

SAIE



SAIE received its biennial boost this year as tower cranes made their return to the Bologna showground

National strikes stretching over Italy's entirety last month failed to deter the reported 172500 faithful visitors who descended upon Bologna, Italy for the country's premier construction equipment exhibition. *Cranes & Access* was among the guests.



Making its debut appearance at SAIE was Liebherr's new 13 HM fast-erecting crane

mass of yellow belonging to Potain in the outside crane area featured a snapshot of its six-strong self erecting IGO evolution tower crane range, which the company says replaces its existing HD line. Sharing the stand was Grove's latest 220 tonne capacity, six-axle GMK6220-L all terrain crane. The crane features the new six section 72 metre Megaform long-boom, and with a full 38 metre jib extension offers a maximum tip height of 112 metres.

In terms of loader cranes, if it isn't at SAIE it's probably not worth knowing about. The host nation's vibrant loader crane community, as ever, was represented to the full by the likes of Effer, Fassi, Heila, Jolly Crane and Autogru PM. Of particular interest, however, was Benelligru's latest development, a loader crane mounted on crawler tracks. The unit incorporates the company's existing 3 tonne capacity 3010/2S2 loader crane with a rubber tracked crawler undercarriage. Customers can also expect a new 7-strong loader crane range, at the smaller end of the tonne/metre rating chart, from Hiab, which will be available from January next year.

As always SAIE was full of powered access with big stands from local companies such as Oil & Steel and Iteco but also with a sizable international presence. Relatively few new products were on show as SAIE followed close on the heels of APEX but one small stand drawing attention was that of Rovers, an Italian company with a new range of mast climbing work platforms.

Looking ahead to next year, whereas SAIE's organisers shouldn't lose any sleep over this year's visitor numbers, which amounted to more than 10000 extra on last year's figure, another year like 2002 in terms of acquisitions, however, and filling exhibition space for the 2003 event could turn into a bit of a nightmare. ■

Buono SAIE!

The Bologna city skyline was once again dominated by booms of all kinds as the exhibition received its biennial boost from many of the lifting industry's tower crane manufacturers and their own representatives.

The year's various acquisitions meant one noticeable change compared with SAIE 12 months ago. Of course Manitowoc, Potain and Grove were condensed to a single stand as was the case with Terex and Demag.

As one would expect from any major construction equipment exhibition, Liebherr was out in force with a focused selection of its wares, including its new 1.2 tonne capacity 13 HM fast-erecting tower crane. The company says that 'the unit has been designed for lifting operations performed by small to medium-sized craft-trade and construction companies'.

The 13 HM offers hook heights of up to 20 metres and load capacities up to 1.2 tonnes. Particular emphasis has been placed in the design of the crane's air-sprung tandem axle with ABS, while the crane can be towed either as a trailer or a semi-trailer by trucks up to 7.5 tonnes, at speeds up to 80 kilometres per hour.

The company's new LTM 1250/1 also provided a focal point for visitors with an eye for mobile cranes. The 250 tonne capacity machine features a 72 metre torsionally rigid six-section boom, which the

company says 'is designed to perform lifts for which a 12 metre lattice fly jib was previously needed as an extension to the customary 60 metre main boom'.

SAIE also offered its visitors the first glimpses of the latest Terex Cranes livery since its acquisition of Demag Mobile Cranes. A total of four machines, ranging from 35 to 80 tonnes capacity included the 35 tonne AC 35, which in its previous life was marketed by the Terex company PPM as the ATT 400/3 before its integration into the Demag portfolio. The AC 35 was joined by the popular 60 tonne capacity AC 60 and the compact 3-axle, 40 tonne capacity AC 40-1.

Of course, Italy's own tower crane manufacturers were out in force, too many to list here, and represented by the likes of Gru Comedil, Raimondi Gru and Fm Gru to name but a few. The latter company introduced a global audience to two new tower crane units - the 10.8 tonne capacity FM 25.60 TCK, with a 60 metre jib and height underhook of 67 metres, and its 3.6 tonne capacity FM RB 10.30 I with 30 metres of jib and 29 metres height underhook.

The central An impressive array of platforms from Oil & Steel.

