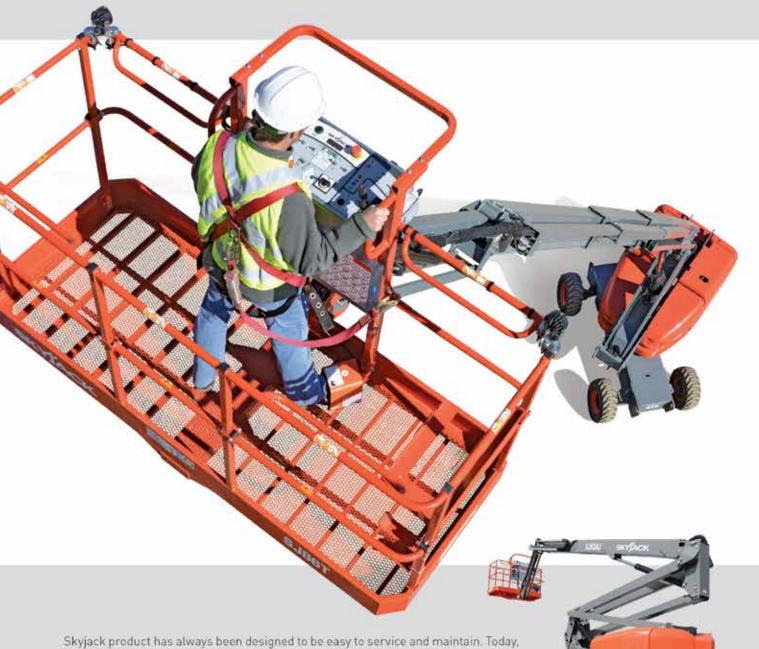


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SJ63 AJ







On the cover:

Operatives from heavy lift company Riga Mainz preparing to lift the 'Zero-G' parabolic Airbus A-300 aircraft with a Liebherr LR1600/s to its permanent position as a museum exhibit adjacent to Cologne-Bonn Airport.











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Fifth Terex Superlift 3800 for Steil, New Manitou telehandler, Gatwick Plant acquired, New 30m Cela Spyder, 13 big truck mounts for BMS, Mammoet and Sankyu JV, Dinolift confirms UK dealer, Major investment for City Lift.

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Since we looked at the heavy lift market last year, there have been some significant new cranes



Large and RT scissor lifts 27

Given their infamously poor rental returns, few access rental companies have been investing in big deck Rough Terrain scissor lifts. Mark Darwin visited UK-based newcomer Quick Reach in Greater Manchester to chat with director Dave Barton to find out why his company has invested in big scissors and we also round-up

In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access - scheduled for late November - will feature Loader cranes. Alternative lifting/jacking, SAIE review and Diesel/ RT boom lifts. If you have any contributions or suggestions, or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.

the latest new models.

Ground conditions and outrigger mats 35



In spite of the growing awareness there appears to be more overturning incidents due to poor

outrigger set up than ever. For more than a decade, Cranes & Access has highlighted this issue and the need to use outrigger mats/pads which would almost eliminate the problem.

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Alimak Hek open day 49

Alimak Hek launched several new products at its recent customer/dealer day held at its facility in Neuilly-en-Thelle, just north of Paris, France. Mark Darwin attended to find out more.

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By the time a man realises that his father was right, he has a son who thinks he's wrong.

Charles Wadsworth





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For users & buyers of lifting equipment

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Different but not necessarily better

It is human nature to want the best. Ask anyone to choose between two similar items and 99 times out of 100 they will chose the better quality, better design or the one with the better brand awareness all other things being equal of course. It is a simple fact of life.

Contractors are no different. Whether it is materials, equipment

or people, they will always specify the best product for the money, whether to improve their end-product reduce build time or improve safety.

So when something comes along that might reduce the chance of an accident, it is not surprising that it is specified - as long as no extra cost is involved of course. Take secondary guarding for example, after driving its development main contractors increasingly demand that all boom lifts on site are fitted with it. One wonders if the same will happen with secondary guarding for scissor lifts, following the launch of a system by Kimberly Rentals in the UK? If contractors are aware that a safety system is available, they will tend to specify the 'safer' platform.

However, trying to get the same contractors to pay a higher rate for the extra safety features or for that matter a more safety conscious rental company, is another matter. Cutting costs often seems more important than safety as long as the relevant paperwork is provided.

At the CPA Crane Interest Group meeting last month, one of the most debated topics was the proposed new European Crane Operators Licence, which will be introduced by January 2018. The licence aims to harmonise standards, so that every crane operator in Europe will eventually have the same transportable and recognised qualification. Initial discussions between countries indicate that the Dutch crane operator's licence is the toughest to obtain, closely followed by Germany and the UK, so it is anticipated that the European licence will fall somewhere between the three.

With the new licence likely to set a higher standard than most current national licences, concerns were expressed that main contractors would simply demand that only crane operators holding the European licence be allowed to work on their sites. After all why wouldn't a contractor ask for what he sees as an extra qualification, especially if it costs him nothing extra?

We all want well qualified crane operators and it will be useful for operators and owners alike to have a qualification that is internationally mobile. But if current UK and German licences are more than adequate, then it needs to be stipulated early on in the process that both licenses are equally acceptable, or perhaps interchangeable? Otherwise crane operators and/or rental companies throughout Europe will have to spend time and money to obtain a European licence, even though it is unlikely to make much difference to an experienced operator.

Let's hope that common sense prevails.

Mark Darwin

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



Over 110 die in Mecca crane overturn

A total of 111 people died and 331 were injured when a Liebherr LR 11350 overturned onto the Grand Mosque - the Masjid al-Haram - in Mecca, Saudi Arabia on September 11th, making it the worst crane incident in living memory.

While the crane was out of service at the time, it had been left with 114 metres of boom, topped by 84 metre luffing jib - 200 metres tip height - in the fully elevated position in spite of an impending sand and thunderstorm. It was caught head-on by winds of between 80 and 105 kph (50 and 65mph) which took the jib and boom over the back of the crane. The heavy jib masts pierced the mosque roof sending heavy debris crashing onto those praying

below, with the jib and its rigging coming down on others.

A report presented to the King by the Saudi Accident Investigation Committee indicated that the incident was caused by a combination of negligence and strong winds. It confirmed that the manufacturer's instructions for rigging and making the LR 11350 safe when out of use were not followed, and that the crane was left in a vulnerable position in the



face of strong winds. The report suggested negligence on the part of construction company Saudi Binladin Group, but concluded that it found an absence of criminal suspicion.

A statement from Liebherr following an on-site inspection said the crane was 'technically faultless' and confirmed that it was improperly stowed for the expected weather conditions, confirming the initial Saudi report. The crane was left with boom and jib both fully elevated when operating instructions clearly state that when such conditions are expected the jib, and ideally the boom should be lowered. The boom and jib were cut into sections and removed shortly after the investigation so that repairs could be made to the structure. A local official said that the crane will be scrapped and not go back into service.

Ron DeFeo retires

Terex has appointed John L. Garrison Jr. as chief executive, replacing Ron Defeo from the start of November. Defeo will

remain as
executive
chairman until
the end of the
year and then
retire, but
remains as a
consultant for
a further year.



Garrison joins Terex from Textron where he has been chief executive of its Bell Helicopter operation since 2009. DeFeo said: "I am proud of the company Terex has become in my 23 years as leader. With my planned retirement, this day was inevitable and I am confident that John will be able to continue to create value for our

shareholders and the shareholders of Konecranes Terex."



John L Garrison Jr

New Jekko mini crane

Jekko will launch an all-new six tonne SPK60 mini crawler crane with main boom and telescopic luffing jib - creating an articulated crane - at Bauma next year.

Weighing 12.5 tonnes with counterweight, the new Yanmar-powered SPK60 has a maximum capacity free on tracks of six tonnes, a 17.7 metre five section main boom, plus optional four section telescopic luffing jib giving a maximum tip height of 28 metres. Maximum radius with the jib is 19 metres. The machine is 2.3 metres wide with tracks retracted or 2.9 metres when extended. Overall chassis length is 3.49 metres - 5.7 metres over the boom - with an overall height of 2.7 metres. One of the first units has been ordered by Nordkran of Germany.



A computer generated view of the new Jekko SPK60.



The Jekko SPK60 with luffing telescopic jib fitted.

Secondary guarding for scissors

UK-based Kimberly Rentals has launched a secondary guarding system for scissor lifts. Dubbed SkySecure it can be installed on all diesel and electric scissors and has been subjected to extensive live trials.

The system features a self-test on start up and a spring loaded wrist rest that will stop the machine,



sound a siren and start an emergency beacon if depressed. If inadvertently activated, it can be reset from the platform.



The machine's emergency controls can still be used to lower the platform. The company has also installed a proximity device that automatically cuts travel speed to slow when the controller is moved outside of the platform, for example when an operator is loading or driving through a doorway etc.



New Spierings unveiled

Netherlands-based mobile self-erecting tower crane manufacturer Spierings has unveiled a totally redesigned four axle SK 597-AT4 complete with a new 48 metre jib compared to the 44 metre jib on the SK498-AT4 that it replaces.

Other improvements include disc brakes, a new DAF Euro 6 engine, two new luffing positions giving 15, 30 and 45 degrees and a new carrier cab and interior. The chassis was further developed to handle the increased capacity of the crane - 1,700kg at 48 metres - yet remaining within the current 12 tonne axle loads.

Sales manager Koos Spierings said: 'With the new SK597-AT4 we have a machine that perfectly serves both the crane rental company as well as the end-user. Its 48 metre radius combined with the compact 2.75 metre

overall width offers great advantages. The lifting capacity of 1,700kg at 48 metres and a hook height of more than 59 metres while luffing at 45 degrees give this crane all manner of possibilities."



Versalift launches big insulated lift

Time Manufacturing/Versalift has launched several new models including a 66 metre insulated truck mounted lift and upgraded its VST range. Unveiled at the ICUEE show in Louisville, Kentucky, the 66 metre Skybird 215l has been developed in partnership with Ruthmann and complies fully with ANSI A92.2 cat A. The 500kV-insulated lift features a five section main boom and a fully-insulated telescopic upper boom. It has an outreach of 32 metres and a maximum platform capacity of 600kg. Features include a 300kg material handler attachment, fibre optic controls and a clear text display for error diagnostics and sensor outputs.

The second new machine is the 12 metre VTP-40 cable placer. Designed solely for cable stringing, the VTP-40 offers an outreach of nine metres, a 158kg platform capacity and an auto-levelling platform. The VST series of insulated articulated telescopic aerial lifts have also been upgraded with the



next generation models - the VST-6300, VST-6600 and VST-7100 offering improved platform capacities and working heights of 19.2, 22.1 and 23.6 metres respectively.



'Intelligent secondary guarding'

Nationwide Platforms in the UK has launched a new secondary guarding system - SkySiren PCS (Pre Crushing Sensor) - which it calls 'intelligent secondary guarding' as it offers additional protection against trapping and crushing incidents while operating a boom lift. Developed by Lavendon group company BlueSky it combines the SkySiren device with a new ultrasound sensing system to detect potential hazards.

Three sensor units, two at the back of the basket and one over the control panel, incorporate eight individual ultrasonic sensors which generate high frequency sound waves to scan the work environment behind and above the operator, warning of objects as they are approached. In the unlikely event of a trapping situation, the SkySiren system acts in the normal way,

The distance is set between 500 and 800mm which Nationwide says is the optimum for protection and preventing the alarm from going off during normal work activities.



The sensor box incorporating light over the control panel.



The two sensors at the back of the basket incorporate eight ultrasonic sensors which generate high frequency sound waves to scan the work environment behind and above the operator.

raising the alarm with a strobe light and klaxon. The distance the sensors are set can be varied between 500 and 800mm which Nationwide says is the optimum for protection and preventing the alarm from going off during normal work activities. A limited number of units are available now, with full availability due by the end of the year.

All new Skyjack telehandler

Cranes & Access and Vertikal.net have obtained a sneak video preview of an all-new mid-range Skyjack North American telehandler that is due to launch next month.

The new design began while Skyjack was working on the installation of new

Tier IV Final engines for its VR telehandler range. However the amount of changes required prompted a complete redesign. The first result of this is the 8,000lb/43ft (3.6 tonne/13 metre) SJ843TH. Other models include the 6,000lb/43ft SJ643TH the 10,000lb/44ft SJ1044TH and the 10,000lb/56ft SJ1056TH. More details will be announced in the next week or two.



12m mast boom from ATN

ATN will unveil a new 12 metre mast boom with telescopic jib - its largest machine to date - at Bauma next year. The new model, the Piaf 1200 R, has allelectric controls, unlike the more usual hydraulic pilot type systems used on its smaller models.

The first prototype has already been built and is currently on test at the company's plant in South West France. It has



an overall width of 1.2 metres, is 1.98 metres high and 3.66 metres long. Outreach is a very respectable five metres and the machine has a 200kg platform capacity in its 800mm x 1.1 metre basket. Total weight is around 4,250kg.

The time is right for

Omega

Dutch boom and scissor lift manufacturer Omega has launched two track mounted telescopic boom lifts targeting steel erection and tree work applications.

The models include a 52ft TB160J and 46ft TB140. Weighing



approximately seven tonnes, the TB160J offers an outreach of 13.8 metres with 250kg unrestricted platform capacity. Powered by a four cylinder Kubota, features include 45 percent gradeability, 180 degrees of jib and platform rotation and 360 degrees continuous slew. The 14 metre working height TB140 features a similar specification, minus the two metre jib. It has an outreach of 11 metres and 350kg unrestricted platform capacity. Delivery of the first units is scheduled for the beginning of 2016.

New Manitou telehandler

Manitou launched its new MLT-X 732 agricultural market telehandler at the V8 Supercar Bathurst 1000 races at the Mount Panorama Circuit in Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia earlier this month.

The new 3,200kg/6.9 metre telehandler was used for the lifting and recovery of the cars during the 1,000km race. It can take 2,800kg to full height, or handle 1,100kg at 3.94 metres of forward reach. A Perkins diesel is matched to a four speed Powershuttle transmission





German crane rental company Steil Kranarbeiten has taken delivery of another

650 tonne Terex Superlift 3800 lattice boom crawler crane - its fifth in three years. The new crane was handed over at the Terex facility in Zweibrücken, Germany before heading out on its first job, lifting a concrete bridge in the very same town.

directly after

the handove

Configured with 42 metres of main boom, 253 tonnes of counterweight and 50 tonnes of central ballast, the Superlift 3800 lifted a 78 tonne concrete bridge spanning the river Schwarzbach. A trial run was conducted the previous day to determine its weight which turned out to be four tonnes heavier than planned.

René Perlich, head of the Steil's large crane division, said: "We drilled core holes through the bridge and threaded the lifting ropes through them as we couldn't determine the bridge's exact weight in advance. The access road to the bridge was also particularly challenging - it was like threading the crane through the eye of a needle."

Based in Trier, Steil is also scheduled to take delivery of a sixth Superlift 3800 in the coming months.

Paylor joins Ahern

Don Ahern, owner of Ahern Rentals, Snorkel and Xtreme Manufacturing has announced a new senior executive management team with ex JLG president Craig Paylor as chief operating officer.

Paylor joins the company this month, working from corporate headquarters

in Las Vegas, but traveling throughout the USA, Asia and Europe. Paylor, 59, spent almost 30 years with JLG and was president from 2007 until 2010. Ahern said: "The dynamic growth in our product development and our global distribution means that it is now imperative that I form a team of industry experts to oversee our rapidly growing business. The team I am appointing brings a wealth of industry knowledge and strong business strategy experience to the table, and

will be instrumental in driving our future success."







New owner for Gatwick Plant

UK-based loader crane and specialist transport company Gatwick Plant has been acquired by R Swain & Sons. The deal, completed at the end of September, includes the assets and goodwill, with operations and sales staff remaining with the business. The company will continue to operate under the Gatwick Plant name and will function as a separate standalone company within the Swain group.

Gatwick Plant owner Bob Toon is planning to retire, but will remain with the business for the next six months to ensure a smooth hand over. Gatwick Plant runs a fleet of Hiab loader cranes and spider cranes and also offers a mobile crane hire and contract lifting service.

Russon joins PB

PB Lifttechnik has appointed Alan Russon to represent the company in the UK and Ireland. Russon will personally sell the manufacturer's heavy duty scissor lifts and provide administrative coordination and after sales support through his business The Access Platform Company. Machines will be invoiced directly by the manufacturer under a new trading business PB UK.

(L-R) Dieter Pawlowski of PB with Alan Russon and Arne Dirckinck-Holmfeld of PB.



New 30m Cela spider

Italian truck mount and spider lift manufacturer Cela has launched the 30 metre DT30 Spyder spider lift. The machine has an outreach of 15.5 metres with 120kg platform capacity and an up and over height of almost 16 metres. Outreach with the maximum 225kg platform capacity is almost 12 metres. The unit can also reach a full seven metres below ground level.

Weighing just over five tonnes, it has multiple position auto-levelling stabilisers and an overall stowed width of 1.2 metres with the 1.8 metre wide basket removed. Overall length is 5.9 metres, and overall height just over two metres. The DT30 can also be used as a light duty crane with a capacity of 250kg making it ideal for roof trusses etc.





Italy alive and kicking

GIS - Giornate Italiane del Sollevamento - the Italian cranes and powered access show, showed strong signs that the Italian market is coming back to life, as more than 6,000 visitors attended the Expo Centre in Piacenza over the three days.

Exhibitor numbers more than doubled since the last event in 2013 to 130 and a number of them felt that GIS had replaced SAIE in Bologna as an exhibition for lifting equipment. The mood was very relaxed and positive with some new products on display. Italian crawler

and foundation crane manufacturer MAIT launched two new cranes the 28 tonne T28 telescopic crawler crane, and the 90 tonne 90T heavy duty cycle crane.

Cela unveiled its new 30 metre DT30 Spyder which uses the boom geometry from its truck mounted





models, with a four section lower boom, three section top boom and an articulating jib. Cela also used the show to talk about its new

co-operation with Brennero Gru which specialises in loader and special build spider cranes.

Teupen launched a new partnership with Oxley Piattaforme Aeree which will handle both new sales and product support for new and existing machines in

the country. Teupen also said that it has won the contract to supply around 70 spider lifts for the Haram Mecca project in Saudi Arabia.



13 big truck mounts for BMS

Danish international rental company BMS has placed an order for 13 Palfinger truck mounted lifts ranging from 55 to 103 metres in a deal worth around €8 million.

Units will be delivered one a month over the next year and the machines will be based at BMS facilities in Germany, the UK, Norway and Sweden. When the order is complete BMS will have 38 large platforms. All units will be equipped with heated platform floors and control consoles allowing operators to continue working in low temperatures. The machines will also include satellite links allowing BMS to monitor each machine remotely part of a new programme that aims to guarantee a 24 hour availability for any customer anywhere in Europe.



Boom Booster for Superlift 3800

Following on from the launch of the Boom Booster kit on the CC 8800-1 crawler crane last year, Terex has developed a version for its 650 tonne Superlift 3800 crawler crane, claiming lifting capacities improvements of up to 30 percent. Available with all new crane orders or as a retrofit, the Boom Booster consists of seven, 12 metre long by 3.5 metre wide boom sections which offer boom lengths of between 24 and 84 metres. A Superlift 3800 equipped with the kit offers a maximum hook height of 174 metres at which it can lift loads of up to 80 tonnes, making it well suited for erecting large wind turbines. Walkways and fall protection systems are built into the boom sections as standard. (See heavy lift article from page 17)

Europlatform nine -Copenhagen

This year's Europlatform conference. the ninth, was held earlier this month in Copenhagen. The conference attracted a surprising number of delegates with a diverse range of presentations delivered by speakers including Xavier du Boÿs of Kiloutou,



Nick Selley of AFI, Petri Paavolainen of Dinolift, Dino Leistenschneider of Ramirent and Karel Huijser of JLG.

Topics included: Creating value from powered access rental, Customer service, Total cost of ownership and the benefits that competitors might gain by co-operating on new product developments. Rupert Douglas-Jones of IPAF highlighted the latest accident statistics which show that more than 35 percent of all incidents reported involve delivery drivers. A new draft IPAF document dealing with this subject will be published shortly for comment

Mammoet and Sankyu JV

Netherlands-based heavy lift specialist Mammoet is to form a joint venture in Singapore with the plant engineering division of Sankyu of

Japan.

Named Sankyu Mammoet Pte it will specialise in heavy lifting, transport and engineering services and equipment for the East Asian region. Both companies have an equal stake in the venture.







Dinolift confirms UK dealer

Finnish aerial lift manufacturer Dinolift has appointed service partner Central Platform Services (CPS) as distributor for the UK. CPS Lift became a service partner at this year's Vertikal Days and has now sold its first machine, an XTC220-II spider lift to Platforms Cymru, a tree and property maintenance contractor from West Wales. Sales director Nick Childs said: "We are now well positioned to support product sales and have invested heavily in engineers, training and our repair facility."

112 Skyjack RT scissors for A-Plant

A-Plant, the UK division of the Ashtead Group, has taken delivery of 112 new Skyjack Rough Terrain scissor lifts in a deal worth almost £3 million. The new order includes 26ft SJ6826RT and 32ft SJ6832RT compact Rough Terrains, 31ft SJ8831RT and 41ft SJ8841RT mid-range models and several 50ft SJ9250 RT big deck scissor lifts. The deal follows a recent order for 200 Genie slab scissor lifts and brings the company's spend on aerial lifts to around £14 million this year.



Major investment for City Lift

Danish access rental company City Lift has taken delivery of six Palfinger truck mounted lifts and placed a large order for Niftylift booms and Imer scissor lifts.

The Palfinger order includes four 25.6 metre P260Bs and two 21.9 metre P220Bs all mounted on 3.5 tonne Nissan Cabstar chassis. The Niftvlift order includes 33ft HR12NDEs and 50ft HR17NDE bi-energy booms along with 62ft HR21 and 86ft HR28 Hybrid boom lifts. The

scissors include Iteco Easy Up 5 push around, IT80, IT90 and IT122 electric scissors and IT180 diesel-electric scissor lifts. It also ordered a 12 metre IMR12 and a 19 metre IMR19 Imer spider

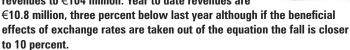




Financials round-up

Q3 dip for Haulotte

Haulotte reported an eight percent drop in third quarter revenues to €104 million. Year to date revenues are



Sales of new equipment fell five percent to €258 million, while rentals improved nine percent to €18.9 million and parts and service jumped 13 percent to €33.4 million. Haulotte North America posted its best quarter ever and is up 24 percent to date, while Asia pacific is 13 percent higher. In Europe sales plummeted 21 percent, while in South America was predictably the worst with a drop of 29 percent. However the company said that order intake and activity over the summer should keep it on plan to complete the full year around five percent up on 2014.

Lavendon ups capex to £85 million avendon

International rental group Lavendon

has increased this year's capital investment in its rental fleet to £85 million including £20 million pulled forward from next year's budget.

The new investment is part of a major fleet extension and renewal programme. This includes 1,500 boom lifts, 1,450 scissor lifts and 200 truck and van mounted lifts - all of which have now entered its rental fleets in the UK, Germany, France, Belgium and the Middle East. Nationwide Platforms in the UK received £39 million, while £20 million went to the Middle East operation Rapid. In central Europe, the group's French operation Lavendon had £12 million, Gardemann in Germany spent £11 million and DK Rental in Belgium had £3 million. 60 percent of the investment was spent on booms and scissor lifts from Genie and Skyjack. Other suppliers included Haulotte, Ruthmann, Palfinger, GSR, CTE, MEC and Power Towers.

Essex cuts back



Essex Rental is laving off around eight

percent of its workforce as part of a cost reduction plan which is expected to result in economies of more than \$1.7 million, which when added to the previously announced corporate governance changes, will result in total annual savings of \$2.2 million.

The company says that the reductions are likely to incur restructuring costs of around \$100,000 during the third quarter, primarily due to termination benefits, including severance which is expected to be settled in cash.

Kobe cuts forecasts

Kobe Steel - owner of Kobelco Cranes - has cut its recent earnings forecasts by 58 percent due to lower sales of excavators in China during its second quarter.

The company also blames the fall on higher costs due to a major power outage at its Kakogawa steelworks. The steel maker now forecasts net income of 25 billion yen (\$209 million) for the full year to March 2016, more than 58 percent down on last year. It claims that excavator consumption in China has fallen 40 percent.

The profit warning makes no mention of any changes involving its crane division. The company had already made minor adjustments to its half and full year forecasts when it reported its first quarter results.

SEV looks shaky

Smith Electric Vehicles - the other investment in Tanfield along with Snorkel - almost closed its doors in September as it ran out of money.



To stave off bankruptcy it launched a new \$10 million rights issue. Tanfield will not take up its option under the offering, which means that its holding will be further diluted.

Hartela to transfer equipment to Ramirent

The Hartela construction group is to transfer its equipment operations to Ramirent along with the equipment and all related staff of Hartela, Rakennusosakeyhtiö Hartela and Hartela-Forum on a rental/lease basis.

The deal also includes a long term rental supply agreement. The deal is similar to the transfer of the Hartela tower crane fleet and operations to Ramirent last year. M HARTELA

Speedy cuts expectations

UK rental company Speedy has issued a trading update warning that

revenues will be down 10 percent this year and profitability will be "materially below current market expectations".

As a result it has taken a number of actions including a programme to increase engineering resources, redistribute assets throughout the



depot network to improve asset availability, and optimise stock levels; a realignment of the sales function to better address the needs of the market; a more effective operational structure and overhead base which more closely aligns costs with revenues and improvements to the IT system to enhance management information and the customer experience.

The savings are expected to be around £13 million, with, £10 million in the UK and Ireland business, of which around £6 million relates to people costs.

Tadano to build new crane plant

Tadano has applied for planning permission to build new production facility in Japan close to its head office facility in Takamatsu.



Tadano has requested that a plot of 13.8 hectares

(34 acres) on reclaimed land in Takamatsu port that is currently being offered for tender be increased to 20 hectares (49 acres), and that the company may be permitted to tender for the larger site. It has also asked that ground works be accelerated in order to allow construction to begin this time next year.

Its first phase plans include a 30,000 square metre building to manufacture mobile cranes in order to take the pressure off of its Shido plant which is currently close to capacity. Shido was built in 1980 and is located on a similar size plot, but currently has more than 93,000 square metres under cover. The company's other two plants in the region are considerably smaller. The initial investment will be ¥10 billion (\$8.3 million) and during this first phase the plant it is expected to employ between 200 and 300 people. Production is due begin in late 2018.

For the full reports on all these stories check out Vertikal.net

Articulated Maeda for City Lifting

UK-based crane rental company City Lifting has taken delivery of the first articulated MK1033CWE-1 spider crane in the UK.

The bi-energy 995kg capacity crane features a three section main boom and three section telescopic jib giving an up and over height of 7.5 metres. Maximum lift height is 11.3 metres with features including a detachable electric pack and an auxiliary winch. The company also took delivery of two diesel/electric MC 405 CRMEs bringing its Maeda spider crane fleet to 10.



City Lifting has taken delivery of the first Maeda MK1033CWE-1 spider crane in the UK

Health checks for crane operators

n e w s

Singapore is to require health checks for all crane operators over 50 years old from April next year, together with tougher checks for older operators. The announcement was one of three initiatives unveiled at the annual Workplace Safety and Health crane safety symposium earlier this month.

Operators over 50 will be checked every two years to identify, treat and manage any conditions. The Ministry of Manpower claims 42 percent of the 6,400 operators in the state are already over 50. Those aged 65 to 70 will be checked annually, while those in their 70s will require be a more intensive medical on an annual basis.

Plans were also announced to simplify the requirements for new operators of mini cranes less than five tonnes. From January 2016 they will only have to attend an approved specialist training course rather than obtain a full crawler crane licence.

Finally the crane operator database - which will list all licensed crane operators - will be completed and available

from the first half of next year, allowing contractors or crane rental companies to check the history of any operator.



750 tonne Liebherr for Whyte

Scottish crane rental company Whyte Crane Hire has taken delivery of a 750 tonne Liebherr LTM 1750-9.1 All Terrain crane.



The nine axle LTM 1750 features a 52 metre main boom and up to 91 metres of lattice jib. The crane went straight to work on its first job erecting 23 wind turbines for Enercon on a wind farm in Corriegarth, Scotland.

Whyte's new LTM 1750-9.1 on route to its first job at the Corriegarth wind farm, close to Loch Ness



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EWS HIGHLIGHTS

- JLG parent Oshkosh has appointed Keith Allman - CEO of Masco building products - as a non-executive director.
- Danish rental company Slagelse Liftudlejning has taken delivery of a Ruthmann T540 truck mounted lift.
- Isoli has appointed Alturo as its distributor for Norway.
- German rental company Butsch & Meier has entered the spider crane market.
- UK access rental company Star Platforms has opened a new depot in Coalville, Leicestershire.
- The first Genie SX-150 boom lift in Germany has been delivered to Ulferts of Moormerland.
- West Georgia Technical College and CIS have formed a partnership to provide crane training courses.
- UK crane and access company Hird has purchased a 100 tonne Grove GMK4100L All Terrain crane.
- Hertz Equipment Rentals has appointed Charles (Chuck) Miller as vice president operations.
- Colombian terminal operator Port of Cartagena has ordered 23 Kalmar RTGs and 79 terminal tractors.
- Isoli has delivered five new PT90 pick-up mounted platforms to the town of Port Sudan.
- UK rental company Hewden has raised more than £20,000 for charity at its annual supplier golf-day.
- Jurong Shipyard/Sembcorp Marine has ordered two Liebherr offshore cranes.
- Sales and rental company Gizo has been appointed as Manitou platform dealer for Poland.
- Parts, distribution and service group IAPS has promoted Lucy Bebbington to the position of marketing director.
- Tadano is to build a new production facility near its headquarters in Takamatsu Japan.
- **Babcock Plant Services** has taken delivery of a new 400t Tadano ATF400-6 All Terrain crane.

Bebbington

- UK-based Traction Plant & Tool Hire has purchased a range of Haulotte slab electric scissor lifts.
- Italian rental company Venpa has taken delivery of six 20m CTE ZED 20.2 H truck mounted lifts.
- CTE has sold its first Traccess 135 spider lift in Norway, to its new distributor Instant Norge.
- Manitou has added Gehl dealer Star Equipment to its telehandler sales network for lowa.
- The Port of Bronka has taken delivery of the first heavy-lifting Liebherr LHM 800 harbour crane.
- Haulotte has opened its new 7,700 square metre North America distribution facility in Virginia Beach.

Members of IPAF's Brazilian council have agreed to report all known fatal and non-fatal accidents.

Genie vice president of sales Europe Phil Graysmark has left the company, Jacco de Kluijver will carry out his duties until a replacement is found.

 UK steel erector J&D Pierce Contracts has purchased 10 Genie boom lifts from APS.

The UK will begin the prosecution of Baldwins Crane Hire for corporate manslaughter in October.

 Turkish rental specialists Acarlar Makina and Ayhanlar have each purchased 65ft Holland Lift scissor lifts.

 UK rental company AB2000 has relocated its Inverness depot to larger premises in nearby Nairn, Scotland.

 Samson has confirmed that its KZ-100 synthetic rope is now available from certain Samson distributors.

Alimak Hek launched a new hoist and mastclimber at a customer/dealer day in France.

The British Antarctic Survey has ordered two 40 tonne Sennebogen 643 telescopic crawler cranes.

• Sennebogen has announced further investments in its production facility in Straubing, Germany.

Chris Davies CEO of UK-based HSS has stepped down and been replaced by COO John Gill.

 UK cabin rental company Mobile Mini has ordered 15 new Scania trucks with Fassi loader cranes.

Atlas Maschinen has appointed Kivisampo as its excavator distributor for Finland.

German access rental company Gagarin has taken delivery of eight JLG aerial work platforms.

UK rental company Quick Reach has taken delivery of more MEC scissor lifts and Genie boom and mast lifts.

 Craig Paylor has joined the Ahern Group - owner of Snorkel and Xtreme - as COO.

 US crane rental company McNally-Nimergood has taken delivery of a Liebherr LTM 1400-7.1.

 UK-based NMT Crane Hire has acquired Bedford based Wildman Transport.

- Low level scissor lift manufacturer Custom **Equipment** has appointed Ohio-based ALL Aerials as dealer.
- Huisman has delivered the 100th crane manufactured at its facility in Zhangzhou, China.

 US rental company Crane Service has taken delivery of its first Liebherr crawler crane, an LR1300SX.

Ken Barnes managing director of Grayston Crane Hire in the 1970s/1980s passed away in late September.

US-based Lizzy Lift has purchased its third 68ft PB S225-12ES (PB7448) narrow aisle scissor lift.



- JCB is looking at reducing its headcount in the UK by around 400, following slower order intake.
- ATN will launch a 12m mast boom at Bauma next vear.
- UK mini crane company Lift has added a 3.83 tonne Maeda MC405 CRME to its fleet.
- UK-based NMT Crane Hire has taken its second Böcker truck mounted aluminium crane.
- Genie has promoted Mike Flanagan to territory sales manager for Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.
- Vehicle mounted lift manufacturer



Co.Me.T has confirmed D.A.Forgie as its distributor for Ireland.

- Loxam Rental Norway has taken delivery of four Palfinger P200A 20 metre truck mounted lifts.
- Three contractors in Oman have purchased the latest generation Bobcat T40180 telehandler.
- UK port operator group ABP has taken delivery of four Kalmar reachstackers for its terminal in Immingham.
- Socage has formed a partnership with the Austrian fabricator Welser to produce ultra-high tensile rolled profiles.
- Oshkosh chief executive Charles Szews is to retire at the end of the year, Wilson Jones will take over.
- UK-based City Lifting has purchased the first 400 tonne Grove GMK6400 crane in the UK.
- Socage has acquired Luzzara-based **CATT** its key supplier of fabricated steel components.
- Haulotte has reported a slow third quarter but says that activity has picked up.



- UK-based Kimberly Rentals group has launched a secondary quarding system for scissor lifts - SkySecure.
- Cork Crane Hire of Widnes, UK has just taken delivery of a 200 tonne Liebherr LTM 1200-5.1



John Gill



See www.vertikal.net news archive for full versions of all these stories



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More customer choice

Since our last look at the heavy lift market a year ago there have been some significant new cranes launched

in the 500 to 750 tonne market sector. Yet in spite of improved safety features and performance, last month saw the worst crane disaster in living memory with more than 100 people losing their lives after a 1,350 tonne crawler crane overturned onto the Grand Mosque in Mecca, after being left in a vulnerable position in the face of a major storm with strong winds.

Incidents such as this further remind us of the dangers of not using the equipment as designed and recommended by the manufacturer. As we have seen several times before, wind is particularly hazardous to lifting operations, particularly when lifting bulky loads to a great height, such as installing wind turbines, not to mention how they are left when out of service.

Tadano enters the sector

Perhaps the most significant development was the launch of the eagerly anticipated 600 tonne, eight axle Tadano ATF 600G-8 All Terrain crane in June. Most notably, the crane features a triple main boom design - Tadano's alternative to the Sideways Superlift/Y-Guying cable suspended booms employed by competitors. The 56 metre boom is triple pinned and can take a 90 metre luffing jib. Load chart comparisons with

similar sized cranes suggest that it can outperform or at least match capacities from cranes with cable supported booms, but the Tadano requires no installation and has a much tighter tailswing and working footprint.

The ATF 600G-8 and its new boom system is undoubtedly a strong crane lifting its maximum capacity at 3.5 metres. Although its maximum system length of 147 metres is good, its relatively short main boom could prove a limiting factor for some crane rental companies. It has a long chassis at just under 20.5 metres (almost two metres longer than a Terex AC700) but it has a good turning circle, large counterweight, competitive road speed and compact outrigger spread compared to other eight and nine axle cranes

New 500 tonne Liebherr

Liebherr has added two large crawler cranes - the all-new LR 1500

> - said to be a 500 tonne capacity crane with the dimensions and weight of a 400 tonner - and an updated version of its LR 1750. The LR 1500 is designed for easy transport, the carbody and superstructure frame weighs 55 tonnes. However the removable A frame allows this to be



three metre overall width, enables it to be moved in all markets without 7.6 metres and standard track pads are 1.5 metres - more than a 400 tonne class crawler crane - greatly reducing ground bearing pressure. The drive is taken from the LR 1600/2 and power is provided by a Stage IV/Tier 4f 350kW engine, again about the same as a 600 tonne class crane.

The new LR 1500 has an 84 metre main boom and an 84 metre luffing jib. The 250 tonne jib head on the luffing jib is also used for SL main boom operation. A 400 tonne head is standard for the S main boom for heavy jobs, being more lightweight than the optional 500 tonne head. The derrick boom is 30 metres and the 260 tonnes of derrick ballast can be adjusted from nine to 16 metre radius.

Liebherr says it has also developed a simpler lattice boom system reducing the number of parts - boom sections are six and 12 metres long. This makes the transport and erection simpler and therefore more economical. The guide frame for the

derrick ballast has been completely omitted from the design and the ballast radius is adjusted simply using the derrick boom. The ballast is made up of 10 tonne slabs which are also used on the LR 1400/2 and

heavy lifting

One of two Liebherr LTM 1750s working on Germany's largest

ever cruise ship

LR 1600/2 machines keeping costs down for crane companies which have these in their fleet. The central ballast consists of a few concrete sections which can be set up quickly and easily and forms a safe catwalk for the undercarriage.

Liebherr adds another

The new LR1750/2 has increased capacities and H-boom configuration similar to those already incorporated in the LR1600/2 which include strengthening the main boom and extending the derrick boom by









LR 1500

seven metres to 38.5 metres. The company claims that the changes have increased the crane's capacities by up to 30 percent. The suspended ballast trailer has also been modified to include a hydraulic drive system, while work at height safety features have been revised throughout the machine

with additional platforms/access points added, as well as improved guardrails. All existing LR1750 components can also be used on the new LR1750/2.

First MLC650 on site

One of the most eagerly awaited new crawler cranes - the 650 tonne capacity Manitowoc MLC650 has started shipping, with Bigge Crane and Rigging using the first unit to erect a large wind farm in Minnesota, USA. The crane was delivered with a main boom of 104 metres and optional VPC Max superlift system in June and started work in August. The MLC650, launched at Conexpo last year,

features the innovative Variable Position Counterweight which adjusts automatically to keep the weight of the crane and load centred over the tracks to improve load distribution. As a result the crane requires less ground preparation than traditional crawler cranes and can safely pick andcarry heavier loads.

Bigge has rented the MLC650 to Colorado-based Renewable Energy Systems America, which is using the crane to erect 18 wind turbines at the Pleasant Valley Wind Farm near Austin, Minnesota on what will be a

200 MW-generating project when it's completed at the end of this

"We expect the wind turbine market to demand the MLC650 over the current offering of crawler cranes because the VPC saves time and money," says Bigge chief executive Weston Settlemier. "The crane's technology allows for reduced erection time, increased tracking speeds and lower transport costs. In addition, the VPC technology reduces the point loading of crawlers and cuts the ground



The VPC system automatically positions the MLC650's counterweight to suit each lift.





preparation required by the wind turbine erection contractor."

On the site, the MLC650 is configured with 104 metres of main boom with a 7.6 metre jib and 296 tonnes of counterweight. The crane is lifting wind tower sections and nacelles weighing up to 107 tonnes. It is also installing blades weighing 11.3 tonnes at heights of up to 90 metres. The VPC system automatically positions the MLC650's counterweight to suit each lift. Another useful feature is that the MLC650 has a smaller, live mast making it easier to move around the job site, particularly when moving under power lines. Bigge says the MLC650 mast requires less disassembly to lower its height resulting in less down time.

John Krane, leasing manager at

Bigge adds: "One of the MLC650's biggest selling points is its larger 32mm wire rope and good line pull. It can work with six rather than eight parts of line, allowing faster lift speeds, allowing us to complete the job in a shorter time frame. Also, it doesn't need an assist crane to raise its boom."

After the MLC650 completes this contract it will be moved to a similar project in Ardmore, Oklahoma.
Bigge is using its second MLC650 on power plant projects.

Boom Booster for Superlift 3800

Terex has developed a version of its Boom Booster kit for its 650 tonne Superlift 3800 crawler crane, increasing capacities by up to 30 percent. The new attachment follows the launch of the concept



on the CC 8800-1 crawler crane last year.

Available with all-new crane orders or as a retrofit, the Superlift 3800 Boom Booster consists of up to seven, 12 metre long by 3.5 metre wide, boom sections which offer boom lengths of between 24 and 84 metres. When equipped with the kit the Superlift 3800 offers a maximum hook height of 174 metres at which it can lift loads of up to 80 tonnes, making it well suited for erecting large wind turbines.

Walkways and fall protection systems are built into the boom sections as standard. Additional options include the company's Superlift Split Tray, which can be used to raise a long main boom and then uncoupled without an assist crane, allowing it to move with its standard Superlift counterweight.

A 3.5 metre derrick mast extension also allows an increased radius with full boom from 19 to 21 metres as well as enabling it to lift long boom systems from the ground without an assist crane. Finally, the Flex Frame system allows the Superlift counterweight radius to be adjusted from 13 to 21 metres with the full ballast on the tray.

The Boom Booster also allows the crane to travel with up to 94.5 metres, of boom/jib which Terex Cranes claims saves between four and five hours of disassembly/ assembly time.





heavy lifting Caa

Clever bridge lift

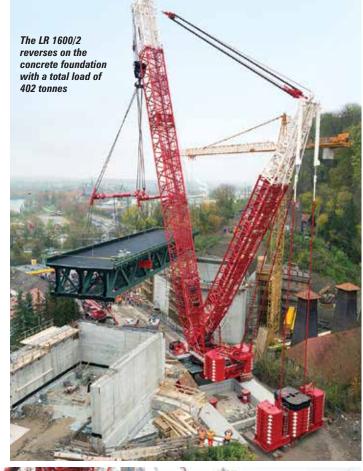
Installing a heavy rail bridge in an extremely tight space on a difficult site presented a whole series of challenges for Uwe Langer of German heavy lift and haulage company Riga-Mainz. Expansion of the municipal railway around Heilbronn, Baden-Württemberg included a new 355 tonne bridge in Bad Wimpfen but there was very little space for a crane to lift the steel bridge into place. Proposals for a tandem lift were rejected for various reasons including lack of space.

Riga-Mainz decided to use a Liebherr LR 1600/2 crawler crane working from a purpose-built reinforced concrete foundation sitting on a dozen, 13 metre deep driven piles, designed to support bearing pressures of up to 507kN per square metre. The night before the lift, the 40 metre long bridge section was transported from the assembly site to the lift point on two side by side 10 axle Self Propelled Modular Transporters. Mainz then threaded two cross beams through the bridge section to service as lifting points. This was one of the main reasons Riga-Mainz was awarded the contract.

"Riga was the only supplier to offer a solution using just one crane," said Kathrin Gottschang from project management team at Deutsche Bahn Projektbau. "The concept suggested by Uwe Langer was also the only one that included threading the lifting cross beam through the underside of the new bridge deck. All the other companies would have lifted the bridge at the top of the structure. That would have meant that much of the work on the bridge could not have been carried out in advance of the lift."

The LR 1600/2 was rigged with 54 metres of main boom and a 36 metre derrick boom. With the cross beam, spreader beams and other equipment the LR 1600/2 had to lift a total load of 402 tonnes at 19 metres. The crawler crane was fitted with a total of 565 tonnes of counterweight -65 tonnes central, 150 tonnes on the superstructure and 350 tonnes suspended at a radius of 18 metres. Once the bridge deck had been lifted from the SPMTs, the LR 1600 had to track backwards around 10 metres to position it on the new abutments. Two other Liebherr cranes - an LTM 1200-5.1 and an LTF 1045-4.1- were used for set-up and support work.

> One of the cross beams is threaded through the truss construction of the new bridge.





Pushing the boat out

Austrian crane and access company Prangl used a 500 tonne Terex AC 500 All Terrain crane to help lift a 71 tonne, 27 metre long pleasure cruiser from Ennsdorf harbour on the Danube, and then on its own to place it on Lake Hallstatt at Steeg.

"Ideally, you would want to lift this kind of load using a tandem lift, as we did when loading it on the trailer," said Prangl project manager Alexander Albert, "but that was out of the question when unloading, due to the lack of space - so the AC 500 was on its own."

The initial lift saw the crane with a 37.9 metre main boom and 140 tonnes of counterweight. Working in tandem with another crane at a radius of 14 metres, it lifted the hull from the water to a height of three metres

and slewed it 180 degrees before placing it onto the low loader for the 430km road trip to Steeg.

To unload the craft Prangl reduced the main boom to 19.3 metres topped by a 30 metre luffing jib,

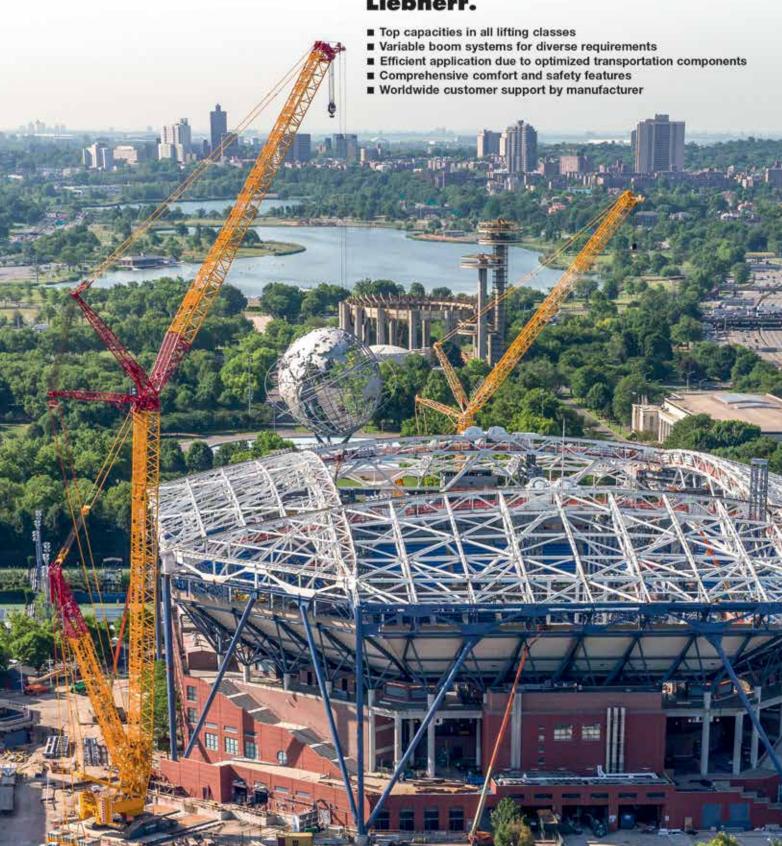


with 180 tonnes of counterweight. This allowed the boat to be lifted at a radius of 24 metres to a height of four metres, slew through 180 degrees before placing it into the water. Working alone, this time

the second lift proved to be the more difficult of the two, with weather, space and time presenting significant challenges which also involved the closure of the adjacent B166 autobahn for two hours.

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Advantage Buckne

The Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York - the largest tennis stadium in the world and the venue for the US Open - is getting a retractable roof to avoid match postponements due to rain. Over a period of 10 months, a 1,000 tonne Liebherr LR 11000 crawler crane and two 600 tonne LR 1600/2s operated by American crane contractor Buckner HeavyLift Cranes have been placing the steel structure for the roof.

The three cranes were on site from October 2014 to July this year, in order to complete the structure in time for this year's US Open last month. After the tournament, work restarted with a Liebherr LR 1600/2 from Buckner back on site for around four months, with the roof scheduled for completion in 2017.





One LR 11000 and two LR 1600/2 cranes erect the steel structure for the roof on the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York

"The site was logistically challenging and a great deal of planning was required just for the assembly and disassembly of the LR 11000 and LR 1600/2," said Kevin Long, Buckner's project manager. In addition two Liebherr LR 1200 cranes and an LTM 1220-5.2 from Bay Crane Service were on site as auxiliary cranes. The restricted space also caused difficulties for planning the various lifts but the compact design of the LR 11000 and its infinitely adjustable ballast tray with a minimum radius of 12 metres both helped."

"The maximum ground bearing pressure on site was our main concern," said Long. "But the Liebherrs offer far better ground bearing pressures than the other cranes we considered, and they also offered the lifting capacities and radii we needed. That meant that the cranes did not have to be moved so often which enabled us to save a good deal of time and money."

Buckner's cranes building the giant roof structure over the largest tennis stadium in the world.

Crawler counterweight

Southern German crane company Helling used a Liebherr LTR 1220 telescopic crawler crane, already on site, as a ballast substitute for a 600 tonne LR 1600/2 crawler crane on a wind turbine job, resulting in significant time and cost savings.

The LR 1600/2 was being used to place the top steel tower sections, nacelles and rotors of 128 metre hub height wind turbines on a contract near Alzey, Rhine-Hesse. After assembling the rotor and completing the erection of the turbine on the previous day, the team from Helling started work at around midday to lower the crawler crane's lattice boom with 12 metre fixed jib - an overall length of 150 metres.

After removing the central ballast on the crane, the telescopic crawler crane then moved to the LR 1600s rear and was positioned for use as additional suspended ballast to allow the boom and jib to be fully lowered. It then took the crew around 45 minutes to free up the LTR 1220 so that it could help lift the 34 tonne boom sections. The two cranes then tracked 1,200 metres across a field to the next site. By 22:00 the LR 1600/2s boom was re-installed by the LTR 1220 and elevated ready for work the following day.

Managing director Markus Helling worked with Liebherr to develop the concept for using the LTR 1220 as auxiliary counterweight for raising long booms. "Firstly there is a massive reduction in set-up times because there is no need to add and remove the suspended ballast. Secondly, about eight fewer ballast transport units are required for the set-up process" said Helling.







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The Superlift 3800 was equipped with 165 tonnes of superstructure counterweight, 50 tonnes of central ballast and 325 tonnes on the superlift tray which can be extended from 11 to 19 metres.

Superlift raises the roof

Specialist heavy lift and transport company Sarens used its Terex Superlift 3800 crawler crane to place the roof frame on French football club Olympique Lyonnair's new Stade des Lumières in Décines-Charpieu a suburb to the east of Lyon.

The 59,500-seat stadium will replace the current Stade de Gerland at a cost of €250 million. Its first major national event will be six matches in the UEFA Euro 2016 finals scheduled for June 2016. With the major structural work and seating areas complete, work is now concentrating on the installation of the steel structure that supports the enclosed roof with a January 2016 completion deadline.

"This project needed a crane with a high capacity at short and extended working radii without reconfiguring the boom," said Sarens project manager Sam Voeten. The crane was transported 500 miles to site from Cherbourg in northern France using 46 trucks. "We needed a total of 540 tonnes of counterweight for the superstructure, central ballast and superlift tray to perform all the lifts," said Voeten.

"The access tunnels for truck deliveries at the stadium are only five metres high by four metres wide so the compact transport dimensions of the Superlift 3800 helped us get it inside the stadium, with rigging taking a crew of five four days."

For the project the Superlift 3800 required 60 metres of main boom, a 42 metre jib and 36 metre superlift/derrick mast. The crane's hydraulic pinning feature helped Sarens' rigging crew to quickly assemble the crane, while the quick connection system enabled the superstructure to be installed within 15 minutes. The Terex fall protection ahead of schedule.

system provided additional safety when rigging the boom sections. It includes a vest harness equipped with a shock absorber and provided secured, tethered walking and working on the main boom. The stadium roof involves the installation of preassembled steel segments to form a supporting structure. Roof supports were placed around the entire circumference of the stadium but working space for the crane was very limited.

"Management of the free space inside the stadium was a challenge," said Voeten. "Terex helped us by studying the specific parking conditions for this project and corresponding maximum permissible wind speeds at the various working radii."

The Superlift 3800 was equipped with 165 tonnes of superstructure counterweight, 50 tonnes of central ballast and 325 tonnes on the superlift tray which can be extended from 11 to 19 metres. Working at a radius of 43 metres the crane quickly placed the 150 tonne inner segments at their drop-off height of 45 metres. It then worked at radii of up to 81metres - nearly the entire length of the football pitch - to position the smaller exterior flanges/assemblies which weighed 50 tonnes each. These were also positioned at a height of 45 metres for final assembly.

Sarens completed the supporting structure for final roof installation by mid-summer giving the stadium every chance of being completed

Zero-G lift for Riga Cta

The service life of the 'Zero-G' parabolic Airbus A-300 aircraft came to an end in August when it was lifted over the fence of Cologne-Bonn Airport. The aircraft will now become a museum exhibit on show to the general public.

The A-300 performed about 13,000 'parabolic flights' over a 15 year period in the empty airspace between Scotland and Norway simulating 22 seconds of weightlessness each time for astronaut training and experiments for customers including the German Aerospace Centre (DLR). Heavy lift company Riga Mainz lifted the 82 tonne plane with a Liebherr LR 1600/2 crawler crane and a sophisticated combination of attachments.

The 600 tonne LR 1600 was rigged with a 66 metre main boom and 36 metre derrick mast. Central ballast was 65 tonnes, superstructure counterweight 150 tonnes and suspended ballast of 200 tonnes. The total load including hook and lifting attachments was 109 tonnes at a radius of 43.5 metres. The aircraft has only three attachment points with the required capacity - on the two main landing gear assemblies and an area at the front of the fuselage. The lifting gear included two cross beams and three spreader beams developed by Riga Mainz. A remote controlled chain hoist was also used to adjust the crane hook precisely over the centre of gravity. This made it possible to adjust the required angle of the aircraft to the horizontal to generate zero up-thrust in the event of a gust of wind from the front.

One hour was all that was needed for Zero-G's last 'flight'. With guy ropes secured to telescopic handlers on two sides, the seven-man team from Mainz turned the 54 metre long plane through 180 degrees.



Sophisticated hanging gear: the combination of cross and spreader beams was able to adjust the angle to the appropriate centre of gravity using an electric chain hoist.

Caution was required because a gust of wind at this point could have caused the rear of the plane to hit the crawler crane's main boom. The crane then tracked 20 metres to place the aircraft on a specially prepared gravel bed.

> The attachment points for the main landing gear could only be accessed by opening the wings.



First live pylon lift

Specialist heavy lift and transport company Mammoet has completed the first ever lift of a 'live' high voltage pylon. The 380kV structure was raised in-situ by four metres, while maintaining the power supply on behalf of TenneT TSO for the Rijkswaterstaat (Department of Waterways and Public Works) in the Netherlands.

Mammoet was responsible for the complete project including civil works, fabrication of the new pylon section, the complete engineering package and lifting.

Using the 500 tonne JS500 jacking system, the pylon was raised with a margin of just five millimetres between each leg in order to maintain its structural integrity. Four JS500 jacking system towers - one at each corner - were used to raise the 35 tonne pylon, ensuring a very precise jacking

manoeuvre. The system was operated remotely at a safe distance. The use of the jacking system avoided the need to construct a costly emergency power bypass.

Mammoet has completed the first ever lift of a 'live' high voltage pylon. The 380kV structure was raised in-situ by four metres, while maintaining the power supply.



Giant electricity pylons lowered

During the summer German logistics provider and crane operator Wasel reduced the height of two 138 metre high electricity pylons and rebuilt the masts on the Rhine near Dinslaken. Using two 500 tonne Liebherr LTM 1500-8.1 All Terrain cranes - one from Wasel another from Cologne-based HKV Schmitz + Partner - they worked simultaneously on both sides of the river.

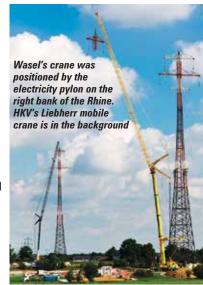
When originally constructed in 1926, the pylons of the 'Rhine Overhead Transmission Line Crossing Voerde' were among the tallest in the world and spanned a distance of more than 500 metres. Contrary to its original plans, grid operator Amprion decided to redevelop the ageing crossing because a new power line was subject to severe delays.

The two LTM 1500-8.1s had to complete the first part of the work simultaneously. Before dismantling the upper cross-beams, the transmission lines were simultaneously detached

from both masts and lowered to around 50 metres, before being temporarily suspended on the masts' framework structures. Shipping traffic on this part of the river was suspended for this phase of the work.

Industrial climbers and crane crews then worked for two days to dismantle the old mastheads and steelwork and erect the new mastheads at a height of almost 100 metres, pushing the two cranes to the limits of their lifting capacities. "The corner posts of the masts had significantly more mass than the calculations predicted," said Björn Kröger, project manager at Amprion. "Nevertheless, all lifts proceeded as planned, only the cutting of the original steel structure took more time than expected."

"On this section of the river the overhead transmission lines (now running lower) must always be at least 21 metres above the river's peak water level - the reason why the masts were originally built so high."



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Cta large & RT scissors

What's the future for RT scissors?

Rough terrain scissor lifts have been around since the early 1970s when they were lightweight, two wheel chain drive affairs. Their simple and reliable design meant they were cheap to operate and repair, making them ideal for both end-users and rental companies. Over time we have seen the introduction of hydrostatic drive then four wheel drive together with higher working heights and bigger decks with dual powered extensions, and more recently specialist narrow and electric/hybrid drive machines. Yet they still do pretty much the same basic job as the first large scissor lifts.

A large Rough Terrain scissor lift needs a big platform area, combined with a decent platform capacity. This makes them the platform of choice for construction work such as cladding and heavy fit out work, particularly on industrial 'shed' construction and large

commercial developments.
Unfortunately work outside of
this relatively narrow and cyclical
market, is often better suited
to other platform types such as
booms or slab scissor lifts, so
when big shed work dries up - as
it does in every recession - they
become almost unrentable.

For example in 2006 and 2007 the UK was ploughing ahead with the construction of large commercial distribution centres, but when the financial crash hit in 2008 many schemes were mothballed. Large scissors that were constantly out on rent, commanding good rates suddenly started filling rental yards. However, these commercial distribution centres are all go again across large parts of Europe, with increased demand for tall, narrow scissors as warehouses become ever higher. Those companies that invested in large scissors are now reaping the dividends. However there is still a lack of suitable equipment which can affect some construction schedules.

Many distribution centres are now reaching 30 metres high and look as though they may reach 40 metres. This will cause a practical problem







as 40 metres is a good seven metres too high for even the highest scissor lifts on the market, and large booms or truck mounted platforms just do not have the working space or platform capacity.

Increasing heights

But how high can a scissor go? Full line manufacturers have struggled to deal with this market, and while they are slowly updating and adding features to models that were long in the tooth, they show no sign of challenging the specialist manufacturers such as Holland Lift, PB Lifttechnik and - limping back after being in administration - H.A.B, which dominate the over 50ft market and offer a variety of power trains including electric and hybrid with working heights up to 33 metres.

German manufacturer H.A.B has re-started production of some of its products, including big scissor lifts and tracked booms - having shifted the design rights to a new company. Some of first units were purchased by Netherlands-based Collé Rental & Sales. The order includes several 32.5 metres working height, 1.39

metre wide S32-12 E4WDS electric 4x4 scissor lifts. With indoor and outdoor certification, 600kg platform capacity, extending deck, and drive at full height. Colle sold one of the first units to arrive to BAC Hoogwerkers.

C&A reviewed the electric and hybrid scissor market earlier this year (Issue 17.1). Since then Holland Lift has introduced its 103ft HL-330 E14 4WDS/N with a working height of 33 metres, 600kg platform capacity and an overall width of 1.4 metres. This size of scissor is particularly appealing to customers in Germany, Austria and The Netherlands for narrow aisle work, such as high cube warehouse racking - a specialist sector of the market but growing worldwide as



large & RT scissors





internet sales create demand for more semi-automated warehouses/ logistical smart hubs close to market

Holland Lift has also launched a more traditional 56ft, 550kg platform capacity, 19 metre working height HL-190 E20 with an overall width of two metres - one in a range of six models, that starts with the 46ft HL-160 E20 with 16 metres work

height. The customer can either chose electric, diesel or hybrid drive on both machines, with a variety of options such as outriggers, four wheel drive and oscillating axle making for a product that fits nicely between the compact - 1.7 metre wide - Rough Terrain scissor lifts and the classic 2.2 to 2.4 metre wide big RTs.

At Bauma next year the company will add to its full hybrid line (currently consisting of the HL-160 H20, HL-190 H20 and HL-275 H25) with the 66ft HL-220 hybrid, further evidence that its main focus remains with hybrid power, big working heights and high platform capacities.

Big scissors in demand

The market worldwide for large diesel scissors has also grown steadily over the last three years. Scissors with platform heights of 60ft and above are in demand from mature sectors on every continent, with even North America showing interest.

Holland Lift's managing director Eline Oudenbroek says: "Customers like to have their big scissor lifts

equipped with automatic greasing and automatic top-up systems for the batteries. This means the machines are easier to look after because big scissors are often rented out on an international basis all over the world instead of staying in the country of purchase."

The way buildings are constructed is also changing. "Often the inside of the building is built first, followed by covering it with walls and a roof. This increases the demand for large capacity, high working height outdoor machines. Also the building process is more planned, thus increasing the utilisation of big scissors."

New safety systems

Safety is also getting more attention in the planning process. Scaffolding that sometimes reduces flexibility and safety is increasingly being replaced by powered access equipment. Safety systems are also proliferating, following pressure from some major international contractors. Card readers that restrict operation to only trained and/or identified operators are rapidly becoming a requirement on



high profile sites. More recently secondary guarding is being talked about, following its wider adoption on boom lifts. In the UK Kimberly Rentals has just launched a controller mounted secondary guarding system for scissor lifts, dubbed SkySecure. The system can be installed on all diesel and electric





scissors and is claimed to be the first of its kind - See news page 6.

Hybrid acceptance?

Demand for full hybrid powered scissors in Western Europe is growing, particularly in the UK and Germany due to environmental pressures, as well as fuel efficiency and versatility. However the higher price would appear to be an issue for many buyers, although increased utilisation of the machine may help offset this.

The scissor lift platform - a workshop at height

Big scissor lifts offer many advantages for specific jobs of course such as platform capacities of up to 1,000kg, up to five times more the platform space with decks of up to 7.5 metres long or more. These advantages can also be used to support application specific attachments, such as a pipe and cladding panel holder and positioners, helping substantially increase productivity. They also provide engineered and safe solutions to unique application needs that can reduce the need for secondary material handling/ positioning equipment on site. While such add-ons have been available for some time, an increasing number

PB Lifttechnik's 27.25m working height 1,000kg capacity PBS270-24E





of rental companies are now using them to work with customers to create solutions to previous difficulties when carrying out a job at height, increasing speed and safety, and hopefully improved profitability for the rental company.



North America stays low

There are some notable differences between the North American and European markets for large/Rough Terrain scissor lifts. Whereas high steel frame, panel clad buildings are the norm in Northern Europe, many other markets tend to go for concrete tilt up, block and stucco work and lower building heights. This then negates some of the advantages provided by big scissors. Other factors for specific iobs include site access, ground conditions, and in some cases available transport. So far the North American market has shown little interest in big scissors, preferring to use boom lifts, heavy-duty mastclimbers and scaffold, but the rise of higher warehousing closer to city centres may change this. For example MEC has found a surprising amount of interest in its recently launch 60ft machine.

As well as commercial construction and installing cladding and panelling, other market sectors include, exterior finishing including stucco, glazing and stone work, insulation installation, roofing and mechanical trades installation such as fire sprinklers, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. Additional market sectors include on-location shooting video productions, as well as sporting events.

New JLG RT

With the demand for larger Rough Terrain scissors improving, manufacturers such as JLG, MEC, Airo, Iteco and Skyjack have all launched new products in the 50 to 60ft area. JLG's latest - the 53ft



large & RT scissors

530LRT - offers an 18.15 metre working height, its highest scissor lift designed by JLG - the company acquired LiftLux in 2004 and built some of its heavy duty and high reach scissor lifts from several years after that. It launched the new model as the 5394RT at Conexpo last year, but has since been named it the 530LRT giving JLG a range of three full size Rough Terrain scissors - the 3394RT, 4394RT and the 530LRT.

The new machine has a 680kg platform capacity, steel covers for easy repair and robustness and auto-levelling outriggers for rapid



The United Powered Access sheet trestle system for big Skyjack scissors.

set up. It features a standard 1.22 metre multi-position roll-out platform extension with a 226kg capacity. The engine compartment offers easy access to all service points and a swing-out engine tray if more serious work needs to be carried out. The tilt-down steps are easily lowered or removed for even better component access.

The largest North American

Until last March the largest scissor lifts built in North America tended to be 50ft, with manufacturers stating that there simply was no demand for larger machines. Californian niche manufacturer MEC decided that this was an opportunity to launch another product that avoided competing with the major US-based aerial lift producers. So it unveiled the 60ft full-sized 6092RT at Conexpo in the spring of 2014 and began shipping units around 12 months ago, with 4-Way Equipment Rentals of Edmonton, Alberta, in Canada taking the first two production units. The 6092RT offers a working height of 20.5 metres, with a platform capacity of

600kg on the 1.9 metre wide 7.54 long extended dual deck platform. Auto levelling outriggers and active oscillating axles are standard together with MEC's Quad-Trax 4x4 drive system as well as fully proportional lift and drive controls. Power comes from a Kubota turbo diesel with two speed planetary wheel motors. Overall weight is 9,200kg.

The company quickly sold out its first year's production with buyers not only in North America but also in Europe, with Riwal and HWS taking several units in the Netherlands, along with Nationwide Platforms, Quick Reach and Lifterz in the UK. Lifterz chairman Malcolm Bowers, says: "The MEC 6092RT bridges the gap between the mainstream Rough Terrain scissors that only go up to 53ft and the larger, heavy duty products from the likes of Holland Lift. The machine is well thought-out and the build quality is excellent, so I am sure it will be a hit with our customers. The deck length of 7.5 metres and healthy lift capacity make this scissor lift an ideal 'aerial



workshop' for our customers in the pipefitting and sprinkler installation industries."



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Get it Quick!

Given their infamously poor rental returns, few access rental companies specialise in big deck Rough Terrain scissor lifts. Mark Darwin visited UK-based newcomer Quick in Greater Manchester to chat with director Dave Barton to find out more.

Quick only started trading a year ago, but has already built up a sizeable powered access fleet - primarily big deck scissors - in its Quick Reach access division. Its other division, Quick Forks, focuses on telehandlers. In its first year it has spent almost £4.5 million and now runs around 300 machines.

The company was formed by the Barton brothers, David and John, both very experienced in the access platform rental market. Both worked for the Meek group, which went into administration in late 2003 and was then purchased by The Platform Company. Both became shareholders and held senior positions - John was more on the operations side and ran the Liverpool branch. When The Platform Company was acquired by Lavendon and merged with Nationwide Platforms in April 2008, both brothers became associate directors, with David was appointed to the Lavendon UK management board as UK business development director in 2010.

However the brothers maintained a burning desire to start their own access rental company - but only when the time was right. The



improving economy and an opening in the market meant that the dream became a reality last August.

"This really is an exciting and great industry to be involved with," says Barton. "However it is very capital intensive and involves a lot of initial investment before you see any signs of success. We are now reaching the end of our first year of trading and are very pleased with the results soon to be announced."

Wanted to be different

"We had no intention of being a general powered access supplier. We set out to be customer driven but market led, buying equipment specifically for a customer's project. This strategy has worked tremendously well."

Quick's success was helped enormously by the huge database of friends and clients the brothers had





built-up over the years. "Anyone can hire a machine to site, but it is all about what happens to the machine when it's working on site, customer focus is the big differentiator," says Barton.

"Manufacturers machines come in all shapes and sizes and each has machines with their own specific benefits. However they all have generally one thing in common, four wheels and get the operative to a specific height. We have focussed on understanding the complexities and difficulties our clients face whilst carrying out a job at height, in order to help them increase productivity and safety. We view the scissor lift and boom as a platform to do the work, and then provide attachments to help get the job done. We don't buy equipment because other people have them. This is why we are big believers in material handling attachments and safety systems. On average 70 percent of our big scissors are hired out with some form of attachment and all booms are fitted with secondary guarding."

"My old boss at Meek group was Paul Cummins, the founder of BlueSky and a visionary inventor who used to create these material handling attachments and on-board generators to name but a few. He used to say that they were 10 years ahead of their time and he was absolutely right. Entrapment, which first became an issue in 2003, is now well established thanks to Paul, as are the material handling



"We view the scissor lift and boom as a platform to do the work, and then provide attachments to help get the job done," said Barton.

attachments you see in the market today."

Which manufacturers?

Quick tends to prefer certain manufacturers. Its biggest supporter when it first started out was Skyjack. "They gave us the 'arm round the shoulder' support and we will never forget that," says Barton. The end result is that 70 percent of its fleet is Skyjack, including both scissors and booms.

Quick also went against general sector advice. "Other companies at that time were looking at smaller equipment which gives a greater return on capital employed. No-one was buying mid-range 50ft scissors and even Skyjack was only selling limited numbers of its big SJ9250 Rough Terrain scissor."

Barton saw that while the returns would not be as good there would

Quick Reach

Cla



be a shortage of this size machine in the market. His instinct has paid dividends as all the company's big deck scissors are constantly out on rent - probably helped by Quick's scissors being almost brand new, while most competitors' machines are much older.

The 50ft Skyjack SJ9250 offers up to 17 metres of working height, 680kg platform capacity and a 7.2 metres long double deck platform, making it ideal for cladding work.

"The SJ 9250 has not really changed over the years," Barton explained. "It is a simple, solid, easy to use platform with independent/ self-levelling jacks and good size deck. Now however, it has more competition from the likes of MEC and Airo."

Manufacturers and customers, particularly in Europe, are waking up to the need for higher working height scissors, with increased demand for 60ft big deck medium duty scissor lifts and plugging the gap. Quick Reach has recently added four 60ft MEC 6092RT Ultra-Decks with 20.5 metre working height and 7.5 metre platform length with its 600kg capacity dual decks extended.

Barton is enthusiastic about the Ultra-Decks. "Clients love the machines, particularly its massive



extended deck which is like having two scissors in one. On a large prestigious contract in London when they needed to reduce the number of large scissors on site - they decided to keep the MECs and got rid of the rest. That's the biggest testament I can give to the machine's build and quality, I can see us buying many more of these platforms next year."

During 2006 and 2007 the UK was awash with the construction and plans for distribution centres. However when the financial crash hit and tax laws changed for new big build distribution centres, schemes were mothballed. These are now making a re-appearance but the buildings are higher, with many up to 30 metres and at least one in the planning stage in London, which could go as high as 40 metres. This will cause Quick to look at the larger 25 to 30 metre platforms from the likes of Holland Lift.

Quick also runs Skyjack and Genie booms from 30ft to 125ft and has added the latest version of Haulotte's Star 10 mast boom in reaction to customer demand, as it was having to re-rent this type of machine on a regular basis.

"These mast booms are taking over from 12 to 14ft scissor lifts, as customers love their compact size, zero tail-swing and outreach. The return on investment is much better than for mid-range diesel scissors, but this is often the case with smaller equipment."

Barton says that he is now seeing that customers are willing to pay sensible rates for really good, clean, well-serviced equipment. Paying a bit more ensures more reliable equipment fitted with the latest performance and safety features.



Quick Reach has recently added four 60ft MEC 6092RT Ultra-Decks with 20.5 metre working height and 7.5 metre platform length.

Telehandlers to complement

The telehandler division of the company, Quick Forks, comprises a fleet of JCB telehandlers, ranging from seven to 17 metres, bought to complement its powered access fleet.

"The roofing, cladding and fire protection market always need a telehandler on site from the start to the finish of the contract. Not many access companies can offer this. They are expensive to purchase but highly utilised."

New openings

The company currently operates from a location in Eccles, strategically placed on the M62 corridor. However it is looking to expand and plans to turn a machine holding area in Newport Pagnell into a full blown depot by year end, able to service both London and Birmingham. It is also hoping to add a depot in the Glasgow area to cover Scotland in the New Year.

Future growth?

Quick is looking to quadruple its revenues over the next two years to £6-7 million. In addition to its planned new depots in Newport Pagnell and Glasgow, it hopes to open a further two branches around London, one in the Midlands and possibly one in South Wales. In terms of fleet expansion, it is looking to add 17 to 21 metre spider lifts in response to customer requests, and hopes to build the fleet to 1,000 units.

"Currently most of our equipment





is out on long-term contracts in London, the Midlands and the North. We have eight staff but this will increase to 14 and then 21 in the coming months as new depots become operational."

The two brothers also have plans for Quick Tools and Quick Accommodation divisions. "I believe the market will move towards a one stop shop such as Speedy and HSS, able to supply powered access, tools, accommodation and telehandlers," Barton explains. He is confident about the company's future. "It will be an interesting year ahead. We are aware, but not overly concerned about the competition. If we do a good job and stay close to our clients the business will develop regardless. The improving economy is also helping and I see that continuing through next year. It is a volatile market, but our clients tell us they have good order books for the foreseeable future."





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Managing ground conditions

In spite of the growing awareness for the need to ensure that ground conditions can support the outrigger or wheel loadings applied by lifting equipment, there appears to be more overturning incidents due to the lack of preparation than ever. For more than a decade, Cranes & Access has highlighted this fundamental problem and highlighted the need to use outrigger mats/pads which would almost eliminate the problem - even when working on soft ground or near hidden voids.

Let's get one thing straight from the start. Every item of lifting equipment - be it a crane, access platform, loader crane or telehandler - is perfectly safe and stable when operating within its design parameters and when set up correctly. If there is an incident, operator error is nearly always to blame. Incorrect set-up and misuse are the main causes of overturning, caused by the poor assessment of ground conditions, poor spreader plate selection and incorrect positioning of the outriggers.

Although the discussion on equipment training is probably best left for another time, it is clear that even 'trained' operators are either unaware of the potential risks, or do not care about taking the correct steps when setting up and using the equipment.

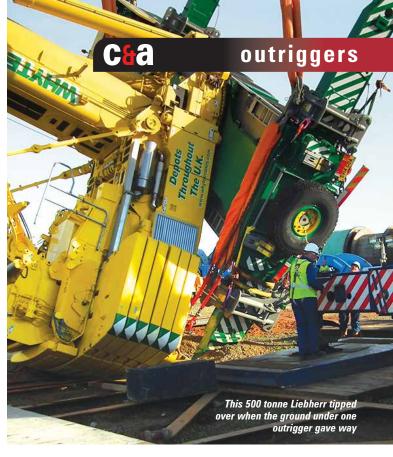
It is admirable that training schemes

such as the IPAF PAL card are so popular, however if accidents keep on happening is this a reflection of a lack of experience or lack of sufficient training? As we have said many times before, training (particularly over just one day) does not equate to competency. Yes grasping the basics and operating a platform is easy, but using a range of different platforms in a variety of difficult situations requires experience, skill and familiarity. Something unfortunately many operators simply do not have, with many using the platform for a specific, perhaps one-off task.

Platform overturns

According to the latest IPAF fatality figures, 16 people lost their lives through equipment overturns in 2013 and this increased to 17 fatalities last year. After falls from height, overturns are the most dangerous aspect of operating a platform.





Surprisingly (or not) overturns from equipment in Category 1b (platforms with outriggers) were half that of overturns in scissors (Category 3a) and booms (Category 3b). Before we jump to conclusions there are many possible reasons for this, such as the fact that booms and scissor dramatically outnumber platforms with outriggers. Outriggers now have interlocks and the machines that use them - truck mounted and trailer lifts - are more complicated, meaning that a greater awareness is required - and often given. Many scissor and boom overturns are also down to working on slopes - still ground condition related - rather than being caused by sinking in soft ground or voids. When it comes to cranes of course almost all overturning machines are those fitted with outriggers.

The main problem appears to be the lack of understanding of the potential risks - both above and below ground level - when setting up equipment that utilises outriggers - or should that be jack legs or stabilisers? Even the terminology used in various standards and codes of practice can vary or sometimes is not defined at all as in EN280:201.

British Standards on the other hand describes the outrigger as "a device intended to increase the supporting base and level the machine in its operating position, while a stabiliser is a device or system to stabilise a machine by supporting and/or levelling the complete machine

or the extending structure. NOTE examples of stabilisers are jacks, suspension locking devices and extending axles".

However similar ANSI standards define outriggers as devices that increase the stability of the machine and that are capable of lifting and levelling it, whereas stabilisers are devices that increase the stability of the machine, but are NOT capable of lifting or levelling it.

There are also variations between manufacturers in manuals both in the naming of the outriggers/jack legs/stabilisers and the units of measurement for the forces - KN, N/ mm sq etc... All very confusing.

There is clearly a need for consistency of definitions throughout the international standards, and perhaps guidance such as IPAF's 'Spread the Load' should also encompass different types of equipment - such as wheeled and tracked platforms -and not just focus on booms with outriggers as the basic principal of using a machine safely in various ground conditions still applies.



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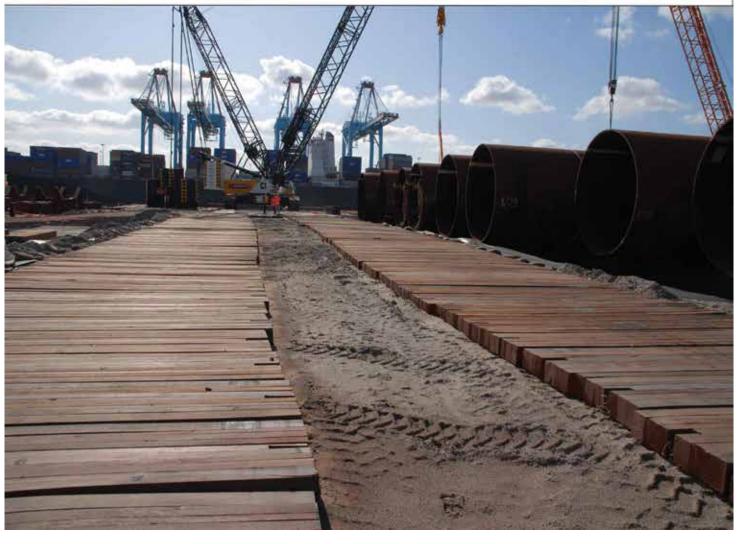




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GROUP





A Hinowa 26.12 tracked boom belonging to UK based MBS Access using Hi-Viz pads during cleaning the glazing in Central Milton Keynes shopping centre.

A comprehensive guide

Just over a year ago the UK's Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group produced the huge Ground Conditions good practice guide in conjunction with national associations such as the HSE, the CPA and CITB together, thankfully, with a four page summary. The document covers not only the ground below a machine's outrigger jacks, tracks or wheels, but also highlights the challenges of getting a heavy crane or truck mounted lift across uncertain ground to the working area.

The guide - aimed at the end user and site management and not the experienced operator - is



Palfinger's P480 - stores each outrigger pad at the end of the outrigger.

based around a flow chart which works through each process, such as defining the task, obtaining information on the type of ground, selecting the equipment and the load forces it imposes to determine the suitability of the ground and the measures to be taken. Its recommendations are not rocketscience - put simply if the ground is suspect use a lighter machine or spread the load. But the main problem is that many customers/ clients and contractors are still not fully aware that ground conditions are ultimately their responsibility and that they should give the operator information such as the maximum ground bearing pressures that the ground will take.





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c**ea** outriggers



Which spreader plates?

Depending on the type of equipment there is a mat/pad or mat system to suit. Manufacturers are now working more closely with customers to ensure that mats can be carried on a machine as well as being stowed in a position from which it is easy to remove and place them. Some of the larger truck mounted platform and crane manufacturers have incorporated outrigger pad storage areas low down on the machine and also use round outrigger mats to facilitate easier manual handling.

Palfinger's latest truck mount - the two axle, 48 metre P480 - has gone one step further by having each outrigger pad stored at the end of the outrigger so that it just needs to be dropped from each carrier and put under leg. This is an excellent system and certainly makes it easy for the operator. This is critical as in the vast majority of overturning incidents, no mats have been used at. And in many cases if it possible to see mats still stowed on the deck of overturned machines.

Larger mats for cranes and heavy equipment

The current trend in outrigger mats is towards the use of multiple component mat systems - such as that pioneered by Alimats in the UK - allowing users to build up a larger mat by linking a number of smaller, easier to handle spreader plates together. A number of new products have been launched by companies such as Outriggerpads with its ECO Lift Multi Mat System, Solum modular mats and Universal Crane Mats.

A selection of smaller outrigger pads.

Aluminium UniMat

Universal Crane Mats launched its new modular system at Vertikal Days in May called the UniMat aluminium load spread system. Its first set of mats - measuring two by 1.5 metres - was purchased by Highcliffe Engineering based in Mexborough, South Yorkshire which took 20 modules made up of 12 two metre and eight 1.5 metre long mats. This combination can make standard three metres square set of four pads of two metres by 1.5 metres.

Mat sizing is always dependent on ground conditions and varies for every lift so many customers will purchase a larger size than generally required in order to cover a larger proportion of lifts. Where the engineer dictates a larger load spread area to reduce imposed loadings, the customer can simply rent in additional modules as required.

The UniMat system has been successfully proof tested under simulated site application to 150 tonnes at Lloyds British Testing facility. Available in eight configurations - one, 1.5, two, 2.25, three, four, five and six metres square - the system is proving popular.





The Solum a multi-purpose aluminium temporary foundations system with all modules 600mm wide and 70mm deep and available in 600, 1,200 and 1,800mm lengths.

Solum

Another new launch at Vertikal Davs was The Solum - Latin for foundation - a multi-purpose aluminium temporary foundations system designed by RNP Associates. All modules are 600mm wide and 70mm deep and available in three lengths - 600, 1,200 and 1,800mm. The profiles allow the modules to be combined to cater for a variety of applied loads and supporting ground conditions. For example two units laid at right angles over three base units have a proven, tested working load of 100 tonnes. The largest configuration has been tested to a proof load of 1400kN (140 tonnes). With the largest modules weighing



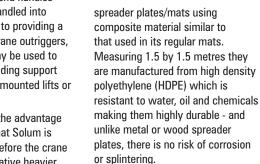
Alimats interlocking modular load spread system.

for the smallest, the product which includes integrated end handles can be easily manhandled into position. In addition to providing a stable support for crane outriggers, the smaller units may be used to provide a load spreading support for falsework, truck mounted lifts or even loader cranes

The company says the advantage over steel pads in that Solum is installed manually before the crane is rigged. The alternative heavier steel pads often require the crane to lift them into position before the mats are in place therefore increasing the risk of sinking on soft ground. Furthermore the lightness of the aluminium mat system means that they can often be transported directly on the mobile crane, effectively removing the need for a support vehicle. Aluminium was selected, for its strength, weight and ability to resist corrosion. Even the largest mat can easily be transported in a van and laid in place by two men.

A bigger polyethylene mat

Outriggerpads has introduced an alternative to mid-sized steel



In order to make them easier to handle, the mats incorporate four metal bars, similar to better quality heavy timber mats, to allow for the easy attachment of slings. Although they weigh 214kg each, the company says they are considerably lighter than the equivalent sized steel mats, but have a greater load bearing capability. The company says that it is the first company to stock polyethylene mats of this size. It also adds that due to a positive reception it is moving into full production to ensure deliveries times are kept to a minimum.

First customer for the new crane mat was Towcester, UK-based





crane hirer Berry Cranes. Neil Berry, managing director, said: "We were impressed with the light weight of these mats and their load-bearing capabilities. I would expect them to have a much longer working life than steel mats. The integrated lifting bars also make them easy to unload and position."

Track panels

Outrigger mats are just one of the many products designed to help equipment work safely on a variety of ground conditions. Track panels allow equipment to reach parts of a site that involve crossing ground that is too soft to support the equipment or that will be damaged by the weight of the equipment. This sector, pioneered by Trakway has also seen the introduction of several new products.

American company Anthony Hardwood Composites has developed the Emtek panel - a temporary access roadway system, specifically designed for use in boggy and extremely wet areas which are now available in Europe.

The wooden mats are made using American hardwoods which are laminated, glued and pressed to create a super-strength panel, with natural defects such as knots and wane removed to add further strength and quality. The wood used within the mats is also sourced from certified sustainable forests.



The latest HDPE product from Outriggerpads measure 1.5m by 1.5m.

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All Emtek mats are proof load tested at the factory for deflection and strength. According the company deflection tests carried out in comparison with aluminium mats showed the Emtek product deflecting three times less when put under the same load span pressure. With compressive strength, the mats are designed to support 4,123psi (290 kg/sq cm) on firm surfaces.

Zappmat

A new concept in ground protection mats - Zappmat has been launched

by UK based Paragon Protection Systems which has more than 20 years' experience in specialist construction plastics.

Four types of Zappmat are available - Pro, Go, Vibe and Life - all with varying specifications and features. At the top end, the Pro has a load rating of 140 tonnes and backed by a 10 year warranty. The Go is a more cost-effective mat rated at 80 tonnes, with a seven year warranty. The Vibe has the same performance as the Pro but is available in any colour which is being increasingly



outriggers

used on sites to identify high risk areas and walkways etc. Finally Zappmat Life is made from a special translucent resin which helps protect grass from drying and other damage for use on quality turfed areas.

All Zappmat variants carry the same tread pattern with a vehicle tread

one side and a pedestrian tread the other. They are manufactured using 100 percent virgin HDPE - not recycled material - as according to the company polyethylene molecules don't always bond well to impurities found in recycled materials which can lead to stress-fractures or breakages.



Supporting Halley VI

Scientists at a renowned Antarctic research facility are using spreader plates to support researchers for the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), in the Halley VI Research Station - the first fully re-locatable research station in the world.

The state-of-the-art facility is segmented into eight modules raised on hydraulic legs which can be raised individually to overcome the accumulation of snow, preventing the station from being buried. The legs are all fitted with giant skis, so the team can tow each module using a bulldozer, enabling Halley VI to be relocated as required. Snow levels rise by more than one metre every year and the sun does not rise above the horizon for 105 days during winter. Temperatures drop to -56C and the site can be buffeted by winds in excess of 100 mph.

Telford, UK based Outriggerpads has created a product specifically for the research station. The pads measure 1,200mm x1,000mm x 40mm and weigh only 46kg each making them easy to manually position, yet have a 30,000kg load-bearing capacity.

Manufactured from UHMW polyethylene, the material does not splinter - particularly important in such cold conditions, and has a very high resistance to vertical pressure, meaning the pads adapt to the contours of uneven terrain while still retaining their shape. The material is also completely waterproof which significantly extends the working life of the mats compared to spreader plates made of wood or metal.

Science at Halley VI provides vital information for better global understanding of ozone depletion, polar atmospheric chemistry, sea-level rise and climate change. Halley VI is the most southerly research station operated by BAS. It

houses up to 52 people in peak summer (December to February) and a core team of 16 during the long winter when the base is completely cut off from the rest of the world, on the 150 metre thick floating Brunt Ice Shelf, which moves 400 metres each year towards the sea.



King Lifting uses VarioBase system

UK crane rental company King Lifting recently used its new 300 tonne Liebherr LTM1300-6.2 mobile crane with the VarioBase system to assist in the removal of a large tower crane in the City of London located on a very tight junction deep in the heart of the city. To reach the tower crane, the LTM1300 needed to be sited on the junction of Fetter Lane and a service lane and set up with 78 metres of main boom with an additional 14 metre fixed jib.

Once in position, the LTM1300-6.2 VarioBase system allowed each outrigger beam to be extended to the full extent allowed by the limited

space with the information than sent to the Liccon load limiter where a corresponding load chart is then calculated and set in the system. In this case the rear outriggers were set at full width, with the front nearside at 50 percent and the offside at 75 percent, which allowed footpaths to remain open, street furniture to stay in place and fragile underground services to be avoided.

A crane using conventional outrigger positions would have necessitated considerable preparation work to the site hoardings and highway with associated time and cost implications. The VarioBase system allows the crane to operate safely with any support base, avoiding potential accidents resulting from incorrect operation or a poor set-up.



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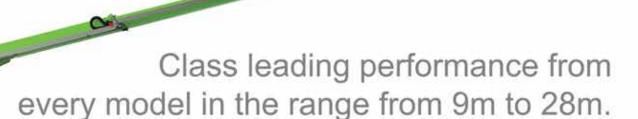




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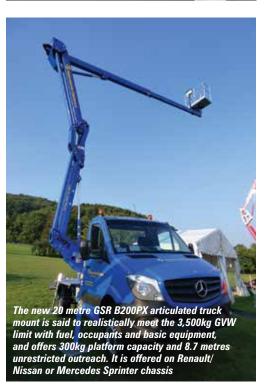
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The 15th Platformers' Days event was held in September this year and thanks to excellent weather and a positive attitude it was one of the best so far.

In terms of new products truck mounted lifts were out in front, but another significant difference this vear was the increase in the number of mini/spider crane and telehandler exhibitors, not to mention a good selection of glass handling robots. Visitor attendance at around 1,500 was a new record and there was plenty to see. Here is just a small overview of some of the new products on show.











Platformers' Days





Platformers' Days Caa











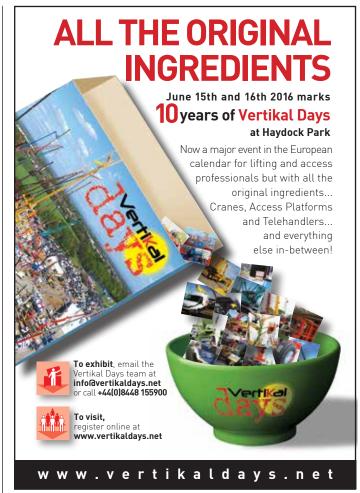


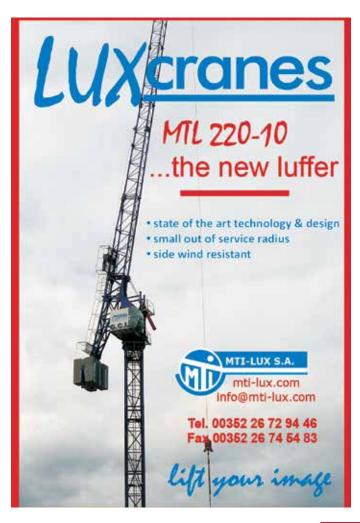












Platformers' Days Caa





















Cost-effective Alimak products

Alimak Hek launched several new products at a recent customer/dealer day held at its facility in Neuilly-en-Thelle, just north of Paris, France. New products on show included the two tower crane operator elevators announced in June - the internally installed CabLift which is only available for Potain tower cranes and the externally installed Alimak TCL - as well as a medium range construction hoist and a new range of mastclimbing work platforms.

As previously reported the internally installed CabLift was developed in partnership with Potain, while the externally mounted TCL can be used with any make of tower crane. The CabLift can be added to Potain K Mast tower systems from 1.6 to 2.45 metres wide and pre-installed on new cranes. Features include a platform at the top of the mast to help erect tower sections and ensure that the sections of elevator mast fit properly. All components are contained within the mast, making additional storage, transport and assembly unnecessary. If power fails during an emergency, the cabin is able to descend under gravity however there is also a fixed ladder.

Normal elevator speed is 24 metres a second, although this can be reduced to 12 metres a second, for mast inspections etc... Mechanical and electrical interlocks ensure that when the elevator is occupied the bottom gates are locked. The cabin can be accessed through both the floor and the roof, and has a maximum capacity of 200kg,



although this can be increased to 240kg for erecting work, in order to hold two men and their equipment.

Alimak TCL

The externally mounted TCL has been designed for use on a wide range of tower cranes. It requires no mast modifications and offers greater tie distances for reduced assembly times. The 1,508mm long mast sections are made from galvanised steel and weigh 48kg. They also include centring notches and captive bolts. Capacities and lift speeds are similar to the CabLift, while a reversible cabin allows doors to be located either left or right to suit all cranes and site conditions. Maximum lift height is 90 metres, although 180 metres is possible by mounting the drive motor in the middle rather than at the bottom. The cabin's

internal dimensions are 1.2 metres by 630mm.Deliveries start early next year.

The recent interest in tower crane elevators has been driven by health/safety requirements in Sweden, Holland and Denmark where they are required on cranes over 30 metres. France's 60 metre requirement will be cut to 30 metres in 2017. An aging pool of operators is also generating interest in other countries.

New cost-effective Scando hoist

Following the launch of the 2,400kg capacity Scando 65/32 earlier this year, Alimak has added the 45/30 medium-range hoist, using the 450 mast. Offering very similar performance to the Scando 450, but costing 20 percent less. Assembled at Alimak's facility in Sweden, it is





Alimak

designed for both passenger and materials transport and is available in single or dual car configuration with capacities of up to 2,000kg per car.

Available with either a Direct on Line or Frequency Control motor system and high-efficiency helical gearbox, the hoist has a microprocessor control system with stop-nextlanding control for ease of use. The Scando 45/30 offers the same payload, load space and lifting heights as the Scando 450 although speed is 42 rather than 54 metres a minute. The 450 also offers flexible car lengths and lightweight doors while the 45/30 does not.

Hek MC 450 mastclimber offers lower prices

Alimak Hek has almost finalised a new range of mastclimbers, driven by customer feed-back which said: "the current low rental rates do not justify the investment in the Hek MCM (M450) range, which is too sophisticated and costly to maintain".

The company hopes its new range will help it "remain market leader by offering the best ratio between technical specification, price and performance". The first model to

be launched will be the Hek MC 450 which the company says will be between 30-35 percent cheaper than the MCM range.

The new MC 450 will be available in either single or twin mast configurations and platform lengths of 4.2 to 10.2 metres and 8.4 to 30 metres respectively with maximum platform capacities of 2,500kg and 4,500kg (1,500kg and 2,500kg with maximum platform lengths). Platform widths are 1.2 and 2.2 metres for both single and twin masts with speeds of eight and 9.6 metres a minute. The first tie position is at three metres, tie distances are between 8-10 metres and the maximum tied lift height is 200 metres.

The MC 450 should be available in December but further developments over the next few months include centrifugal brake, deck rotators, harness anchor points, an anticollision device and a web tool for comparing the time and cost implications of a mastclimber compared to scaffolding.

Alimak hopes that the new mast will be particularly popular in developing markets thanks to it more competitive pricing.









Rental finance basics

As most of the major economies continue to recover, rental companies have seen big changes within their banks and leasing companies. This is particularly the case in the UK and some other European markets, where funders are competing on interest rates and credit criteria in a way not seen since the mid-2000s. But what does this mean for the rental industry, how long will it continue, and how should rental companies react? Finance consultant Jeff Eisenberg takes a closer look.

During the 2008 downturn, much of the banking system effectively stopped working in many countries. Governments injected vast sums of cash and took equity stakes in banks. In the UK for example, two of the largest banks, RBS and Lloyds, had government bail-outs that are still being paid back. Germany and Scandinavia (excluding Denmark) were less affected by this crash than other countries. Their banks were not as aggressive refinancing 'sub-prime' mortgages particularly in the US, partly due to cultural reasons. Sweden had its own banking meltdown in the early 1990s, and indeed their experience in nationalising their banking system in the previous crisis probably helped them avoid the latest meltdown.

Large scale construction requires a healthy banking system to finance building projects, so the equipment rental industry was doubly hit by the banking crisis, due to steep declines in demand from contractors at the same times as finance for rental companies dried up. Many rental companies found they had 2007 debt with 2009 cash flows, resulting in share price collapses and debt restructuring.

UK market top to bottom

The UK equipment finance market is the largest and most developed in Europe. At the top are large bankowned finance companies which provide billions for the financing of rental equipment through a variety of financial structures. Some of the funders are owned by UK banks - such as RBS-owned Lombard with more than £7 billion in assets - but prior to 2008 foreign owned institutions such as ING, GE, multiple Irish banks, and others also injected billions into the equipment market.





Rental companies with strong balance sheets can obtain lines of credit from the big leasing companies for margins of 0.75 to three percent over cost of funds. The majority of the largest funders have their own salesforces but some of them have traditionally taken some broker introduced business as well. (This has changed significantly post-recession, but more on that later).

In the middle of the market, dozens of funders compete including bank owned leasing companies, along with companies like JCB Finance, Siemens Financial Services, Hitachi Capital, and Caterpillar Financial services etc... who started out financing parent company manufactured products but are now significant diversified equipment funders. They typically charge a range of margins of say 1.25 to five percent over the cost of funds. In construction equipment, much of the business is done via close relationships between the suppliers of the equipment and the funders.

The UK is unusual in Europe in that it has a thriving 'sub-prime' equipment finance market. Young rental companies, those which have emerged from insolvency and the relatively undercapitalised. can turn to the likes of Close Asset Finance, Five Arrows Leasing Group - formerly most active as State Securities - and a handful of specialist leasing companies that

will charge seven to 15 percent plus interest per annum. The best of these companies understand exactly what the values of used and repossessed assets will be, and are real 'asset funders' who depend heavily on the values of the equipment to compensate for somewhat weaker company financials. Their higher margins compensate for higher average default rates and much of their business has been originated via brokers and advisors rather than having a direct salesforce.

This sub-prime equipment finance business is very rare in the rest of Europe. One executive of a leading European leasing company said that in most countries "Either the money is there at attractive rates, or it is not there." In contrast to the UK where newer rental companies start their fleets with expensive money from sub-prime leasing companies, then with each passing year and hopefully strengthening financials, they work their way up the ladder to lower cost providers.

Captives

Most medium to large suppliers of construction equipment have some kind of 'Captive' or in-house financing capability. Rarely does the supplier actually finance the equipment with their own funds. Instead they introduce outside funders, or re-finance the leases behind the scenes. This refinancing may or may not be visible to the

finance

customer. Manufacturers will only use precious capital to support the finance of incremental sales or as a tool to increase or maintain equipment pricing.

The manufacturer will though often provide 'credit enhancement' to the funder, either through introduced funders or refinanced leases. This enhancement may be an agreement to repurchase or remarket the equipment in the event of default, or 'recourse' agreements to share the losses if the recovered equipment does not cover the lease payments outstanding.

Credit enhancement does encourage funders to give larger credit lines, longer terms, residual risk/operating leases, smaller up front deposit requirements, or a lower cost of funds, depending on market demands and how hungry the supplier is for the incremental sales. Some of these 'captives' are well developed finance companies in their own right, even joint ventures with bank-owned leasing companies, while others are merely a division or trading style of the manufacturer who acts as a broker. In some cases, the captive is actually a programme, where the funder dedicates one or more employees to work for the supplier under the supplier's own brand. Therefore, the captive may be able to introduce sub-prime lenders for smaller customers, or organise larger, low cost funding with the high street banks, or anything in the middle. Some former captives such as JCB Finance are now diversified successful finance companies in their own right.

Captives are also uniquely placed to offer part of rental company fleet financed on a low risk basis. This may include operating leases or early return options, which can lower the lease payment or lower the risk of fleet ownership for the rental company, or both. As many rental markets have not seen rental rates or volumes return to pre-crisis levels, this can be a very attractive proposition.

The recovery and interest rates

Most European markets, even Spain (less so Italy and Greece) are feeling the benefits of economic recovery. Credit is becoming more readily available, and interest rate margins are falling. It is worth keeping in mind that the banks own cost of

funds have come down drastically since 2008, with the UK dropping from four to five percent to half a percent and the Euro-Zone to a quarter of one percent (see chart). For companies currently investing in equipment or refinancing this represents a huge saving. The biggest surprise in the UK leasing market is just how quickly funder margins have also come down. This is mostly due to extreme rate competition from the High Street banks and leasing companies that have re-entered the market in the past year.

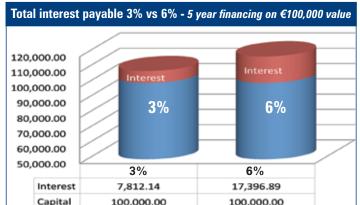
The amount of equipment investment for rental fleets in most countries is moderate, and mostly comprises replacement or refreshment of fleets after a five or more year pause during the downturn. Meanwhile funders with their cost of funds at historical alltime lows are aggressively trying to rebuild leasing volumes faster than the customers are adding to their fleets.

One executive of a mid-priced leasing company in the UK complained: "In the recession we would have got the deal at say nine percent, but now even when there are only two of us submitting prices for a proposed transaction, we are coming in at seven percent, and the high street banks are immediately bidding three percent or less." Another added: "In the UK we see a lot of 'stupid' funding going on in terms of pricing and credit quality." Of course for the rental companies

the question is how do we get some of this 'stupid' pricing?

In the UK, the first step is to contact the cheapest funders - the high street Banks and their leasing affiliates. But contact them directly as some - such as Lombard - are no longer taking broker-introduced business. During the recession, several studies showed a correlation between broker-introduced transactions and higher default rates, plus this appeared to be





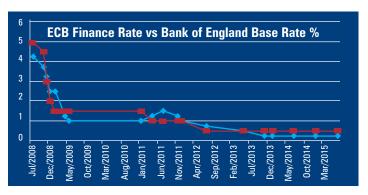
a way for the funder to keep the broker's margin.

ING, one of the largest lessors for construction equipment in the UK, closed its doors for new business in late 2012 with hundreds of millions of broker-introduced business on its books. Its parent bank was eventually bailed out by the Netherlands government.

However, incredibly for the funders - but good news for customers - the high street banks and other lessors that would have paid a brokerage fee of between half and two percent or more, seem to be just passing all the savings on to the customer. The broker of course has an incentive to only introduce funders who will pay a commission, or to favour those paying larger commission.

contact the funder directly. Some funders will hear an alarm bell ringing and refuse a transaction if they see the same customer or transaction via more than one channel.

In conclusion, low interest rates are likely to stay with us for some time. The Euro-Zone and UK recoveries are relatively slow and inflation seems to be a far-off risk, which will keep the bank cost of funds low for some time. Strong competition among equipment funders will also maintain the pressure on them to reduce margins. With rental volumes and rates recovering at a painfully slow rate in many markets, lower finance costs and increased access to credit lines for fleet replacement and growth is very welcome news for rental companies.



Where is a broker useful?

A reputable broker can be extremely useful, particularly for younger companies that are still building their balance sheet. Sourcing enough investment for a sizable rental fleet may require several funders, a mix of sub-prime and midmarket leasing companies, some of which have no sales forces and rely on brokers for all of their lease origination. But a rental company should be careful to work with only ONE broker and agree where they will try to place a transaction via the broker and where the company will

About the author

Jeff Eisenberg has been involved with the equipment rental industry since the mid 1990s, initially helping set up Genie Financial Services. Since 2000 his roles have included rental company director, shareholder, advisor, consultant and even equipment operator. While his career has been controversial at times, he certainly knows his way around a balance sheet and the finance market. In more recent years he founded and runs Claremont Consulting, advising financial institutions, investors and rental companies. He can be contacted on jeff@claremont-consulting.com



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Suspended sentence for reckless scaffolding

Greg Pearson owner of UK based Pearsons Scaffolding has been given a 10 week prison sentence suspended for two years after repeatedly allowing unsafe work at height to be carried out on a busy street in London.

The HSE prosecuted Pearson after a member of public raised concerns about the work being carried out 15 metres above a street in Covent Garden. Pearson had previously ignored a prohibition notice after the HSE found the scaffold to be poorly erected and incomplete, while unsafe work practices were putting employees at risk. He also failed to respond when required to produce documents for inspection during the investigation.

The company's involvement at the site only came to an end after a second prohibition notice was



The HSE was alerted to the unsafe work after being sent photographs and videos from a member of public.

served and the project's principal contractor decided to replace it. **HSE** inspector Andrew Verrall-Withers, said: "Greg Pearson repeatedly put the lives of other workers and members of the public at risk. He blatantly disregarded all warnings and enforcement action taken against him and it was just good fortune that no one was killed. It is vital that law abiding scaffolders have confidence that they will not lose work to those who underquote due to shortcuts at the expense of safety."

OSHA cites roofing firm

Pompano Beach-based Latite Roofing, one of South Florida's largest roofers, has been fined \$136,500 for three repeated and three serious safety violations.

Three inspections on a job the company was working on in Naples, revealed that employees were working on roofs up to six metres in height without any fall protection, as well as improperly using a step ladder. The company has also been cited nine times in the past five years, including one following a fatality.

OSHA's area director Condell Eastmond, said: "Residential roofing work can be deadly when safety measures are not enforced. Latite Roofing has an extensive OSHA inspection history, but continues to expose employees to life-threatening safety hazards. Latite must assess its work practices immediately to ensure workers are protected."



training

LEEA introduces new training

The Lifting Equipment Engineers Association (LEEA) has launched a new learning management system that, it says, will transform the training of students preparing for the association's diploma qualification for testing, examining and maintenance of overhead lifting equipment.

Replacing its existing online courses, the LEEA Academy features a new e-learning service, which includes the latest 3D modelling and interactive techniques as well as instructor-led practical training. The course can be accessed with a PC or tablet, and features an extensive library of high quality, computer generated 3D images of equipment such as hoists and load lifting attachments, making it easy for students to relate to day-today working practices. In addition, fully interactive guizzes and revision assignments are used throughout each course, providing students with immediate feedback on progress and helping identify any gaps in their knowledge. Students are free to work at their own pace, and benefit from access to a dedicated tutor and technical helpdesk. Students can also communicate with others on the course.

The association's 'Part One Entrance Certificate' course is the first to use the new system, followed by its 'Lifting Equipment General Diploma' course .



Secondary guarding explained

AFI has hosted its second online interactive seminar covering secondary guarding systems and crushing risks, and how to select the most appropriate system for a range of situations.

The seminar will be hosted on the company's website (www.afi-group.co.uk/webinars) and available to access by those who missed it.





Exiting the platform at height

IPAF has released updated guidance on exiting the platform at height. The E2 document states that aerial work platforms are specifically designed to lift people to a position where they can work at height safely within the confines of the platform and are not designed for the purposes of transferring people to upper levels.

Users should therefore only enter or exit the work platform at ground level or at an access position on the aerial work platform chassis.

The document also outlines criteria for exceptional cases where aerial work platforms may be used to gain access to a work area at height, where exiting the platform at



The E2 guidance illustrates the correct way to exit the platform at height where necessary.

height to reach a specific job may be permitted. It highlights which hazards should be considered in the risk assessment, and what control measures should be taken. To view the guidance, visit the Publications/ Technical Guidance section of: www.ipaf.org

Skanska Romania trains managers

20 managers from Skanska Romania have successfully completed IPAF's MEWPs for Managers course, which helps supervisors and managers to prepare for and safely coordinate the use of various types of aerial work platforms on site. The course was conducted by IPAFcertified instructor Martin Wraith and was held at IPAF rental member Industrial Access Romania.

Mircea Bosie, Skanska Romania environmental, health & safety coordinator, who attended the course, said: "The structure of the training module was good and allowed us to enter step by step into the subject, without bringing a huge amount of information all at the same time. The content of the training was very clear, easy to understand, and was presented in an interesting way with the use of videos, case studies and animations. The biggest plus was the instructor who was very well prepared and delivered the

course effectively."

The course is available in English, German, French, Italian, Dutch, Spanish and Portuguese from approved training centres around the world. Held over one-day, the course is not about operating equipment, but about planning, supervising and effectively managing the use of aerial work platforms on site. It ends with a written test that candidates must pass in order to obtain a certificate. More details can be found at www.ipaf.org/m4m





Guidance for the tree care industry

IPAF has drafted safety tips for the use of aerial work platforms in the tree care industry. Requested by members in both Europe and North America, the industry-specific guidance has been written in response to the increasing number of fatal incidents involving tree care workers while using aerial work platforms.

A draft version of the document was published with calls for comments, several of which were received and are being considered for incorporation into the final document which will be released shortly.

UK member event in Harrogate

IPAF's second UK Member Event was held on 15th October 2015 at the Majestic Hotel, Ripon Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 2HU.

The event started with an afternoon of management seminars and included a talk from Brian Stead, managing director of Loxam Access and chairman of the IPAF UK Country Council, with an update on current and planned activities of IPAF. Luke Merrick of Bolt Learning provided insights into IPAF's new eLearning operator course, while Rupert Douglas-Jones, IPAF research & development, explained why load/unloading training is vital. Chris Wraith also shared the latest statistics from IPAF's accident reporting project. The evening featured dinner, networking and entertainment.

For more details, visit: www.ipaf.org/events

Save the date

The 2017 IPAF Summit and International **Awards for Powered Access will take** place on 4th April 2017, with the venue being announced on 17th March 2016 at the end of the 2016 summit, which is being held in Madrid, Spain.

More details on this event can be found at: www.iapa-summit.info











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ALLMI membership event - Review

Held on 7th October at the Forest of Arden Marriott Hotel & Country Club in Meriden, the ALLMI Membership Event proved to be a huge success, with an impressive turnout seeing all corners of the lorry loader industry being strongly represented.



ALLMI chairman Mark Rigby, said: "This was the first time that we have run a combined event for all membership divisions and it worked incredibly well. The two meetings we held in the afternoon allowed important updates to be provided and also facilitated a break-out session, which saw members splitting into specific discussion groups. This meant that we experienced an even greater level of engagement and it led to some very interesting discussion and debate, which in turn allowed us to extract detailed information relating to each of the subjects being covered. As a result, we have come away with valuable feedback on various industry issues, which will help us focus our efforts and resources for the benefit of the entire membership."

ALLMI chief executive Tom Wakefield, added: "We're also very pleased with the networking side of the event and the opportunities that it provided. Our membership includes manufacturers, service companies, fleet owners and site operators, so it was great for representatives

from all of those industry sectors to be able to come together and discuss common issues in a relaxed and informal environment.

He continues: "As well as all members congregating for the working lunch at the start of the Event and Bill Hill's excellent presentation on the Lighthouse Club in the afternoon, we also held a social function in the evening which included dinner, fundraising (over £1,200 was raised for the Lighthouse Club), live music, and entertainment from comedian, Jed Stone, who not only performed an hour-long set, but also kindly acted as compère for the entire night." Should you have any questions

regarding the event, or if you would

like information on membership of

the Association, please contact the



ALLMI Office.



ALLMI focus



Request for photographs

ALLMI recently contacted all members and training providers with a request for photographs of lorry loaders. Due to images being required for ALLMI's E-Newsletter and website, its regular information page in Cranes & Access magazine and, of course, its wide range of training material and guidance documentation, the Association needs to ensure that it has a continually expanding and updated library of photographs to draw from.

Tom Wakefield, said: "It is crucial that we have an extensive range of images on file which we can then use to promote industry best practice. With that in mind, our initial contact has been with our members and training providers, but we would also be very happy to hear from others in the industry, should they have photographs which would be of interest. We are looking for images of lorry loaders in all configurations and of all control types, not to mention with a variety of attachments being used. Photographs can be of general operation or of equipment undergoing inspection and repair."

Alan Johnson, ALLMI technical

director, added: "It's essential that best practice is being demonstrated in any photographs we incorporate into our material. For example, images must show lorry loaders being used with spreader pads underneath the stabiliser legs and operators should be wearing full Personal Protective Equipment. We would also ask that any branding on display is reasonably subtle and within context, and that photographs look as natural as possible, rather than being staged."

Should you have images which you think may be of interest, or if you would like to know more about the request in general, then please contact ALLMI.







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PASMA Tower Week starts soon PasMA

'Work smarter and safer at height' is the theme for this year's PASMA Tower Safety Week which runs from the second to the sixth of November. Now in its fourth year, it will promote safety and best practice and showcase the versatility of mobile access towers in a wide range of different applications.

Tower Week webinar

PASMA will launch Tower Week by hosting its first ever online webinar on Monday, November 2nd at 14.00.

A team of leading industry experts - including PASMA's technical director, Don Aers - will deliver a series of tower-related presentations covering the latest standards and guidance, and the versatility and flexibility of towers and their growing use in a wide range of different industry sectors. There will also be a live question and answer session to conclude the session. To register for this free webinar go to

http://towerweek.pasma.org.uk/

Every tower has its day!

Each day PASMA will showcase the features and benefits of a different type of tower, starting with low level access using pulpits and podiums.

Tower Week will then go on to cover one man towers, narrow towers, standard towers and, finally, towers on stairs and bridging units. For the complete line-up visit the PASMA website.



High tower challenge

New for 2015 is the High Tower Challenge.

Every day of Tower Week PASMA will be asking its members to confirm how many towers they supply or assemble. Then, over the course of the week, the association will add up the total and compare the height of these towers with

famous buildings such as The Shard in London and The Buri Khalifa in Dubai.

The higher the total, the more money PASMA will donate to charity. To watch towers on the up-and-up visit:

facebook.com/PASMALtd





Take the online tower test Back for a second year, and completely revised for 2015, is the five-minute tower test. Extremely popular last year, it highlights the essentials of height safety when using mobile access towers. So if you think you know about tower scaffolds, this simple test will hopefully prove it!

Events everywhere

All over the UK, PASMA members - manufacturers, hire/assembly members and training providers - will be organising displays,

demonstrations and other tower and safety-related events. To find out who and where they are, go to: http://towerweek.pasma.org.uk/

Free tower fact pack

Full of facts, guidance and information, a free pack will also be available over the five days of the campaign. Featuring posters, pocket cards and information on EN 1004 - the European standard that specifies the minimum safety requirements and design criteria for towers - it's a must for anyone involved in choosing, using or supervising the use of towers.

Tower Week online

With just a few working days to go, the Tower Week web pages at http://towerweek.pasma.org.uk/ are already attracting considerable attention, with interest certain to grow in the countdown to the launch day. The site contains a wealth of information and includes the contact details of all the official Tower Week partners.

Maarten De Vries, PASMA head of operations, communications and innovation, said: "Tower Safety Week is a collaborative initiative involving members and the industry at large. Together we aim to deliver a special week that will benefit everyone in the access sector and make a real difference to

keeping people safe. At the same time, Tower Week will feature the versatility and flexibility of towers and their use in a growing number of different industry sectors, where work can be carried out faster, safer and more efficiently than with conventional alternatives."



For details of PASMA standards, guidance and training, including free PocketCards and posters, visit: www.pasma.co.uk





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CPA open meeting

Cranes & Access attended this year's Crane Interest Group open meeting, with attendance significantly down on previous years. This was possibly due to the absence of controversial subjects on the agenda or as a result of its earlier date in September - this was certainly the case for absentee chairman Bill Frost and chief executive Colin Wood. Kevin Minton therefore stepped in as chairman for the meeting which was attended by around 40 delegates.

The much debated European Crane Operators Licence (ECOL) proposal was discussed by Haydn Steele, who started by outlining its progress. Driven by ESTA, the plan was to introduce the new licence, which would qualify as a European craft proficiency certificate, by

January 2018. The aim is to harmonise operator standards throughout Europe ensuring that they meet the minimum requirements of the industry. Initial discussions between countries such as the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and the UK had been

> progressing well, but interest from Italy, Switzerland, France, Norway and Denmark has added a further eight months

to the process.

Once introduced, advantages will include operator mobility across Europe, and possibly improved standards - certainly in some countries. However, the mention of an additional and possibly higher standard than the current UK CPCS licence raised concern from crane rental delegates. All were of the opinion that the main/principal contractors would automatically demand that operators meet the higher certification, resulting in a two-tier arrangement - those with the current CPCS licence and those with the new European one. More information will be available by mid

Also discussed was the UK Construction Logistics and Cycle Safety scheme, which aims to combat deaths and injuries to cyclists, pedestrians and moped riders. Notably, the scheme is now moving out of London to cities such as Birmingham, Cambridge,

Manchester and Leeds, with others likely to follow.

Also on the agenda was the Transport for London's Safer Lorry scheme, which was launched on 1st September ensuring that only trucks over 3.5 tonnes fitted with basic safety equipment will be allowed onto roads in the capital's Low

Emission Zone, with drivers being fined £50 and the company £1,000 per breach. Associated to these is the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) which aims to raise standards among fleet operations with Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Main contractors are now asking when crane operators will comply (audio devices when turning left and blind spot mirrors).

Finally, CPA technical consultant Tim Watson, outlined the revisions to BS 7121 Parts 1 and 3 with Part 1 being published this December and Part 3 next summer. He also outlined the requirements when cranes are working alongside railways, which only apply if a collapsing crane would fall within four metres of any Network Rail property.

> Kevin Minton stepped in as chairman in the absence of Bill Frost and Colin Wood.



The propose ECOL could be similar to the CCO scheme in the USA.

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OSEPH ANDREW RIGGER

Future conference

The CPA is busy planning and organising its second CPA Plant Conference, which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 4th November 2015 at the Wyboston Lakes conference centre, near St Neots, Cambridgeshire.

mission for the Certification of Crane Operators

With a number of key speakers already confirmed, the conference is intended as the principal point of discussion for construction equipment issues in the UK. Subjects on the agenda will include Volvo's technical developments in construction machinery, the latest developments in Building Information Modelling and the 'rehabilitation of young offenders through training' scheme which is hoped will help address the skills shortage within the construction industry.

Skanska's head of innovations Sam Stacey will give a talk about the company's innovation and development policy, which will include topics such as 3D concrete printing, while CPA's Tim Watson will introduce the new safety guidance which the Strategic Forum Plant Safety group is currently working on entitled 'Preventing Adverse Consequences caused by Unintentional Movement of Construction Plant'.

New for 2015 is an outdoor area to allow companies to display



Last year's inaugural CPA Plant Conference was well attended.

larger equipment. This will be in addition to the indoor area which will feature a number of companies including Datatag, Leach Lewis Rubber Tracks, Higher Concept Software, Towergate Insurance,

HSB Engineering Insurance and AJ Gallagher.

Delegates can register to attend the event via the CPA website: www.cpa.uk.net/conference - with ticket prices at £49.80.

innovations Ca



ZT firefighter harness

UK harness manufacturer ZT Safety Systems has teamed up with Bristol Uniforms to launch a new integrated harness for the fire services.

Sewn into a specially adapted fire brigade trouser, the ZT harness works in the same way as the original 'Zero Trauma' harness by transferring

forces to the lower leg in the event of a fall, preventing injuries to the spine and groin area. The individual is also left in a seated position, eliminating the possibility of suspension trauma. Being integrated into the trousers also saves valuable time finding and donning a harness.

Further benefits include reduced loading on the harness anchorage point, which is highly beneficial with turntable ladders as falling in a conventional harness can cause an overload situation. Combined with a specially adapted jacket and fire retardant webbing the ZT harness also conforms to EN361 and AS/NZS 1891.1.

Crane inspection app

Technology solutions provider Techs4Biz has developed its Paperless Crane Inspection software for smartphones and tablets.

Suitable for all crane types, the software allows inspectors and field technicians to scan barcodes/read RFID or enter ID of the crane, enter data using pick lists or speech to text technology, take photos of the crane and capture an electronic signature on mobile devices. They are also able to

access manuals, previous inspections and the crane's history, access relevant standards and provide a list of all the parts required or used. Finally, reports and images can be sent back to the system in real time with additional reports automatically generated for clients on the spot.



The paperless crane inspection software has been specifically configured for the inspection and service of any type of crane.

Thermal imaging system

Vehicle safety system manufacturer Brigade Electronics has developed a thermal camera system PathFindIR which allows operators to see pedestrians or animals up to 125 metres away.

The infrared camera is able to detect heat signatures, and visually displays the highlighted images via an in-cab monitor. The technology is also able to detect heat through smoke, dust and fog as well as in the dark. Easy to install, the system works using a standard video output and can also be

linked to reversing and side view camera systems.

PathFindIR produces clear images in total darkness, smoke, rain and fog.



Elebia upgrades hook range

Spanish manufacturer Elebia has upgraded its range of automatic crane hooks. The system, which is equipped with a magnet that both attracts and positions slings and other rigging gear, now features an integrated load cell and a new eMax remote control system. The eMax allows operators to open and close the hook as well as providing overload, unbalance, temperature and service warnings, all of which are recorded

and sent to a spreadsheet via a USB port.

The company said the decision to develop the range was instigated by end users increasingly using multiple units to lift heavy or long loads or by employing hooks in demanding applications. As a result, greater information about the load and advanced systems with which to operate and monitor the activities were required. The company also said it is working on a 100 tonne hook, while ATEX and IECEx versions are currently awaiting certification.



Elebia's latest hooks now feature integrated load cells and the new eMax control system.

Tension measuring device

Force measurement, load monitoring and suspended load cell manufacturer Straightpoint has launched Running Line Dynamometer (TIMH) for measuring cable/line tension.

Part of the tension in motion range, the new device is constructed from marine grade stainless steel and is able to determine the weight of a load or the force on wire rope configurations up to 80 tonnes. It can be used when there is no anchor or dead end on the line, for example, when there is a requirement to measure a force at a specific point on a longer line.

Additional options include calculating the lineout and displaying line speed. It is also available as either a wireless or cabled system, utilising the HHP range of handheld displays or SW-MWLC software.



quiries

To contact any of these companies click on the 'Access & Lifting Directory' section of www.vertikal.net, where you will find direct links to the companies' web sites for up to 12 weeks after publication.

To have your company's new product or service featured in this section, please send in all information along with images via e-mail to: editor@vertikal.net with 'Innovations' typed in the subject box.

Liebherr **LHM 550**

The Liebherr LHM 550 is a mobile harbour crane that has a maximum radius of 54metres and a lift capacity of 144 tonnes. It is a big machine, weighing around 440 tonnes. This model by NZG is in the smaller scale of 1:87 but it is still a big model, standing some 760mm (2.5ft) high. An instruction sheet is supplied to help with the assembly, which is easy.

The carrier has twenty sets of wheels which are very nice for the scale, with good rubber tyres mounted on detailed wheels and assemblies. Each wheel unit steers independently so all of the steering modes of the real crane can be replicated including crab steering and rotation on the spot. Large metal spreader plates are hung off metal beams and they can support the full weight of the model wheels-free.

The crane superstructure and counterweight are metal as are most of the ladders and handrails, and the graphics and paint have a good finish. A hole in one side, where a window would be, allows the winch to be accessed with a key, and this means the look of the model is not spoilt. The winch has two lengths of thread and the hook can be raised and lowered using the key. Equal lengths of thread for each half of the hook are maintained well, and the level luffing of the real crane is also reproduced.

The tower is an enclosed metal design with the upper cab and platform modelled in metal and at the tower top the sheaves are all in metal

The large lattice boom is cast in metal in two parts and it is well made and painted, and there is a large metal dolly wheel at the boom tip for when the boom is lowered to the ground. The tension luffing cylinder has a plastic barrel with tube detailing and a good colour match. It can be set to hold the boom at any angle.

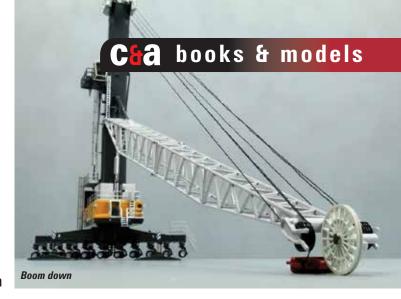
This is a very good 1:87 scale model, with a high metal content. It is an impressive harbour crane which is updated from the previous LHM 500 version to reflect changes in the real crane. It makes a very interesting display piece and the functionality is also very good.

It costs €294 from the Liebherr webshop.

To read the full review of this model visit www.cranesetc.co.uk

Cranes Ect Model Rating	
Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	22
Features (max 20)	18
Quality (max 25)	22
Price (max 15)	8
Overall (max 100)	78%













From 1st March 2016 there will be a requirement to complete a CISRS 2 Day Scaffolding Supervisor Refresher course prior to renewing your CISRS Scaffolding Supervisor Card

www.cisrs.org.uk



CITB funding for CISRS training

More than 80 scaffolders employed by NASC member companies have completed CISRS Systems Scaffold Product Training (SSPTS), thanks to £25,000 of funding from the UK's Construction Industry Training Board (CITB).





support of CISRS approved training providers NCC Scotland, Safety and Access, LTC group, Haki, Simian Skills and Layher, 10 fully funded SSPTS courses were delivered across the UK. CITB has indicated that similar funding could be available in 2016.

account co-ordinator, said: "We are always pleased to assist ASITO and NASC members as they are very proactive when it comes to training. The use of systems scaffolding is on the rise within the industry, which in turn means the need for CISRS product training will increase. We feel the funding offered has been put to very good use."

A job for life!

CISRS recently held a Question & Answer session with John Meekings, who celebrated his 70th birthday this autumn, having spent the last 51 years as a scaffolder.

When did you start scaffolding?

"I started scaffolding in 1964 at the age of 18, a very good friend of mine got me a start for Mann's Scaffolding and Demolition. We had some great times and it was a pleasure to go to work, although the wages were not that great and in slack periods we would cut timber up for firewood and sell it door to door from a lorry."

What have been the most memorable jobs?

"I have worked at some great places - I had to put a tower and walkway to house TV cameras and a TV commentary platform for Anglia TV on the now Britannia stand at Portman Road Ipswich. I have worked at stately homes, building scaffolds in moats working from a rowing boat and in waders. I erected scaffolds on two Victorian lighthouses - including one at Dovercourt, where I had to base out one in the sea at low tide, walking the gear out and fixing before the tide came back."

And how come you are still scaffolding at 70?

"I started working for Pro Flat Group in 1997, it was April fool's day! I worked for them until I was 67, when I thought it was time to retire. Then, last year, they asked if I would



like to come back three or four days a week - they have looked after me very well, hence that is why I am still on the tools!"

How has the industry changed over the years?

"I guess you could get away with a lot more years ago, but I think it is safer now. PPE is a good thing although it took some getting used to. The wagons are also much better now, the first lorry I used had a starting handle and was called Harold! I don't miss 18ft boards and alloy beams save a lot of work - the first temporary roof I was on was built with tube and boards, polythene and roofing battens."

Do you have any advice for people starting out on a scaffolding career?

"My advice for youngsters is watch and learn and leave mobile phones in the cab! I have met some great scaffs and made some lifelong mates over the years, I think scaffolding is a very good career choice."

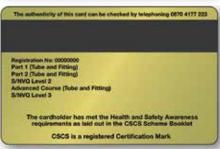
60 +report

As with most sectors within the construction industry, concerns over an ageing workforce prompted the CISRS to check its card scheme database to determine the number of core scheme cardholders that are aged 60 or above.

The report confirmed a total of 43,521 CISRS labourers, trainees, scaffolders and advanced scaffolders, of which around 5 percent are aged 60 or above. Amongst current scaffolder and advanced cardholders the percentages in the 60 and over category were two percent and 15 percent respectively. The report also revealed that 16 percent were working towards qualifying as scaffolders, suggesting an ageing workforce within the scaffolding industry may not be as imminent a problem as was initially feared.

Dave Mosley, CISRS scheme manager, said: "The 60+ report

Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme CISRS MR A SAMPLE Registration No: 00000000/1 Expiry Date: End Jan 2017 ADVANCED SCAFFOLDER



The report revealed that 15 percent of Advanced scaffolders were aged 60 or over.

made for very interesting reading. It is essential that the knowledge and experience of older cardholders is passed on to those coming into the trade and based upon the findings here we look to have a good balance across the age ranges and card categories at the moment." CISRS intends to run a more detailed report across its full database in 2016.

For details about becoming an NASC member, or to find out more about the NASC





please visit: www.nasc.org.uk or email: enquiries@nasc.org.uk. For more information on CISRS please visit: www.cisrs.org.uk.

ALL THE ORIGINAL INGREDIENTS

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letters

Readers Let

Dear Leigh,

I trust all is well at your side I have been reading the article in C&A about van mounted platforms.

And was just wondering how important it might be to have the correct tire pressures in order to maintain a safe level of stability??

A deflating tire on one side of the van or truck could result in the loss of stability,

Looking forward to reading your comments. Thank you and best regards,

Comatra, Belgium

With an increasing number of van mounted lifts now offering at least some free on wheels capability this is of course an issue and we wonder if EN280 might actually cause an issue for van mounted manufacturers? We therefore assume that the machines are tested with totally flat tyres, so that they remain stable in this condition. However while this might overcome the tyre pressure issue, there is also the case of a sudden deflation which might create a dynamic effect as well as an off level situation. We would be interested to hear from more of you on this subject and will look into it for a future vehicle mounted issue. Ed

Ed

Dear Leigh

I assume that the order of the Top 10 tower crane hire companies in this year's Top 30 was an error? The numbers all look good, but you have Bennetts with 81 cranes behind Mantis and Ladybird with just 80.

I also wonder if some of the larger respondents have not included a few cranes that they have on long term rehire? Although to be fair it does not have an impact on the order.

Edward Seager

One thing that is certain when publishing so much data, there will be errors. And this was certainly one of them. We strive each year to make the report as accurate as possible your help is always appreciated. Ed

Dear Sir.

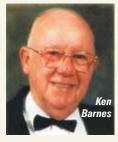
Reading about the fatal accident in Limerick, Ireland, (in which two men were trapped underwater when a man basket was dropped by a loader crane) it is quite simple - some pen pusher has seen a man basket being required for the job and assumes man basket always equals harness. Health & Safety people must look deeper into the individual job requirements. A closer look at this job would have noted the danger of attaching men to a basket when working over water. This was so easily avoidable and two men could have been saved if a proper risk assessment had been carried out. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families. Lambsy

If you missed this incident - three men working on a bridge in Limerick town centre, when the hoist rope broke dropping the basket into the river. All three were harnessed in and were wearing life jackets. One managed to disconnect his lanyard the other two floated up to within a metre of the surface but were unable to detach their lanyards and drowned.

Dear Ed, Leigh and Mark,

Just wanted to say well done on this year's top 30 rental company report, the best so far - very very handy, keep up the good work.

Vince Graham



Ken Barnes 1934 - 2015

Ken Barnes, former managing director of UKbased Gravston Crane Hire in the 1970s and 1980s passed away on September 22nd aged 81. While he had not been in the best of health for the last year or so, his passing was sudden and unexpected.

Born to a butcher in Wilmslow, Cheshire, Barnes started out as a fitter with Wilmslow

Plant Hire in Stockport which at the time ran a few Ruston Bucyrus 22-RB crawler crane/draglines. In 1964 he joined the Grayston Plant Hire depot in Droylsden, when the company started moving crawler cranes into the region from Kent. Then in 1966 he moved to New Zealand to look after a company owned by one of his relatives - Percy Hammond.

A few years later he was back in the UK and back with Grayston, managing its Darlaston depot near Birmingham. Grayston was acquired by BET in 1968 and Barnes guickly moved up the management ladder. In 1982 he was appointed managing director of the entire Grayston Crane & Plant Hire division, one of two divisions along with Scaffolding. As part of BET the company was merged with the group's other crane hire business



JD White to become Grayston White in 1984, but by then Barnes had gone to live in South Africa to run the group's South African crane hire business, Grayston Cranes South Africa and joined the Grayston Holdings board. After selling the South African business to Harold Johnson he headed back to UK, shortly after BET had added GW.Sparrow & Sons to its growing crane hire portfolio, forming Grayston White and Sparrow. Ken Barnes in the late 1980s.

He was then appointed to a role as second in command to BET Plant Services chairman Bill Boulton who as chairman of the BET offshore and international plant companies, built a worldwide crane and access empire through multiple acquisitions. Scott Greenham was one of the last major crane and access purchases in 1987,

which also made them a serious player in the UK powered access and scaffold tower business. When the 1990s recession came along the rapidly formed conglomerate began to fall apart due to its huge debts and problems with new owners Initial.

Barnes and Boulton both retired in 1993 and played a significant role in the acquisition of Lorne Stewart from BET by the Rezayat family, a partner with Sparrows in the Middle East. Boulton was chairman of Lorne Stewart with

Barnes as a director. He eventually retired around 1995.

His wife Esther. originally from Rathdrum, Ireland, died in September 2008 aged 77 - he leaves behind three children - Tricia and

Ken Barnes with wife Esther

twins Stephen and Shirley, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The funeral took place in Leatherhead on October 15th.







1200km charity cycle

Dear Sir,

As you already know, my father Simon Wilkinson very sadly passed away a few weeks ago following his recent battle with cancer.

During his last weeks he was cared for by the nurses and staff at St. Wilfred's Hospice in Eastbourne. I cannot begin to describe to you the incredible work they carry out on a day to day basis, the dignity and humanity is second to none.

It costs around £11,500 per day to run a hospice, donations and public support are vital for the patient's families and staff. Palliative care is something I feel incredibly passionate about following Dads experience. The figure of £11,500 is my minimum target although I hope to be able to do far more.

In November (Australia's baking summer) I will be embark on a journey/ mission to cycle from Brisbane to Sydney 1200km solo over the course of five days, averaging over 210Km per day (30 Km more than the average of a Tour de France rider) facing temperatures above 42 degrees C across a hostile and unmerciful environment. The only support I will have is from Charlie Gilmour a childhood friend driving the route in a van providing me with food and shelter; no hotels, no washing facilities, no fancy restaurants and no modern perks. So a case of Eat, Sleep, Pedal and Repeat.

The idea behind the cycle is to raise as much money as possible for the hospice and to donate this in my late father's name, something of which I know he would enjoy.

I'm writing to you today to ask for help, the trip isn't designed

to be an enjoyable feat, this is going to push me to the limit both mentally as well as physically and I'm currently in training for both. I have done 490 miles in 4 days during a charity ride I did from Bremen to Calais totally unassisted. So li have a good idea of what I'm up against from experience just instead of -2 degrees C its + 42 degrees C.

I need help with sponsorship to get the project off of the ground, an initial injection on money will allow to subsidise flights, van hire, fuel, food and medical supplies. In return I promise to gain as much publicity for sponsors as possible, through as many forms as I can, such as a two part mini documentary for Macmillan detailing the project from inception to completion, branded uniform throughout the trip, and mentions in any press release and in PR opportunities. Also the huge social media following we are preparing to gain, magnetic signs on the van,

The total amount required is around £3,000, we have created documents outlining the costings so far available. All the money gifted for the trip will be held in a separate account and all expenditure logged appropriately and free to view. It would be great to hear your thoughts on this.

Sincerely yours,

Sebastian Wilkinson

Simon Wilkinson died in late July, age 58, following an aggressive brain disease having seemed to have overcome cancer. See C&A Letters September. Donations can be made via www.justgiving.com/Gripping-Miles

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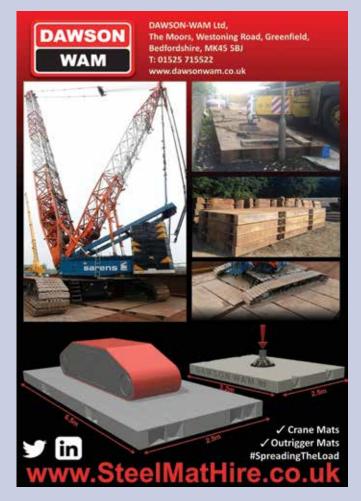
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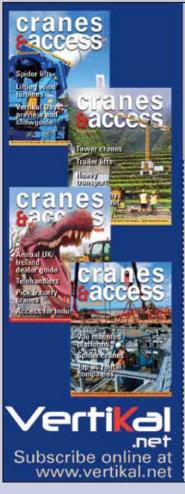
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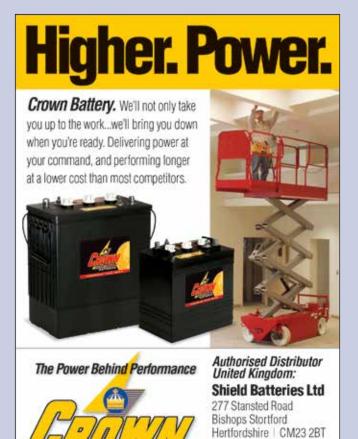
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Maeda	www.comansa.com www.maedaminicran es.co.uk	London Tower Cranes www.londontowercranes.co.uk	Software Higher Concept www.higherconcept.co.uk
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Mantis Cranes	www.mantiscranes.ie	Tower Cranes	Matusch GmbH www.matusch.de
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Potain	www.manitowoccranes.com	Heavy Lift Management	Structural Repairs
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V17584 - Mec 2033E5 - 2008 Electric - 8,1 Mtr. - 59 Hrs. € 3.950



V18089 - JLG 2646ES - 2007 Electric - 9,8 Mtr. - 206 Hrs. € 6,750



V17595 - Mec 3247ES - 2008 Electric - 11,75 Mtr. - 136 Hrs. € 6,500



V17375 - Iteco IT12122 - 2007 Electric - 13,9 Mtr. - 663 Hrs. € 7,500



V17997 - JLG Toucan Duo - 2010 Electric - 6 Mtr. - 1043 Hrs. 6 4 350



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V18220 - Genie Z45-2581 - 2000 Bi-Energie - 15,87 Mtr. - 1821 Hrs. € 8,950



V18015 - ATN Zebra 12 - 2012 Diesel 4x4 - 12,2 Mtr. - 1331 Hrs. € 19.950



V17806 - Manitou 160ATJ - 2008 Diesel 4x4 - 16,25 Mtr. - 1704 Hrs. € 19,950



V16497 - JLG 600AJ - 2004 Diesel 4x4 - 20,29 Mtr. - 3651 Hrs. € 22,500



J17904 - Airo SG1850 - 2007 Diesel 4x4 - 20,55 Mtr. - 767 Hrs. € 29,750



V17691 - JLG 1250AJP - 2005 Diesel 4x4 - 40,1 Mtr. - 2473 Hrs. € 67,500



V17026 - Genie S45 - 2000 Diesel 4x4 - 15,7 Mtr. - 6117 Hrs. € 9.500



V16421 - JLG 6605J - 2005 Diesel 4x4 - 22,32 Mtr. - 3041 Hrs. € 25,500



V16505 - Genie S85 - 2004 Diesel 4x4 - 27,9 Mtr. - 2807 Hrs. € 31.000



V17524 - JLG 1200SJP - 2002 Diesel 4x4 - 38,58 Mtr. - 5072 Hrs. € 47,500



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V17416 - Genie GTH2506 - 2007 Diesel 4x4 - 5,79 Mtr. - 1258 Hrs. € 19,750



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