

## Remote load release

The Jem Latch is a sling or choker release mechanism that allows a worker on the ground to release a load remotely.

The device is manufactured by Jem One Rigging Tools and is aimed at the steel construction industry in particular, where there tends to be repetitive lifting. Because workers don't have to go up scaffolding or use a man lift to get near the load, the device can improve on-site safety significantly.

The manufacturer of this device believes that investing in the latch could help to eliminate the costs of scaffold, extra workers and the hire of access equipment or even an extra crane. To operate



the Jem Latch, the release cord is pulled. This will not release the load pin unless the tension on it is less than 250 pounds. A live load cannot be released – the cord is designed to snap before this can happen. Sling release and retrieval takes 30 seconds, so it is likely that time spent on site will increase in productivity.

In the US there are 200 Jem Latch devices in use. They are likely to become more common following the rulings of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration over safety for steel workers, which took effect in late January.

## Industry helpline

Crane Care has launched a new service to give free advice on lifting or materials handling.

The Kuplex Hotline is designed to assist anyone in a quandary about which equipment they should buy. Andy Palmer, who will be answering the calls,

has 12 years of lifting industry experience and should be able to advise on the right kit for any job.

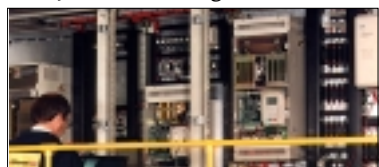
The service is open to all, regardless of whether you have been or intend to be a Crane Care customer. The number is 0121 333 3995 – ask for Kuplex Hotline.

## Sway control

Street Crane Company's Load Sway Prevention System (LSPS) calculates the required speed profile to prevent each load from swaying from just two sets of data being inputted – the length of the rope including the sling and the operator's speed command.

The result of using the system is that operators are able to concentrate on accurately delivering the load without worrying about the sway, which should speed up the job.

The system is aimed at any industry where loads are likely to be high in value, such as aero engine manufacture.



## Mechatronic braking

Lenze's latest braking system comprises the BFK458 spring operated brake and Moditorque, an electronic control unit which gives variable torque. The combination is suitable for use in cranes, electrically powered vehicles and other industrial equipment, and gives a safe, reliable braking torque with a low wear rate.



## High speed oil check

Traditionally, plant machinery must have its oil checked by samples taken from several points, including the engine and gear box. They are taken at zero pressure and give little indication

of conditions within the system.

Tema has come up with a device that will cut down the amount of time it takes to collect and analyse samples. The Flexcheck means that sam-



ples can be fired, under working pressures, to a group test point via micro bore hoses. A sampling bottle is then filled, so all the tester has to do is cap it and send it off for analysis.