

# cranes & access

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August/September 2017 Vol.19 issue 6

**Top 30 rental  
companies**  
**Spider cranes**  
**Large heavy  
duty scissor lifts**

.... New cranes from Tadano.....United takes Neff.....152 tonne Reachstacker.....





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## On the cover:

Two spider cranes from mini crane rental company Lift working together to position an awkward shaped vessel in a restricted work space.



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Spider cranes



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Safety



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United takes Neff, Gardemann name to go, Tadano launches RT and telescopic crawler, Weyers leaves Manitowoc,

New booms and scissors from Sinoboom, Brazilian acquisition for Hiab, Two new telescopics from GSR, Lagerwey's new turbine crane, Liebherr boosts 750 tonne lattice booms, Arcomet goes bigger, New glass robot from Bailey, New 140t/m Wolffkran flat top, World's largest reachstacker, New Comansa CM luffer, OSHA delays crane operator certification and first half financials round-up.



## C&A annual Top 30 rental company guide 17

Over the past 12 months the UK and Ireland crane, access and telehandler rental companies have been busy with large investments across all sectors and many companies expanding their fleets. See how the leading companies have fared in this year's Top 30 rental company survey.

## Spider cranes 31

Can the Japanese spider crane manufacturers remain dominant? Is there alternative concept that offers more lift capacity from a smaller footprint that will become the norm? We try to answer these important questions...



## Heavy-duty scissors 39

We take a look at the growing market for large, heavy-duty, narrow electric scissors - a sector with only three manufacturers Holland Lift, PB Lifttechnik and AB Lift. Also Tim White, managing director of recently formed HWS Rental UK reveals why the company is specialising in this niche product sector.



## Jim Daintith - 30 years in the industry 49



There have been many prominent companies and characters in the UK powered access industry over the past 30 to 40 years. One of them is Jim Daintith who with Malcolm Brown formed Access Platform Sales (APS) in 1987. Mark Darwin talked to him about his 30 years in the industry.



## Safety 53

Last month we published a highly abbreviated letter from ex-IPAF managing director Paul Adorian which calls for larger firefighting platforms and for UK rental companies to work with the fire and rescue departments. Here is a fuller version.

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## In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access scheduled for mid-October will feature Outrigger mats, pads and temporary roadways, Access & lifting for Arborists, Self-propelled boom lifts and Mobile self-erecting tower cranes. 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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## 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

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email: info@vertikal.net  
web: www.vertikal.net



## It's an ill wind

As I sit down to write this comment, Aileen, the first named UK storm of the year, is battering parts of Britain with wind gusting to 75mph and rainfall of up to 40mm. But we are lucky in the UK with our weather. We have a 'temperate' climate - not too hot, not too cold, not too many floods and no major earthquakes or volcanic eruptions etc.

Even our storms are 'temperate' unlike many other regions, such as the countries around the South China Sea which have been experiencing a spate of typhoons over the past month or the

Caribbean and southern states of America currently being ravaged by the category 5 Hurricane Irma with winds up to 185mph.

Despite this I for one am more aware of the greater extremes of the weather over the past 30 years. Warmer summers, colder winters, more violent storms and a merging of the seasons. But what has all this got to do with cranes and access?

Working in the wind is not only difficult but can be very dangerous. Outdoor working in aerial work platforms is limited to 12.5 metres a second, as are lifting operations for cranes (although for large surface area items such as wind turbine blades this is reduced to around 10m/s). Hurricane Irma at its peak generated speeds of almost 83 metres a second which exceeds the out of service design capability of tower cranes.

We have all seen the videos of tower crane jibs weathervaning - as they are designed to - during high winds. However the huge forces of the more recent tornadoes and hurricanes, which sends jibs spinning and causing extreme tower flexing must surely have a significant effect on the cranes structure and foundation? Three tower cranes were brought down in southern Florida by Irma, but what of the 40 to 50 cranes left standing?

With insufficient time to bring cranes down in advance of a storm, all that can be done is to ensure the weathervaning function is working correctly and jibs of luffers lowered to optimum angles. However once the storms pass it is an almost impossible challenge to properly inspect and test the whole crane structure and foundations, with damage hard to detect with the naked eye.

However the damage and disruption caused by these increasingly violent storms also has a positive aspect, bringing additional 'windfall' business for the rental industry. Ashtead, owner of Sunbelt Rentals in the US and A-Plant in the UK has just posted a strong first quarter and identified that the hurricane season has already generated significant activity, even before the effect of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma on the business.

Every cloud has a silver lining...

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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