


# cranes & access

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February 2017 Vol.19 issue 1



All Terrain  
cranes  
Electric  
scissor lifts  
Mastclimbers  
and hoists  
Conexpo  
preview

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## On the cover:

JCB has entered the powered access sector with the launch of a nine model range of scissor lifts which will be followed by a line of articulated and telescopic booms - 27 lifts in all.



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JCB adds powered access, Change of owner at Time, Hewden cranes to go in unreserved auction, United takes NES, Socage acquires Manotti, Loxam completes Hune acquisition, Loxam wins Lavendon bidding war, New generation RT from Link-Belt, Terex to close plant in China, Crane option for Palfinger NX platforms, Klubb acquires Comilev assets, Fassi takes control of French business, New JCB telehandler and transmission, ACM acquires Summit Tower, New Liebherr LTM 1090, Secondary guarding from Genie, JLG announces plant closures and financials round-up.



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With so many new All Terrain cranes launched at last year's Bauma we are now in a period when most of the manufacturers are concentrating on getting the new products to market.



We also profile Stroud, UK-based Ellis Crane Hire run by father and son team of Bill and Simon Ellis.

## Electric scissor lifts 29

Following the launch of JCB's new scissor lift range, we take a more in-depth look at the new product line and see how they stack up against the competition - particularly the larger 14 and 16 metre models.



## Magni and Dingli partnership 35

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## Mastclimbers and hoists 39

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This year's big international construction equipment show is Conexpo in early March. In our first preview we highlight a few of the major new product launches.



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## In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access scheduled for the end of March will feature: A review of Conexpo, the first preview of Vertical Days, the main APEX preview, a review of what was new at the Rental shows in the USA and UK, as well as a look at Batteries, Tower cranes and small booms/mast booms. 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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### Vertikal Verlag

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## To lift or not to lift....

The recent launch of Palfinger's Crane Mode option on its NX truck mounted platforms has once again raised the thorny issue of equipment being used for something it wasn't initially intended.

Lifting people with cranes, using aerial work platforms or excavators to lift loads, suspended load handling with telehandlers or using loader cranes and 360 degree telehandlers for sophisticated lifts in place of mobile cranes, all trigger strong responses and objections from equipment specialists.

From an access point of view it is easy to see why associations such as IPAF stress the importance of using a purpose-built work platform when working at height and only considering cranes with man-baskets as a last resort.

Conversely crane companies will tell you about the hoops they have to jump through to get on site to carry out a lift, while a telehandler often turns up and gets on with it. The same with assessing ground conditions, with mats and ground bearing pressures high priorities for any crane operator, while large telescopic boom lifts - which can exert far more ground pressure - all too often trundle around a site seemingly without a care in the world.

This inequality has not gone un-noticed, particularly by those crane operators who do things 'by the book'. They might be forgiven for thinking that there appears to be one rule for them and almost none for everyone else.

A few years ago the European material handling federation FEM published a white paper virtually outlawing the lifting of people with cranes for entertainment in response to trends such as 'restaurant in the sky' and other rides, only to do a U-turn under pressure. Even the UK's HSE appears to turn a blind eye to 'leisure' activities such as bungee jumping from a crane, yet will throw the book at a lifting company caught doing anything risky on site.

In the real world, people will use the equipment they already have - for convenience, speed and to save money - so the ability to handle additional tasks appeals. The very reason why telehandlers have become so popular is the fact that they are a 'jack of all trades' acting as a fork lift, access platform and pick and carry crane. So it is understandable that manufacturers seek to add additional capabilities.

What perhaps should be considered however is the apparent discrepancy in paperwork, planning and training demands for the various equipment types. If they were treated in the same manner, resulting in a level playing field in regards to operation and safety, there may be a greater acceptance of equipment that can and does cross disciplines.

Unfortunately at the moment the playing field has a very discernable slope.....

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

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ISSN: 1467-0852

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