

cranes & access

The background image is a photograph of a construction site at sunset. A large blue tower crane is the central focus, its lattice structure extending upwards. In the background, a modern glass skyscraper is visible, with the letters 'HSBC' partially seen on its facade. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, indicating the time is either dawn or dusk. The overall scene is industrial and urban.

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**TOWER CRANES
SCISSOR LIFTS
SOFTWARE &
TECHNOLOGY**

**VERTIKAL DAYS
PREVIEW**

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VISIT US AT

**Vertical
days**





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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.

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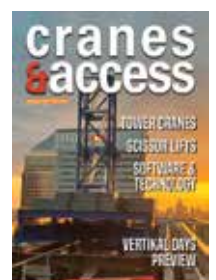
Vertikal Days is fast approaching with the show returning to Newark on the 9th and 10th of September. We give you all the information you need to plan your visit, as well as highlighting a few new products, ideas and developments.

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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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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