larger earthmoving and road equipment to **Ardent Hire** for £14.9 million.

Raimondi Cranes starts shipping its new 14 tonne LR213 luffing jib tower crane and appoints **Bennetts Cranes** as its dealer for England, Scotland and Wales.

Ritchie Bros acquires on-line competitor **Iron Planet** for around \$785.5 million.

UK-based **Access Platform Sales** (APS) launches a new 14 metre **Aldercote** lift on a 3.5 tonne **Ford** Transit van.

Terex Cranes closes its plant in Waverly, Iowa transferring production to the Terex plant in Oklahoma.



Wolf Haessler's WolfLift ships its first products to customers in North America.

The 4,300 tonne **ALE** AL.SK190 heavy lift crane performs its first lift at a petrochemical plant in Aliaga, Turkey.



Genie launches the high capacity 135ft SX-135 XC telescopic boom lift mounted on a new, 'mini' version of its X-chassis.



Fassi takes a 33.3 percent stake in spider/mini crane manufacturer **Jekko** from owner **Ormet**.

Mammoet and **Stoof Engineering** and **Innovation** develop a 24,000 tonne ultra-heavy lift crane.

Palfinger Platforms Italy and **Palazzani** agree an OEM deal for Palazzani to provide Palfinger branded spider lifts.

UK-based **AFI** acquires **Rapid Platforms**.

Genie acquires UK service and repair business **PSR** from **IAPS** as a stand-alone operation within the Genie Services Solutions.

Jeremy Fish is appointed chief executive of **Ardent Hire Solutions** - the UK's largest telehandler rental company after resigning as managing director of **Nationwide Platforms**.



Potain launches the second unit in its Hup tower crane range, the Hup 40-30.

John Ball is appointed independent chairman of the UK's **Access Link**.

Klubb unveils the KAT42, a 13.8 metre articulated boom lift on a **Renault** Alaskan pick-up truck.

The core fleet of US-based crawler crane company **Essex Crane Rental** together with three facilities are sold to **Maxim crane Works** for \$75 million.

Tower crane manufacturer **Comansa** announces the CM1600 series of four Chinese built flat-top tower cranes with capacities of 10 and 12 tonnes.



Alimak sells its US rental business to **Bigge Crane and Rigging** for \$2.4 million.



Dingli launches eight new boom lifts with working heights of 14, 18, 22 and 28 metres designed by Italian telehandler specialist **Magni**.



Steve Dean acquires **Redwood Engineering**, owner of **Ascendant Access** from **Facelift**.

Link-Belt announces its largest telescopic crawler - the 227 tonne TCC-2500 - with a 67.9 metre boom and maximum tip height of 105.5 metres.

Potain launches Chinese versions of its MCR 295 luffing jib tower crane for Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Africa and South America.

Kato acquires **IHI Construction Machinery** including IHI crawler cranes and mini excavators.

The **American Rental Association** (ARA) appoints **Tony Conant** as chief executive succeeding **Christine Wehrman** who is retiring.



Liebherr announces a return to the Rough Terrain crane market in 2017, with the 90 tonne LRT 1090-2.1 and 100 tonne IRT 1100-2.1

A-Plant orders 1,200 **JCB** telehandlers and other equipment, in a deal worth £35 million.

Alimak acquires Australia's **Facade Access Group** for a\$120 million (\$91 million).


Euro Mechanical Handling (EMH) of Glasgow, Scotland,

acquires **Active Rentals** from **Andrew McCusker**.

Comansa CM launches its first luffing jib tower crane at **Bauma China**.




Terex reveals details of a new 300 tonne LC 300 lattice boom crawler crane.

Alan Rickman, actor and director (b. 1946) 

Pierre Boulez, composer - conductor (b. 1925)

André Courrèges, French fashion designer (b. 1923)


David Bowie, singer, songwriter (b. 1947) 

Frank Finlay, British actor (b. 1926)

Terry Wogan, broadcaster (b. 1938)

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the UN (b. 1922)

Harper Lee, writer - To kill a mockingbird (b. 1926)

Nancy Reagan, American actress, First Lady of the United States (b. 1921) 

George Martin, record producer, composer (b. 1926)

Morley Safer American broadcaster (b.1931)

Al Molinari actor Happy days (b.1919)

Jim Prior UK MP/minister (b. 1927)

Anker Jørgensen, ex-prime minister of Denmark (b. 1922)

Piet de Jong, ex-prime minister of the Netherlands (b. 1915) 


Ken Howard, American actor (b. 1944)

Johan Cruyff, Dutch footballer/manager (b. 1947)

Garry Shandling, American actor and comedian (b. 1949)

Patty Duke, American actress (b. 1946)

Margot Honecker, East German politician (b. 1927)


Muhammad Ali, boxer sport personality (b. 1942) 

Michel Rocard, ex-prime minister of France (b. 1930)

Jerry Doyle, American talk show host and actor (b. 1956)

Gerald Grosvenor, Duke of Westminster (b. 1951)

Kenny Baker, British actor (b. 1934)


Prince, singer-songwriter (b.1958) 

Lou Pearlman, American music manager and record producer (b. 1954)

Zsa Zsa Gabor, actress age (b 1917)

Toots Thielemans, Belgian jazz musician (b. 1922)

Alexis Arquette, American actress (b. 1969)


Arnold Palmer, golfer (b. 1929) 

Neville Marriner, British conductor (b. 1924)


Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX), King of Thailand (b. 1927)

Bobby Vee, American pop singer (b. 1943)

Carlos Alberto Torres, Brazilian footballer (b. 1944)

Leonard Cohen, singer, songwriter and poet (b. 1934) 

Janet Reno, American lawyer (b. 1938)

Shimon Peres, ex-prime minister of Israel (b. 1923) 

Robert Vaughn, American actor - Man from Uncle (b. 1932)

Ron Glass, American actor (b. 1945)

Gene Wilder, actor (b. 1933)

Andrew Sachs, British actor Manuel - Fawlty Towers (b. 1930) 

Fidel Castro ex-president of Cuba (b. 1926)


David Hamilton, British photographer (b. 1933)

Peter Vaughan, British actor (b. 1923)


Victoria Wood, comedian (b.1953)

Paul Daniels, magician (b.1938)


David Gest, producer (b.1953)

John Glenn, astronaut and American politician (b. 1921) 

Jean Alexander, actor (Hilda Ogden-Coronation St) (b.1926)

George Michael, singer, songwriter (b. 1963) 

Debbie Reynolds, American actress, singer and dancer (b. 1932)


Carrie Fisher, American actress (b. 1956) 

Richard Adams, novelist of Watership Down (b. 1920)

Crane/Access industry deaths

January


John Colclough, previously sales manager at Aerial Access, died suddenly on December 25th.

Stephen Rodgers, 1951-2015 founder of UK Platforms previously with PTP and Ainscough Access 

March


Thomas 'Tom' Bennett, 1943-2016, former chief executive of Prime Equipment/RSC - from cancer


April

Christopher J. Dossin, 1955-2016, Economy/Snorkel, Skyjack, Custom Equipment and High Reach Solutions. 

Brian Sylvester, 1943-2016, UK crane operator, technician and salesman with Richards & Wallington Crane Hire/BCHC then CTI -PAT, after a long illness


May


Paul Bidwell 1957-2016, marketing manager Manitou, UK 


Chester 'Chet' Zerillo, 1945-2016, Empire Crane 

June

Christopher J. Dawe, Comansa


Graham Heasman, 1954-2016, UK-based training manager for JLG 

Gordon Sparrow, 1933-2016, Founder Sparrows Crane Hire, Sparrows Offshore 


Béatrice Saubot, 1943-2016, Wife of Haulotte's Pierre Saubot 

July

Paul Ingleton, 1968-2016, UK tower crane operator

Tony Clark, 1940-2016, Gala Engineering /Simon Gala 

November

John Jennings, 1945-2016, Clements Plant Hire, UK 

December

Evelyn Low, 1980-2016 of IPAF Singapore office 

World Events..World Events..World



January

The World Health Organisation confirms Zika virus outbreak.

February

North Korea launches a long-range rocket, violating UN treaties.

March

Bombings in Brussels, Belgium kill 32 and injure 250. IS claims responsibility for the attacks.



A blast in Lahore, Pakistan, kills 75 and injures 340 a militant Islamic organisation claims responsibility.

Ex-Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić is sentenced to 40 years in prison for genocide and crimes against humanity.

April

The 'Panama Papers' - millions of confidential documents revealing details of how the world's richest people funnel assets offshore are leaked.

May

EgyptAir Flight 804 flying from Paris to Cairo crashes over the Mediterranean with 66 people on board.

June

The Gotthard Base Tunnel, the world's longest and deepest railway tunnel, is opened.

The UK votes in a referendum to leave the European Union.



July

NASA's Juno spacecraft enters orbit around Jupiter.

The final video cassette recorder is manufactured by Japanese company Funai.

'Solar Impulse 2' becomes the first solar-powered aircraft to circumnavigate the Earth.

August

The 2016 Summer Olympics are held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



September

The government of North Korea conducts its fifth nuclear test.

The US and China both ratify the Paris global climate agreement.

Two paintings by Vincent Van Gogh - stolen in 2002 from a museum in Amsterdam - and worth \$100 million, are recovered.

Pope Francis canonises Mother Teresa, making her Saint Teresa.

October

The Nobel Prize for Literature goes to Bob Dylan.

UK pardons 65,000 men convicted as homosexuals under the 'Gross Indecency' legislation - 15,000 of them are still alive.

November

The UK High Court rules that Parliament must approve the filing of Article 50 to start the process of leaving the European Union.

Donald Trump defeats Hillary Clinton to become the 45th president of the United States.



Fidel Castro dies at the age of 90.

December

French president François Hollande announces that he will not seek re-election.

Italian prime minister Matteo Renzi resigns.

Two bombs go off outside a football stadium in Istanbul, Turkey, killing 38 and injuring 155.