

# cranes & access

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June 2018 Vol.20 issue 4

Heavy lift  
Scissor lifts

Vertikal Days  
review  
Loader cranes

...New Manitowoc crawler and Grove RT cranes...New JLG crawler boom lifts...Bigger HMF loader cranes...



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## On the cover:

An Alimak Scando 650 hoist being erected with the help of a loader crane for the Vertikal Days show at Donington Park.



# C&A contents

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Manitowoc unveils new 100t crawler, New 149t Grove RT, AB 2000 acquired, New JLG crawler booms, Manitowoc and Kobelco end OEM deal, Morris Leslie acquires Chertsey, Two new HMF cranes, Dinolift launches new truck mount, High Access merges with NWC, Lifetime Achievement Award for Wood, Klubbs for Mateco, First Kato Rf in Europe, New BoSS towers and financials round-up.



Heavy lift 17

Earlier this year we looked at the specialist crane developments when erecting the new larger wind turbines. This month we see how heavier modules are being installed in sectors such as construction, civil engineering, industrial, petrochemical and power generation.



Slab electric scissor lifts 25

The largest sector within the self-propelled powered access market is battery electric scissors and it is easy to see why. Designed for use on smooth solid floors - mostly indoors - the lifts are compact, inexpensive, clean, quiet and relatively cheap to run. We look at the product development - particularly in recent years - including the latest models and features.



Loader cranes 35

The fortunes of the leading loader crane manufacturers continue to vary but has Hiab regained its position as market leader? We also take an in-depth look at Danish manufacturer HMF which is hoping to break into the 'top three' manufacturers and look at other new products.



Vertikal Days

review 43



Despite having to move Vertikal Days for the second year running, this years' event at Donington Park combined all that is good about the UK lifting sector resulting in probably the best show to date. Here are the show highlights.

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In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access, scheduled for mid July, will feature C&A's annual Dealer and source guide, Pick & carry cranes, Low level industrial access equipment/mast booms and Rental software. 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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## Gadget mad

Let's face it, most of us are gadget mad. Whether it is at work or at home we all have our tablets, smartphones, gaming machines etc.

Always scrambling for connections and power sockets for Wireless and Bluetooth. Even those who deny it probably have an iPhone, iPad or Fitbit. We can't seem to escape them as they gradually take over our lives. Go to any restaurant or pub and look at the number of people in a one way conversation with their phone...

Even Apple recognises this with the latest iOS12 software giving users a better understanding of how much time they spend on their device, in order to promote digital wellbeing.

But what has this got to do with cranes and access equipment?

Well in the slab scissor lift feature in this month's issue we cover the latest 'tech aid' - overhead warning systems or secondary guarding - which looks set to become the next 'must have' feature that rental companies will be obliged to install.

I am, of course, totally for anything that makes the workplace safer but is this something that is really needed? More electronic devices that constantly beep at us? We all like product developments and improvements - iPhone 3, 4, 5, 6, 7...etc... but for lifting equipment it also must be sensible and practicable.

But does this latest expensive hi-tech 'safety' equipment really make the industry safer? Might it instead lull the operator into a false sense of security, taking away his common sense and operator's instinct. It has been proved that when we drive a car with seat belts and airbags we drive faster and more recklessly because subconsciously we think we are safer/invulnerable. Most people now rely on sat nav but who hasn't been led literally up the garden path as we blindly follow the sat nav instructions, no matter how absurd they are, totally suspending our natural instincts?

Surely technology should be a 'backup' with proper training and awareness being key to the safe operation of the equipment. Whatever the technology, stupid people will still do stupid things which is why training - and perhaps testing - rather than gadgets is so critical.

This technology also adds to the weight, complexity and price of the machine. I just hope the fitting of such devices is not just another box ticking exercise or fad. I for one would rather be in total control of what I am doing, than rely on a gadget which beeps at me when it thinks I am in some sort of danger.

But I would be lost without my sat nav!

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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