

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

C&A

Place your products in front of more than 31,300 crane, telehandler and aerial work platform buyers & users who will read the June issue of **Cranes & Access...**



THIS ISSUE WILL INCLUDE FEATURES ON:

LOW LEVEL ACCESS

Low level platforms include a wide choice of lightweight, self-propelled and push around lifts with working heights up to around five metres. We will review market activity over the past year including new product launches, interesting applications and developments. If you have any news or information to add, please get in touch.



TELEHANDLERS

The number of new fixed frame telehandler manufacturers entering the market continues to grow, particularly compact machines from Asian manufacturers. Sales of 360 degree models are also gaining momentum as companies adopt them in place of small Rough Terrain cranes or working in specialised sectors such as tree care. We'll review the latest new products, new entrants and other market developments.

ALL TERRAIN CRANES

We take a look at changes and new models that have taken place over the past year in the All Terrain crane market, with trends such as the move to lower axle weights, longer booms, all-electric and hybrid models and products from new market entrants. There may also be some interesting applications from around the world.



APEX SHOW REVIEW

We review APEX - the tri-annual access equipment exhibition in Maastricht - reporting on all the new products and developments.

Every issue of **C&A** is also packed with our **regular columns** and **news** plus **reader's letters**, **books**, **models**, **training**, along with the latest news from **CPA**, **ALLMI**, and **IPAF**.

Send any information, news, photographs or ideas on these subjects to editor@vertikal.net

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READERS LETTERS

25 YEARS AND GOING STRONG

The lifting news and resource portal Vertikal.net is celebrating 25 years since going live in 2001. The world's leading website for cranes and access news was launched just in time for Bauma 2001.

Just to add some perspective, 25 years ago, the internet was still in its infancy, and Facebook was more than a year away from being established. LinkedIn would still be two years off, while Google and Amazon were in their infancy. Dial-up modems were the way most of us went online, and uploading even a low-resolution photograph took some time, and few companies had their own website.

Many of those who read the news on Vertika.Net do not realise that all 48,261 stories and 79,500 photographs we've posted over the past 25 years are still in the database and available to read for free. All this, along with 488 magazines and guides, all of which are accessible and downloadable without the need to register. Not to mention the directory, industry events guide, library, metric converter and live currency converter, to name just a few tools and features.

We plan to run a review of some of the more dramatic stories over the next 12 months, but as a taster, the first story was an interview with Leopold Mayrhofer, managing director of Ring Lift, who said: "The German market for electric scissor lifts up to 12 metres is saturated," 25 years later and the slab electric scissor lift market is still not 'saturated'. Hindsight is a wonderful thing.

The second story concerned the launch at Bauma of the world's first 100 metre work platform, the Ruthmann TTS1000 - it had booked two orders and had great hopes for the product. In spite of having a fantastic specification, those were the only two ever sold, putting the company off the big truck mounted market for almost two decades. It finally unveiled another 100 metre lift in 2024.



The first Ruthmann TTS1000 in 2012 when it was acquired by Malaysia's Nationwide



AERIAL LIFTS TO CRANES

Last month Belgian international crane and heavy lift company Sarens appointed access industry veteran Stephan Kulawick - Wumag, Palfinger Platforms, BMS, Kiloutou and Felbermayr Access - as group rental commercial director.

Change is not the end

Speaking of leaving the access industry after all these years he said: "Looking back, I feel above all one thing: Gratitude!"

"I am grateful for the colleagues who became friends. Grateful for the people in our industry who have crossed my path. Grateful for the challenges that pushed me to think bigger. I have had the privilege of working with outstanding customers and people, dedicated dealer networks, trusted partners and suppliers across many markets. Thank you for the trust and those long term partnerships."

"I am now embarking on a new chapter in a different field - although lifting technology remains the common thread - and I'm looking forward to building on my experience, meeting new people, broadening my horizons and taking on responsibilities that come with a new level of impact. As I start my first day at Sarens I am really looking forward to my new mission at Team-blue."

Dear Vertikal Team,

Extraordinary that Vertikal.net is 25 years old. It started on a shoestring in 2001 ahead of Facebook or LinkedIn and prospers today. I launched into the unknown, but it was extremely popular, extremely quickly as our global lifting industry is thirsty for quality information and quick to adopt new technology.

From those early days in a grimy, former factory building in Brighton and a quiet office in Freiburg, Germany, to today's august publication is a very impressive journey and one that took our industry to the forefront of technology. It was my honour to launch Vertikal.net, but sincere congratulations to Leigh and the team, (some of whom were there on the first day!), for taking it forward. Also, to Roland Schaub at Zephir, Vertikal's webmaster, who helped me all the way and is still involved.

Print and online publications have difficult challenges from informal, budget and "citizen" publications, but Vertikal's success proves that honest, reliable reporting, (which sometimes makes you unpopular...) attracts the loyal readers your commercial partners need to reach. Cutting and pasting official press releases isn't journalism and has never been part of the Vertikal philosophy - that's why you have remained a "must-read" publication for this fantastic industry. Long live Vertikal! Happy Birthday Vertikal.net!

Sincerely,

Tim Whiteman, founding Editor/
Publisher



Stephan Kulawick

GOING UP IN THE WORLD

A history of Simon Engineering, the development of the powered access industry and a lifetime as an engineer, by Denis Ashworth

Ashworth was a keen engineer and from an early age found himself in at the very start of the modern powered access industry.

His book is an unusual combination of autobiography and history of Simon Engineering Dudley, a pioneer of the powered access industry and at one time, the world's largest manufacturer of aerial lifts.

The coffee table sized book, is highly readable and includes around 150 photographs and drawings from the very beginning of the industry. It is a 'must read' for anyone who is interested in powered access, the hydraulic equipment industry or in comparing modern day engineering challenges with those of an entirely different era.

The book is available direct from the publishers at £19.50, plus £4.50 postage and packing.

- Continental Europe €23 plus €6.50 postage & packing
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MARK NORRIS 1971 - 2026

In mid-April, we received the sad news that crane veteran Mark Norris had died. He passed away on March 26th at the tender age of 54.

Born in the UK, Norris began his working life when he joined the Royal Engineers regiment of the British Army in 1987, having just turned 16. He went on to serve for more than 10 years as a combat engineer. During his time with the army, he spent time on active duty in the first Gulf War in both Kuwait and Iraq and went on to complete tours of duty in Afghanistan, Northern Ireland and Bosnia.

On leaving the army, he became a crane operator and worked for many of the UK and Irish crane rental companies including Baldwins, Quigley UK, Kavanagh Crane Hire, Commhoist, Ainscough Crane Hire, Winter Lift, William O'Brien, along with the UK operations of heavy lift and rigging specialists Mammoet, Sarens and ALE. He also worked with Danish crane and aerial lift rental company BMS and Earth Stream Global, where he was based in Sierra Leone. His most recent role was with Sarens in the USA.

During his time in the industry, he went from crane operator to supervisor, to technical rep and site manager, eventually taking on the role of operations manager for Sarens in Houston, Texas. It seems that wherever he worked, he became a well-known figure who was widely respected.

In 2025, he stepped away from the crane industry to settle in Sierra Leone, where he threw himself into building a restaurant and bar with the same vigour and intensity that he had demonstrated throughout his career in the army and the crane industry, finally opening the restaurant together with his wife, Maria, in February of this year.

Unfortunately, he carried baggage from his time in the army, and it was these demons that eventually got the better of him and subsequently led to his premature death.

He leaves behind his wife, Maria, in Sierra Leone, along with three children, Prince, Margaret and Josh, who have said that they would like to thank everyone who has reached out with support and condolences since news of his death became known.

Mark Norris**JACQUELINE HIMSWORTH 1943 - 2026**

Jacqueline Himsworth, the last second generation member of Manitou's founding family, has died.

The company's chairman since 2017, she passed away on Saturday, April 11th, at the age of 82. Her death comes just nine weeks after she lost her elder brother, Marcel Braud, who died on February 3rd, and only four weeks after she attended a UK dealer conference in Cheshire. She leaves behind her husband Gordon, along with daughter Virginie, along with three sons, Christopher, Dominique and David.

Jacqueline Himsworth was just 13 months old when her father Marcel died in the final days of the war in France, and the day his home town of Ancenis was liberated from the German Army. Her mother, Andrée Braud, decided not only to continue, virtually single handed, with the animal feed company they had founded, but also to pursue her late husband's project to manufacture cranes and concrete mixers.

Her example was clearly not lost on her daughter, Jacqueline, who after graduating in 1964 and working for a time in the UK - where she met her husband Gordon Himsworth - she not only took over and successfully managed the Braud feed company - Braud Nutrition Animale - in Ancenis, but also as a shareholder in the manufacturing business worked alongside her brother, Marcel Braud, the "inventor of the Manitou Rough Terrain forklift. That company, Braud & Fauchaux, became Manitou BF in 1981.

After selling the feed business in 2000, she devoted all of her energy to the Manitou board of directors, chairing numerous committees and setting high standards of due diligence. In 2017, she took over as group chairman, maintaining the family's long term approach and driving the transformations required to maintain the company's resilience to cope with the cyclical nature of the construction equipment market. She also worked hard to ensure the success of the next generation of the family on the board, in order to ensure the continuity of the family legacy.

**Jacqueline Himsworth****Jacqueline with her older brother Marcel, in the 1940s**

The company announcement said: "It is with deep emotion and immense sadness that the Manitou group announces the passing of Madame Jacqueline Himsworth, chairman of its board of directors, who passed away this day at the age of 82 years. The board of directors will meet in the coming days to implement initiatives that ensure the continuity of governance, faithful to the spirit of stability and transmission championed by Jacqueline Himsworth."

Chief executive Michel Denis added:

"Jacqueline Himsworth carried within her wisdom combined with absolute conviction. She constantly reminded us that we could conquer the world without ever forgetting our values and our commitment to the men and women who make up the group today. Her vision, commitment, foresight, and kindness will remain at the heart of our culture. Jacqueline Himsworth passes away, leaving a solid group, supported by a generational transition already actively engaged in the company's governance to ensure its sustainability."

Post Script

As we go to press, it has been announced that Jaqueline's son Christopher has been appointed as Manitou's new chairman, while her daughter Virginie, has joined the board of directors. Both appointments are subject to ratification at the Annual General Meeting on June 25th.

**Jacqueline Himsworth active as Manitou chairman****Son Christopher****Daughter Virginie**