



cranes & access

June 2017 Vol.19 issue 4

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Telehandlers
**Truck mounted
platforms**
Loader cranes
Show reviews

...Ashtead acquires Plantfinder...New Manitou telehandlers...Sennebogen 30 tonne tele crawler...

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On the cover:

A colourful SafetyLiftinGear stand showed a wide selection of lifting, material handling and load restraint products at the recent Vertikal Days show.



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SUBSCRIPTIONS: Cranes & Access is published nine times a year and is available on payment of an annual subscription of £40.00. If you wish to subscribe, please send a crossed cheque made payable to The Vertikal Press Ltd to: Subscriptions, The Vertikal Press, PO Box 6998, Brackley, Northants NN13 5WY. Address changes should also be sent to this address. Please include the address label from a recent issue with all correspondence and allow 3 months for changes to be effective.

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Tel: +44 (0)8448 155900 Fax: +44 (0)1295 768223

E-mail: info@vertikal.net

Kran & Bühne: The Vertikal Press also publishes a German magazine which deals with the same issues as Cranes & Access, but is written for German users and buyers. Details available on request.

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Ashtead acquires Plantfinder, 65ft Nifty hybrid stick boom, New Manitou 360 degree telehandlers, Sennebogen adds 30 tonne telescopic crawler, New Platform Basket Road-Rail boom, Janneniska and Jalo & Jalo form partnership, Manitou opens Indian facility, New truck mounted platform from BVT, Ruthmann to go higher, Terex updates Demag AC100-4L, Skyking to distribute Ascendant, Boels acquires IQ-Pass, MEC restructures international sales, Custom appoints TVH, Mammoet acquires George Young, Maxim acquires Coast, 120ft Riwal/JLG electric booms for Naboen, Kobelco merges operations in Japan and India, sales of 13 tonne Katos gather pace and Financials round-up.



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Editorial team

Mark Darwin - Editor
editor@vertikal.net

Associate editors

Rüdiger Kopf (Freiburg)
Alexander Ochs (Freiburg)
Leigh Sparrow

Reporter

Sam Pickering

Sales & customer support

Pam Penny
Clare Engelke
Karlheinz Kopp

Production/Administration

Nicole Engesser

Subscriptions

Lee Sparrow

Publisher

Leigh Sparrow

Advertising sales

UK-based

Pam Penny pp@vertikal.net
Tel: +44 (0)7917 155657
Clare Engelke ce@vertikal.net
Tel: +44 (0)7989 970862

Germany-based

Karlheinz Kopp khk@vertikal.net
Tel: +49 (0)761 89786615

Italy

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

The Vertikal Press

PO box 6998 Brackley NN13 5WY, UK
Tel: +44(0)8448 155900
Fax: +44(0)1295 768223
email: info@vertikal.net
web: www.vertikal.net

Vertikal Verlag

Sundgaullee 15, D-79114,
Freiburg, Germany
Tel: 0761 8978660 Fax: 0761 8866814
email: info@vertikal.net
web: www.vertikal.net



The right machine for the job

For as long as I have been with Cranes & Access we have advocated the use of the 'right machine for the job'. Over the years this has meant encouraging the use of aerial work platforms rather than a suspended man basket or a basket on a fork lift - unless they are the only method of carrying out the work.

This month's issue features telehandlers and in particular the largest currently available - Magni's 46 metre RTH 6.46. The fact that Magni has managed to produce such a machine at this stage of its

development is a credit to the design and manufacturing skills of Riccardo Magni. However, as we all know these large 360 degree telehandlers are generally used as substitutes for a crane or aerial lift. Given our stance on using the 'right' machine for the job, is this correct?

As the saying goes 'there are more ways than one to skin a cat' and it would be wrong to condemn a machine that can easily and safely carry out a particular task just because it is different - after all not so long ago powered access and spider cranes would have fallen into that category. From an equipment point of view there is nothing wrong with 360 degree telehandlers carrying out lifts or pick & carrying suspended loads. Where there may be an issue is the different treatment they tend to receive compared to a crane in terms of lift planning, application of regulations and on-site paperwork requirements.

This is most likely due to the fact that over the years safety officers and industry associations have introduced rules for cranes following specific incidents. The telehandler on the other hand began life as a glorified fork lift, developing into a jack of all trades and one of the most popular pieces of equipment on site. With shorter booms and a more forgiving nature they do not attract the same attention as cranes. However over time, telehandlers have become larger, more powerful and more sophisticated. And yet even the largest 360 degree models are treated in the same way as the average site telehandler, although they are totally different beasts.

Magni's 46 metre unit is roughly equivalent in performance terms to a 30 tonne Rough Terrain or City crane, so from an operational point of view shouldn't it be treated as a crane? Or perhaps small cranes like these need to be treated more like telehandlers? Discrepancies like this eventually lead to the greater use of the equipment that is easier or cheaper to buy or rent, rather than because it is the right machine for the job.

The big 360 degree telehandler is a marvellously versatile piece of equipment but it should be chosen because of what it can do, not because it attracts less paperwork and scrutiny.

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

Vertikal Press

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ISSN: 1467-0852

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