

cranes & access



July/August 2026 Vol.28 issue 4

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TECHNOLOGY**

**VERTIKAL DAYS
PREVIEW**

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**Vertical
days**





6



17



29



39



47

CONTENTS

COMMENT 5

NEWS 6

Skyjack's new 67ft electric boom, New 46m/8t Magni telehandler, 27m spider lift from Sinoboom, Kato and ACE joint venture, O'Rourke buys into Moritsch tower cranes, New Genie GTH-1544 telehandler, 3,000t XCMG All Terrain for Tecmaco in Argentina, UK based Hire Safe adds cranes, More Brontos and a name change for Maltech/Mateco, Axolift Indian production underway, 50 CTE truck mounts to Iraq, IPAF's 2026 Rental Market Reports, Zoomlion opens new UK location, MGX moves into UK, Chile and Peru, plus News Highlights and Financials round-up...

TOWER CRANES 17

Over the past few years, tower crane manufacturers have been affected by the downturn in the European tower crane market together with weak utilisation and rental rates. There have, however, been some new crane launches, acquisitions and amazing applications from all over the world.

SCISSOR LIFTS 29

The self-propelled scissor lift appears to be the simplest of aerial work platforms to design and manufacture. Whilst the reality is not quite the same, it is by far the world's most popular platform type, helped perhaps by the numerous versions and working heights from five to 37 metres. We round-up the latest entrants and new models.

TECHNOLOGY 39

Just over three years ago JLG appointed Ara Eckel as director of product management to head up its 'Connected Solutions Platform' team, responsible for the development of 'cutting edge digital technologies' with the aim to improve the overall value of its products. Mark Darwin met up and quizzed him about current and future technologies. We also have a quick review of the some of the more sophisticated safety devices incorporating perceptive AI software.

VERTIKAL DAYS PREVIEW 47

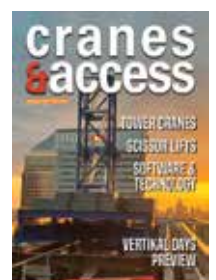
Vertikal Days is fast approaching with the show returning to Newark on the 9th and 10th of September. We give you all the information you need to plan your visit, as well as highlighting a few new products, ideas and developments.

REGULARS

TRAINING	61
CPA FOCUS	63
IN THE NEXT ISSUE	64
IPAF FOCUS	65
ALLMI FOCUS	67
BOOKS & MODELS	69
LETTERS AND OBITUARIES	71
WHAT'S ON	75
ONLINE DIRECTORY	80

ON THE COVER

The base for a Comansa tower crane being installed on the roof of Barclay's 156m high headquarters tower in London, which also involved a spider crane and mini luffer. Full story on page 22.



IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Scheduled for publication early September, the next issue of Cranes & Access will include the 50 page Vertikal Days Showguide listing every exhibitor, plus features on Rough Terrain cranes, Mastclimbers & hoists and Sustainability, renewables and recycling. 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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Press



COMMENT

A LITTLE HELP FROM...

When I was growing up in the 1960s, way before computers, mobile phones and the internet, our vision of the future was based around space travel and robots. The space race developed, reaching its peak with the first moon landing in 1969, but tailed off through the 1970s. Robots - those with a human form that might manage everyday household activities such as cleaning etc - never took off, with designers struggling to master complex human body movements and balance. Only relatively recently are robots able to move in a more human like way and interact with other people and objects.

However, the most significant development was the personal computer and software from the early 1980s and by the end of the decade it had already made an impact on almost everything. Today, 50 years on, we are surrounded by all manner of 'tech', including AI, which many think will 'take over the world', relegating human input to a minimum.

Probably the most common way most of us currently interact with AI is the chatbot, which aims to deal with enquiries about your bank account, utility bill or theatre/concert tickets. It is great if you want to ask the totally obvious, but severely lacking if you have a real problem that requires more consideration and information.

Software/tech/AI can only do a limited number of things and most production requirements still require human input. For many years, equipment manufacturing processes have benefited from industrial robots to carry out perfect welds on a boom or chassis, or rapidly cut materials to incredibly accurate tolerances. Many Asian companies started to industrialise a little later than North America or Europe, and as a result now have 'state of the art' manufacturing facilities that maximise technology and robotics, resulting

in massive output combined with high quality and lower costs. A Win-Win situation for all except those with older, dare I say, outdated manufacturing plants.

But we are still a long way from robots doing human tasks such as repainting domestic doors and walls, servicing your boiler, cooking meals or even handing a cup of coffee to a person.

Or are we?

Robotics technology has come a long way in the past couple of years, as can be seen with the Tesla Optimus Gen 3 humanoid robot. Not only can it carry out 100 domestic tasks a day, but it has the ability to self-learn and share knowledge with other Optimus robots, with the ultimate aim to produce human level precision in an even wider range of tasks.

But it will be a long time before a humanoid robot can fully replace an actual human. In the meantime, industrial robots are starting to find their way into front line, on-site applications. In this issue, we report on a new scissor lift mounted drilling robot which overcomes 'White Finger' syndrome. A human still operates it, but does not need to hold the drill, allowing them to work for eight hours a day, dramatically reducing contract lengths.

Back in the 1960s, humanoid robots were a dreamer's fantasy, but 50 years later we might be at the point of making robots that can actually help with routine everyday tasks.

Now if the humanoid robot could include improved AI knowledge....

Mark Darwin

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

SKYJACKS 67FT ELECTRIC BOOM

Skyjack has unveiled details of its new 67ft SJ22 TE+ all electric Rough Terrain telescopic boom lift developed for the Chinese and Southeast Asian markets, and revealed that the first units will be ready to ship from its plant in Tianjin next month.

The SJ22TE+ is a sister machine to the 85ft SJ28 TE+ announced at the end of last year. It features a rising boom pivot point, three section telescopic boom and a jib with 230 degrees of articulation, all of which provide a working height of 22.3 metres, and a maximum outreach of 15.2 metres with 300kg in the platform, or 13.5 metres with the maximum platform capacity of 454kg.

The width is 2.5 metres and a stowed length of 9.65 metres with the jib tucked under. It has a stowed height of 2.65 metres or 2.57 metres with the jib out, although this extends the overall length to 11.94 metres. The total weight is 10.5 tonnes.

Power comes from a 460AH lithium ion battery pack, which can be recharged in around five hours. It powers a large AC induction traction motor which drives all four wheels via Skyjack's axle drive system with a limited-slip differential on the front oscillating axle, and an operator controlled diff lock on the rear axle. The hydraulics are powered by a separate AC motor driven pump.



NEW MAGNI TELEHANDLER

Italian telehandler manufacturer Magni has launched a 46 metre/8,000kg 360 degree telehandler, the RTH 8.46 TC, extending its 360 degree range to seven models. The new model fits between its current 8,000kg, 39 metre and 51 metre models and features a seven section full power boom for a maximum lift height of 45.9 metres, at which point it can handle 2,000kg.

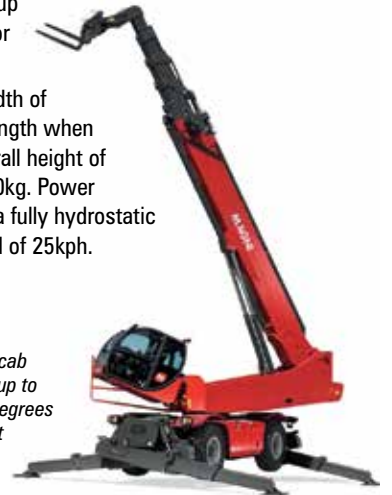
Maximum forward reach on the main boom with forks is 33 metres, with a capacity of 500kg. With the simple hook attachment option, this is extended to 34 metres with 300kg. Outrigger spread is 6.75 metres to pad centres, 7.31 metres overall.

A range of work platforms is also available, with the most basic offering a working height of 47 metres with a maximum platform capacity of 1,000kg and up to 26.6 metres of outreach or 30.6 metres with 500kg. A telescopic jib mounted platform takes the working height up to 55.4 metres with an unrestricted 250kg platform capacity and a whole range of positive and negative articulation. The cab tilts up to 21 degrees for improved operator visibility.

The RTH 8.46 TC has an overall width of just under 2.5 metres, an overall length when stowed of 9.22 metres and an overall height of 3.31 metres. Total weight is 35,800kg. Power comes from a Volvo diesel driving a fully hydrostatic transmission with a top road speed of 25kph.



The cab has up to 21 degrees of tilt



SINOBOOM LAUNCHES SPIDER LIFT

Sinoboom has launched a 27 metre spider lift, available as the diesel powered SPA27J or battery powered SPA27EJ. The spider lifts feature a three section telescopic riser/lower boom which elevates almost to the vertical, topped by a three section upper boom and an articulating jib for a maximum working height of 27 metres. The maximum outreach of 14.5 metres is available at an up & over height of 13.5 metres with 120kg in the basket, or just over 12 metres with the maximum platform capacity of 230kg, both with the wider outrigger width of 4.7 metres. Outreach with the 2.97 metre narrow footprint is 11 and nine metres respectively. The unit can level on slopes of up to 10 degrees with up to 500mm of outrigger lift.

The overall stowed length is 5.8 metres, or 4.95 metres with the platform removed. The overall width is 900mm, extending out and down to 1.14 metres for additional stability when travelling. The overall height is 1.99 metres, rising to 2.11 metres when the tracks are extended. Total weight is 3.9 tonnes for the diesel model and 4.5 tonnes for the SPA27EJ.

Other features include 360 degree continuous slew, a full 180 degrees of platform rotation, standard non marking rubber tracks, an intuitive graphical user interface, real-time status and fault diagnosis, and one click travelling and stowing functions. The company says that many of the

components are common with Sinoboom self-propelled boom lifts.

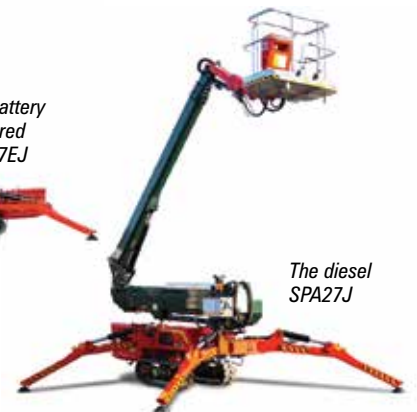
The new spider lifts are available to order now in all countries except the USA, mainland Europe and Australia.

A comparison with some of the other 27m models

Make Model	Sinoboom SPA27J	CMC S27	Platform Basket Spider 27.1	CTE Traccess 270
Working height	27m	27.3m	27m	27m
Max Platform cap @ outreach	230kg/12.1m	230kg/12.4m	230kg/13m	250kg/12.1m
Max Outreach w/cap	14.5m/120kg	15.4m/80kg	15.1m/136kg	14m/200kg
Max Up & Over height	13.5m	10.5m	10m	10m
OA Length w/platform	5.8m	6.8m	6.63m	6.46m
OA Length w/o platform	4.95m	6.2m	5.93m	5.9m
OA Width - tracks in - out	900mm - 1.14m	890mm - 1.4m	890mm - 1.29m	780 - 1.28m
OA Height tracks in- out	1.99 - 2.11m	1.99 - 2.19m	1.99 - 1.99m	2.02m
Outrigger widths	2.97 - 4.7m	2.67- 4.43m	2.88m - 4.3m	2.79 - 3.81m
Outrigger lift/slope levelling	500mm/10°	1.5m/30°	770mm	NG
Slew	360° continuous	400°	360°	300°
Platform	1.4m x 800mm	1.7m x 700mm	1.8m x 800mm	1.4m x 700mm
Total weight	4,500kg	4,109kg	5,100kg	4,350kg



The battery powered SPA27EJ



The diesel SPA27J

O'ROURKE BUYS INTO MORITSCH

Oisin Capital - the Jersey (UK) based investment office of the O'Rourke family and owners of contractor Laing O'Rourke - has invested in Italian tower crane manufacturer Moritsch Cranes aimed at supporting a joint research and development programme to expand Moritsch's tower crane range into larger models.



Moritsch Cranes is owned by the Moritsch family, the founders of Gru Comedil in 1962 and Recom Cranes in 2004. Comedil was acquired by Terex in 1999, with Recom selling its luffing jib tower cranes through Terex Comedil, which at the time was managed by Martina Moritsch. The Recom business was acquired fully by Terex in 2012. Moritsch Cranes was established in 2015 by Mariano Moritsch, the son of the late Ferruccio Moritsch, and founder of Comedil and Recom.

NEW GENIE GTH-1544 TELEHANDLER

Genie has launched a new 6,800kg/13.6 metre GTH-1544 North American telehandler. The new model joins the company's two other 13.6 metre/44ft models - the 4,500kg GTH-1044 and 5,400kg GTH-1244. All three can pick & carry their maximum capacity. Stabilisers/outriggers are optional, as is the enclosed cab.

The GTH-1544 can take 4,500kg to its 13.6 metre maximum lift height and handle 2,268kg at its maximum forward reach of 9.33 metres. The new model weighs 14,900kg, and has a maximum road speed of 27kph. Around 80 percent of the GTH-1544's parts and components are the same as those used in its H 10k and 12k telehandlers.



HIRE SAFE ADDS CRANES

UK rental company Hire Safe Solutions has launched a crane and lifting division alongside its existing powered access operations. It will offer a full contract lifting service, including lift planning and project management.

The new division kicked off with an eight tonne Liebherr MK140 mobile self-erecting tower crane based in Leamington Spa, but plans to add All Terrains and spider cranes. Its existing 360 degree telehandler fleet will also join the new division. Hire Safe Solutions was established in 2013 by Gerard & Rebecca Jennings and today runs a fleet of more than 2,000 aerial work platforms, with a strong focus on larger boom and scissor lifts.



3,000T XCMG FOR TECMACO

Argentinian crane, telehandler and access sales and rental company Tecmaco Integral has taken delivery of a 3,000 tonne XCMG XCA3000BR telescopic All Terrain crane, replacing its 800 tonne Zoomlion as the fleet's 'flagship' crane.

The 10 axle 3,000 tonner has a five section 68.6 metre main boom, and is rated at two metres, while practical capacities start at three metres, at which point the crane can manage 500 tonnes at up to a nine metre radius. With the main boom fully extended, it can lift 257.1 tonnes at an eight metre radius or take 38 tonnes out to 64 metres.

The maximum counterweight is 360 tonnes, while the X-type outriggers have a maximum spread of 15.1 metres square, or a narrow set-up of 13.1 metres. The boom can be topped with up to 110 metres of in-line lattice extensions, which, combined with 63.7 metres of boom, provides the maximum tip height of 188 metres.

The new crane is aimed at wind turbine installation work, as well as major infrastructure construction. Tecmaco was founded in 1987 by civil engineer and current president, Rodolfo Gonzalez, and is based in the greater Buenos Aires region.



MORE BRONTOS FOR MALTECH/MATECO

Swiss rental company Maltech has added five new 47 metre Bronto S47 XR truck mounted lifts to its fleet.

Maltech chose to have the new lifts mounted on two axle 18 tonne MAN chassis with an overall length of around 10 metres and an overall travel height of 3.81 metres. The new generation of Bronto S47 XR is based on its predecessor but incorporates improvements in frame design and outrigger technology.

Name change

The new lifts will also carry Mateco branding, signalling the switchover from the Maltech name to Mateco, reflecting its ownership by the Luxembourg based international rental group. The formal changeover takes place from the start of September.





GET READY FOR VERTIKAL DAYS!

This year's Vertikal Days is almost here! The doors will open at 10am on the 9th and 10th September at the Newark Showground in the UK, with two days of networking and a chance to see the latest new products along with new technology and developments from manufacturers, specialist suppliers, trainers and service providers in the work at height and lifting industry. Adding fresh energy this year will be 25 first time exhibitors bringing new names to the event.



The Vertikal Days Showguide will be included in the September issue of Cranes & Access and will feature a full exhibitor and brand listing, a site map showing where to find them, and a rundown of key products, along with the main events, timings and other practical information for planning your visit.

Visitor registration is open!

Visitors can register at vertikaldays.net/event-info/visitor-registration for free entry to the event, free parking, a complimentary lunch, all day café and a copy of the show-guide.

Where: Newark Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark, NG24 2NY
When: Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th September 2026
Opening hours: Wednesday: 10am - 17:30pm Thursday: 10am - 16:00pm

The Vertikal Days Preview on page 47 has all the information about the show.

FROM GERMANY TO ITALY

German rental company GS Arbeitsbühnen - part of the Gerken group - has sold its 16 year old 103 metre Palfinger/Wumag WT1000 truck mounted platform mounted on a five axle Faun crane carrier to crane and aerial lift rental company Movigrù Oliva in Polistena, Calabria, near the toe of Italy. It was sold through aerial lift distributor Oxley Piattaforme. Gerken has replaced the big Palfinger with one of the new 100 metre Ruthmann T1000 HFs.

Movigrù was established around 30 years ago and runs a range of All Terrain cranes up to 200 tonnes, boom and scissor lifts and telehandlers. Gerken was one of the first companies to purchase a 100 metre platform when it took the second Ruthmann TTS1000 off the production line in 2001. 10 years later, it sold that machine to Abilene High Lift of Abilene, Texas, and purchased the Palfinger WT1000 as well as a 101 metre Bronto.

The 103 metre Palfinger arrives with Movigrù



Rajiv Sethi of Gemini (L) and Massimo Grossele of Axolift with the first Indian built Axolifts

AXOLIFT'S INDIAN PRODUCTION

Italian low level aerial lift manufacturer Axolift has launched a formal, long term licensing contract with Gemini, its distributor in India. The move follows a distribution agreement reached at last year's Bauma, which was always intended to morph into a local production arrangement of some sort.

The company is initially focusing on the manually operated models in the Axolift range - the Manulift 200 and 200/4 push around mast lifts - and the first units have now come off the local production line in Deonar, a southern suburb of Mumbai and have been shipped.

Massimo Grossele of Axolift said: "The initial cooperation, supported by joint participation at important industry exhibitions in India, has already delivered promising early results, with a substantial number of Axolift units successfully introduced into the Indian market."

"Under the new licensing agreement, Gemini will manufacture, market, sell and service our range of manual access products, including the company's compact push-around scissor lifts, across India. Local production will enable faster delivery times, enhanced customer support and greater market responsiveness."

"India represents a strategically important growth market for us, driven by the rapid expansion of large scale data centres, warehousing, logistics and industrial infrastructure projects."

Gemini Power Hydraulics was set up in 1988 by Rajiv Sethi with its headquarters in Deonar. It entered the access market in 2005 and now produces a range of vehicle mounted work platforms under a relatively long standing agreement with UK van mounted lift manufacturer Aldercote, which it usually sells under the Levo brand. It has also previously worked under an agreement with the French company Klubb which dates back to 2018.

50 TRUCK MOUNTS IN IRAQ

The Electricity Department of the Iraqi government has purchased 50 CTE truck mounted platforms. To date, 18 of the units have been delivered, including several B-Lift 12 metre 120HYs, with a further 12 due to arrive shortly. The full order of 50 is scheduled to be completed by December.

The order was placed through the PM division of CTE's distributor in the UAE, Precision Machinery, and comes less than a year after the order of nine 15 metre B-Lift 150HYs and one 20 metre B-Lift 200HY.



Five of the 12 metre 120HYs

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IPAF 2026 RENTAL MARKET REPORTS

IPAF has published its 2026 Rental Market Reports covering the aerial work platform rental markets in Europe, the United States and parts of Asia.



The reports, carried out by Ducker Carlisle, indicate that both Europe and the United States recorded revenue growth last year, but that it varied wildly from country to country, with Spain, Italy and parts of the Nordic region performing more strongly, while Germany, France, the UK and the Netherlands struggled.

For more details, see IPAF page 65.

YOUNGEST IPAF INSTRUCTOR

Lawrence Latham, 19, became the youngest person to achieve the IPAF aerial work platform instructors qualification when he completed a level three lift truck and powered access engineering technician apprenticeship in March, almost two months prior to his 20th birthday in May.

Latham chose to pursue a role as a powered access service engineer while still at school, and then at the start of 2024, he managed, with a little help to overcome some of the age barriers, to set up his own rental company, Lathams Plant Hire Repairs and Sales, having already gained experience with aerial lifts, training and site work. Over the next five years, he hopes to build his company into a multi depot operation.



Lawrence Latham

ZOOMLION ADDS THIRD UK LOCATION

Chinese crane, telehandler and aerial work platform manufacturer Zoomlion has opened a new location in Wolverhampton near Birmingham, which will serve as its main support hub for aerial work platforms and associated spare parts for the UK and Ireland.

The Wolverhampton depot joins three other Zoomlion UK locations, with its UK headquarters in Manchester, plus depots in Banbury, Oxfordshire and Slough, west of London, with plans to open in Scotland.

The new depot was formally opened with a customer open day attended by rental companies and end users with the chance to try out the equipment, which included the world's largest boom lift, the 265ft ZT82J telescopic and two of the manufacturer's new fixed frame telehandlers - the 2,500kg/six metre ZTH2506 and the 4,000kg/13.8 metre ZTH4014. Attendees were also updated on the latest company news, plans and technology developments, along with an introduction to the new team.



Zoomlion's Shane Paver operating the world's largest boom - the 265ft ZT82J - at its new Wolverhampton depot



An aerial shot of the MGX facility in Buckingham, southern England

MGX MOVES INTO UK AND SOUTH AMERICA

US service and support company MGX Equipment Services - a division of Manitowoc - has opened operations in the UK, Chile and Peru. The UK is based at the existing Grove/Potain/Manitowoc facilities in Buckingham and Barnsley and will provide service, parts and customer support for crane owners, contractors and rental companies for all crane brands.

The Buckingham facility includes four service bays, two 40 tonne overhead cranes, an inspection pit and a test area. It will offer inspections, maintenance, repairs, diagnostics, overhauls and welding work. The Barnsley site has two bays for routine maintenance and service, including hydraulic and electrical diagnostics, plus the capability for engine rebuilds and a test area for conducting Thorough Examinations on customer cranes.

MGX has also opened its first operations in South America, starting in Antofagasta, in the mining belt of northern Chile, where its new facility is staffed by a team of experienced technicians specialising in lifting and material handling equipment, including most brands of cranes, aerial work platforms and telehandlers, offering repairs and maintenance services to support its existing customers in Chile and adjoining markets, while reaching non Manitowoc group buyers. Its second operation in the region is opening in Lima, Peru and will offer the same range of service as in Chile.

MGX is based in the USA, where it operates from 17 locations in 15 states. The company has been active lately, announcing that it has become a distributor for Xtreme Telehandlers as well as Hiab, while also expanding across more states.



Inside the Buckingham facility



The MGX team in Chile

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VISIT US AT



FINANCIALS ROUND-UP

Weaker first half for Alimak

Swedish international hoist, mastclimber and work at height group **Alimak** reported first half revenues for the six months to the end of June of SK3.41 billion (€308.7 million) down 3.1% on the same period last year. Order intake fell 5.3% to SK3.53 billion (€319.6 million). Pre-tax profits slumped 15% to SK437 million (€39.6 million) partly offset by lower finance costs. Net debt was cut by almost 3% to SK2.55 billion (€213.7 million). Revenues for the second quarter were 1.6% lower at SK1.76 billion (€159.4 million) while order intake increased 1.2% to SK1.74 billion (€157.5 million) and pre-tax profit slipped 4.9% to SK235 million (€21.3 million).



Higher sales, lower profit for Tadano

Crane and aerial lift manufacturer **Tadano** saw first quarter revenues to the end of March improve 6.6% to ¥85.85 billion (\$528.8 million), thanks to the inclusion of the IHI tower, climbing and marine crane business in August, now referred to as mobile and Static Lifting Equipment.

Pre-tax profit, however, fell 43% to ¥3.21 billion (\$19.8 million), mostly due to last year's inclusion of a ¥2.3 billion (\$14.2 million) one-off extraordinary gain. 'Ordinary profit' was 16% lower at ¥4.01 billion (\$24.7 million). Revenues for mobile cranes declined 2.2% to ¥47.93 billion (\$295.2 million), loader cranes were 7% lower at ¥9.69 billion (\$59.7 million), and aerial work platform sales increased 7% to ¥7.11 billion (\$43.9 million).



Poor year for Vp

UK rental group **Vp** - owner of **UK Forks**, **MEP** and **Brandon Hire Station** - reported its full year figures to the end of March. They show a 5.7% fall in total revenues to £353 million, while pre-tax profit nosedived from £21.7 million last year to a £7 million loss this year. At the same time capital expenditure on the rental fleet declined 21% to £51.6 million and net debt increased 7.5% to £148.9 million.



Konecranes moves into Japan

Finnish overhead and port crane manufacturer **Konecranes** has acquired a 70% controlling stake in the hoist manufacturer operation of Japan's **Mitsubishi Electric FA Industrial Products**, which is currently owned by Mitsubishi Electric Corporation's Factory Automation division. The transaction is expected to close early next year and will boost Konecranes' minimal presence in Japan.

The company operates from 15 sales offices in nine regions of Japan with around 400 employees and full year sales of ¥16.7 billion, (€90 million).



Alimak acquires Pro-Bel

Alimak has acquired **Pro-Bel**, a privately owned Canadian supplier of work at height equipment, ranging from suspended platforms to fall protection equipment. Pro-Bel, which was set up in 1978 as a high rise window cleaning company, is based in Ajax, Ontario, on the North East side of Toronto. It has around 140 employees and offers a wide and diverse range of access and safety solutions for working at height, including roof anchors, davit arms, horizontal lifelines, monorail systems and BMU's (Building Maintenance Units). Last year it reported revenues of C\$69 million (\$49 million) with a net profit of C\$24 million (\$17 million).



Selini acquires Raicar Services

Italian aerial lift, telehandler and forklift sales and rental company **Gruppo Selini** has acquired a 70% controlling stake in forklift dealer **Raicar Services**. The company is based in Bergamo but operates from a dozen locations across Northern Italy.



Kato ACE JV

Japanese crane manufacturer **Kato** and Indian crane and telehandler manufacturer **ACE** (Action Construction Equipment) have formed a 50/50 joint venture - ACE Kato Pvt.Ltd - to manufacture high capacity mobile cranes in India. The move follows more than two years of discussion and negotiations. The cranes from the JV will be



targeted at the domestic Indian market, but it also hopes to export its products worldwide. The range will eventually include truck and Rough Terrain cranes as well as crawler cranes. Kato will lead the product engineering, design and technology, while ACE will be responsible for manufacturing, sourcing and what it refers to as 'localisation'.

The joint venture has taken over an 11 acre manufacturing plant in Haryana, near New Delhi, and plans to invest around €200 crore (\$21 million) to develop the facility, with advanced production systems and technology, as well as product development.

Midolini acquires Scaligera

Italy's **Midolini** group has acquired a majority stake in the operated rental business of Verona based **Scaligera Service** from the **Bruneli** family. The acquisition was made through Midolini's main crane rental subsidiary, **Midlift**. Scaligera will retain its non-operated rental business which it operates under the **UpRent** brand from three locations, Mantua, Verona and Perona.

The transaction will include the formation of a new company, **Scaligera Autogrù** for the cranes and truck mounted aerial lifts, with Midlift owning 80% of the equity, while the Brunelli family retains a 20% holding. The fleet will include cranes up to 220 tonnes and aerial work platforms up to a 48 metre truck mount. In 2025, Midolini had revenues of €54.3 million, up 22% on 2024, with a strong increase in profits.



Spanish acquisition for Konecranes

Finnish port crane and handling equipment manufacturer **Konecranes** has acquired the nuclear service and port service businesses of Spanish crane services company **Coapsa Control** from owners Jordi Calatayud Castaño and Joan Quintana Canudas.

Established in 1997, Coapsa Control is based in Viladecavalls, northwest of Barcelona and specialises in crane services for nuclear and port customers, including inspections, preventive maintenance, service, repairs and modernisations. Revenues last year were in the region of €4 million with 20 employees.



VERSCHOOR CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

Dutch crane rental and sales company M. Verschoor held a major open day in early July to celebrate 60 years in business and 30 years for its sales division UCM Holland. To mark the anniversary, it invited employees, suppliers and customers along with their families to join the celebrations at its facility in Sassenheim between Amsterdam and The Hague.

An estimated 3,000 visitors attended the event to learn about its history, see a wide selection of cranes from its fleet, watch the many demonstrations and enjoy the party. They also had the opportunity to glimpse into the future of the industry with its presentation "Next Level Verschoor".

The business dates back to 1966 when Maarten Verschoor senior opened a garage/BP petrol station in Sassenheim and built a tow/recovery truck. Cranes were added in the 1970s, starting with a 10 tonne telescopic truck crane, and some Grove single cab TD truck cranes.



Grove TD truck cranes
in the 1970s



Verschoor's premises in Sassenheim, during the anniversary open days

455 LGMGs FOR VENPA

Italian rental company Venpa Group has purchased 455 LGMG aerial work platforms, including slab electric and diesel scissor lifts from six to 18 metres as well as a number of booms up to 30 metres.

The lifts - supplied by Italian distributor Nord Est Elevatori - have been divided across the group, including Venpa locations and the Nolotecnica and Rentalsud subsidiaries, which operate from two sites in Puglia and Basilicata.



Discover Jekko Mini Cranes



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and mini pickers, designed
to reach the unreachable



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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

■ Germany's **Schlamann** has taken a 230t **Liebherr** LTM 1230-5.1 the first of a four crane order



Melissa Searle

■ US's **Caldwell Lifting Solutions** has appointed **Melissa Searle** as sales engineer

■ Spain's **Piñero Lift** used its new 75m **Ruthmann** T 750 HF truck mount for a challenging cleaning project

■ **JLG Power Towers** has hosted a series of STEM workshops for UK students

■ **Zoomlion** has opened a new facility in Wolverhampton, England, to serve as its main UK aerial lift base

■ Luxembourg's **ATS Cranes** has taken a 230t **Liebherr** LTM 1230-5.1 All Terrain, replacing an older 200t model

■ **Franna** has appointed **Vianney Largillier** as regional sales manager for N.America



Vianney Largillier

■ **Vertikal Days 2026** will take place on the 9-10th September

■ **Palazzani** has appointed **Kerekes & Co** as its distributor for Romania

■ Scotland's **Bernard Hunter** has taken the country's first 90t **Liebherr** LRT 1090-2.1 Rough Terrain crane

■ Belgium's **Dome Auctions** is running an online auction of P-Grid hybrid generators for tower cranes and mastclimbers

■ **Franna** has appointed **Vinay Kittur** as regional sales manager for the Middle East



Vinay Kittur

■ Belgium's **TVH** has increased its standard parts warranty to two years

■ Germany's **Krandienst Süderau** has taken a 250t **Tadano** AC 5.250L-2 All Terrain

■ Germany's **Salgert** has taken a 450t **Liebherr** LTM 1400-6.1 All Terrain

■ UK's **Bronzeshield** has taken its second 150t **Liebherr** LTM 1150-5.3 All Terrain

■ Austria's **Hertl Gartengestaltung** has taken a 22m **Bluelift** SA22 spider lift

■ Iraq's Electricity Department has taken 50 **CTE** truck mounted lifts

■ **Terex** India has promoted **Jaideep Shekhar** to managing director



Jaideep Shekhar

■ **IPAF** held its UK Elevation event at St George's Park, the 'home of English football'

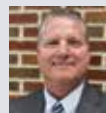
■ Germany's **TGT** has appointed **Dorn Lift** as distributor for S.Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland

■ Poland's **Baltic Container Terminal Gdynia** has taken two 154t electric **Liebherr** LHM 550 mobile harbour cranes

■ Ireland's **Walsh Crane Hire** has taken a 90t **Liebherr** LTM 1090-4.2 All Terrain

■ Ireland's **Boom & Platform Hire** has taken 40 **Haulotte** aerial work platforms

■ **Manitou** has appointed **Chris Genal** as sales VP for N.America



Chris Genal

■ The **CPA** held its annual Stars of the Future awards near Coventry

■ Germany's **CST Transporte** has taken a 200t **Grove** GMK5200-1 All Terrain

■ Italian telehandler manufacturer **Faresin** has added Denmark to its supply deal with **Zeppelin**

■ Austria's **Appel** has taken a 26m **Ruthmann** TBR 260 truck mount

■ UK's **Marsden Crane Services** has taken an eight tonne **Klaas** K700 truck mounted aluminium crane

■ Germany's **Richter Kran und Schwerlast** has taken its second 450t **Liebherr** LTM 1450-8.1 All Terrain

■ **Link-Belt** has added southeast Texas to the territory managed by distributor **Doggett Crane Services**

■ France's **Limalev** has taken a 55t **Liebherr** LTM 1055-3.3 All Terrain

■ Dutch crane rental company **Kuiphuis** has taken the country's first 450t **Liebherr** LTM 1400-6.1 All Terrain

■ UK's **Advanced Access Platforms** has taken a 32.5m **Hinowa** Lightlift 33.17 Performance IIS spider lift

■ Germany's **Zeppelin** has reappointed **Matthias Benz** as CEO and chairman



Matthias Benz

■ **Klipboard** has added AI to its rental management platform, OnRent Go

■ Germany's **Knorr Kranverleih** has taken its first **Liebherr**, a 150t LTM 1150-5.4

■ Germany's **MeyerLift** has taken a second 70m **Ruthmann** T 700 HF truck mount

■ Australia's **Kimberley Cranes** has taken a 25t **Franna** Mac 25-5SL crane

■ Germany's **Gerken** has taken a 150t **Liebherr** LTM 1150-5.4 All Terrain

■ US based **MGX Equipment Services** has opened operations in the UK, Chile and Peru

■ Ghana's **Rocksure International** has taken a 130t **Liebherr** LRT 1130-2.1 Rough Terrain

■ UK's **Lads Service** has taken a 20m **Hinowa** Lightlift 20.10 spider lift

■ **Paramount Platforms** in the UK used its new **Platform Basket** 54T spider lift to repair a transmission line in Lockerbie

■ UK's **Bennetts Cranes** has installed the country's first 36t **Liebherr** 620 HC L tower crane



Petter Rönnlöf



Lars Schulman

■ Finland's **Dinolift** CEO **Petter Rönnlöf** has stepped down, with **Lars Schulman** set to take his place

■ UK's **Ashbrook** has placed an £18 million order with **JCB**

■ Belgium's **TVH** has agreed a distribution deal for **Aresta** fall protection systems across Europe, Africa and the Middle East

■ Australia's **CityLift Cranes** has taken a 40t **Franna** AT40-2 pick & carry crane

■ France's **AEB Branger** has taken four **Platform Basket** Heron 10-SB mast booms

■ **Manitou India** has appointed **Puneet Ralhan** as managing director



Puneet Ralhan

■ Italy's **Axolift** has started manufacturing in India, under a licensing deal with **Gemini**

■ Turkey's **Hareket** has taken two 150t **Grove** GMK5150XL All Terrains

■ **MEC** has appointed **Rob Orolowski** as director of product development and **Corey Raymo** as director of aerial work platforms



Rob Orolowski



Corey Raymo

■ UK rental company **Gap** has switched its inspection management platform to CoreRFID's CheckedOK system

■ UK's **City Lifting** has taken a **Spierings** SK1265-AT6 eLift mobile tower crane

■ Germany's **Kunze** has taken a 54m **Platform Basket** 54T spider lift

■ Belgium's **TVH** is investing €85 million in an extension to its main facility

■ Germany's **GS Arbeitsbühnen** has sold its 103m **Palfinger/Wumag** WT 1000 truck mount to Italy's **Movigrup Oliva**

■ Germany's **Montage und Kranservice Werner** has taken a 55t **Liebherr** LTM 1055-3.3 All Terrain

■ **Manitowoc** has expanded its Rapid Response Shop at its Shady Grove facility in Pennsylvania

■ Germany's **Bleser** has taken a 39ft **Almac Bibi** 1490 Evo auto levelling tracked scissor lift

■ US's **Tradepoint Atlantic** has ordered seven **Liebherr** ship-to-shore cranes

■ UK's **Star Platforms** has promoted **Michelle Timms** to group commercial director



Michelle Timms

■ Dutch tracked boom lift manufacturer **Hyrax** has appointed **Bradleys Construction** as its UK dealer

■ The Netherlands' **Broekman Logistics** has taken a 308t **Liebherr** LHM 800 mobile harbour crane

■ France's **Transports Toussaint** has taken a 55t **Liebherr** LTM 1055-3.3 All Terrain

■ German rental company **Kran Vökl** has taken a second 150t **Liebherr** LTM1150-5.3

■ **Tadano** has appointed **Frédéric Valentin** as sales manager for France.



Frédéric Valentin

■ Germany's **Luibl Rental** has added a 25t/10.6m **Manitou** MHT 11250 ST5 telehandler

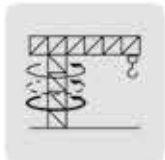
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A LITTLE QUIET ON THE TOWER CRANE FRONT

With many manufacturers scheduling new product launches to coincide with Bauma years, it can be fairly quiet for new introductions for the following year or two. Since Bauma last year, that has been true for tower crane manufacturers which have also been affected by the downturn in the European tower crane market over the past few years, together with weak utilisation and rental rates. Having said that, there have been a few new crane launches, acquisitions and some amazing applications from all over the world.

Here are some of the more interesting new tower crane launches, particularly interesting for customers looking for luffing jib tower cranes.

ARTIC CRANE

The first is the eight tonne City Luffer CL180 from Artic Crane. Located in Lindås, Sweden, Artic Crane was established in 2007 with a focus on the design and manufacture of articulated tower cranes, based on a concept that had previously existed but gone out of production. The first CL180 has been delivered to UK distributor and crane rental company City Lifting which has championed the brand since the first articulated jib crane - the Raptor 84 - was launched in 2009.

There are now 42 Raptors in operation, seven mini flat top City Lifter cranes and two City Luffer luffing jib tower cranes. The whole Raptor project has been driven by the oversailing airspace problems in countries such as the UK, especially in City centres where the buildings are tightly packed and sometimes with a small footprint.

"The high quality of the cranes plus the self-levelling provided by the articulated jib system makes for very safe cranes both in service and out of service conditions," says City Lifting's Trevor Jepson. "Many of these cranes are involved in

refurbishment projects - now described as re-purposing."

Originally a way of providing new buildings behind attractive existing facades to maintain the uniformity, aesthetics and history of neighbourhoods, re-purposing has become a way of reducing embodied carbon. More and more modern commercial buildings are being rebuilt while retaining the original foundations and a large percentage of the structure.

Artic Crane and City Lifting provide many different ways of incorporating a working crane into these existing structures without major excavation and concrete and steel bases. Roof mounting or installing through floors or existing lift shafts are all possibilities.

Lately, Raptor cranes have been used for slip forming central cores on newbuilds. Being light enough, they can be directly mounted on the rising slipform and have a powerful winch with a large hoist drum to comfortably spool the long ropes required with only three rope layers on the drum. Because the crane is dedicated to the slipform works it has no downtime being tied in or jacked up which can take a long time and can be delayed waiting for a weather window. The geometry of the articulated jib also makes it much easier to work alongside larger luffing jib cranes,

Artic Crane's City Luffer CL180 luffing jib tower crane



as the Raptor remains below the larger crane. This means the cranes are working independently and not always waiting for the other crane to move out of the way.

NEW CITY LUFFER

Artic Crane's new City Luffer CL180 was installed on its first job in early July on a very tightly restricted job site in Wilson Street in the City of London. The tower was installed in the building's

existing lift shaft and uses the same 1.7 metre square tower system as that used on Artic Crane's 184 and 185 Raptor cranes.

The crane can handle its maximum capacity at a radius of 26 metres, and take 2,000kg out to 50 metres. It has a lockable slewing and jib for a 5.7 metre out of service radius. Higher free standing heights can be achieved if the crane is put into free slew mode, but with a larger out of service radius. The CL180 has twin brakes, motors and gearboxes on all motions/functions to provide full redundancy of safety systems, while an additional safety PLC monitors all safety functions. ABB inverters help provide smoother, more accurate and operator friendly controls.

The City Luffer also has numerous practical features as standard, including a small single fall hook block with low wind resistance to fit into narrow spaces, allowing the use of glass vacuum lifters and other equipment without needing to use a balance beam. A 2.5 metre minimum radius means it can lift within 1.7 metres of the tower. There is a standard jib mounted camera and floodlights and Kevlar jib tie bars to reduce jib weight while being easier to handle for the crane erectors.

ENERGY SAVING AND NEW CAB

All of Artic Crane's newer models have energy recovery from lowering movements, which can be used to power hoisting movements or the general electrical load on site. This is particularly useful with the City Luffer, as generally the hoisting and luffing movements are lowering and hoisting at the same time to keep the load level when changing radius. The energy being dumped by one movement is powering the other movement rather than being converted into wasted heat as in some other makes of crane.

The latest Arctic cab on the City Luffer has an AC heat pump to provide the heating and



The new, larger City Luffer cab



Bennetts Cranes erected the UK's first Liebherr 620 HC-L luffer in York, UK

cooling functions. The internal unit is fitted under the operator's seat and controlled by a single integrated control panel with simple, old fashioned rotary knobs rather than touch screens. Different measuring points around the cab provide full climate control. The whole system is easy to use, quiet in operation and, says Jepson, just feels nicer with the cooler air rising rather than blowing down from above.

"When combined with a heated seat for cold mornings and a window defrosting heater, the cab is very comfortable," he adds. "A BCS jib mounted camera is factory-fitted as standard, giving the driver a better oversight of the lifting operations than the lifting team on the ground. Although the operator is working to instructions from the team, he may see something they haven't and communicate with them."

All operators' cabs can be fitted with the iRaptor operator rescue system, which provides a simple, reliable way of getting the operator to the ground in a medical emergency. All the rescue equipment is stored on the crane, and a rescue can be carried out by one trained person and a willing helper to get the casualty into the stretcher. Other methods can involve getting the equipment up the crane first, need a lot more trained people and can be quite complicated, which can be difficult to carry out under distressing situations.

NEW TEREX LUFFER

Terex Tower Cranes - under Raimondi ownership since last November - has launched the CTL 712-45, a new 45 tonne luffing jib tower crane.



The new Terex CTL 712-45



The new Terex S-Pace cab

The crane features a 70 metre jib with a jib tip capacity of 5.8 tonnes, while the 134kW hoist has a maximum single line speed of 226 metres a minute. The crane can be erected on the HD23 tower to a freestanding height of 63.4 metres in standard configuration with an under hook height of up to 131.2 metres.

The CTL 712-45 also includes T-Line auto-levelling, which maintains consistent load height during jib luffing, while T-Torque inverter technology provides smooth, operator adjustable slewing with optimised torque control.

Terex says that installation is faster, thanks to the use of standardised pins and bolts, fewer cables and connections, while primary assembly can be completed at ground level, boosting safety and ease of installation. The crane includes improved machinery enclosures and integrated handrail/guardrails to minimise the risk of falling objects and protection for personnel during operation, maintenance and assembly or disassembly phases.

POTAIN'S NEW LUFFER

Late last year, Potain launched a new luffing jib tower crane, the 25 tonne MCR 505 J25. The crane has a maximum capacity of 25 tonnes, with jib lengths ranging from 30 to 60 metres, or 17 tonnes with the 65 metre jib, which also offers a jib tip capacity of 4.7 tonnes.

The crane is relatively compact with a 7.92 metre back mast and a 15 metre out of service radius. Maximum free standing height is 77.2 metres



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LIEBHERR

195 HC-LH Hydraulic Luffing Jib Cranes

TOWER CRANES

A Potain topless crane in Serbia



Refurbishment of the Gravagna viaduct in Italy



Potain MCR 505 J25

using a combination of C809 and KMT850 tower sections. The MCR 505 J25 features frequency controlled drives and Potain's VISU+ monitoring/display system, providing performance data and controls. The crane supports both 50Hz and 60Hz power supplies and includes adaptive power control to reduce energy consumption.

NEW RAIMONDI FLAT TOP

Italian tower crane manufacturer Raimondi launched the T87 flat top tower crane earlier this year, with a three or five tonne maximum capacity, extending its T Series range and replacing the MRT85.

The crane shares modular mechanical and structural components with other models in the T Series, and the first 10 units have already been delivered and erected on sites in Italy and France.

The five tonne version offers a maximum jib tip capacity of 1.38 tonnes at 51 metres in UltraLift two/four fall configuration and a maximum hoist speed of 79 metres a minute with a 22 kW hoist. The three tonne unit has 1.43 tonnes jib tip capacity at 51 metres with a hoist speed of 82 metres a minute. The cranes are also equipped

with Raimondi's ConCore control system, which is designed to simplify commissioning and troubleshooting.

The crane has a lightweight overall design, with the heaviest single component weighing less than three tonnes, and an eight metre counter jib. This allows the complete 51 metre jib, including counterweights, to be transported using two articulated trucks. The cranes are aimed at small to medium sized construction projects, particularly where transport, access and space constraints are an important factor.

O'ROURKE INVESTS IN MORITSCH CRANES

As well as new products, there have been a few company ownership changes, including Ray O'Rourke buying into Italian tower crane manufacturer Moritsch Cranes through Oisín Capital - the Jersey, UK based investment office of the O'Rourke family, who also own UK contractor Laing O'Rourke. The two companies say that the investment is "aimed at supporting a joint research and development programme to expand Moritsch's tower crane range into larger models". The size of the investment has not been disclosed.

Moritsch Cranes was established in 2015 by Mariano Moritsch, the son of the late Ferruccio Moritsch, the founder of Gru Comedil in 1962 and Recom Cranes in 2004. Comedil was acquired by Terex in 1999, with Recom selling its luffing jib tower cranes through Terex Comedil, which at the time was managed by Martina Moritsch. The Recom business was fully acquired by Terex in 2012.

The relationship between the Moritsch and O'Rourke families dates back to 1993, when Ray

O'Rourke met Ferruccio Moritsch while taking Laing O'Rourke's Select Plant into crane rental. The relationship continued following Terex's acquisition of Comedil, with Select Plant taking on the Terex Comedil/Terex cranes distribution for the UK.

Oisín stated that its investment aligns with its wider investment activity in construction-related sectors linked to its work in the UK and Australia through the Laing O'Rourke group, which includes Select Plant Hire.

Mariano Moritsch added: "I am honoured, after almost 35 years of experience in the tower crane market, to be part of such an intriguing challenge with the O'Rourke family, to develop a new paradigm in the lifting industry, and to guarantee a bright future for Moritsch cranes. The two companies will keep on investing in research and development to enlarge the range of tower cranes towards bigger and bigger units."



Mariano Moritsch

FALCON TAKES GUY CRANE HIRE

Last summer in the UK, Falcon Tower Crane Services acquired Guy Crane Hire in Northern England and purchased a new facility near Manchester. Based between Burnley and Leeds, Guy Crane Hire was incorporated in 2002, and runs a fleet of self-erecting tower cranes, a few regular tower cranes, aluminium truck cranes and telehandlers. The company is also the Vicario self-erecting tower crane dealer for the UK. ■



A Raimondi T87 erected over Lake Garda, Italy



A Potain Lift Solutions project in Finland

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The TGM erecting the Comansa flat top



The TGM mini luffer being erected using the Hoefton mini crane

SMALL, LARGE AND LARGEST

Replacing old coolers for modern heat pumps can be tricky on multi-storey buildings in city centres due to the lack of space to set up a crane. A particular challenge was One Churchill Place - Barclays Bank's 156 metre/32 storey global headquarters in Canary Wharf, London - which is surrounded by water on three sides with limited road access. Its height and location ruled out mobile cranes, while the lack of space, time and cost ruled out very large crawler cranes.

The best overall solution, devised by City Lifting over three years which included numerous site visits and a lot of planning, was to erect a tower crane on the roof of the building and lift the two new heat pumps from a barge on the River Thames. Although the units weighed 6,500kg, they had to be lifted as complete units for warranty and compliance issues.

MINI CRAWLER CRANE FIRST...

The first crane to go up to the roof was one of City Lifting's Hoefton C10e spider cranes. To get it up to the roof it had to be stripped down, removing the boom, outriggers and counterweight in order for it to fit into the goods elevator/lift to the top floor. The boom, however, was too long for the lift and had to go in on a special trolley frame that fitted diagonally from floor to ceiling. A hole was then cut in the roof of the building, and the Hoefton was lifted onto the roof using a portable aluminium gantry system and then re-assembled.

MINI LUFFER NEXT...

Next up in the lift were all the components of City Lifting's TGM mini luffing jib tower crane, which was lifted through the hole in the roof using the Hoefton, and assembled with the Hoefton and TGM's self-erecting system. The largest part of the TGM was too large for the lift, so it was altered by TGM to split into two parts.

The crane to carry out the heat pump lifts - a Comansa 11 LC 160 flat top tower crane - was then transported by barge and lifted to the roof by the TGM crane. City Lifting had to make use of a much older Comansa base rather than the newer single piece base, as the TGM could only manage 3,000kg. City Lifting also had new central ballast weights made, weighing 2,500kg each so that the crane could be ballasted on the roof. All parts of the Comansa were reduced to less than 3,000kg, and the jib was installed in the usual Comansa method of one section at a time, directly from the barge.

The easiest part of the whole job was lifting and



Positioning the new heat pumps on the roof



Moving the new heat pumps by barge

placing the heat pumps and lifting down the old units, with everything arriving and leaving by barge, a new experience for City Lifting. The process was reversed for the dismantling of the cranes and the whole project was completed and cleared - including all the temporary grillages - in just a week. ■



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Trident has erected this 100 tonne capacity Yongmao STL4200/100 at Tilbury in the UK



A significant lift during the erection operation was the 62t superstructure

GIANT YONGMAO TOWERS OVER TILBURY

Trident Lifting Solutions has installed what is claimed to be the biggest electrically operated luffing jib tower crane in Europe on a site at Tilbury in the UK. Nick Johnson visited Trident to find out more.

As it celebrates its 10th anniversary, Trident Lifting Solutions has established a heavy lifting division, become the UK distributor for the Chinese crane maker Yongmao and started adding mega tower cranes to its fleet. Its new flagship crane is the Yongmao STL4200/100 with a maximum capacity of 100 tonnes in two fall operation at a 40 metre radius and can take 23 tonnes to its maximum radius of 90 metres. It is arguably the largest electrically powered luffing jib tower crane in Europe.

THE STARSHIP INSTALLATION

Valued at £5.3 million, the big Yongmao is known within Trident as 'The Starship'. It represents a huge leap up in size from the company's fleet of 85

standard tower cranes, mainly modern Comansa luffers, for which the company is a UK distributor. The STL4200/100 was installed in February this year at Tilbury, Essex, on the River Thames east of London, where it is playing a vital role in the construction of Viridor's big Thameside Energy Recovery Facility, being built by green energy specialist contractor Kanadevia Inova. The new waste infrastructure project will have the capacity to process more than 350,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste each year, generating 40Mwe - enough energy to power the equivalent of 93,000 homes.

The STL4200/100 has the capacity needed to lift and place heavy mechanical equipment and

structural steel across the new facility, which is scheduled to become operational by 2028. Whilst there are higher capacity luffing jib tower cranes, the Yongmao appeals to clients like Viridor and project managers such as Kanadevia, who want emission free cranes, rather than cranes with high altitude diesel engines.

FAMILY COMPANY

Based in Fushun, in the Liaoning Province of China, Yongmao is a family company and was founded in 1996. Over the last 30 years it has become a significant producer of tower cranes, many of which have proved popular for the construction of nuclear power stations in China. It has also sold well in Singapore.



The STL4200/100 has been erected on a large concrete foundation

Explore Transport was tasked with delivering the 4x4 metre tower sections





Yongmao claims to have been the first Chinese tower crane manufacturer to break into international markets, including the EU and USA, supplying its first crane in Europe to a Belgian customer in 2003.

While some flat top Yongmao cranes arrived in the UK during 2006, the arrival of the big STL4200/100 luffer represents the start of a new era for both the manufacturer and Trident Lifting Solutions.

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Trident personnel, including its directors, technicians and managing director Chris Conway, visited the ultra-modern Yongmao factory in Fushun to familiarise themselves with the new crane before it shipped. Getting the big machine from China to the UK was then a major logistical feat led by service manager Louise Jackson. It required 11 vessels to ship the 700 tonnes of crane components taking 12 weeks to reach the Port of Felixstowe in Suffolk.

Explore Transport was then contracted to move the massive four metre square tower sections and other components over the 75 miles from Felixstowe to the site in Tilbury via the A12 and other roads with a police escort. At Tilbury the STL4200/100 has been erected on a large reinforced concrete foundation base. Yongmao factory based experts worked alongside the Trident erection team whilst following highly detailed and well-illustrated technical documentation.

1,000 TONNE ERECTION CRANE

The main crane used to erect the Yongmao was a 1,000 tonne Terex/Demag AC1000-9 telescopic crane from Baldwins Crane Hire. The crane was rigged with a 29 metre main boom and superlift system, topped by a 16 metre inline lattice section and a 48 metre luffing jib. This configuration provided a maximum lift height of 120 metres.

Baldwins also supplied a 150 tonne Grove GMK5150 XL support crane to help rig its bigger brother and for unloading and assembly of the tower crane components. The erection and load testing took seven days, including one day when the winds exceeded 20mph, stopping the big Demag from working.



A significant lift during the installation was the 62 tonne slewing unit, complete with the central part of the upper platform carrying the cab and control panels. The largest and most impressive lift however, was the tower crane's fully assembled 80 metre lattice jib, which weighed 84 tonnes.

According to the technical director Sean Filby of Trident, the STL4200/100 has been working well since then, saying: "There have been no issues throughout its deployment."

This positive performance, along with the growth in future large waste infrastructure projects, has inspired Trident to order a bigger Yongmao electric luffer, the 200 tonne STL4600/100, which is scheduled to arrive next year to work on a carbon capture facility in North West of England.

MORE YONGMAO'S

Also being imported for another infrastructure project are two STL2400C cranes - both able to lift up to 100 tonnes - to add extra versatility to its initial STL4200/100 for future jobs.

Trident has certainly come a long way over the past decade. It was founded in 2016 by tower crane professionals Chris Conway and Graeme Boyle, initially to supply specialist lifting staff and provide contract lifting services. But before long, a tower crane rental fleet started.

In 2023, Trident Lifting Solutions was acquired by the Staton Group to complement its remediation, groundworks and RC frames contracting

activities. Chris Conway and Graeme Boyle continue to manage the business which has offices in Harrow and a yard near Peterborough. Its fleet of Comansa tower cranes now includes three of the latest Comansa LCH300 hydraulic luffers.

Speaking of the Yongmao STL4200/100 purchase for the Tilbury job, Staton Group chief executive Stan Nikudinski said: "This project was a chance to showcase what we do best. The demand for this scale of luffing tower crane is growing rapidly and 'The Starship' places us at the forefront of the industry." ■



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STACKS AND STACKS OF CHOICE

On the surface the self-propelled scissor lift appears to be the simplest of aerial work platforms to design and manufacture. The reality is not quite the same, however it is by far the world's most popular platform type, helped perhaps by the numerous versions - narrow and wide slab, compact and full size Rough Terrains, High capacity and crawler - with working heights from five to 37 metres, making it the 'go to' access platform for so many applications.

The basic design of the self-propelled scissor lift has changed little in 55 or so years since it made its early 1970s debut in California. It is relatively straight forward with only a few major components - a relatively simple wheeled or tracked chassis, scissor stack and deck - with very little to differentiate, at least visually, between most manufacturers. Hence, the reason why most new manufacturers begin with a scissor lift or very quickly add them to their range.

The latest Cranes & Access Source Guide (Vol 28.2) identified almost 60 scissor lift manufacturers worldwide - a number that has

grown significantly over the past few years with the addition of 'new' companies entering the market particularly from Asia.

At recent trade shows we have seen new entrants such as CFMG, Lemax, Kinglift, Kingda, Hangcha, Terlion, Anson and Ever Star, not to mention the slightly more established names such as Nobelift, Fronteq, Hered and Mote Lift etc. The choice is frankly bewildering with the vast majority of new manufacturers producing 'me too' products that only appear to tempt potential buyers with a more competitive price but in many cases they lack the necessary back up, support or residual values of the leading brands.

TRENDS

Having just said that scissor lifts have changed very little over the decades, there have been some significant developments in recent years. These include motor controls, better batteries, AC drive motors, oil-free/oil containment, step-up platforms, attachments for carrying materials such as boards and pipes etc and the adoption of telematics... all of which are now fairly common. Another development is the growth in smaller tracked scissor lifts. Tracked machines have been around for many years, with the mini tracked scissors starting in Japan, while the mega tracked scissors began in the Netherlands for use in



Chinese aerial work platform manufacturer King Lift at Apex



Another new Chinese manufacturer - Kingda has a range of scissor and boom lifts as well as telehandlers



Turkish manufacturer Mote Lift launched its 12 metre SCL 1012 scissor

SCISSOR LIFTS

Netherlands based Omega Solutions and its 505TS tracked scissor at Apex



soft reclaimed land for greenhouse construction and maintenance. Many of the new Chinese manufacturers are now also offering tracked machines, perhaps hoping that the much smaller niche market would be easier to crack? And more recently again, there is a move towards robotic attachments in the platform to aid working and productivity - more on that later.

IN THE BEGINNING...

The scissor lift as we know it today has been around since the early 1970s, pioneered by Selma Manlift, UpRight and Mark Lift and then MEC in the USA and Skyjack in Canada. Since then, it has remained the same apart from changes/developments to the scissor arm connections in the scissor stack.

However, last year Genie changed this when it introduced a curved scissor arm design on its core slab scissor lift range, which it claims is lighter, yet more rigid and less prone to corrosion. Manufacturing the curved arms, was, says Genie, a real challenge. The redesigned scissor stack also features a new linkage design, which also helps save weight in the upper machine, significant enough to reduce the size and weight of components such as batteries and drive motors, which should also bring a lower replacement parts cost.

Other design changes include a new chassis

design that avoids water pooling, the use of reinforced steel on the roll out extension to help prevent damage or bending while also improving rigidity and steel reinforcement plates around the fork pockets - inset slightly from the side wear bars - to help avoid damage through fork tine misalignment when loading. Genie has also focused on increasing componentry and service parts commonality and consistency across the product line. It says that overall, there are fewer serviceable components than with previous generations and of the components that remain, at least 70 percent are common across the product line.

ROBOTIC DEVELOPMENTS

One of the more interesting recent developments is the adoption by some contractors of robotic technology on site to combat labour shortages, productivity challenges and increasing demands for quality and safety. In the UK the adoption of job site robotics is in its infancy, however there are changes happening that may transform the deployment of construction robotics.

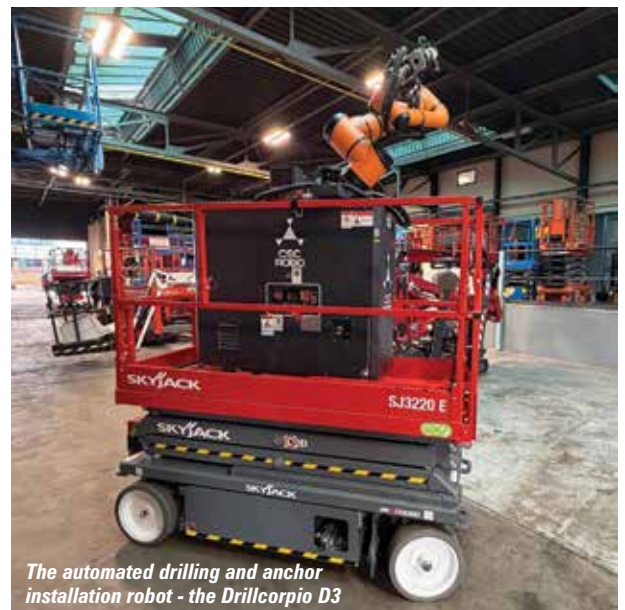
One of these involves advanced robotic workforce solutions company CSC Robotic Engineering, which has teamed up with access rental specialist GTAccess to form GTAccess Robotics, with GTAccess becoming CSC's official UK distribution partner for robotic sales and rental, to supply advanced construction robotics.

The new company says that this is "more than a distribution agreement, with the partnership looking to fundamentally change how contractors can adopt robotic technology".

The adoption of robotics in construction has, until now, involved lengthy procurement



Anson AS4046HD slab scissor



The automated drilling and anchor installation robot - the Drillcorpio D3

processes, specialist logistics and significant capital investment. GTAccess Robotics says it can supply the equipment in days rather than

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months throughout the country. It claims that it will provide a complete deployment network, from rental and logistics to engineering support, operator training and certification, enabling contractors to rapidly integrate robotics into live projects.

The first product is an automated drilling and anchor installation robot - the Drillcorprio D3 - for walls and ceilings, which can be used across construction projects as diverse as warehouses, bridges and tunnels.

The new system combines the robot with a Skyjack SJ3220 scissor lift to create a fully mobile solution to automate repetitive drilling tasks while providing accurate and repeatable results. The integrated access platform allows operators to safely position the robot at height, making it ideal for large scale construction and infrastructure projects. GTAccess has been working with CRC for the past 12 months to get the necessary approvals, all of which are now in place.

BUT WHY USE A ROBOT?

Apart from the benefits of combating labour shortages, increasing productivity and improving quality and safety, automated drilling negates 'white finger'. In many countries there is a limit on how much time a person on site can drill each day, due to Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) which led to 'white finger' legislation which may mean a team of four may only achieve three hours of productive work per day, quickly creating a bottleneck in the construction process. The robot can operate continuously for up to eight hours a day!

'VIBRATION WHITE FINGER'

HAVS remains one of the most common occupational health issues associated with handheld power tools. 'White finger' falls under the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005, which doesn't specify a maximum number of minutes someone can drill, as it depends on the vibration level of the specific tool. However, employers must assess and manage each operator's daily vibration exposure with the HSE setting two legal thresholds:

- Exposure Action Value (EAV): 2.5 m/s^2 A(8) - once this level is reached, employers must introduce measures to reduce vibration exposure.

- Exposure Limit Value (ELV): 5.0 m/s^2 A(8) - this is the legal maximum daily exposure and must not be exceeded. Once an operator reaches this limit, they should not continue using vibrating hand tools that day.

In the UK most Tier 1 construction sites typically use technologies such as Reactec watches that monitor an individual's trigger time. By automating the drilling process, robotics can significantly reduce or eliminate an operator's exposure to hand-arm vibration, helping minimise the risk of HAVS while improving productivity and consistency.

However, the D3 automated drill does not just help with HAVS but also protects from the risks of working at height and work in confined spaces

as well as strenuous overhead work and dust - including silica and harmful toxin - exposure.

The D3 is fitted with a dust collection system which operates while drilling, reducing the cleanup time. It is compatible with various construction projects, including E&M (electrical and mechanical) installation and civils works. The system does not need any aerial work platform modifications and features rebar collision sensing and the ability to drill curved surfaces.

The standard drill size ranges from five to 20mm but can go to a maximum of 40mm. Drill depth is up to a metre with an accuracy to $\pm 3\text{mm}$ - humans typically work to $\pm 5\text{mm}$! The overall weight of the robot is 245kg and is 700mm wide, 1.21 metres long, and 1.8 metres high.

NEW FOR RENTAL

Skyjack's new models all provide the same simple, reliable choice for rental.



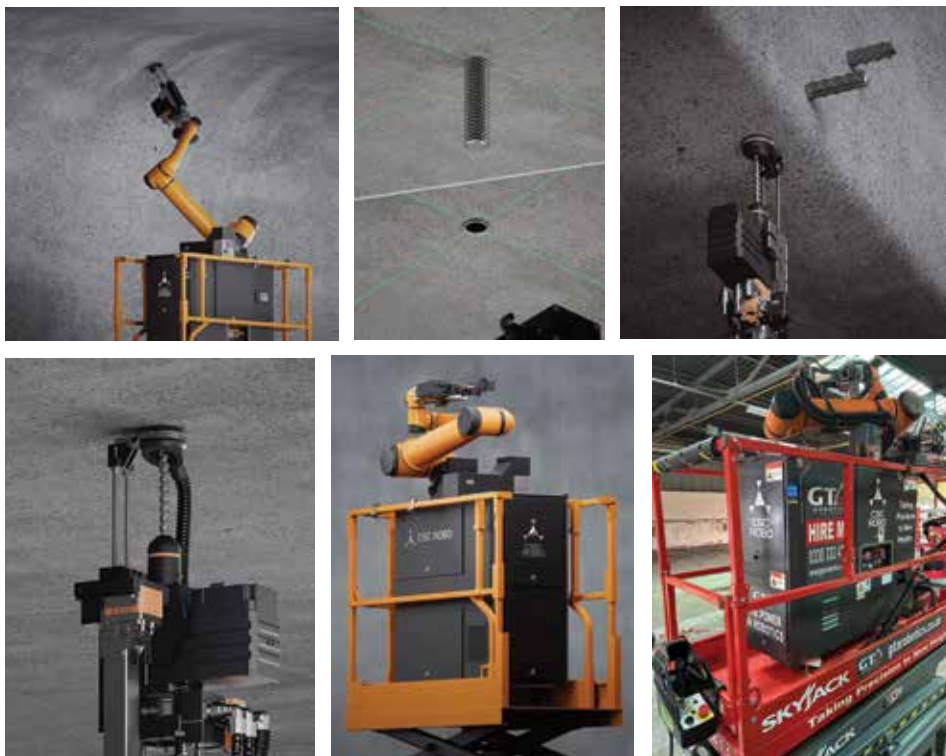
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Reactec watches are one way of monitoring HAVS exposure

SCISSOR LIFTS



Battery duration is said to be up to eight hours, and the distance from the robot to the wall is 1.1 to 1.6 metres.

Whilst the company says there is no direct competition to the D3, similar robots do not include the dust suppression system, nor are they fully autonomous. The D3 has four drill positioning methods, including AI recognition and manual selection.

Jonathan Till of GTAccess said: "This is a significant move for the powered access and robotics industry, and we are pioneering the way forward just as we did with the move into powered access 38 years ago."

Charles Elton of CSC Robotic Engineering added: "This isn't simply about appointing a distributor, we are building the infrastructure needed to accelerate robotic adoption across construction, enabling customers to move from initial enquiry to live project deployment in days, not months."

"The system automates drilling and anchor installation, delivering consistent hole quality while reducing the physical demands placed on operatives. Key benefits include improved productivity, repeatable accuracy, and the ability to redeploy skilled people to higher value tasks. It also provides customers with a practical way to introduce automation into existing processes."

"There are millions of holes drilled every day, and a human can only drill for 45 minutes a day in 15 minute sessions. The robotic solution replaces 10 people over an eight hour shift with greater accuracy and can provide a full report and pictures for every hole drilled."

"We are currently working on another robot that will drill larger diameter holes which should be available early next year," adds Till. "We have started with a drilling robot as drilling is expensive, however, going forward, it is easy to adapt the robot to do other tasks, such as painting, once the price point comes down."

HOW MANY WILL YOU ADD TO THE FLEET?

GTAccess Robotics has initially invested in a fleet of five units - two have been delivered - that will support demonstrations and customer projects, while demand is expected to grow rapidly.

"We currently have enough interest to add 38 units to the fleet!" says Till. "We fully expect to have more than 100 units in the UK in the next couple of years. The robotic systems will be available for both hire and purchase through GTAccess Robotics in the UK. We can also provide demonstrations, training, servicing and ongoing engineering support to ensure customers can successfully adopt the technology."

"Other companies are launching products across the world, but we believe our solution is the most advanced, requiring less human intervention and input, and this will progress further in a short space of time."

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT?

"We believe robotics will become an increasingly common part of construction over the coming years as the technology continues to prove itself on site," said Till. "We see robotics following a similar path to powered access - initially adopted by forward-thinking businesses before becoming a standard part of the industry's toolkit. Our aim is to support that transition. We are currently looking at mounting the robot on other Skyjack scissors and are in consultation with another manufacturer to mount the robot on a boom lift."

Till thinks that further developments will be in the integration between the aerial work platform and the robot, allowing it to be controlled autonomously. GTAccess Robotics has also developed an operator training course and is waiting for approval for grant funding.

GENIE ROBOTIC ARM

Another manufacturer that is heavily into robotics for its scissor lifts is Genie, and this was on display at Conexpo in March with a prototype

robotic arm with a vacuum lifting device for picking up and placing board materials.

The prototype three axis arm with 180 degree rotation was shown mounted on a Genie GS-3246 scissor lift, and while not yet able at the moment to reach down to floor level when in transport mode, it can reach a raised stack of materials. Lift capacity is 65kg and the overall weight of the arm is also 65kg. The vacuum attachment on the end of the arm allows it to pick up most smooth materials, such as glass, tiles, dry wall boards, plastics etc.

ON THE BLOCK

Genie is currently up for sale, following Terex's merger agreement with the Rev and the announcement that it will divest the Genie business. Although a deal was hoped to be announced in the first half, nothing has yet materialised.

At Conexpo, Genie president Joss Gross emphasised that the company is in good shape, following a very good fourth quarter with improved order intake, after an average couple of years. "We have restructured and brought in a lot of new people from different parts of the industry," said Gross. "We got the whole thing started a couple of years ago, and have new data centre packages, hybrid products and at the ARA, launched our new reconditioning business based in Springfield, Missouri."

"We are spending time on how to grow the business, including using digital tools - launching an AI chat agent which gets info much quicker - and spending a lot of time on total cost of ownership optimisation with advantages when the equipment is being operated, followed by good residuals when you sell it."

At Vertikal Days last year Genie launched 'Zone Lighting' - a new safety related Lift Guard accessory. The system uses red laser lights to create a visible border at ground level to illuminate the machine's perimeter at about 600mm more



The prototype arm mounted on a Genie GS-3246 on show at Conexpo

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SCISSOR LIFTS



than the edge of its scissors, providing a visual warning to anyone within the machine's work zone. The bright red beam is about 15mm thick and visible in any indoor lighting condition. Installation is simple and aftermarket kits - now available - are compatible with all Genie slab scissor lift models.

NEW MODEL ROUNDUP - SKYJACK

Skyjack has been particularly busy over the past six months or so, launching numerous scissor lifts, including the compact Rough Terrain SJ6940 RT and its all electric sibling, the SJ6940 RTE, the narrow aisle slab SJ3232 E and its largest electric scissor so far, the 45ft SJ5545 E. It has also upgraded its 13ft SJ3213 and 19ft SJ3219 micro scissor lifts, which are now CE marked for European buyers.

Skyjack's 13ft SJ3213 micro and 19ft SJ3219 micro scissors are now CE marked for European buyers



The 40ft SJ6940 RT tops the company's compact RT scissor lift range, having a maximum working height of 14.19 metres and a maximum platform capacity of 363kg - three people indoors and two outdoors. With the 1.07 metre platform extension deployed, the machine has one of the longest decks on a compact RT at 4.52 metres and can be driven at full height with the deck extended.

An oscillating front steering axle and auto-levelling jacks are standard on the European and Australian versions, but optional on machines in North America. The Kubota diesel is HVO ready, while the four wheel drive system employs four hydraulic wheel motors with torque hubs and 'intelligent adaptive drive'.

Overall width is 1.8 metres, overall length when stowed 3.63 metres and overall height 2.74 metres, but just 1.91 metres when guardrails are folded down. Total weight is 5,135kg. The all electric version - the SJ6940 RTE - has similar



Skyjack's all electric SJ6940 RTE



The 32ft SJ3232 E narrow aisle slab electric scissor

NEW MEC SCISSORS

Californian manufacturer MEC Aerial Work Platforms unveiled a raft of new Plus/+ slab electric scissor lifts at the ARA Show, with selected models also on display at Conexpo. The new 'Plus Line' includes eight models, the 19ft/800mm wide Micro 19+, the 19ft/800mm wide Micro 19-XD+, the 26ft/800mm wide Micro 26+, the 26ft/800mm wide Micro 26-XD+, the 32ft/830mm wide 3232+, the 33ft/1.2 metre wide 3346+, the 40ft/1.2 metre wide 4046+ and the 45ft/1.4 metre wide 4555+.

performance and specifications to the diesel version however, drive comes from high efficiency AC drive motors fed by a 414AH AGM battery pack, with universal smart charging technology. At Conexpo Skyjack launched the 32ft SJ3232 E narrow aisle slab electric scissor lift with direct rear wheel electric drive. Maximum working height is 11.5 metres driveable at full height indoors or reduced to one person and 9.1 metres when working outside. Platform capacity is 249kg, with a 900mm roll-out deck extension as standard.

The SJ3232 E has an overall width of 810mm, while the overall length is 2.33 metres. Stowed height is 2.39 metres or 1.99 metres with guardrails folded and total weight 2,654kg. Skyjack says: "The intelligent adaptive variable speed rear wheel brushless electric drive system provides exceptional duty cycles and a smooth automatic transition from high to low speed on a grade."

The company has also launched its largest electric scissor lift to date - the 15.72 metre working height 55ft SJ5545 E, which can be driven at full height and has an outdoor rating of two people up to an 8.7 metre working height. Overall width is just under 1.4 metres, while maximum platform capacity is 350kg. The SJ5545E has a new scissor stack design with fully welded cross bracing that improves rigidity at height. The unit also features a 900mm roll out deck extension, while the guardrails fold to an overall height of just over two metres to pass below overhead obstacles and to ease transport.



Skyjack's largest electric scissor - the 15.72 metre working height SJ5545 E



The MEC 19ft Micro 19-XD+

The Micro 19+ and Micro 19-XD+ use direct AC brushless front wheel drive motors, improving duty cycles over its current products by eight percent according to the company. The remaining six models are fitted with PMSR AC+ motors, which recapture 30 percent of the lifting energy and reportedly increase duty cycles by 22 percent. All models feature higher maximum platform capacities, with deck extension and Xtra-Deck capacities increasing from 113kg to 136kg.

Engineering vice president Gary Crook said: "Scissor lifts earn their keep when they are stationary in the work position - that's when a



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The 26ft MEC Micro 26-XD+

tradesperson can get their job done. The MEC Plus line of electric scissor lifts is about allowing crews to get in position quickly and work longer without interruptions, with more usable capacity, more runtime, and fewer small frustrations that can slow a shift down."

26FT JLG MICRO

JLG has added a new 26ft ES2632M micro scissor lift with a maximum working height of 9.77 metres and a platform capacity of 272kg. It joins the companies micro scissor range, joining the 13ft ES1330M, 15ft ES1530M and 19ft ES1930M. It has an outdoor working height of 7.49 metres with one person. Overall width is 810mm, overall length 1.84 metres, and overall height when stowed 2.11 metres. Quick-Fold guardrails take the stowed height below two metres. An 860mm roll-out deck extension is standard, as is a leak containment system. The all up weight, however, is not so micro at just over two tonnes. Options include AGM or lithium-ion batteries and an integrated 560 x 580mm step-up platform, providing an additional 495mm of working height.



JLG's new 26ft micro scissor lift, the ES2632M with step-up platform

NEW NOBLELIFT MICRO SCISSORS

Chinese/Malaysian aerial lift manufacturer Noblelift has added two 'New Generation' slab electric micro scissor lifts, the 12ft SC06E and

Noblelift's new SC06E and SC07E



15ft SC07E. The SC06E is made in China as its 5.7 metre working height does not attract tariffs being under six metres, platform capacity is 240kg/ two occupants, with an outdoor working height limit of 3.7 metres. The lift has an overall width of 760mm, is 1.52 metres long, with a stowed height of 1.91 metres with the guardrails up and an overall weight of 990kg. Platform dimensions are 1.36 metres by 740mm, with a standard 600mm roll-out deck. Standard features include active automatic pothole protection, drive at full height and automatic gate locking. Power is supplied by two 12V/100Ah batteries, powering twin front axle direct drive motors.

The specification on the 15ft SC07E is almost identical, except it offers a 6.7 metre indoor working height - 5.7 metre outdoors - has an overall stowed height of 1.99 metres and weighs 1,040kg.

OIL FREE TRACKED SCISSOR LIFT

Chinese manufacturer Sinoboom has added the 14.7ft 0407ET tracked battery electric powered, oil-free scissor lift with a working height of 6.5 metres and 230kg platform capacity. Outdoors it is restricted to 4.5 metres. Weighing 820kg it features a 600mm roll-out deck extension and, when stowed, has an overall length of 1.45 metres, an overall width of 790mm and is two metres high. The lift uses electric actuators in place of hydraulic cylinders for lift and steer, along with direct drive AC motors to power the tracks, it therefore requires no pump, oil tank or hoses.

The new machine is aimed at work in environments such as clean rooms or data centres, or in applications such as food production or areas with sensitive floor surfaces with lower point loadings, thanks to the rubber tracks which are gentler on floors, at least when travelling in a straight line.



The twin electric track drive motors

Dingli's 500mm 'Extra Deck' step-up height extension

The Sinoboom 0407ET



DINGLI 'EXTRA DECK'

Dingli's latest is the 500mm 'Extra Deck' step-up height extension for its slab scissor lift range, including models sold in Europe. The Extra Deck is permanently installed within the roll-out deck extension, giving an additional 500mm of working height that can reach above a beam or through a false ceiling tile space.

The Extra Deck has no impact on the main platform capacity, and the lift can still be driven while elevated, although when the lift is used outside, and the Extra Deck is raised, the maximum lift height is reduced by 1.5 metres and the rating is also reduced to one person.

The Dingli Extra Deck is designed by MEC - Dingli owns a controlling interest in the company - so it makes total sense to simply adopt a winning and well proven product.

For more information on Dingli's manufacturing facility in China go to the feature starting on page 57.

MANITOU EXPANDS RANGE

Manitou has launched the new SE 1212, expanding its three model slab scissor range from eight to 12 metres working heights. The new model has a working height of 12 metres and a platform capacity of 350kg/three people indoors. Manitou says that its 5.76 kWh battery has an extended life and fast charging and is capable of working a full eight hour day on a single charge. The model will be available Q3 this year with further models on the cards. ■



Manitou's new 32ft SE1212, further models are on the cards

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Tamtron's Loader Crane Scale provides the wireless transfer of weight measurement data from loader cranes to a cloud-based storage system



PREDICT AND PREVENT

The last year or two has seen the emergence of more sophisticated safety devices, many of them now incorporating perceptive AI software, all of which is beginning to make an impact, helping operators or drivers become more aware of risks and helping improve safety and efficiency. Daniel Searle takes a look at a few of the latest.

Earlier this year, Pennsylvania based technology and advanced dash cam manufacturer Tenna unveiled a new heavy duty AI assisted camera system - the TennaCam 2.0 HE 360 AI - aimed squarely at the construction industry. The system uses an AI-enabled 360 degree camera system with auxiliary cameras to monitor and identify people, moving vehicles or stationary obstacles and equipment, especially in blind spots, sending visual and audible notifications to the operator via its 10 inch monitor before a collision occurs.

The TennaCam 2.0 HE 360 AI comes as a single, fully integrated kit that includes:

- AI-enabled 360 degree camera system
- Auxiliary cameras
- CANbus integration
- 10-inch in cab monitor

It is said to be far more proactive than most current camera systems that only provide a view for the operator and record footage that can be reviewed after an incident has occurred.

Tenna co-founder and chief executive Austin Conti says: "Contractors don't need another system that tells them what went wrong after the fact. While Tenna can do that too, we know that jobsite safety is paramount, and that technology that actively helps operators avoid incidents in the moment can have a significant impact in reducing such incidents."

Another thought is that if what might have been a serious reportable incident is avoided, lessons can be learned and shared in a more positive environment - from the recordings and alerts - rather than as part of a fatal incident investigation, when other priorities often take over.

THE ORCISM SYSTEM

Japan's Obayashi Corporation has introduced the Orcism (Obayashi Robotics Crane Integrated System) management and control system for cranes, which combines a range of advanced technologies to help prevent serious incidents. It won the Special Jury Prize at the 2026 Japan Industrial Technology Awards earlier this year. Of particular interest is that it can be used in

conjunction with a 'digital twin' of the load/job which is monitored to detect obstructions in the vicinity of a crane and issue alerts to the operator when required, as well as monitoring load sway and overexuberant slewing/load acceleration and deceleration, slowing, steadying or stopping the function when necessary.

The Orcism system also incorporates technology such as automated and remote functions, and security, such as the 'Face-Starter' function which uses facial recognition to prevent unauthorised personnel from operating the machinery.

Obayashi runs a demonstration site for the technology at its East Japan Robotics Centre, in Kawagoe City, north west of Tokyo, with a control room running remote, automated operation of two tower cranes - a 720 tonne/metre class and a 360 tonne/metre class crane.

One driving factor behind the system is the growing shortage of people willing to work in construction related industries, which is now a critical issue in Japan. The company claims that Orcism can address this by assisting in areas such as construction planning and management as well as simplifying on-site management tasks.

LIVE LOAD WEIGHING FEEDBACK

One of the pillars of 'Industry 4.0', also known as 'the Internet of Things', is the real time transfer of data, which enables operators or central processing systems to make decisions based on live feedback.

The next generation Loader Crane Scale from Finland's Tamtron embraces this approach, with the wireless system measuring load weighing data with an accuracy of within 0.1 percent and transferring it in real time to Tamtron's One Cloud online data transfer and storage service, and the user's ERP or logistics systems.

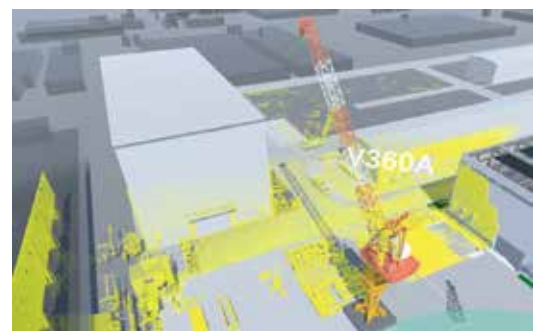
The scale is compatible with all loader cranes, both articulated and telescopic, and is aimed at applications such as waste

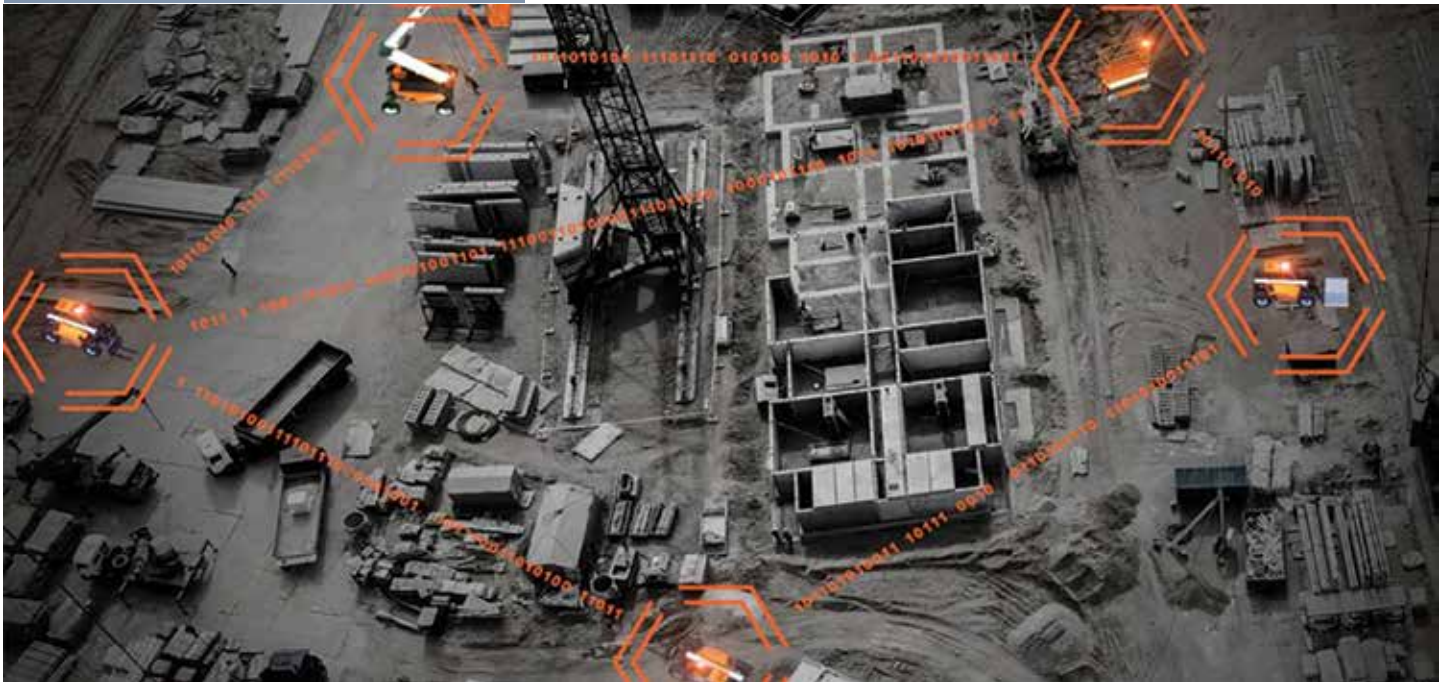
management and recycling.

An interface is provided by an easy to use intuitive mobile application, the operator can add photos and comments to each specific job or lift, to enhance documentation and traceability, with all the information added to the cloud service and available for invoicing, planning and monitoring. GPS co-ordinates are also saved for each weight measurement. ■



Obayashi's Orcism software enables the remote, automated operation of cranes using a digital twin





THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

Just over three years ago JLG appointed Ara Eckel as director of product management to head up its 'Connected Solutions Platform' team, responsible for the development of 'cutting edge digital technologies' for the company's platforms and telehandlers with the aim to improve the overall value of its products. Mark Darwin met up and quizzed him about current and future digital technologies.

Ara Eckel joined JLG in 2020 as senior manager, product marketing and management, having spent eight years in the automotive industry in various marketing roles. In 2022 he was appointed director of product management for its connected solutions portfolio which included JLG Augmented Reality and Mobile Control Apps, including the Bluetooth Enabled Analyzer & Analyzer Reader and Advanced Battery Monitoring System, as well as ClearSky telematics, 3D Interactive Schematics, BIM library, SkySense electronic detection system and AccessReady Fusion XR virtual reality training simulators, and now leads the development of these and other new products.

Three years ago, the latest development was a next generation Internet of Things (IoT) platform for true, two way fleet management and machine interactivity.

Two years ago JLG expanded its ClearSky Smart Fleet platform with new features aimed at improving fleet management and equipment diagnostics. And at the beginning of this year, it announced two new features for its ClearSky Smart Fleet platform: 'digital access control' and 'over the air machine software updates'. Both of which are available via the ClearSky Smart Fleet connectivity beacon on aerial lifts and telehandlers.

What is obvious from all this is that technology and developments are changing rapidly.

"The big thing when I joined JLG was how do we get ClearSky and telematics right, having had two previous versions," says Eckel. "We tried to work with some partners in the past and commercial off the shelf solutions from various providers, of which there are plenty, but unfortunately, discovered that although there are very good telematics providers, not many were any good for access equipment."

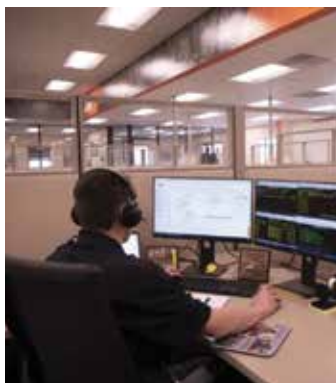


Ara Eckel

"I will give a very simple example. Most of those devices will only send data when the machine is on. Around 90 percent of the time a work platform is in use, it is not running. That problem in itself was a unique one for us to solve, and as we delved into it we realised that the only way to provide customers with what they were looking for was to develop the systems in-house."

"We then went on to launch ClearSky Smart Fleet, our in-house solution, which starts not with traditional telematics, but a two way Internet Of Things and how you interact with the product and not just send the data to the cloud and let somebody do something else."

"People buying aerial lifts today expect connectivity and connected products. So, we began to standardise that product, and we are now seeing the benefits. We have been on that



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journey for almost four years, and I will say we have been very fortunate to be resoundingly successful. We have hit every single performance metric, and a lot of that has to do with how focused we were with our customers. We carried out more Voice of Customer research globally than for any previous product. That now allows us to understand our customers' needs in a different way."

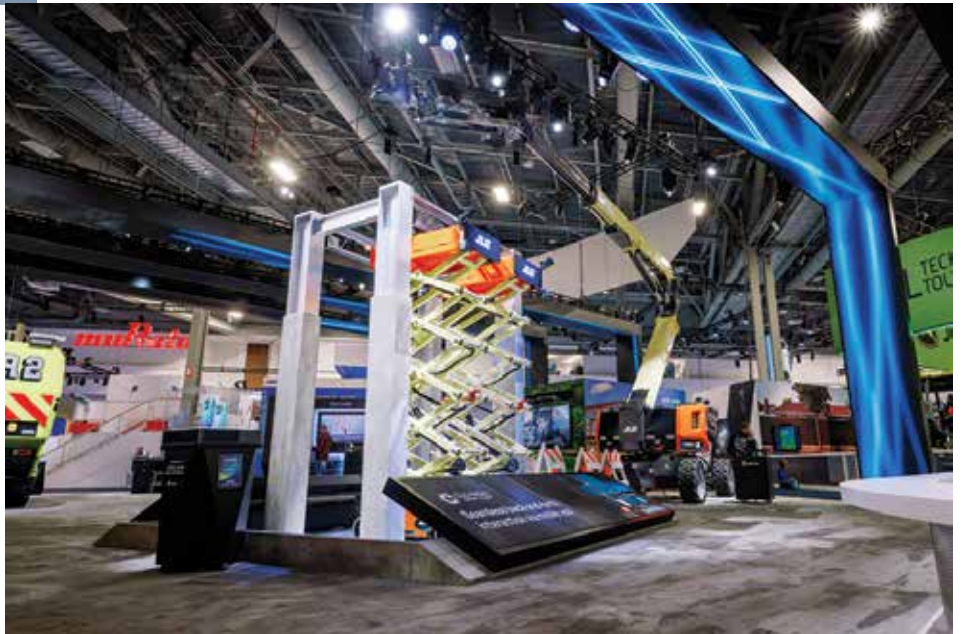
"One of its cool features is help finding the machine in a packed, busy yard or site which is normally really difficult if you are a service manager or a fuel truck driver and can easily take 30 minutes on a large site. So, we came up with this idea, which is very similar to having a remote lock/unlock button on your car - you press the button, and you can see the indicators flash or hear the car's horn beep. So now with the touch of a button on a smartphone or tablet you can activate the lights or the horn of a specific unit."

"We can take that capability and use it in a lot of different ways, and this has really enhanced our other digital experiences. We put the productivity tool of Smart Fleet onto Online Express, so now everything is in one central spot - all of your productivity, utilisation and service insights and technical publications are there, and you can even buy the part to fix it."

ARE ALL THESE REALLY DEVELOPED IN-HOUSE?

Yes, it is all developed in-house," he says, "but we don't have too much hubris that we do it all on our own. What we own is the map and the infrastructure, but we work with partners who can help us succeed...such as a wireless carrier and custom fabrication partner...because no one had created a connectivity device integrated within a beacon light in the way we did it."

"We have picked the right partners, and they have



helped us along the way. We have even ended up working with a digital experience designer to make sure the solution itself was self-explanatory. We know that if we have to provide training for every single person who uses the tool, it is not going to work. When you download an app to your phone, you just start using it, and it works - it has to be that level of simplicity."

"We have also simplified our systems a lot. When I first joined, JLG had four different usernames and logins across the company regions. Now we have just one global JLG ID so if you have an online express account, you have access to all of JLG - very fast and simple. At one point we even had seven websites but have reduced it to four. We had 18 global applications that is now down to five. The simplification strategy has been so beneficial and helps customers get a much better understanding of what we can offer."

WHAT IS CURRENTLY HAPPENING?

"We do our road map planning five years in the future, anything beyond that just sits there, but from an execution standpoint, we do an agile based development - these are monthly sprints that enhance or appreciate the value. Our current product launch is digital access control."

ACCESS CONTROL

"Access control has been a very misunderstood feature in our industry. What we want to ensure is that the right operator has access to a specific machine. A lot of companies have already solved this - including us - by putting a keypad on the side of the machine that requires the operator to enter a four digit code to enable it. But the process typically breaks down because after buying the keypad someone has to assign serial numbers, then someone has to assign a code, then send the codes to the site manager, the site manager evaluates who is validated to operate each machine and then issues them their codes... What you find is that it either doesn't work at all or the system is abused. I have seen keypads with the four digit code on a sticker next to it!"

"In spite of this, most customers or users do want to control access to the equipment. Our next introduction is a fully digital version available on your phone and our portal, so you don't have to buy additional hardware. When launched, it will work across our entire connected base of more than 120,000 units. The owner can also put the machine into various modes - an unrestricted





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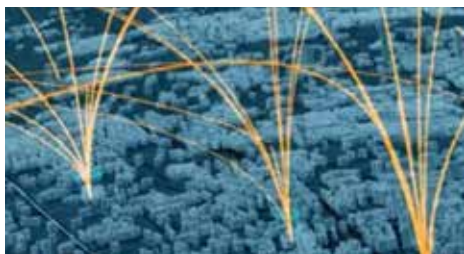


state with full use, a full restriction and lock-out so nobody can use it, and a creep mode for transport. This puts all the power into the owners' hands so that they know the right people are using the equipment at the right time.

Overnight this should give us an edge in access control, rather than selling keypads at about \$200 each as well as a subscription fee. We have just launched the App version in North America with the portal version on its way. Europe is just waiting on CE certification."

SUBSCRIPTIONS

"Historically subscriptions in the construction industry tend to be long - up to seven years. We have moved to a one year plan, so if it doesn't live up to expectations, cancel! What tends to happen with long term contracts is that around half leave when up for renewal, and it is worse in general construction equipment. I know of one leading OEM which has a 17 percent retention rate. Since our launch three and a half years ago, we have retained 93 percent of customers, suggesting that we are living up to expectations and providing value. Our subscription is simple - up to \$40 per year or about \$3 per month for each machine depending on the total fleet size."



OVER THE AIR SOFTWARE UPDATES

"Everyone now seems to offer over the air updates, but what you actually find is they can update the connectivity module, which doesn't necessarily have the ability to rewrite the machine's software. You can change the parameters of the beacon or a CAN device or add new firmware, but we may be the first company in the aerial lift market to be able to change machine software through our telematics system. This will be launched later this year."

AUTOMATED SITE NETWORKS

"Another slightly more obscure feature is called automated site networks. JLGs devices are constantly communicating with each other over a Bluetooth network, automatically 'pairing' when in close proximity - just like a Bluetooth device automatically connects on your smartphone."

Traditionally, if you wanted to set up a geofence around a machine, you would pick points on a map and assign machines to it and if there were changes, it would tell you.

"What we can do now is if two machines are next to each other and talking, they automatically form a geofence. The moment one of them moves away, it tracks it as an event, and when it joins, you get another event log. So, from a logistics and operations standpoint, we have essentially automated knowing where the equipment is."

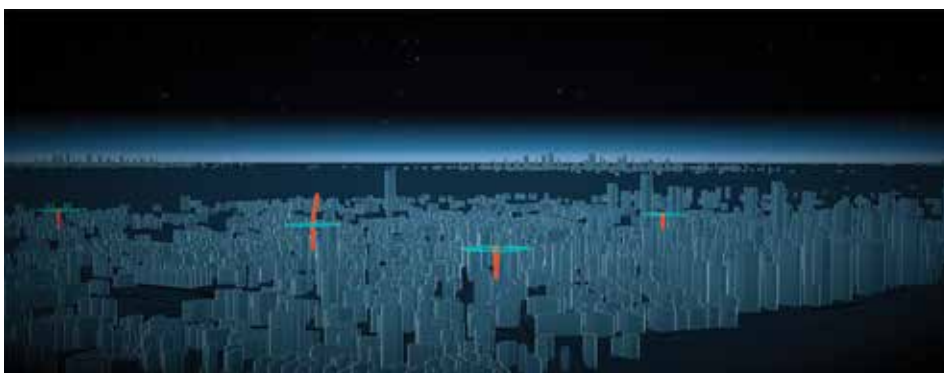
"These networks can be as large as the number of machines in an area - rental company yards, for example with hundreds of machines. On

site, the network will strengthen by talking to JLG machines even if owned by different customers - machines talk, but customers can only see information on their own machines. If we fast forward five years, when there may be 500,000 connected units, you could theoretically connect around the globe. We own the proprietary technology in the Americas to have automated Bluetooth matching on a jobsite".

DOES EVERYTHING CHANGE THAT QUICKLY?

"Yes - If we had this conversation a year ago, it would have been dramatically different. AI is an unbelievable tool in our box of options, but it is only one tool, and we have to figure out and match the application to the need. We don't just want to come out like most and say, 'we do AI!'

"We have done two very interesting things with AI. We are using it for technical publications, but with a human in the loop to ensure that the information is accurate. This has enabled us to produce technical publications 50 percent faster and translate 30 percent faster. The other way we are using AI is for product support centres where we are starting to launch an adjunctive AI solution, so if you were to log into the chat and ask it questions it would use our internal knowledge base - whether that is knowledge or service articles or technical publications - and in many cases a product support person will be watching, to check the answers before giving it to the customer - so we are still learning how make sure it is accurate." ■





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VERTIKAL DAYS 2026 SET FOR A STANDOUT YEAR

Vertikal Days is fast approaching, and this year's event looks set to be a good one. The show returns to the Newark Showground on 9th and 10th September, when the lifting and work at height industries converge for two days of networking and a closer look at the latest new products, ideas and developments that the manufacturers, dealers and service providers have been working on over the past year.

This year's show will be Europe's largest dedicated event for lifting and work at height, bringing together equipment for moving all types of loads as well as platforms for lifting people and equipment safely into position. The event retains its all-inclusive format with parking, entry, refreshments and lunch all included for all visitors.

Those attending will be able to see, test and try a wide range of new machines, products and ideas from leading crane, access platform and

telehandler manufacturers and suppliers. Just as important are the specialist exhibitors that provide products, components or services that are behind the scenes. They will be showcasing new technology and practical solutions spanning software, electronics, safety equipment and a host of ancillary products designed to make jobs safer and more efficient. But equally important, seeking the feedback and ideas from end users that they may rarely have direct contact.

Adding fresh energy this year will be more than 25 first time exhibitors to Vertikal Days, 20 of them in the Marketplace and the rest in the outdoor exhibition area bringing new names and products to the show.

THE MARKETPLACE

At the centre of the showground, the Marketplace Pavilion and café is the place to find the technology, components and service providers that keep fleets and products running and sites moving. Due to an early sell-out, the Marketplace has been extended again this year to accommodate more than 60 stands. Exhibitors here cover everything from electronics, components and spare parts to rigging gear,

safety equipment and inspection services, alongside training providers and finance specialists. It is a concentrated showcase of the practical tools and support that sit behind day to day lifting and work at height operations.

THE BIG LUNCH AND NEW PITSTOP

The industry's biggest lunch gathering takes place each day between 12 and 14.30 in the main Catering Pavilion, but for those after a quick bite to eat rather than the full sit-down lunch, the new centrally located Pit Stop in the central aisle will be serving pulled pork rolls, salads and a variety of filled jacket potatoes.



NETWORKING UNDER THE STARSHADE

This year's networking evening, 'Barcelona Beats', will adopt a Spanish theme and gets under way from 17.30 on the Wednesday under the Starshade. Visitors who would like to attend should contact the Vertikal Days organising team or exhibitors for tickets.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE SHOW

Look out for the Vertikal Days show guide in the next issue (September) of Cranes & Access. It includes a full exhibitor and brand listing, a site map showing where to find them, and a rundown of key products to watch for, along with the main events, timings and other practical information for planning your visit.

HANDS ON HIGHLIGHTS

Many exhibitors will run live demonstrations on their stands, giving visitors the chance to see new equipment in use and, in many cases, step aboard and try it for themselves.



WORKING TOGETHER

Industry discussion continues away from the stands, with several short association meetings scheduled over the two days. The CPA will host a joint Crane Interest Group (CIG)/Tower Crane Interest Group Open Meeting from 14:00-16:00 on the Thursday in the Cedric Ford Building.

IPAF will also host a series of member meetings (dates and timings to be confirmed) and will promote its 2026 Global Safety Campaign, *Check It!* highlighting the importance of inspecting equipment. A live demonstration will underline the risks and run through the checks that should be carried out, while a dedicated area will spotlight IPAF's new Spotter Training Course, along with mobile crane and hoist training.

SHOW DETAILS

WHERE: Newark Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark, NG24 2NY

WHEN: Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th September 2026

OPENING HOURS:

Wednesday: 10am - 17:30

Thursday: 10am - 16:00

Visitor Registration is open!

Visitors can register at <https://vertikaldays.net/event-info/visitor-registration> or scan the QR code for free entry to the event, free parking, a complimentary lunch, all day café and a copy of the show-guide.

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New and interesting products to look out for:

There is always something new to look out for at Vertikal Days. We are already aware of many new products that will make their UK, European or global debuts, but as usual, many exhibitors are keeping this information 'under their hats' until the show itself. A few of the ones we know are about are as follows:

CRANES

BÖCKER

Böcker will have most of its full line up of truck mounted cranes on display. Recently released machines include the AK 36, AK 42 and AK 48 as well as its largest crane to date, the AK 52.



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All of the new generation of cranes include high tensile steel boom, continuous slew, and tower crane function as well as various drive options including fully electric variants. All can also be used as truck mounted platforms and the AK 52 on the stand will feature a 600kg platform with winch. Also on the stand is the new range of Junior Inclined Lifts, including the latest Junior 18, and the latest construction hoists.

HOEFLOON

Following a very successful year in the UK, Hoeflon will show at least six machines from its growing crane and carrier range. New product launches include the seven tonne/35.5 metre C30eL, the four tonne C10e Gen 3 and the three tonne/16 metre C6e Gen 2, all making their UK debuts.



JEKKO CRANES

As well as displaying the popular Jekko SPX532.2, Jekko UK will exhibit the TRX32 truck crane and the impressive JF545.2 articulated crawler/spider crane. As the newly appointed UK dealers for Aconda Industrial Carriers, it will also show the full range of Aconda Carriers and accessories, alongside Grip Vacuum Lifters.

KRANLYFT

Two machines will make their UK debuts on the Kranlyft stand. The fully electric Klaas K2350E aluminium truck crane can take 2,000kg to 25 metres or lift nine tonnes to a height of 18 metres in two fall mode. The other debutant is the all electric, 2.82 tonne Maeda MC285CB-3 Eco spider crane. Features include remote control, 7" LMI display and an optional 850kg searcher hook. Other Maeda spider cranes on show will include the 8.1t/20.1m Maeda CC1908S-1 with and 3.5

tonne pick & carry capacity as well as a Smart Group 5.8m/650kg SG650RS glass lifter and an Aero-Lift Clad Boy outdoor vacuum lifter.

LADYBIRD CRANES

Ladybird will unveil an innovative remote controlled concrete pouring skip, with 'Hose Hook' allowing operators to stand back from the pouring hose for improved safety and control. It will also show a Midi trailer crane, with a 500kg capacity at a 17 metre radius.

LIEBHERR

Liebherr will show its new 90 tonne LTM 1090-4.3 All Terrain with 60 metres of main boom. The stand will also feature reusable tower crane foundation anchors, Liebherr's zero-emission portable power solution, the LPO 100, while demonstrating new updates to its Crane Planner and Crane Finder solutions. Liebherr Training Services will be on hand to discuss emerging technologies and training opportunities.



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MANITOWOC CRANE GROUP

The Grove All Terrain and Potain tower crane group will be joined by its MGX Equipment Services business, which has just opened a UK operation, providing service, parts and customer support for all of its crane brands. But look out for the UK debut of the 150 tonne Grove GMK5150XLe plug-in hybrid All Terrain sold to Bryn Thomas Cranes, alongside a 90 tonne four axle GMK4090-1.

SANY

Sany and its UK dealer/partner Crowland Cranes' will have several new cranes on display making their debut including the 150 tonne SAC1500E All Terrain, the 60 tonne SCE600TB crawler crane, 45 tonne SRE450N Rough Terrain and the 13 tonne SCD150 carry deck crane. Sany will also display a range of its telehandlers from the six metre/2,500kg STH625E, to the 18 metre/4,000kg STH1840.

SPIERINGS CRANES

Spierings will show what it claims is the 'largest mobile tower crane ever built' - the SK1265-AT6 eLift. The crane has a 60 metre jib, and a maximum capacity of 10 tonnes, along with a maximum lift height of 64.2 metres. Set-up time is said to be just 11 minutes.

TADANO

Tadano will have two of its latest All Terrain cranes on show, the long boom version of its 250 tonner - the AC 5.250L-2 - and the 70 tonne AC 4.070HL-1 Hybrid which has fully electric lifting on site for quieter, lower-emission performance.

WOLFFKRAN

Wolffkran will display the new Wolff City Portal CP690 that raises the base of a tower crane above ground level, providing up to 4.5 metres of clearance for vehicles to pass safely underneath.



It will be topped by a Wolff 275 B luffing jib crane from Mayo Civils. It has a 12 tonne capacity in single fall operation or 24 tonnes with two falls, maximum jib length is 60 metres.

TTC LIFTING GEAR

Making its Vertikal Days debut, TTC Lifting Gear will showcase its Armour Lift HMPE sling products available from three to 450 tonnes. They are said to offer major weight savings over conventional polyester and wire rope slings. At the same time its new two to 50 tonne Aluex Lifting Beam, made at its UK facility, will make its UK debut.



XCMG

Following the launch of its 60 tonne hybrid All Terrain Crane at last year's Vertikal Days, XCMG will introduce the 60 tonne diesel powered XCA60G6-1E All Terrain to the UK market. The XCA60G6-1E features a 50 metre main boom, and a maximum lift height of 63.7 metres. Also on the stand will be its latest model from its growing range of telehandlers and aerial lifts.

ACCESS AND TELEHANDLERS

ACCESS PLATFORM SALES (APS)

APS will have products from JLG, Power Towers and Hinowa alongside the new 25 metre Palfinger PT 25 TJ truck mounted platform. Also worth a look is the Ausa T144 compact telehandler and industrial mast lifts from Toughlift and Wienold.



ALFA ACCESS SERVICES

Alfa will have a range of products from Altec/Teupen, Hered and Omega Solutions tracked mega scissor lifts from the Netherlands. It also plans to display information on its inspection, servicing, breakdown and major refurbishment service.

AXOLIFT/POP-UP PRODUCTS

The Axolift stand will launch the production version of the new 4.95 metre working height P300X self-propelled outdoor rated, dual deck extension scissor lift aimed at the market currently covered by the Bravi Leonardo HD. It will also have its other low level platforms on show, including manual and self-propelled mast and scissor lifts.

BRAVI PLATFORMS

Bravi will show its new Residential 170 mast type platform as well as its recently upgraded and improved Leonardo HD, but make sure you see a demonstration of its Solo-Gyps drywall lifting attachment, as well as its pipe rack.



BRONTO SKYLIFT

Bronto will display its popular 38 metre Bronto S38XDT truck mounted platform mounted on a two axle Volvo FM430 4x2 chassis - ask to be taken up in the platform to get a decent overview of Vertikal Days.



DINGLI

Dingli, the UK's aerial lift market leader, will have an extensive display of its booms and scissor lifts on show, including its all electric AC+ and extra-deck scissors and no oil machines, as well as its all electric and E-boost hybrid booms.



GENIE

Genie will feature its 85ft S-85 XC FE electric drive hybrid telescopic boom lift and Next Generation GS-1432 and GS-1932 scissor lifts with curved arms which, it claims have 34 percent fewer serviceable parts. You can also learn about the new Genie 360 digital tools.

HYRAX AERIAL LIFTS

Dutch manufacturer Hyrax will show its latest self-levelling tracked telescopic boom lifts that can drive at full height on slopes of up to 15 degrees. While four models are available it will show the ultra-compact 35ft Hyrax 27.12, with a 12.6 metre working height, and overall weight of 3.5 tonnes, allowing it to be transported on a standard two axle trailer, towable behind a van or 4x4.

JCB

As well as its range of aerial lists and telehandlers JCB will show its new range of platform attachments, and will demonstrate its LiveLink telematics system, but is keen to discuss its latest hydrogen power developments.

JLG

JLG will show several articulated booms including the 150ft 1500AJ Ultra boom and the UK debut of its new 19ft ES1930M electric micro scissor. From the Power Tower stable it will have the newly released Power Tower CS Confined Space machines - the Nano 30 CS and Power Tower CS.

LEMAX

First time exhibitor Lemax offers a full range of aerial work platforms along with vacuum lifters. At Vertical Days it will show a new compact tracked boom lift, a micro self-propelled scissor lift, glass vacuum lifters, a diesel boom, mast lift and a trailer lift.

LGMG

LGMG will display telehandlers, articulated boom lifts and scissor lifts including the new 106ft/34.2 metre working height AR32-J articulated boom with 20.43 metres of outreach.



LIUGONG

LiuGong will launch the new 19ft LS0610EC tracked scissor lift with auto-levelling outriggers which can be independently operated depending on application, and the nine metre LM09JE mast boom which weighs under 3,000kg. Take a look at its scissor lifts from the 15ft LS0507EM through to the 53ft LS1623ERT. Also, on the stand will be boom lifts, forklifts and even a mini excavator.

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MANITOU

The company will show the new 20ft SE 0808 and 39ft SE 1412 single doorway electric scissor lifts, the first time they will be seen in the UK. Centrepiece of the Manitou stand will be the 26 metre/6,000kg MRT 2660 360 degree telehandler along with the 46ft 160ATJ+ articulated boom lift, 36ft ManGo 12, the 10 metre 100VJR mast boom, as well as the compact ULM 4.4 metre/1,500kg 415 telehandler.

MULTITEL PAGLIERO - PALAZZANI

Vertikal Days will host the worldwide launch of the new 30 metre Multitel Pagliero MZ300 articulated truck mounted platform, shown alongside the 25.1 metre MZ 250, the 20 metre HX 200 EX truck mounts and SMX 250.2 spider lift. Also on the stand is a Palazzani TZJ-180 spider lift, following Multitel's recent acquisition of Palazzani.

MAGNI

Italian telehandler manufacturer Magni, the world leading manufacturer of 360 degree telehandlers, will show the 3,000kg/5.8 metre TH 3.6 compact telehandler alongside the 12,000kg/9.5 metre HTH 12.10, 6,000kg/30.8 metre RTH 6.31 and its recently introduced 3,000kg FL 3.0 industrial forklift.

NIFTYLIFT

Niftylift will host the worldwide debut of its new 66ft HR22S diesel electric telescopic boom - stop at the stand to find out more. Also on the packed stand will be the 86ft HR28 4x4 Hybrid, and a massive array of its articulated boom lifts and trailer lifts. Completing the display will be a fully factory refurbished 33ft HR12NE All-Electric pre-owned boom lift.



NOBLELIFT

Noblelift will exhibit a selection of scissor lifts alongside its Rough Terrain and industrial forklifts. Of particular interest is the 20ft SC08EC scissor lift with a stowed height of less than two metres with the guard rails in the working position.

PROMAX ACCESS

Promax will show Platform Basket's Heron self-levelling mast boom models which can be levelled on uneven terrain, together with a selection of winch and lifting hook accessories. Platform Basket Spider lifts will be represented by the Spider 20.95, Spider 20.95 Hybrid and Spider 27.14 Hybrid.

SINOBOOM

Sinoboom will use Vertikal Days for the global launch of its compact six metre/2,500kg H25-06 telehandler, along with its 138ft TB42RJ Plus telescopic boom lift, making its European debut. Ask about its SinoLink system telematics and CARS (Collision Avoidance Radar System) as well as its SAFE Connect an intelligent harness anchor point solution.



SKYJACK

Skyjack will highlight four new machines including the 45ft SJ45ARJN articulating boom lift, the 40ft/363kg 6940RTE Rough Terrain scissor as well as the 32ft 3232e and 19ft 3219e slab electric scissors. Also on display will be the 20ft SJ20 E mast lift, and the new 19ft SJ3219 micro scissor alongside its latest Accessoryzers attachments.

VERSALIFT AND RUTHMANN

Versalift will launch two new models from its V-Range - the 20 metre articulated VA-200-F making its UK Debut, and the 27 metre telescopic V-270 making its European debut, both mounted on a 3.5 tonne truck chassis.

ZOOMLION

Zoomlion says it will display its 191ft ZT58J telescopic boom lift and two telehandlers - the six metre/2,500kg ZTH2506 and the seven metre/3,500kg ZTH3507.

OTHER EQUIPMENT



ACONDA INDUSTRIAL CARRIERS

Aconda's range of all electric tracked carriers, the 750 PRO, 1250 PRO, 2500 PRO and 4000 PRO models - will all be on display along with a range of accessories, including the AC2500 Crane, Elevating Platform, Multi Rack, Fifth Wheel & Dolly, Towbar, Winch and Dozer Blade. Take the Smooth Operator Challenge by navigating a timed obstacle course to win an Aconda merchandise bundle.

AGS

French manufacturer of crane safety, anti-collision systems, cameras and anemometers, AGS, will use Vertikal Days for the global unveiling of two new products - the ID5 anti-collision system for tower and mobile cranes and another which it is keeping secret for now...

AMCS TECHNOLOGIES

AMCS Technologies will introduce and demonstrate ARC (Automatic Rotation Control), the world's first automatic safety mode for cranes without operators. Designed for multi-crane projects, ARC automatically positions unattended cranes, anticipates wind conditions and prevents interference, improving safety and productivity.

ANDOVER TRAILERS

Andover Trailers will launch the SFMC44 - a brand new heavy duty, tri-axle step frame access trailer.



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Europe's only specialist crane forwarder returns to Vertical Days for its second year. If you want to discuss your shipping needs or any topical issues such as US tariffs or the current situation in the Middle East visit the stand and have a chat.

BRIGADE ELECTRONICS

Brigade Electronics will highlight three new AI based detection products. Backeye 360 is a 360 degree high-definition four camera system using AI technology to identify humans and effectively eliminate all blind spots. Brigade's AI Box enables a non-AI camera monitor system to detect and recognise the human form within a pre-defined detection zone and reliably alert the driver or operator before a potential collision occurs. Brigade's AI Camera with Human Form Recognition is designed to provide active blind-spot monitoring around commercial vehicles. Available in front-facing and rear-facing versions, the system detects pedestrians and alerts the driver in real-time.



BRILLIANT IDEAS

Brilliant Ideas' will launch a new patented nylon crane pad with new handle design. With top level load distribution, a high strength to weight ratio, with greater durability. It will also show its well proven aluminium Alimats range as well as new enhanced composites and profile designs developed to optimise load spread and handling.

BSLBATT

BSLBATT will showcase advanced lithium battery solutions for aerial work platforms and mobile power applications unveiling two all new products. The B-LFP48-304AWP with optional Bluetooth connectivity includes counterweights, a cooling system, and a fire suppression system. The M-Power S30-69 delivers flexible hybrid energy input, stable power output, scalable parallel operation, advanced safety protection and intelligent grid control.



CAPJA - LIFTING SOFTWARE

Capja will launch, what it believes is the first, truly end to end rental platform for the lifting industry. The system brings together auto-job scheduling, QR document access, mobile timesheets, digital checks, asset management and LOLER inspections. Mobile form capture allows timesheets, pre-use checks and job information to flow back to the office from site, while QR codes give quick access to certificates, documents and equipment records.

CHERRY PICKER PETE

Cherry Picker Pete is a series of children's books and interactive online animation set to lift educational storytelling to new heights. It is an exciting and safety-driven show aimed at children aged four and older, where real world lifting equipment and teamwork take centre stage. The company aims to plant the seeds from a young age and attract young people to the lifting industries.



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Cabot Park, Avonmouth BRISTOL



CURTISS-WRIGHT

Curtiss-Wright will display its range of joystick controllers for aerial lifts, cranes, telehandlers and many other off-highway machines. It will also launch its latest low-voltage controller in its Sigma Drive range, the SigmaLITE, with its auto-tune feature, light weight and compact dimensions.

EQSS

EQSS will launch its UpWatch system, a universal secondary guarding system designed specifically for low level platforms using the same proven LiDAR technology as its OverWatch system.

Visitors can also get a preview of OverWatch Solo, the next generation of EQSS's secondary guarding technology, featuring a wider LiDAR detection beam and enhanced audio output, helping operators hear system alerts more clearly in noisy working environments. Attendees will also be among the first to see the new EQSS mobile app, which simplifies installation, diagnostics, testing, software updates and system management.

GTACCESS ROBOTICS

GTAccess Robotics is bringing construction automation to the UK powered access market with the D3 Drillcorp robotic drilling and anchor installation system. Developed in partnership with CSC Robotics and mounted on a Skyjack scissor lift it is designed for accurate, repeatable wall and ceiling drilling.

MARLOW ROPES

British manufacturer of high performance synthetic fibre ropes and slings, Marlow Ropes



will unveil its new Static Rope Gravitas - a robust 11mm polyester over nylon static rope that combines ultra-high strength, durability, handling, and one of the lowest elongation values in its class. Other products will include the Rhino Sling and the premium lightweight, high strength D12+ Rope, an alternative to wire and polyester ropes.

PLATFORM PARTS UK

Platform Parts UK is the new name for parts supplier Cherrypicker Shop which has become a leading UK supplier of parts to rental companies, service engineers and end users over the past six years. It is now part of Belgian international parts specialist Vertimac with access to its extensive resources and supply chains from a new 1,500 square metre facility in Durham.

POTENTUM ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES

Potenum produces retrofit-ready safety and control systems for cranes, aerial work platforms and other lifting equipment. It will highlight its new RCI/LMI System - a Retrofit-ready rated capacity indicator for knuckle boom and telescopic cranes with dual hydraulic pressure sensing and no load cell required.



REID

First time exhibitor Reid will show its Porta Gantry system in action, demonstrating its suitability for both lifting and fall protection applications with capacities of up to five tonnes and ability to support up to five people. It will also display a selection of davit systems, ranging from the lightweight 18kg Porta Davit Quantum to the TDavit, with more than 100 configurations.

TALURIT GROUP

Wire rope splicing and terminations manufacturer Talurit will use the event for the worldwide launch of three new products.

Talulock is a two component resin for socketing



wire rope terminations, offering strong adherence to individual wires for a secure grip. Talurit 600T 1VS Swager is a medium range 600 tonne hydraulic swager with a single pillar design plus variable speed control and a touchscreen system for user friendly operation. Talurit MA 55 is a compact measuring machine for wire ropes from three to 55mm, with unlimited measurement length with high precision encoder accuracy.

TEAM ORANGE

Team Orange will show the remote release Ludwig Hook system, with live demonstrations of both the Ludwig Hook 2.5T and the Ludwig Hook XL 5.3T, with visitors encouraged to get hands-on with the system and experience the remote release and safety lock-out functions for themselves. ■



A full listing of exhibitors and products will be published in the Vertikal Days show guide in the September issue of Cranes & Access as well as online at www.vertikal.net.

EXPERIENCE NEW HEIGHTS

HS21 E & E PRO ELECTRIC ROUGH TERRAIN SCISSOR LIFT

- ⌚ Working height: **21,2 m**
- ⌚ Load capacity: 4 people **750 kg**
- ⌚ **4-wheel** steering
- ⌚ Driveable at **full height**
- ⌚ **72V** Lithium-ion batteries





An aerial view of Dingli's facility in Deqing



INSIDE DINGLI'S DEQING MEGAFACTORY

Cranes & Access assistant editor Imogen Campion says that one of the real perks of working in the lifting industry is its international scope, with manufacturers and rental companies supplying cranes and access equipment to every corner of the globe. For a modest sized company such as Vertikal Press - with employees split fairly evenly between Germany and the UK - that creates valuable opportunities to meet international businesses first hand. In turn, these visits help bring back the stories, insight and industry developments that make for a good read in *Cranes & Access*, *Kran & Bühne* and on *Vertikal.net*.

This has meant that since working my first Vertikal Days about seven years ago, and officially joining the team in 2023, my lifestyle has shifted towards spending extended periods overseas, visiting companies we do not have the chance to work with regularly. Two years ago, that took me to India to visit MTandT and Manitou, last year to Italy to see Palazzani and Platform Basket, and most recently to Deqing, China, to visit Dingli.

I ended up in China purely due to the war in the Middle East, which prevented me from getting home after a holiday in Sri Lanka. I redirected to Shanghai where I was 'stuck' for 10 days before boarding a still very expensive flight back to London, which still left me at the wrong end of the country as I live in North Yorkshire... Fortunately, it worked out well because the stopover meant I

had the opportunity to visit Dingli. It was my first visit to China, and unlike anywhere else I had been previously.

Shanghai was striking for its cleanliness, mostly due to its city-wide ban on diesel and petrol vehicles, while the streets were immaculate, and the waterfront promenade along the famous Bund on the Huangpu River was exceptionally well maintained, framed by the area's remarkable architecture.

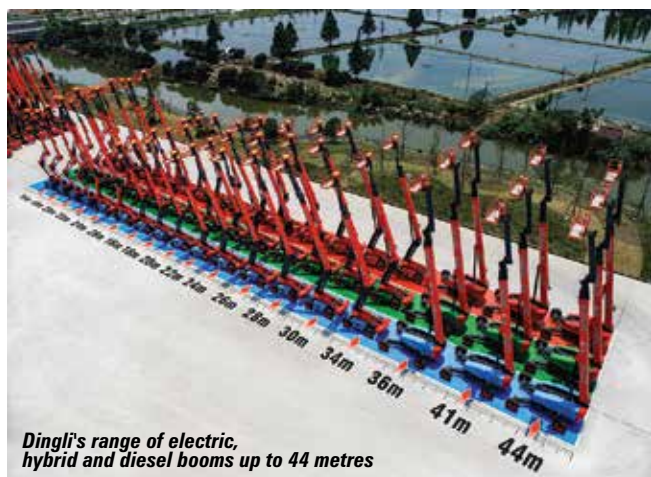
70,000 UNITS A YEAR

With that sustainable and clean approach in mind, a tour of Dingli's facility in Deqing - an hour southwest of Shanghai by train - felt very much in keeping with the wider impression of the city. The site, Dingli's only manufacturing facility in China, places a strong emphasis on sustainability, from on site electric car charging ports and a mass of



Shanghai's iconic Oriental Pearl Tower

photovoltaic solar panels on the roofs - which the company says generate 570.46 million kW of power and reduce annual electricity consumption by 17 percent - to skylights in the manufacturing halls and offices reducing the need for artificial lighting. The workshops are constructed with insulated wall materials designed to recover solar and thermal energy and reduce air conditioning demand. It also operates rainwater harvesting systems for irrigation, with captured water reused to keep the landscaped areas and plants watered.



Dingli's range of electric, hybrid and diesel booms up to 44 metres



Boom lifts in production

The company has also moved towards paperless offices using interactive screens, while a green roof garden provides additional planted space and seating for staff. Just as striking was the level of automation, with an automated assembly line and a circular production chain intended to reduce transportation and energy consumption while employees on the ground focus on overseeing and monitoring the work.

Dingli also claims to be the first manufacturer in the industry to electrify its entire range of aerial work platforms and has also added a number of completely oil free scissor lifts, replacing traditional hydraulic cylinders with electric actuators. It has also introduced battery recycling technology, integrating battery control elements designed to achieve whole vehicle kinetic energy recovery.

ALL QUIET IN THE OFFICES

With all of this impressive innovation in mind, and the facilities available to staff - including a gym and yoga studio - the site still felt surprisingly quiet. There was plenty going on in the manufacturing halls, but the office buildings themselves were subdued, and at times it felt as though there was more office space than was currently being used. It left me thinking that perhaps the company is expanding its footprint faster than its day-to-day needs require, or the scale of the facility is intended as much to signal its position in the market as it is to serve a purely practical function?



Dingli reception



Employees working on the production line



Oil free electric scissors

THE HISTORY AND GROWTH

When looking at the history of the company, Dingli was founded in 1997 as Hangzhou Dingli Machinery, initially manufacturing forklifts before moving into aerial work platforms in 2003 and shifting its focus entirely to aerial work platforms three years later. In 2007, the first of Dingli's industrial facilities was built in Dequing, covering 45 acres and providing an annual production of 2,500 units. In 2011, the company expanded the site by a further 10 acres, increasing production to 5,000 units per year.

In 2015, Dingli built the third phase of its Dequing facility, increasing the overall site to 180 acres and, the company says, creating Asia's first fully automated production line for aerial work platforms, with capacity rising to 11,000 units per annum.

In 2020, Dingli began the fourth phase of expansion at its Dequing facility, increasing the site to 362 acres. Three years later, it began phase five of its expansion plans, adding a further 60 acres. Today, the company claims a manufacturing capacity of 70,000 units a year, with 3,000 employees on site, while phase six is currently under construction. Dingli says it now takes just six minutes to assemble a small scissor lift and 30 minutes for a large scissor lift or boom lift, with the facility producing roughly 400 units a day with lead times of around 20 to 30 days.



Offices in the Dequing facility

ONE PLANT FOR THE WORLD

Dingli is an exception among Chinese aerial lift manufacturers in that apart from the USA, where it already owns MEC, it has decided not to set up overseas production or assembly plants in order to overcome high import tariffs, preferring instead to invest in its domestic facility and make it efficient enough that it is able to absorb the tariffs.

Young Liu, European business development manager confirmed that its European tariff rate is around 20 percent, considerably lower than most other Chinese manufacturers which average around 55 percent. "Dingli products are high end, we have a good reputation in Europe and Asia, and we do not dump our units or sell them at a



BT44RT



Young Liu



Xu Shugen of Dingli (L) with Gerard Jennings of Hire Safe Solutions

low price, which is why we have a reasonable tariff rate," says Liu.

INVESTING IN ACQUISITIONS

It has, however, invested overseas in order to improve its technology, and as it turned out, made a decent profit from the move. At the start of 2016 it purchased a 20 percent stake in Italian telehandler manufacturer Magni, establishing an Italian research and development centre, along with a local distributor, a majority of Dingli lifts sold in Germany are still branded as Magni. In 2023 it then sold its holding back to Magni for €61.4 million, providing it with a handsome €47 million profit on the deal.

In 2017, Dingli acquired a 25 percent stake in Californian aerial work platform manufacturer MEC for \$20 million, the move came shortly after Dingli issued 14.4 million new shares, raising 880 million yuan (\$133 million) through a private placement, which diluted founder and chief executive Xu Shugen's holding from 51.7 to 47.5 percent. And then, in 2023, Dingli upped its holding in MEC to 49.8 percent and more recently gained full ownership, providing it with a strong 'domestic' position in the North American market.

In 2020, it took a 24 percent stake in German spider lift manufacturer Teupen, establishing a research and development centre in Germany leading to the launch of three telescopic boom lifts in partnership Teupen, the 112ft BT36RT, the 129ft BT41RT and 139ft BT44RT. The holding in Teupen was sold back to majority owner Martin Borutta in 2024, just before the company was acquired by US truck mounted lift and crane manufacturer Altec.



BECOMING AN INNOVATOR

Over the past few years Dingli has become a significant innovator in the sector, along with others. It led the change in which Chinese manufacturers began to trailblaze aerial lift development, having previously been accused of simply copying. Today the largest boom and scissor lifts on the market are made in China.

Dingli leads the big scissor lift market with a range topped by the 115ft JCPT3730, with a working height of 37 metres which was introduced at the end of 2024. The model is available with diesel, full electric, or hybrid power which it says was developed in partnership with UK rental company Hire Safe Solutions which took the first few units off the production line.

Liu added that the big scissor lift can be manufactured from scratch in as little as a week should a last-minute order come in. "It doesn't matter if we have an order for one 37 metre scissor, or 100, it takes the same length of time to manufacture them due to the production route through the factory, each section handles a different part of the scissor lift."



Production line

CHANGING POWER SOURCES

When talking about power options for all its larger models, Liu says: "The demand for electric and hybrid is increasing, and thankfully we have the largest electric range of aerial work platforms on offer. However, we are not looking to move away from or discontinue diesel, we still have huge demand in the Middle East and the USA. The market in the Middle East is growing incredibly fast."

In China, demand for hybrid and electric machinery is rising as emissions rules tighten, particularly in cities. Diesel powered cranes and aerial work platforms used on construction sites are generally regulated under emissions standards for non-road mobile machinery, alongside local environmental controls. In practice, this means newer machines are expected to meet the latest non-road diesel emission requirements, while older units may face restrictions, especially in major cities and low emission zones. Authorities may also carry out on-site smoke or opacity testing, meaning machines that produce excessive visible exhaust can be restricted or removed from service even if they remain operational. Liu added: "Around 90 percent of construction sites now use electric or hybrid machinery, but hybrid is more expensive, so I'd say electric is the most popular option and it's easy to find a charging facility on site." ■



The hybrid BT44HRT

Top Tips for visiting shows or manufacturers in China

- Use Trip.com for trains - It was the easiest and most efficient way to book tickets.
- Your passport is your train ticket - There is no physical ticket, so keep it handy.
- Buy metro tickets at the station - They are easy to purchase at a machine upon arrival.
- Plan your metro route in advance - Check Google Maps or Apple Maps before travelling so you know which metro line you need.
- Do not rely on cash - Almost nowhere accepts it, so set up Alipay before you go.
- Use Alipay for almost everything - From meals and drinks to shopping, payments are usually made by scanning a QR code.
- Use DiDi for taxis - It is available through Alipay and is China's equivalent of Uber.
- Watch out for airport taxi scams - A typical fare is around ¥180 to ¥250, although trips after 11pm carry a 30 percent surcharge. Be wary of 'official' drivers quoting ¥700 to ¥800 or attempting to hand you off to their mate waiting in a lay-by part way through the journey.
- Hardly anyone speaks English - Make sure to learn some basic phrases!

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LACK OF PLANNING COSTS £85,500

UK companies Clover Access Systems and STM360 have been fined a combined total of £79,300 plus £6,033 in costs, after a man fell through a skylight whilst installing scaffold edge protection at a warehouse in Keighley, West Yorkshire.

James Cranswick, 26, was carrying material from one end of the unit to the other when he stepped on a skylight and fell six metres to the ground below, also landing on a pallet truck.

The HSE found that Clover Access Systems and STM360 failed to plan, manage and monitor the work, with no measures in place to prevent falls from the roof edge or through fragile sections. It said the skylights were almost invisible to Cranswick.

Clover Access was fined £26,000, plus costs of £2,866 - but the company is in liquidation - whilst STM360 was fined £53,300 plus £3,167 in costs.

HSE Inspector Shauna Halstead, said: "Cranswick is lucky to be alive after this incident. His fall was wholly avoidable, the risks associated with work on or around fragile surfaces are well known, and HSE guidance is available to assist companies."



JLG HOSTS STEM EVENTS

JLG Power Towers has hosted a series of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) workshops for students attending Granby Primary School in Leicester, and Thorpe Acre Junior in Loughborough in the UK.

Each day, three groups of 20 students attended the workshops at the JLG Power Towers facility in Leicester run by a cross department STEM team. These included 3D printing sessions focused on problem solving, industrial painting and quality inspection and hydraulics training using custom 3D printed scale model teaching tools. Pupils were also given a factory tour and were introduced to the JLG product range.

A teacher from Leicester school said: "The way the STEM team shared their experiences, challenges, and advice made everything feel very real and relatable. It's given them a much clearer picture of what a career in engineering can look like."



Gary Willett of JLG providing students with a tour of the facility

KONECRANES SWITCHES TO VR

Finnish crane manufacturer Konecranes has adopted ITI's (Industrial Training International) Virtual Reality (VR) Crane Simulator for operator training. The company says the simulator will allow it to train up to twice as many crane operators per session and reduce the need for cranes to be taken out of service for training.

The simulator is used within instructor led courses as a step between classroom learning and live crane operation, allowing trainees to practice lifts and different scenarios in a controlled environment.



WHO TRAINED THEM THEN?

Spotted in Kalymnos, Greece, by a subscriber: men re-pointing a wall while precariously on old steel scaffold tower frames and planks. On top of that they have used a piece of wood balanced on the top verticals of one frame to gain a little more height.

According to our local correspondent, this is not an uncommon sight on the smaller Greek islands, where, he says, powered access is a rarity.



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- LEEA
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- Sir Robert McAlpine
- Bowmer + Kirkland
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- Sellafield

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STARS OF THE FUTURE AWARDS 2026

The winners of the CPA's Stars of the Future Awards 2026 were announced and presented at the Heart of England events centre near Coventry, with more than 350 attendees, including the 109 nominations.

The awards highlight the outstanding talent developing across the construction equipment sector, recognising the industry's future leaders in occupations such as Mechanics, Technicians, Hire Controllers, Operators, Installers and Technical Support.

The winners of each national category were as follows:

National Plant Mechanic of the Year - Harrison Kipping-Bier, J P Dunn Construction, National Construction College East

Courtney Lewis, Alun Griffiths, Bridgend College - Highly Commended

National Plant Technician of the Year - Harun Anderson Mohammed, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy

Hire Controller of the Year - Matthew Oliver, L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage

Young Plant Operative of the Year - Eve Bright, Flannery Plant Hire

Plant Operative of the Year - Kovid Sawon, Flannery Plant Hire

Crane Operative of the Year - Paul Reeves, Ainscough Crane Hire

Plant Installer of the Year - Samuel Lindley, Churchill Living PLC and **Rhys Bush**, L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage (Joint Winners)

Technical Support Person of the Year - Callum Shepherdson, Flannery Plant Hire

Individual Apprentice Mentor of the Year - Jake Davies, Wolffkran

Group Apprentice Mentor of the Year - Valon Krivenjeva, L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage

Best Personal Statement Award - Mason Pooley, Sunbelt Rentals

Judges' Special Award - Hannah Ward, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy

College of the Year - Bridgend College

Young Business of the Year Award - Rory Hopkins-Bond, 007 Diggers Ltd

Employer Specific Support Award - Selwood

Judges' Outstanding Determination Award - Behar Kamberi, Ardent Hire Solutions, National Construction College East

CPA chief executive Steve Mulholland said: "The continued growth of the Stars of the Future Awards demonstrates the incredible commitment our industry is making to developing the next generation of skilled professionals. Every nominee should be immensely proud of their achievements, and congratulations go to all of this year's winners. It is particularly rewarding to see so many previous Stars of the Future winners progressing to senior roles across the industry, proving the lasting impact these awards can have on careers."

"This year's winners received an outstanding range of prizes, including professional toolboxes, iPads, certified training courses and two overseas study trips to Germany."

The external judging panel included Arran Willis of Liebherr, Siôn Morgan Jones of ACOP group, Kirsty Archbold-Laming of Southern Hoist Services, Leigh Sparrow of the Vertikal Press, Graham Black of Earthmovers Magazine, Tim Brownbridge of BAM Nuttall, Georgina Williams of JCB, Dean Watkin of G F Tomlinson and Trevor Simpson of Unite the Union.

The regional category winners and those highly commended are as follows:

Plant Mechanic of the Year - North

James Bury, Ainscough Crane Hire, Myerscough College

Plant Mechanic of the Year - Midlands

Jack Robinson, Amey, Wiltshire College & University Centre - Winner

Hannah Ward, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy - Highly Commended

Jake Humphreys, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy - Highly Commended

Plant Mechanic of the Year - South

Harrison Kipping-Bier, J P Dunn Construction, National Construction College East - Winner

Andre Samuel, Liebherr-GB, NSCG Stafford College - Highly Commended

Yousuf Ajj, Readypower Rail, NSCG Stafford College - Highly Commended

Plant Mechanic of the Year - Scotland

Logan Reid, Liebherr-GB, NSCG Stafford College

Plant Mechanic of the Year - Wales

Courtney Lewis, Alun Griffiths, Bridgend College - Winner

Morgan Phelps, M&G Plant and Tool, Bridgend College - Highly Commended

Roxy Burrows, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy - Highly Commended

Plant Technician of the Year - North

Adam Hardingham, Allan J Hargreaves Plant Engineers, Preston College - Winner

Jarrad Thomas, Selwood, Askham Bryan College - Highly Commended

Tom Metcalfe, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy

Plant Technician of the Year - Midlands

Harun Anderson Mohammed, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy - Winner

Frankie Thompson, Sunbelt Rentals, Myerscough College - Highly Commended

James Cuthbert, SMT GB, Wiltshire College & University Centre - Highly Commended



Crane Operative of the Year - Paul Reeves

Plant Technician of the Year - South

Alfie Martin, MTM Plant & Sales, National Construction College East - Winner

Griff Eden-Parish, GGR Group, The Engineering Trust - Highly Commended

Oliver Noble, Quattro Plant, NSCG Stafford College - Highly Commended

Plant Technician of the Year - Scotland

Brodie Davies, Selwood, Askham Bryan College - Winner

Fraser Grigor, SMT GB, Wiltshire College & University Centre - Highly Commended

Plant Technician of the Year - Wales

Blake Carey, Speedy Hire, Bridgend College



IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

C&A

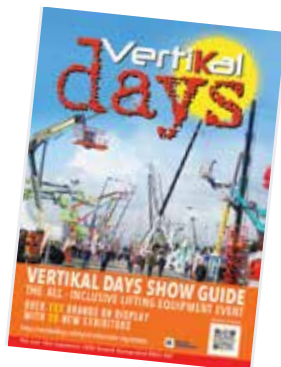
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THIS ISSUE WILL INCLUDE FEATURES ON:

THE BIG VERTICAL DAYS SHOWGUIDE

The comprehensive 50 page guide to Vertical Days 2026 will feature every exhibitor with details of products and services on display. The major show returns to the Newark Showground in Nottinghamshire on September 9th and 10th and features at least 25 new exhibitors. Don't miss it!



ROUGH TERRAIN CRANE

Although overall sales numbers in most international markets are low, the Rough Terra crane is often an essential item of equipment on site and in petrochemical application. We will take a look at some of the latest new products and developments, including the battery electric powered unit.



MASTCLIMBERS AND HOISTS

Although a seemingly mature market in terms of annual growth, the mix of manufacturers is changing, together with new products that are safer and more sustainable. We look at the latest market developments, as well as highlighting a few interesting applications.



SUSTAINABILITY, RENEWABLES AND RECYCLING

We take a look at the various ways the industry is dealing with reducing its carbon footprint, whether that is through re-purposing, renovation and reusing equipment or encompassing the latest technology. If you have a good story to tell, let us know!

Send any information,
news, photographs or
ideas on these subjects
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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**.

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IPAF UK ELEVATION

IPAF held this year's UK Elevation event at the Hilton St George's Park, the training grounds and 'home of English football', in Burton on Trent. The event at the start of July focused on fraud prevention, highlighting how equipment theft and cybercrime continue to cost the UK construction and rental industries millions of pounds each year.

IPAF managing director Peter Douglas began the conference by sharing statistics on the organisation's activity in 2025, highlighting a strong rise in membership and the activities carried out, while outlining future plans.

Liz Murray, Security Awareness Special Interest Group chief of staff, highlighted cyber risk, stating that 43 percent of businesses had experienced a breach of some form over the past year.

National Police Chiefs' Council lead for machinery theft Andrew Huddleston, and Chris Piggott, detective sergeant at the National Construction and Agricultural Theft Team, addressed the scale of rental fraud and highlighted steps to reduce risk.

Eagle Platforms chairman Jim Haigh, finance director Wendie Walke and sales director Dan



Vertical's Clare Engelke gets into the spirit of the event

Haigh then outlined lessons from a real rental fraud case that had a major impact on their business. He described how criminals had posed as a blue chip contractor using seemingly legitimate paperwork to obtain equipment, but the payments then stopped, and the equipment vanished.

The programme concluded with a discussion panel on the 'dos and don'ts' of rental fraud followed by everyone watching the England football team play the Democratic Republic of Congo in the first knockout round of the World Cup. The evening rounded off with dinner and a networking opportunity with after-dinner speaker Neil 'Razor' Ruddock.



IPAF BACKS CESAR

IPAF has become a supporter and promoter of the CEA's (Construction Equipment Association) CESAR Scheme, with the aim of promoting the initiative within the powered access sector, focusing on theft prevention measures, equipment identification and recovery support.

CESAR is a security marking and registration scheme which uses Datatag security technology to mark equipment and aid with identification and recovery if it is stolen.



Peter Douglas with Viki Bell of CEA

2026 RENTAL MARKET REPORTS

IPAF has published its 2026 Rental Market Reports covering the aerial work platform rental markets in Europe, the United States and parts of Asia. The reports indicate that both Europe and the United States recorded revenue growth last year, supported by higher rental rates and fleet expansion.

The US market grew by four percent to around \$15.8 billion, with IPAF citing the cost advantage of renting over owning and activity linked to facilities management and data centre projects. Fleet growth resumed, with the total fleet reaching around 875,000 units, while rental rates increased by two percent and utilisation slipped slightly to around 70 percent. Revenue growth of around five percent is forecast for 2026.

In Europe, the reports indicate that the market grew by two percent to €3.6 billion, but performance varied by country. Spain, Italy and parts of the Nordic region performed more strongly, while Germany, France, the UK and the Netherlands "remained under pressure". The report indicates that fleet growth dropped to one percent as rental companies focused more on replacement and fleet optimisation rather than expansion.

Average rental rates increased one percent, with some companies relying on transport, fuel or service surcharges to protect margins. It also notes that demand for larger boom lifts remains under pressure, while compact scissors, low-level and vehicle mounted platforms fared better, along with specialist machines, such as spider lifts.

In China, the report says leading rental companies have reduced fleets, stalling new equipment purchases and disposing of assets. It adds that

companies are also rationalising branch networks to remove loss making operations.

In India, the aerial work platform market grew by 18 percent, supported by a 14 percent increase in fleet size and higher utilisation. The report links the growth to rising workplace safety and a wider adoption of powered access equipment on job sites across both government and the private sector.

Saudi Arabia recorded 49 percent platform rental growth in 2025, driven by a 67 percent increase in fleet size. The report says major projects including NEOM, The Line, Riyadh Expo, and infrastructure linked to the World Cup encouraged rental companies to expand.

You can access the full report on IPAF's website.





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MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

ALLMI will hold its 2026 annual membership meetings on 10th November at the British Motor Museum in Gaydon, Warwickshire. The event will bring together manufacturers/importers, service companies, fleet owners, ancillary equipment suppliers, and site operators.

Delegates will have the opportunity to network, discuss key topics and hear updates on ALLMI's projects and initiatives for the year, as well as being given a guided tour of the Museum, which boasts the world's largest collection of historic British cars, with over 400 on display.

ALLMI chief executive, Tom Wakefield said: "We look forward to bringing all corners of the lorry loader industry together at what promises to be an informative and engaging event. The British Motor Museum is a fantastic venue and will provide an excellent backdrop for the day."

"Preparations are progressing well, and arrangements for our guest speaker are currently being finalised. We look forward to sharing further details with our members and the wider industry in due course."



AN INDUSTRY WITH PLENTY OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The UK lorry loader industry is vital in supporting a range of market sectors that are essential to the overall economy. Adopting the latest technologies in engineering, electrics and telematics, loader cranes continue to evolve at a rapid pace, driven by manufacturers' commitment to enhancing applications, while improving efficiency and safety.

With such a diverse and extensive range of skills required to support the industry's continued growth and success, there are numerous opportunities for ambitious individuals seeking to make an impact in a dynamic working environment that nurtures and rewards talent.

Tom Wakefield said: "ALLMI's membership spans every facet of the lorry loader industry, and in a sector where safety, professionalism, and innovation are paramount, ALLMI members continue to lead the way. Given the wide range of businesses represented, opportunities exist across numerous disciplines and experience levels, and many of these organisations would welcome speculative applications from individuals interested in pursuing a career."

"Furthermore, as part of our ongoing work to promote careers within the industry, we are keen to hear from educational institutions interested in developing partnership arrangements. For several years, we have enjoyed a successful affiliation with Bangor University's School of Engineering, which focuses on creating internship and postgraduate employment opportunities, and we would be keen to replicate this with other applicable organisations."

Should you require further information on lorry loader industry careers, please contact ALLMI at enquiries@allmi.com



TSC UPDATE

ALLMI's Technical Standards Committee (TSC) recently held its first meeting of the year. Established more than 40 years ago, it brings together leading manufacturers and the HSE to advise on technical and legislative issues affecting the lorry loader industry.

ALLMI technical manager and chairman of the TSC, Keith Silvester said: "It was a highly productive meeting, with important topics discussed. This included the current development of two new Guidance Notes covering front stabilisers and product familiarisation, which we look forward to publishing in the coming months."

MANAGER COURSES – ARE YOU COMPLYING WITH PUWER 9.2?

ALLMI's range of manager courses continues to be well regarded and respected, with companies throughout the lorry loader industry recognising the value of strengthening their compliance with PUWER 9.2.

PUWER 9.2 "Every employer shall ensure that any of his employees who supervises or manages the use of work equipment has received adequate training for purposes of health and safety, including training in the methods which may be adopted when using the work equipment, any risks which such use may entail and precautions to be taken."

ALLMI training and project officer, Jon Kenyon, said: "Our manager courses are delivered over a single day and are abbreviated, attendance based versions (no assessments) of our standard training programmes, covering the same key subject areas and, in some cases, also including a practical element. As well as helping companies comply with PUWER 9.2, the courses provide managers with a greater understanding of the technical, legislative and operational issues for which they are responsible, and this enhanced knowledge often then leads to improved practices being implemented throughout the business."



For details of ALLMI standards, guidance documents and training, visit: www.allmi.com

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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Produced in 1:50 scale, the new Zoomlion R370-20RB flat top is an impressive tower crane model



The model comes in a large Zoomlion branded box complete with carrying handle



The base is well stabilised by 12 solid metal ballast weights

ZOOMLION R370-20RB

Zoomlion has launched a brand new 1:50 scale model of one of its larger flat top tower cranes, the R370-20RB. Nick Johnson has one and reports.

Due to the large size of the real machines, scale models of top slewing tower cranes are almost exclusively made in the smaller 1:87 scale, while the larger 1:50 scale is used for most other crane models.

Until now, the only mass produced, top slewing tower crane models in 1:50 scale have been a Liebherr 630 EC-H 40 by Conrad and a Potain MDT178 by TWH. Both were released in 2008 and are now difficult to obtain. So many model collectors will welcome Zoomlion's decision to go with 1:50 for this big crane. The real machine has a maximum capacity of 20 tonnes, an 80 metre jib and a maximum freestanding height of 64.3 metres.

To keep the model manageable Zoomlion has produced it with a 50 metre jib. Even with this reduced configuration, it is still impressive, standing 1.32 metres high and measuring 1.45 metres across the combined length of its jib and counter jib.

The model comes in a large Zoomlion branded box with a carrying handle. The parts inside are all well protected in two polystyrene trays, and there is a 12 page illustrated booklet with parts list and good assembly diagrams.

A 230mm square base with 12 ballast weights provides good stability. The heavy slabs are aluminium coloured rather than being painted to look like concrete.

The sturdy aluminium coloured tower sections are very well modelled in metal, with their internal ladders and safety cages replicated in plastic. Some sections are already connected together in the box, whilst the others need to be connected with very small, discreet screws using the

supplied screwdriver and Allen key.

A well-detailed external climbing frame in Zoomlion's distinctive lime green colour features all the appropriate working platforms and safety rails. A monorail beam and trolley system is also included, but there is no connector to allow the installation of a new mast section to be posed.

The lime green jib sections are connected with the discreet screws, and the assembled jib is nice and straight. The counter jib detailing includes a lifting davit and prominent Zoomlion logos on each side. There are seven individual counterweight slabs, each with a central lifting eye, and they each locate securely into the counter jib. Removable keys are provided to operate the hoist and trolley winches.

Each side of the counter jib carries the R370-20RB crane designation, plus rather surprisingly, a 1:50 logo indicating the scale of the model. Some collectors may want to paint that out in order to make it look more like the real crane.

The four fall, double hook is modelled as a single piece, which means it cannot be split to replicate two fall working. Surprisingly, the hook throat is too small for the use of scaled chains or a



Complete with prominent Zoomlion lettering, the counter jib even includes a lifting davit



The external climbing frame has the full complement of access platforms and safety rails

concrete skip. However, it can be widened with the careful use of a small file.

Overall, this is an impressive 1:50 scale model which will provide a dramatic addition to any model crane collection. I hope Zoomlion will make it more readily available - especially in countries where the real machine is not yet sold.

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READERS LETTERS

Hi Leigh,

It was interesting to read on Vertikal.Net this week about O'Rourke buying into Moritsch Cranes. In the last few weeks, a Moritsch luffer has been erected at 50 Fenchurch Street in the City. I am not 100 percent certain, but I think Select (part of Laing O'Rourke) are supplying most of the cranes here to Multiplex. I have attached a photo for info.

All the best

Ian - Cranes etc

See page 7 news for the full story



ALAN CHARLESWORTH 1940 - 2026

In the last issue of C&A, we published a tribute to the late crane veteran Alan Charlesworth when we said that we had been unable to discover details of his earliest working life. The following letter fills in all the details.

Dear Sir,

I was sad to read in the last magazine that my old mate Alan had died earlier this year. The text stated that his crane career started in the late 1970s "as far as was known". I can fill in a bit more information from an earlier period.

Alan joined us at Lambert Engineering Co.(Glasgow) Ltd in 1968 (to the best of my recall). I had been there repping, selling the Hydrocon lattice boom truck cranes since 1965 in my area, which covered the whole of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. We had begun to take the odd part exchange, and I had been 'promoted' to become the sole person specialising in the valuation and sale of used equipment. My old patch was divided up, and as a result, Alan took South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire and also parts of the East Midlands. He lived in the Rotherham area at the time, and I believe he had worked at Mobile Lifting Services prior to joining us. For how long I don't know. It was a major crane hire company also based in Rotherham but I don't remember whether he was on the road for them or hire office based.

Alan and I became good mates and he certainly did OK on the sales side. At that time, the incomparable George Jesner (the original owner of Lamberts)

was still running the company, and he had the uncanny ability to wind us salesmen up like clockwork toys and send us out to sell.

My used equipment duties based me at the Northern depot in Rochdale. In winter 1969, during a very snowy period, Alan phoned me to tell me he'd had a bump in his company Ford Cortina. I asked for the details, and he said he'd been on the A1 (I think) and decided to overtake a snow plough which was busy clearing the inside lane. Apparently he'd got past it and pulled back onto the inside when, of course, the virgin snow slowed him down. The snow plough bladed him effortlessly off the road into a field as a result. I sorted him out with a lift and a hire car, but I can't remember how badly his company car was damaged.

I left in 1970 to go on my own selling used cranes and came into contact with Alan intermittently over the years during his Grove and Krupp days, by which time he'd become a Southerner, of course.

I hope the above fills in a bit of the earlier blanks.

Best regards

Dave Carncross



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MARIE CURIE

We received an appeal from a former CPA chief executive and senior director, Kevin Minton, to include a request and suggestion from Marie Curie, which runs hospices and provides care nurses for people suffering from a terminal illness. Kevin's late wife and he were helped by the organisation, and he has now been helping give back in any way he can.



We are hoping that the organisation will have a small booth at Vertikal Days in September. In the meantime, we are more than happy to publish the letter, and to do anything we can to help.

Marie Curie is here for anyone with an illness they are likely to die from, and those close to them. This includes Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, heart, liver or kidney and lung disease, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's and advanced cancer. Whatever your illness, whoever you are, we're with you to the end.

Behind our expert care is our leading research and over 75 years of experience. Whether you have months, weeks or days left to live, we're here for you with clinical and emotional care, supporting you to be comfortable, free of pain and other symptoms, and able to live the best life you can to the end. We're all unique, and what matters most to you matters most to us.

Our mission is to close the gap in end of life care. Almost one in three people dying don't get the end of life care and support they need, and the problem is getting worse as our population ages. By 2050, the need for end of life care will have increased by up to 25%.



We believe a better end of life for all is possible. We push for this by campaigning and sharing our research to change policy and improve the care system. Whatever the illness, we're pushing for the urgent changes that'll improve end of life for all.

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LAURIE WILSON 1929 - 2026

Last month we received the belated news that Australian crane entrepreneur Laurie Wilson, founder of Wilson Mobile Cranes, in Sydney, Australia, had passed away in hospital on February 6th, at the age of 96. He leaves behind his second wife Maureen, four children, Rodney, Laurie Jnr, Cassandra, and Sharon Lee, plus five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

We have been fortunate to have received a huge volume of fascinating material that his wife Maureen had collected, although sadly, we only have a few photographs. We thought however, that we would share some of the material with you while paying tribute to a man who made a huge contribution to the Australian crane rental industry, and who was also a pioneer of the powered access business in the country.

Laurie Wilson was a child of the Great Depression, one of nine children. While he was born in Sydney, the family soon moved to Lithgow, to the east of the city, where his father had a job in the ironworks there.

At the age of five, the family moved to the Port Kembla Steelworks in New South Wales, where, according to Laurie, they lived for two years in a Bag Tent (tent house) with whitewashed cloth walls and a corrugated iron roof, until his dad could build them a Fibro Cottage (fibre cement sheeting). The family would often struggle with finances, in spite of their father working two shifts. Laurie would tell of how he had to walk the three and a half kilometres to school in his bare feet.



In 1940 the family moved to Parramatta, on the western edges of Sydney, where Laurie's father worked in a munitions factory for the duration of the war. At the age of 15, Laurie started a mechanic's apprenticeship with NCR - the National Cash Register company.

WORKING IN THE UK

At the age of 19, he travelled by ship to the UK to visit his father's sisters and work for a couple of years or so. He landed a job in Birmingham with NCR but returned to Australia, after two years, apparently leaving a good few broken hearts behind.

He travelled via South Africa, and once back on home turf rejoined NCR in the spare parts division and later the accounts department. Things began to change for him in the mid-1950s when he landed a job as merchandising manager for a company selling agricultural hardware, steel and feed, becoming what was referred to as a 'Pitt Street Merchant'. When a credit squeeze hit the industry, he faced unemployment and decided to set up on his own working from the family home in Parramatta. He began by importing steel from Japan and selling it on to the railways or steel



plants. He also sold scrap stainless steel and frozen prawns to Japan, and kangaroo meat to Hong Kong. Somewhere around 1956, he changed direction and started a steel fabrication business and soon began installing steel work for new schools and other buildings going up at that time. At one time he employed 40 "boilermakers and ironworkers".

GETTING INTO CRANES

He began renting mobile cranes for his steel operation, mostly from Gordon Marr Senior, whom he described as a "typical 'craney', down to earth and hard-working guy. In those days you had to be a hands-on man, and that is what he was. Marr didn't stand any nonsense from the unions. His son Gordon Marr Junior went on to set up Men from Marrs."

However, Laurie soon decided to buy his own crane and rent it when he was not using it in the steel business. He started with a six tonne C.A.P. LM6 truck crane purchased second hand from Clarke Cranes in Melbourne. Recalling that crane a few years later, he said: "I can still vividly remember walking behind it and picking up the bolts and nuts as they fell from it." In spite of that, it triggered a love for cranes that never left him.

The crane went straight out on a permanent rental to BMG's Prospect quarries. He quickly added a 15 tonne CAP truck mounted crane, but that was also snapped up on a permanent rental contract. He said: "I had bought two cranes but still didn't have a crane!"

OUT OF STEEL INTO CRANES FULL TIME

By 1965 the steel fabrication business was beginning to give him grief, so when "the Boilermakers union began playing up, so I said: To hell with this, I don't need to put up with this nonsense. So, I sold the assets at auction and paid off all the guys. Leaving me free to focus on the emerging crane business."

In 1966, he established Wilson Mobile Cranes, based in the Sydney suburb of Blacktown, and purchased more CAP truck cranes, along with more modern Coles cranes, which at the time were mounting superstructures made at its UK plant on locally built PMC chassis at its plant in the Milperra suburb of Sydney. Speaking of the new cranes, he said: "They were good cranes, or the uppers were. We had a lot of problems with the running gear and diffs and so on. We used to

order them three at a time to make sure we had enough cranes to meet demand. They'd typically break down on the way to their first job! It was a bit of a disaster to start with."

**EARLY AERIAL LIFT ENTRANT**

In 1975, having spotted the potential for powered access rental, he set up Skymaster Plant Hire, building a fleet of booms and scissor lifts along with telehandlers. He said he was inspired to do so by the construction of Sydney's Darling Harbour. "I got the gear from JLG, put it on a truck and went straight to the job. After that I never saw it until the harbour was finished and the machines started coming back into the yard. I then had to do something about it, so we built the business from there."

By the late 1970s the Wilson crane fleet ran to 23 units, mostly the Coles and CAP cranes. Speaking around that time, Laurie said: "I began to realise that we needed to swap the older cranes out for new, more modern ones that were coming on stream. I also realised that size really does matter. They had started to manufacture concrete panels that were double the size we were used to. So, I purchased two 200 tonne Demag truck cranes. We pioneered these big cranes coming into Australia and getting them registered and approved. It was a big gamble for us at the time. But you don't gamble unless you have confidence in yourself. And at the time we were the only ones that could handle them. We went on to become specialists in the installation of tilt-up panel work."



Continued on p74



Laurie Wilson (L-R) at the age of four, in the UK at 19, as St John Ambulance officer at 29 and with wicked sideburns at 39

Then in 1981 he purchased his first Japanese crane, a 23 tonne Kobe-built P&H truck crane and went on to swap out the old Coles cranes, which were beginning to show their age. He later added more Demag truck cranes, including an 80 tonner and two 130 tonne HC 340 purchased at Bauma and also began buying Katos. His sons Rod and Laurie Junior also joined the business.

The next big step was the move into large crawler cranes, starting with a 300 tonne Demag, one of the first three to be delivered worldwide. "This crane went to work in Adelaide as soon as it arrived," said Wilson. "It took 18 trailers and a low loader to move all the gear. It also worked on the Sydney Olympic stadium." A year or two later, he added a 250 tonne CC1400, which was also the first to arrive in Australia.

Over the years, the Wilsons also made a number of acquisitions, taking over F.S Cranes in 1989, which operated cranes inside the Shell Oil refinery in Clyde, near Parramatta. This was followed in 1991 by Mobile Crane Co, purchased from Greg Melrose, who later went on to set up Melrose Crane Hire.

SELLING TO BRAMBLES - FOCUSING ON ACCESS

In mid 1998, Wilson sold the crane business to Brambles, apparently instigated by - once again - 'problems' with a union. which he said: "Caused me to accept what was the fourth buy-out offer from a very persistent Brambles."

As you might expect, Laurie Wilson did not retire, instead, he focused on building his access rental business, Skymaster Plant Hire, selling that business to United Equipment in 2006, by which time it ran a fleet of around 160 units, including 60 JLG and Snorkel boom lifts. He remained with the business for the rest of that year, helping with the transition as he had agreed, retiring at the age of 76. He then devoted himself to his home

in Arcadia and its adjoining five acres of land, including a paddock with a couple of horses.

ALWAYS READY TO HELP

In addition to his day job, Laurie Wilson spent a great deal of time working with the local Rotary club, helping to raise funds for good causes for which he was named a Fellow of the Paul Harris Foundation and a member of the Paul Harris Society. He also helped set up the 7 Hills Rotary club in Kampala, Uganda. Back at home, he helped the Junior Chamber of Commerce with its skills development programmes and had worked as an officer with the St John's Ambulance service from his late 20s. He was also a regular volunteer at the Parramatta hospital, perhaps to get a taste of his desire when still at school to be a doctor.

Speaking in 1985 as Wilson Cranes was preparing to celebrate its 20th anniversary, he said: "Perhaps my greatest achievement during the first 20 years was the ability to survive the credit squeezes and the latest severe recession. Not forgetting, however, one's ability to survive the antics and destructive tactics of the Builders Labourers Federation."

"My hobbies, it could be said, are Rotary and work, although not necessarily in that order. My priorities may soon change when Maureen and I move in a few weeks to a five acre property in Arcadia."

A LOVEABLE ROGUE

Laurie Wilson has been referred to as a 'Loveable rogue', who loved to tell jokes and go to lunch 'with the boys'. By the time he reached his 80s, if not before, he was happy to take up any opportunity to pass on his thoughts and philosophies. Here are a few of them.

"Worry is interest borrowed on trouble. It's something I've believed for most of my life."

"You won't pick any words of wisdom up from the current generation, they didn't come through the university of hard knocks. They've grown up in a sheltered atmosphere and wouldn't know how to take the risks that I took on with no education and no money. You can achieve whatever the mind can conceive."

"I have learnt to deal with stress. Don't let anything get over you, just move on, strength of mind and power of positive thinking. If you're not a positive thinker, you write yourself off."

"There's three kinds of people in the world, people who make things happen, people who watch things happen, and people who say what happened."

"My ancestors were chosen, by some of the best judges in England, to come to Australia. In other words, I'm a First Fleeter. My relative was James Wright, he was a highwayman. Thank God he

came. He was sentenced to death for robbery in 1783, but his sentence was commuted to transportation. He is buried at the old cemetery at Parramatta. I know exactly where he is."

Laurie Wilson was a true one-off, created from the hard times of the early 1930s, and developed through the Second World War and the early 1950s.

Footnote: Con Popov

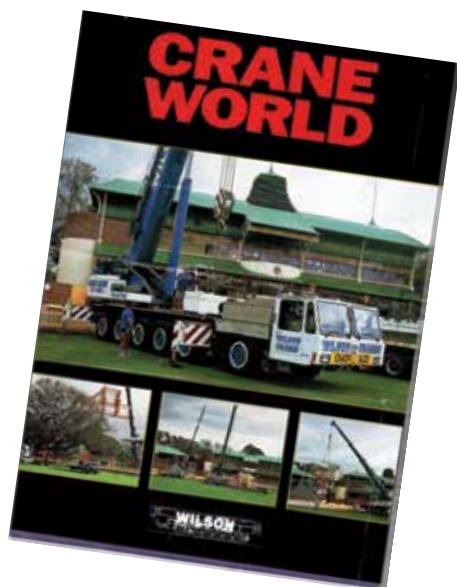
C.A.P. Cranes was started by 'legendary' crane designer and manufacturer Constantine Alexander (Con) Popov. He studied engineering at Harbin, China and later at Stanford in the USA and worked on major projects such as the Chien Tang River Bridge in 1937. He then set up in Shanghai, running a major business, representing British engineers Babcock & Wilcox, while also consulting for Texaco Oil, and served as president of the British Institute of Engineers.

He migrated to Australia in 1952 and bought a small boiler making shop in Bankstown. When a downturn hit the business the following year, he began developing a small hydraulic truck crane which he completed in 1954. Although it took him a year to sell it, the eventual sale marked the birth of the CAP crane brand. The LM6 crane with telescopic boom, was launched in 1960. Popov sold the business to Industrial Engineering in 1967 and retired, having produced at least 1,000 cranes over the 12 years he owned the company.

Con Popov made a minor comeback in 1990 when he spoke at the 1990 CICA (Crane Industry Council of Australia) National Crane Conference, thanks, to the efforts of Laurie Wilson, a founder member of the association's NSW chapter. Con Popov passed away in June 1997 at the age of 87. In 1998 CICA introduced the annual Con Popov Memorial Award which honours individuals for outstanding, long-term contributions to the industry. Nominations are made through State Associations and presented at the annual CICA Conference Gala Dinner.



Con Popov



2026

HCEA Convention and Old Equipment Exposition

August 28-30, 2026
The Historical Construction Equipment Association's annual convention and expo
Concordia, Kansas, USA
Tel: +1 419-352-5616
<https://hcea.net/>

IPAF Congreso Conosur 2026

September 04, 2026
The fourth IPAF Conosur Congress
Viña del Mar, Chile
www.ipaf.org/ipaf.org/conosur
E-Mail: events@ipaf.org

Vertikal Days 2026

September 9-10, 2026 Newark
showground, Nottingham, UK UK/Ireland
Crane, access and telehandler event.
Tel: +44 (0) 8448 155900
www.vertikaldays.net

IAA Transportation

September 15-20, 2026
The logistics, commercial vehicles,
and transport show
Hanover, Germany
Tel: +49 30 897842-202
www.iaa-transportation.com/en

JDL Expo

September 16-18, 2026 France's
crane and access event Beaune
Tel: +33 (0) 1 45 63 68 22
www.jdlexpo.com/

Platform Gunleri 26

September 17-19, 2026
Annual exhibition of Platformer - the
Turkish aerial work platform association
Istanbul, Turkey
Tel: +90 216 466 87 22
www.platformgunleri.org/

Internationale Schwerlasttage

September 18-19, 2026
German conference on heavy lifting,
transport, rigging, and installation
Hohenröda, Germany
Tel: +49 (0) 6181 9060 705
www.schwerlasttage.de

SC&RA Crane & Rigging Workshop

September 22-24, 2026
Hilton Omaha and CHI Health Center,
Omaha, Nebraska
Tel: +1 (703) 698-0291
www.scranet.org/SCRA/Events

PPMA

September 22-24, 2026
UK Packaging and industrial material
handling show
Birmingham NEC, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8773 8111
www.ppmashow.co.uk/

Bauma Conexpo India

September 28 - October 1, 2026
Exhibition in India Noida,
Delhi, India
Tel: +49 89 949-20255
www.bcindia.com/en/

Platformers Days 2026

October 8-9, 2026
German Access and lifting exhibition
Karlsruhe, Germany
Tel: +49 721 3720 5096
www.platformers-days.de/

IPAF Summit 2026

October 14-15, 2026
Networking opportunity for the access
industry, Istanbul, Turkey
Tel: +44 (0)15395 66703
<https://ipaf-summit.info/>

Glasstec 2026

October 20-23, 2026
The largest event for glass lifting and
installation Düsseldorf, Germany
Tel: +49 211 456001
www.glasstec-online.com/

Working at Height Conference & Awards

October 28-29, 2026
Powered access event to
share updates on the safe use
of aerial work platforms.
Orlando, Florida
www.workingatheightevent.com

CICA Conference 2026

October 28-30, 2026
The annual conference of the Crane Industry
Council of Australia Hunter
Valley, Lovedale,
NSW, Australia
Tel: +61 03 9501 0078
<https://cica.com.au/cica-conference-2026-eoi/>

CPA Gala Dinner

November 5th 2026
St George's Hall in Liverpool
Tel: +44 (0)2077963366
www.cpa.uk.net
lisa@lisacollinscommunications.co.uk

Crane Safety 2026

November 11, 2026
Crane safety conference
organised by the Institution of Mechanical
Engineers. Manchester, UK
Tel: +44 (0)207 973 1251
www.eventsportal.imeche.org/event/sessions?id=Crane_Safety_2026_New

Nuclear Lifting 2026 *

November 11, 2026
This biannual event covers
engineering solutions to
the challenges facing those
conducting high-risk lifting at Nuclear power
sites, Manchester, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7304 690
www.eventsportal.imeche.org/event/sessions?id=Nuclear_Lifting_2026_New

IPAF Elevando Mexico 2026

November 20, 2026
Hosted by IPAF conferences and discussions
covering the safe use and good practice of
aerial work platforms
Hotel Hacienda Jurica,
Querétaro, Mexico
Tel: +52 446 120 6111
www.ipaf.org/elevando

Liftex 2026

November 24-25, 2026
Annual conference and exhibition of LEEA
the Lifting Equipment Engineers
Association Liverpool, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 203 488 2865
www.events.leeaint.com/liftex-2026

Bauma China 2026

November 24-27 2026
Tel: +49(0)89 9 4920251
www.bcindia.com

2027

Baumag

January 21-24, 2027 Swiss
construction equipment show
Lucerne, Switzerland
Tel: +41 56 204 20 20
www.baumaschinen-messe.ch

Executive Hire Show

February 10-11, 2027
UK tool and small rental equipment show
Coventry, UK
Tel: 44 (0)207 973 4630
www.executivehireshow.co.uk/

The ARA Show 2027

February 15-17, 2027
The American Rental Association's annual
trade show and convention
New Orleans, USA
Tel: +1 800 334 2177
www.arashow.org

SC&RA Annual Conference

April 19-23, 2027 Annual Conference of the
US cranes and heavy transport
association / Jobs of the Year
awards
Omni La Costa, Carlsbad, California
Tel: +1 (703) 698-0291
<https://www.scranet.org/SCRA/Events/>

Hannover Messe 2027

May 5-8, 2027
World's largest industrial
exhibition Hannover, Germany
Tel: +49 511 89-1
www.hannovermesse.de

CCRA Conference 2027

June 8-10 2027
The annual Canadian crane rental
association conference
Dakota Dunes Saskatoon
www.ccra-aclg.ca/en

Hire27

9-10 June 2027.
The annual convention and exhibition of the
Hire and Rental Association of Australia and
Elevating Work Platform Association
Gold Coast, Queensland
+61 (0) 299982255
www.hriaconvention.com.au

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Finland's largest special exhibition
for earthmoving and environmental
maintenance machinery
Hyvinkää, Finland
Tel: 040 450 3250
www.maxpo.messukeskus.com/en/

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Belgian construction equipment exhibition
Kortrijk, Belgium Tel: +32 56 98 07 60
www.matexpo.com/en/

GIS 2027

October 7-9, 2027
Italian crane, access and heavy transport
exhibition Parma, Italy
Tel: +39 010/5704948
www.gisexpo.it

The Utility Expo

October 5-7, 2027
The US utility industry's largest
equipment show Louisville, Kentucky, USA
Tel: +1 414-274-0644
www.theutilityexpo.com

M&T Expo

November 16-19, 2027
Brazil's construction and mining
equipment exhibition
São Paulo Expo, Brazil
Tel: +49 89 949 20252
www.mtxpo.com.br/en

2028

The ARA Show 2028

February 14-16, 2028
ARA convention and rental show
Anaheim, California, USA
Tel: +1-800 334 2177
www.arashow.org

Bauma 2028

April 3-9, 2028
World's largest construction
equipment show Munich,
Germany
Tel: +49 (0)89 51070
www.bauma.de

Scotplant

April 2028 dates to be confirmed
Edinburgh, Scotland
Scotland's largest construction
equipment exhibition
www.scotplant.com

Nordbygg

April 25-28, 2028
Swedish construction exhibition
Stockholm, Sweden
Tel: +46 8 749 41 00
www.nordbygg.se/en/

Dansk Liftmesse 2028

May 2028 - dates to be confirmed
Danish aerial lift and spider crane
exhibition, Odense, Denmark
Tel: +45 4024 1090
www.liftmesse.dk

2029

The ARA Show 2029

February 11 - March 14, 2029
The American Rental
Association's annual trade show
and convention Orlando, USA
Tel: +1 800 334 2177
www.arashow.org

Conexpo-Con/Agg 2029

March 13-17, 2029 The
leading US construction
show Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
Tel: +1 414-298-4133
www.conexpoconagg.com

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CTE	www.ctelift.com
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Omme Lift	www.ommelift.com
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CPL	www.cpl-ltd.com
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Genie	www.genielift.com
GSR Aerial Platforms	http://en.gsrspa.it
Haulotte	www.haulotte.com
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Mr Plant Hire	www.mrplantire.co.uk
Nacelexpert - France -	https://nacelexpert.com
Rothlehner:	www.rothlehner.de
Platform Sales	www.platformsales.co.uk
Promax Access:	www.promaxaccess.com
Rapid Platforms	www.rapidplatforms.co.uk
TVH	www.tvh.com
Vertimac:	www.vertimac.com
Workplatform:	www.workplatformltd.co.uk
Zip-Up Svenska - Sweden:	https://zipup.se

CRANES

Cotac - Finland:	www.crane.fi
Crane Hire Ltd - Ireland	www.armorum.ie
Crowland Cranes w	www.crowlandcranes.co.uk
Delden Cranes	www.deldencranes.co.uk
GGR	www.unic-cranes.co.uk
Gantic, Norway	www.gantic.no
HighSparks	www.highsparks.co.uk
Hird	www.hird.co.uk
Kranlyft	www.kranlyft.com
Kobelco	www.kobelco-cranes.com

Maeda	www.maedaminicranes.co.uk
Rivertek Services	www.rivertekservices.com
Tadano:	www.tadano.com/businesses/used/index.html
T H White group	www.thwhite.co.uk
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Access Platform Sales (APS)	www.accessplatforms.co.uk
AFI – UK:	www.afi-rentals.co.uk
ASR – UK:	www.access-platforms.com
Coates Hire- Australia:	www.coates.com.au
Dragon Access:	www.dragon-access.co.uk
Drammen Liftutleie:	www.drammenlift.no
Eazi Access Rental - S. Africa:	www.eazi.co.za
Elavation – UK:	www.elavation.net/machine-hire
Galmon – Singapore:	https://galmon.com
Hird- UK -	www.hird.co.uk
Hire Safe Solutions:	www.hiresafesolutions.com
HWS – Netherlands:	https://hws.nl
JMS Powered Access:	https://jms.co.uk
Manlift Hire – Ireland:	https://manlift.ie
Mateco – Germany:	www.mateco.de/en
Monitor Lifts - Oz	www.monitor.net.au
Nationwide Platforms	www.nationwideplatforms.co.uk
Omec – Italy:	https://omec.it
Paramount Platforms	www.paramountplatforms.com
Platform Sales & Hire	www.platformsales.co.uk
Power Platform Services	www.pps.co.uk
Roggermaier – Germany:	https://roggermaier.de
Smart Platforms:	www.smartplatforms.co.uk
Statech – CZ –	www.statech.cz
Sunstate Equipment USA:	www.sunstateequip.com
Traknus – Indonesia:	www.traknus.co.id
Viking Access	www.vikingaccess.co.uk
Warren Access	www.warrenaccess.co.uk
CRANE RENTALS	
Ainscough Crane Hire:	www.ainscough.co.uk
BJW Crane Hire - UK	www.bjwcranehire.co.uk
Cadman Cranes - UK	www.cadmancranes.com
Cork Crane Hire - UK	www.corkcranehire.com
Delden Cranes	www.deldencranes.co.uk
Grúas Aguado – Spain-	www.gruasaguado.com
HighSparks	www.highsparks.co.uk
Hovago	www.hovago.com
John Sutth Cranes	www.johnsutthcranes.co.uk
Ladybird Tower Crane Hire	www.ladybirdcranehire.co.uk
Lift Ltd	www.liftminicranehire.co.uk
Sangwin	www.sangwin.co.uk
Schaften Leasing- NL	www.schaftenleasing.nl
Wolffkran	www.wolffkran.com
GGR	www.unic-cranes.co.uk
JT Mini Crane Hire	www.jtminicranes.co.uk
Lift Limited	www.liftminicranehire.co.uk
Hird	www.hird.co.uk
TELEHANDLER RENTALS	
Ardent Hire- UK:	www.ardenthire.com
GT Lifting Solutions – UK:	www.gtlift.co.uk
JMS Powered Access- UK:	https://jms.co.uk
Sunbelt Rentals:	www.sunbeltrentals.co.uk

SPECIALIST SUPPLIERS AND SERVICES	
SPECIAL/BESPOKE ACCESS & LIFTING SOLUTIONS	
Access Platform Sales (APS):	www.accessplatforms.co.uk
GGR	www.ggrgroup.com
GT Lifting Solutions:	www.gtlift.co.uk
JMS Powered Access:	https://jms.co.uk
Platform Sales & Hire:	www.platformsales.co.uk
Warren Access:	www.warrenaccess.co.uk/hire
Working At Height	www.workingatheightltd.com
SPECIAL & NICHE ACCESS	
CPL	www.cpl-ltd.com
Denka Narrow	www.rothlehner.com
JMS Powered Access	https://jms.co.uk
Smart Platform Rentals	www.smartplatforms.co.uk
HEAVY TRANSPORT/ABNORMAL LOADS	
Collett A Sons, UK	www.collett.co.uk
SITE SAFETY AUDITS	
Alfa Access Services	www.alfa-access-services.com
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS	
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CISRS	www.cisrs.org.uk
CPA	www.cpa.uk.net
EWPA	www.ewpa.com.au
IPAF	www.ipaf.org
NASC	www.nasc.org.uk
OSHA	www.osha.gov
PASMA	www.pasma.co.uk
HEAVY LIFT MANAGEMENT	
DWLS	www.dwls.co.uk
Ellevo Group	www.ellevogroup.com
HEAVY LIFT PLANNING & RISK ANALYSIS	
DWLS	www.dwls.com
Ellevo Group	www.ellevogroup.com
AUCTION HOUSES	
Ritchie Brothers	www.rbauction.com
BATTERY SUPPLIERS & MANUFACTURERS	
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BSLBATT	www.bslbatt.com
C&D Technologies	https://www.cdtrajan.com
Ecobat	www.ecobat.com
Equip Global Supplies	www.equipglobalsupplies.com
Leoch Battery-UK:	www.leochbattery.co.uk
TAB Battery -UK:	www.tabatteryuk.com
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PCE Instruments UK	www.pce-instruments.com
CONTROL SYSTEMS	
MOBA Automation	www.moba.de
OUTRIGGER PADS, MATS & ROADWAYS	
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Timber Services	www.sarumhardwood.co.uk
Nolim	www.nolim.co.uk
Outtriggerpads	www.outtriggerpads.co.uk
Power-Pad	www.crowlandcranes.co.uk
Timbermat	www.timbermat.co.uk
Universal Crane Mats	www.universal-crane-mats.com
Welex Group	www.welexgroup.com
COMPONENTS	
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Tele Radio	www.tele-radio.com
WIRE ROPE	
Rope and Sling	www.ropeandsling.co.uk
LIFTING GEAR MANUFACTURERS	
Britlift	www.britlift.com
PARTS & SERVICE SUPPLIERS	
APSR	www.apsr.co.uk
Gouweleeuw	www.gouweleeuw.com

Haulotte	www.haulotte.com
IPS	www.ipspartsonline.com
JLG	www.jlg.com
Lift-Manager	www.lift-manager.com
OTR Wheel Engineering Europe	www.otrwheel.co.uk
PCE Instruments UK	www.pce-instruments.com
TVH	www.tvh.com
Vertimac	www.vertimac.com
RECRUITMENT	
Vertikal.Net	www.vertikal.net/en/recruitment
SAFETY EQUIPMENT	
Load Systems UK	www.loadsystems.co.uk
Petzl	www.petzl.com
RENTAL MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE	
HireHop Equipment Rental Software	www.hirehop.co.uk
Infosystem	www.levaplus.ch
inspHire	www.insphire.com
Matusch	www.matusch.de
MCS Rental Software	www.mcsrentalsoftware.com
Point of Rental Software.	www.point-of-rental.com
vWork	www.vworkapp.com
STRUCTURAL REPAIRS	
Crowland Cranes	www.crowlandcranes.co.uk
John Taylor Crane Services	www.jtcranes.co.uk
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	
Atlas Traffic Management:	www.atlatstm.co.uk
TECHNICAL & SAFETY CONSULTANCY	
Access Safety Management	www.accesssafety.co.uk
TRAINING ASSOCIATIONS & NETWORKS	
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AWPT	www.awpt.org
IPAF	www.ipaf.org
NASC	www.nasc.org.uk
Pasma	www.pasma.co.uk
TRAINING CENTRES & TRAINERS	
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Ainscough	www.ainscoughtraining.co.uk
AJ Access	www.accessplatforms.com
Boss Training	www.bosstraining.co.uk
Certora Training	www.certoratraining.co.uk
Cornerbrook	www.cornerbrooklifting.co.uk
Haulotte	www.haulotte.com
IAPS	www.iapsgroup.com
JLG Training	www.jlg.com
Liebherr Training (UK)	www.liebherr.co.uk
Lift-Manager	www.lift-manager.com
Smart Platform Rentals	www.smartplatforms.com
UTN	www.utntraining.co.uk
Versalift Training Direct	www.versalift.co.uk/training
Warren	www.warrenaccesstraining.co.uk/courses/
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