

cranes & access

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February/March 2022 Vol.24 issue 1

Van
mounted
lifts

Alternative
lifting

Batteries

Vertikal Days
preview

....All new Tadano AT...Dingli's 99ft RT mega scissors...New Liebherr flat-top....

DINGLI

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ELECTRIC



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Vertical Lifts: 4.7m - 14m

On the cover:

A Versalift VTL-135-F van mounted platform from the Access Hire Nationwide fleet - Europe's largest specialist van mounted rental company. See article on P22



C&A contents

17 Van mounted platforms



29 Alternative lifting



39 Batteries



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Comment 5

News 6



Tadano unveils new 40t AT, 99ft Dingli RT scissors, Sennebogen's 100t telecrawler, New Liebherr EC-B flat top, Two new 26ft JLG scissors, Tadano loader crane launch, EU approves Cargotec/ Konecranes merger, New Falcon 380XL Vario, Manitou to invest \$80 million in US, New Liebherr lift planner, Manitowoc in EPA discussions, Terex invests in SmartPTO, and financials round-up...

Van mounted platforms 17



The market for van mounted platforms has exploded throughout Europe over the past year or two, with all the leading manufacturers ramping up production after experiencing a huge increase in demand for all types of van mounted lifts. We take a look at the market and profile one of Europe's leading van mounted rental companies, Access Hire Nationwide.

Alternative lifting 29

Much of the transport infrastructure that was built in the mid-20th century is now reaching the end of its life...or gone well beyond it. Replacing major structures such as bridges is always a challenge. While cranes have frequently played a major role, a growing range of alternative lifting equipment and techniques is leading to a range of innovative methods.



In the next C&A

Scheduled for early May, the next issue of Cranes & Access will include features on Crawler cranes and Heavy Lift Applications, Boom lifts and the comprehensive 24 page Official Vertikal Days Show Guide featuring every exhibitor with details of products and services on display. If you have any contributions or suggestions to make or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.

Batteries 39

In terms of battery technology, the lead acid battery is a dinosaur. Invented in the mid-1800s it has barely changed in the 150 years since. We look at some of the growing number of credible alternatives. And four years on, Mark Darwin revisits Hoogwerkt, the innovative 'Lithium only' access rental company in the Netherlands, to find out if and how its original business model has changed.



Vertikal Days preview 49

Vertikal Days 2022 is now just over two months away. We take a peek at what to expect at the leading access, crane and lifting show being held for the second time at the popular East of England Show Ground, Peterborough.

Combatting racism in the workplace 55

Employment tribunals focussing on racial discrimination rose in the UK by 48% in 2020. Tina Chander, Head of Employment Law at law firm, Wright Hassall looks at the five core types of discrimination set out within the UK's Equality Act 2010 and how it impacts the workplace.



regulars

CPA focus 57

In the next issue 58

PASMA focus 59

IPAF focus 61

ALLMI focus 63

Training 65

Books & models 67

Letters and obituaries 69

What's on 73

Online directory 78

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Impact on a global scale

No matter how far away or how close you are to Ukraine, the invasion by Russia will inevitably have an impact on the global economy this year. It is yet another example - along with the financial crisis of 2008/9 and Covid in 2019 - of how events that happen on one side of the world can have a major impact on us all.

As with the pandemic, this crisis is likely to cause us to re-evaluate the way we approach some aspects of our private and business life. And perhaps over the short to mid-term, accelerate the move towards managing our precious resources more wisely. With Covid air traffic plummeted, we only drove our cars when it was essential, more of us took to our bikes or walked and realised we could do many things remotely, sometimes more effectively. We also looked more closely at our quality of life and in many cases made profound changes. At the same time the importance of face to face contact was fully appreciated.

This crisis could accelerate the changes towards more local sourcing and self-sufficiency, perhaps it will also result in companies realising the real value of a product or service and in paying the appropriate price.

While Russia might look all powerful at the moment, you can never win against the will of the people. You may succeed temporarily, but the cost never stacks up and your own people will lose tolerance for it. Perhaps when we look back on this event it will be seen as a shift away from autocracy and gung-ho nationalist leaders?

It has been humbling and inspiring to see how front line countries such as Poland, Hungary, Moldova and others immediately opened their doors to Ukrainian refugees and welcomed them with open arms, and how most of the rest of the world has been moved by the plight of the Ukrainian people. Not only individuals but even hardnosed corporations have now put principles before profit.

It reminds me of a line in the film Love actually, made after New York's twin towers were destroyed, which starts - and I paraphrase: "Whenever I get gloomy with the state of the world, I think about the arrivals gate at Heathrow Airport - it's not particularly dignified, or newsworthy - but it's always there - fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, husbands and wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, old friends. General opinion is starting to make out that we live in a world of hatred and greed, but I don't see that. When the planes hit the Twin Towers, as far as I know none of the phone calls were messages of hate or revenge - they were all messages of love."

And while the daily news from Ukraine is gut wrenchingly depressing, I look at the incredible scenes at the Polish border while thousands of people around the world make tangible offers of help.

This is certainly a frightening time, and it may be for a while. In the meantime, our hearts should be with the Ukrainian people... and to the millions of ordinary Russians who are also suffering though not fault of their own.

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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