

loads better!

Pam Penny reports from Europe's largest Commercial Vehicle Show held in April at Birmingham's NEC. 630 exhibitors filled 11 halls targeting a market with an estimated value of over £12 billion a year.

Our target was of course, very specific, the lorry loader stands, here are a few highlights from the major players exhibiting at the show.

British Pride

One of the last British owned firms in the truck and van loader market, Penny Hydraulics launched three new V-Range cranes, a new platform lift and promoted its new website www.loadsbetter.com.

The new V-Range Maxiloader 1000 and 1500 handle large and bulky loads up to 1000 and 1500kg respectively at the cranes full boom extension of 2.3m. The new Swing Lift Kerb Lift for handling kerb stones and small plant has a capacity of 250kg and eliminates the need for manual handling by maintenance and construction engineers. Helping comply with the latest manual handling rules.



John Penny, of Penny Hydraulics

Alongside these products, all of which were set up to be demonstrated to Show visitors, the team at Penny Hydraulics brought along its first Demonstration vehicle for its load handling and specialist tyre handling products, a 'one stop

shop' aimed at tyre suppliers and fleet engineers to fit out vans, pickups and other vehicles from a single source. Loads of thought and neat presentation made way for a busy CV show for this privately owned Chesterfield based company.

John Penny, owner and Managing Director was encouraged and stated "the last six or seven months has seen an upsurge in general activity from sub-contractors and vehicle companies. Local Authorities are now very active and of course the manual handling regulations are high on the agenda".

Hiab

Ismo Leppanen, newly promoted Sales and Marketing Director for Hiab to promote four new loaders, Hiab XS099; XS244; XS322 and XS122L, all making their UK debut.

30 second winner from Hiab

Also new from Hiab was the "ToolXChanger", a coupling unit which allows operators to change tools on truck loading cranes in less than 30 seconds. The unit is designed in two parts, the upper part attaches to the crane, while the lower is attached to various tools and attachments. It can be used with practically any tool or attachment on the market such as a grapple or a pallet fork and is already in use with Enfield City Council. The forthcoming SED show will provide the chance to see this 'wonder tool' in action on the Hiab stand (alongside the C&A stand) at SED.

Terex Atlas

Reporting a "good level of interest at the show and a solid order book stretching well into 2005" Terex Atlas exhibited four new models in the .2 Series which included the AK75.2 A1 Roll-Loader making its UK debut. The unit, which is lightweight to maximise payload was launched at the Hanover Show last year and is aimed at the brick/block sector and is already out on demonstration in the UK.

Now firmly established within the Terex group, the company launched ten new cranes in 2004 and boasts a "total load management" concept embracing everything from technical advice to information on the latest legislation.

Palfinger/TH White/Outreach

On show were the latest introductions to the lorry loader crane range – the Palfinger PK18500 and PK23500, plus the 60 metre/tonne 72002 and the new Epsilon Grab Recycling and Timber Crane.



The Palfinger 72002 with 68 t/m crane

Interesting news from the agent for Palfinger in Scotland, Outreach, which is making its first steps into the powered access market, by taking on the truck-mounted boom range from Bison Palfinger. Ronnie Trainer, one of the best-known access sector specialists in Scotland, has joined Outreach, to spearhead the company's sales and development plans. Look out for further announcements.

Manitou

After 10 years Manitou announced its completely updated ManiTransit range of truck-mounted forklifts.

To satisfy customers' demands for comfort, safety and quality, the new range meets five major criteria that it set for itself.



The Terex Atlas AK75.2 A1 one of the new 2 series cranes

- Reduced weight;
- Increased stability;
- Increased tilt angle for the forks;
- Improved overall design and appearance;
- Optimised product range

Cormach Cranes

Ernest Doe, the UK importers of Cormach lorry loaders displayed a selection of cranes ranging from 4 ton metre to 180 on metre capacity, plus their Maxi-Lift which offers 1 ton metre to 3.5 ton metre capacity.

First CV Show for Allmi

The Allmi team took their first stand at the CV Show this year gearing up their efforts to promote the proper training of operators of lorry loaders. To date, Allmi have trained 99 instructors and over 6000 operators, 2400 for last year alone representing a 40% increase on the previous year.



The Hiab Tool XChanger allows attachments to be swapped over in 30 seconds.