



cranes & access

October 2025 Vol.27 issue 6

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**TOP 30
RENTAL
SURVEY**

**SPIDER
CRANES**

**TREE CARE
EQUIPMENT**

VERTIKAL DAYS REVIEW

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Three new lifts from LGMG, Skyjack launches bigger scissor and CE micros, Oil&Steel 30m Octopus, A bigger JCB boom lift, JLG's folding LiftPod, Terex Utilities' first spider, Almac spider lifts and articulated boom lifts, New 60t Tadano GTC crawler, Haulotte's new RT scissors and Pulseo boom lift, Kito Crosby Movable crane, Jekko updates, Two new products from Aldercote, Game of Cranes winners, New Buddie System trialled plus news highlights and financials round-up...

UK AND IRELAND TOP 30 RENTAL SURVEY 17

The annual Top 30 rental company survey highlights the fleets of leading crane, aerial lift and telehandler rental companies in the UK and Ireland, including how they have dealt with the past year.

SPIDER CRANES 31

The market for small lightweight cranes - spider, mini crawler, articulated and trailer - has become increasingly crowded as innovative new products are developed and new companies enter the space. We take a look at the latest products and developments in this varied market sector.

TREE CARE EQUIPMENT 41

The equipment used by arborists has changed over the past 25 years as the growing use of spider lifts curbed tree climbing. But is this trend about to change again as other types of mechanised equipment become available? We also talk to Jeff Poggi, chief executive of CMC North America, about the US tree care market and the company's arb specific products.

LETTER FROM AMERICA 45

Meagan Wood, editor in chief of Crane Hub magazine in the US, provides an overview of the North American crane industry as it heads towards 2026 and finds itself balancing strong opportunities with complex challenges.

VERTIKAL DAYS SHOW REVIEW 49

This year's Vertikal Days was the largest so far, returning to Newark Showground in Nottinghamshire, UK with many products making their UK, European or even global debuts. Hopefully our review provides a flavour of the show for those that missed it.

SUSTAINABILITY, RENEWABLES AND RECYCLING 60

Reusing or repurposing existing products saves raw materials and energy reducing CO2 emissions. We talk to Wolffkran UK managing director Dave Holder and sustainability manager Niall Conroy about their project to refurbish a 29 year old Wolff 100B tower crane and the potential for refurbished cranes as an alternative to new products.

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ON THE COVER

Heavy lift and haulage specialist Forsyth of Denny in Stirling in Scotland - working late in the afternoon removing a wind turbine rotor to ground level to exchange three blade bearings.



IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Scheduled for publication in late November, the next issue of Cranes & Access will include features on Pick & carry industrial cranes, Large truck mounted lifts, Outrigger mats and tracking and Mastclimbers & hoists. If you have any contributions or suggestions to make or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.



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Vertikal
Press



COMMENT

'CASH AND CARRY'

Every so often we publish a story in the magazine or on Vertikal.net that is a little unusual. This month it's about a machine that performed brilliantly... being used in a criminal activity.

The product in question was a truck mounted Böcker furniture hoist, which achieved global exposure when it was involved earlier this month in the jewel heist at the Louvre in Paris. Thieves used the lift to gain access to a balcony and break into a window not covered by CCTV security cameras. They were inside the building for four minutes during which time they stole the jewels and then rode the platform down to waiting scooters to make their escape. The whole thing took less than seven minutes.

What is unusual is that Böcker spotted a marketing opportunity and produced an advertisement entitled 'If you are in a hurry' promoting it as a lift that can carry your 'treasures' up to a height as 'quiet as a whisper' thanks to its electric motor. Clever!

I recall construction equipment being used by criminals in the 1980s and 1990s when thieves with JCB backhoe loaders ram raided cash points - ATMs - physically ripping out the cash machine and driving off with it in the front bucket. I don't remember JCB running an ad campaign telling us how powerful its backhoe was, with a picture of the hole in the wall to prove it?

However, it would appear that this type of criminal activity is making a bit of a comeback, at least in the UK ... but this time the thieves are using telehandlers to break in and carry away the cash machines.

Just a few days ago, a 'yellow' telehandler was used to steal one from a 'Sainsbury's Local'

supermarket in Milton Keynes, UK. Police believe that the machine smashed through the front façade, lifted the ATM on slings and loaded it into a vehicle waiting outside, which then drove off at speed. The thieves abandoned the telehandler outside the store.

Carrying out more research on this topic, I found a large number of such raids across the UK, with the telehandler - stolen of course - being the tool of choice. As we can see from the Top 30 rental company survey in this issue there is no shortage of telehandlers around the UK, with the leading rental companies having a combined fleet of almost 19,000 machines.

Böcker appears to be happy to be associated with the far more 'clever jewel theft from a famous tourist destination in Paris'. As Alexander Böcker said: "When we were sure that no one had been harmed, we thought that a touch of humour might help promote our brand and products. It is still a dreadful crime for which there is no excuse, hopefully, they will be caught, and the jewels recovered."

Somehow, I just cannot see telehandler manufacturers publicising the ram raiding antics - it doesn't quite have the same sophisticated charm as jewels in Paris. However, perhaps the old stereotype regarding a German's sense of humour has been disproved.

Mark Darwin

Comment and feedback is most welcome via post, email or phone stating if we may publish them or not:
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