

cranes & access

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August/September 2015 Vol.17 issue 6

Van mounted
platforms
Spider cranes
Top 30 rental
companies

...Terex and Konecranes to merge...APS teams up with Aldercote...Kato cranes return to Europe...

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On the cover:

Through the summer four Unic spider cranes from Coppard Plant have been helping with the £14 million refurbishment of Hastings Pier in the UK, placing the steelwork for the base of the new visitor centre. Two cranes equipped with suspended man baskets provided erectors access when working over the water to connect the steelwork.



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Terex and Konecranes to merge, APS teams up with Aldercote, A-Plant adds 200 Genies, Fork Rent acquired, Kato cranes return to Europe, First Manitowoc MLC650 delivered, Coates completes Force acquisition, Two new Ruthmann truck mounts, Link Belt to launch new cranes, TVH acquires IPS Australia, New self-erector from Arcomet, New leadership at Bronto, New crawler boom from JLG, First Wolff 700 in USA, and financials round up.



C&A annual Top 30 rental companies guide 17

In the 12 months since our last survey of the UK and Ireland crane, access and telehandler rental companies, business has continued to improve. Investment is high across all sectors with the majority of companies not only renewing fleets but also expanding them. See how the leading companies have fared in this year's Top 30 rental company survey.



Spider cranes 31

The continued growth of the spider crane market in recent years has resulted in it becoming more of mainstream rather than niche product. C&A takes a look at the leading manufacturers including Italian manufacturer Jekko trying to expand its market share and profiles UK rental company Lift as well as looking at several interesting applications.



In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access - scheduled for mid-October - will feature Rough Terrain and large scissor lifts, Outrigger mats and Heavy lifting/large crawler cranes. If you have any contributions or suggestions, or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.

Parts and service alternatives 41

After the initial product sale the ownership experience is defined by the quality of the parts and service back-up. If done well product support can allow a manufacturer to charge a premium for its products if poorly it can make good products flop. We look at the UK where the independent service supplier is becoming a highly developed alternative and two companies at opposite ends of the spectrum - IAPS and Alfa Access Services - to see how they go about providing independent parts and service support.



Van mounted platforms 49

Demand for van mounted aerial work platforms around the world is largely limited to a handful of Western European countries, although this may be changing. We take a look at several interesting developments that may affect the sector.....



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Your mission - to clean and maintain almost 3,600 curved glass panels on the new museum of modern art in Paris. The solution? A specially modified 33 metre Falcon F330Z spider lift.

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If Plan A fails remember you have 25 more letters left

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A decade of progress?

This month we feature the C&A annual Top 30 rental company survey - a comprehensive round-up of the leading crane, access and telehandler rental companies in the UK and Ireland. The 2015 survey is my 10th with the magazine so I thought it would be interesting comparing now with back then. To my amazement surprisingly little has changed - in almost every category the market leaders in 2006 are still ahead in 2016.

Ainscough still has the largest mobile crane fleet but has just seven more cranes than 10 years ago. Hewden remains number two, although its fleet has halved. Many of the recognised names remain mid-table, but there are some big movers such as City Lifting and Emerson, climbing from nowhere to high in the rankings. The total number of cranes of the top 10 companies has also fallen over 10 years.

Weldex continues to lead the crawler crane market, and while maximum capacities of mobiles has remained fairly constant, crawler crane capacities have jumped from 800 to 1,350 tonnes driven by growth in the wind turbine sector. Spider/mini crane numbers have ballooned - see feature on page 31 - and GGR still runs the largest fleet jumping five-fold to 214!

It is a similar story with aerial lifts. Nationwide remains market leader but has almost doubled its fleet to more than 10,400, while AFI slips from second to third in spite of similar growth levels to 5,800. HSS moves into second place with almost 9,000 units as a result of acquisitions and low level units. The fleet of the Top 10 companies has shot up 67 percent, while the growth in the size and numbers of truck mounted lifts is even more remarkable. Telehandlers is the most changed sector with the 2006 leaders - Hewden and UK Forks - overtaken by Fork Rent and A-Plant. However there are still relatively few 360 degree machines in fleets.

So if the leading companies have remained stable, has anything changed?

We are polluting less with major reductions in CO2 ...although it seems now that concentrating on diesel particulates would have been better for our health. The average age of the workforce is getting older and it is harder to find skilled people. There is certainly more awareness of safety at work, the wearing of harnesses in boom lifts now almost taken for granted, and training has become a big business.

Working at height is now on every agenda including working on truck beds and mobile cranes. In spite of all the efforts major accidents continue, with possibly the worst crane accident ever occurring as we go to print, when a large crawler crane overturned onto the Grand Mosque in Mecca killing more than 100, and injuring over 200. So while rapid progress has resulted in cleaner, quieter, lighter, better performing equipment and a much greater safety awareness, the human element, it seems, remains a stubborn issue with little sign of change.

Have we really progressed that much over the past decade?

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

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