



Ainscough draws a Jack

Ainscough Crane Hire, the UK's largest crane rental company has wasted no time following its Bank of Scotland supported MBO last year and is back on the acquisition trail, purchasing James Jack Lifting Services of Scotland for an undisclosed sum. Jack was listed as the seventh largest mobile crane company in the 2007 C&A Top 30 UK/Ireland crane hirers with a fleet of around 60 cranes, the largest of which is a 500 tonner. It is also a member of the UK's National Crane Hire Group, the

association of independent crane companies that have grouped together to provide a national service for their customers in competition with Ainscough.

The company operates from four locations - Invergordon, Aberdeen, Dundee and Grangemouth, while Ainscough has three locations in Scotland, Glasgow, Falkirk and Edinburgh. We understand that Jimmy Jack has agreed to remain with the business for three to six months.



Lavendon closes Platform deal...

The Lavendon Group has completed the acquisition of The Platform Company, the UK's second largest powered access rental company. The deal was agreed in early March and values The Platform Company at £79.1 million, made up of £18 million in cash plus £2 million Lavendon shares on completion, £3 million in cash and 885,000 shares after a year, a further £2.5 million and 885,000 shares after two years and £4.1 million in cash on the third anniversary of completion. Lavendon will also assume up to £33 million in debt.

The Platform Company had revenues last year of £31 million with a pre-tax profit of £5.9 million. The deal takes Lavendon's UK fleet to well over 15,000 units, with revenues approaching £140 million. The company was 'born' on February 12th 2002 when Grant Woodward, Lee Perry and other senior managers completed a MBO of Mitie Powered Access. The management team is staying with the business, which will initially operate as a separate business within Lavendon UK. In the long term it is likely to merge with Nationwide Access, possibly under a new name.

...And announces record numbers

On the same day it announced the acquisition, Lavendon released its 2007 results. Revenues were up 49 percent to £188 million, while pre-tax profits leapt by 178 percent to £21.4 million. Its UK business saw revenues rise by 30 percent to just under £106 million, while operating profits increased by 40 percent to £17.1 million.

Tower crane kills seven

As Conexpo closed its doors, news came through of one of the worst tower crane accidents on record. A Favelle Favco luffing tower crane with around 60 metres of tower crashed across two streets in Manhattan following an error made while it was being climbed.

The tower fell across 51st street, striking the top of a building opposite. The tower broke, throwing the superstructure and jib into a building across the opposite side of 50th street. Six construction workers including the operator were killed along with tourist staying in the building on 50th street that was completely demolished. A further 24 people were injured, some seriously.

It now seems almost certain that the accident was caused by the failure of a nylon strap, holding a six tonne anchor collar in place, via chain blocks, while it was connected to the 18th floor. After the straps failed the collar dropped down the tower, smashing into the collar and anchor on the ninth floor breaking it free and causing the two to fall all the way to the bottom anchor. With no support and the counterweight positioned over the street, the tower fell.

Inspector arrested

Following the accident it came to light that a New York crane inspector, Edward Marquette, 46, had forged an inspection report on the crane, some nine days earlier, after a local resident complained that the crane was not stable. It turns out that he never even visited the site. An inspection had been carried out the day prior to the accident, in order to approve the climb and everything was reported to be in order. The crane was owned by New York Crane and was being operated by JCI Equipment for the contractor RCG Construction Group.

New rules implemented

Following the accident, New York launched an inspection of all 253 cranes in the City. Shutting down a number of sites for serious safety lapses, it has also banned all tower crane climbs unless an inspector from the City's building department is on site to observe and ensure all proper procedures are carried out. For more information go to www.vertical.net and put New York in the News search box

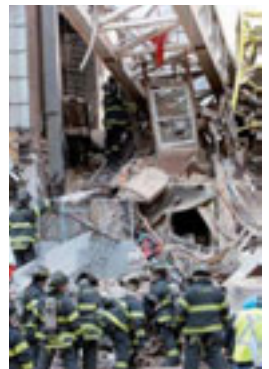
...And two die in Florida

Barely 10 days later, a Liebherr crane being climbed in Miami dropped a six metre long tower section which fell through the roof of a house on site being used as a safety office. The falling section killed two men and injured a further five, one seriously. The main contractor was Bovis Lend Lease while the crane was owned and operated by Morrow Equipment. It has still not been confirmed whether the section fell from the crane's hook or from the climbing gantry. The accident happened just a few days after Miami Dade County approved tough new inspection and certification rules.

The section went clean through the roof



The main tower leans precariously against a building



Masses of rubble around the top half of the crane hampers rescue work



The fallen section is lifted clear of the house



The new Manitowoc Model 31000

Manitowoc's biggest ever crane

Manitowoc is to introduce its largest ever crane. Dubbed the Manitowoc Model 31000 it will have a maximum lifting capacity of 2,300 tonnes with a maximum tip height of almost 200 metres.

The new model - the first of which has been sold by Manitowoc dealer, Shawmut Equipment to Bulldog Erectors of Newberry, South Carolina - combines new ideas with some new takes on classic Manitowoc designs of the past.

As it is joining the large crawler crane market late and buoyed by the recent success of its radical Grove GTK1100, Manitowoc has taken great pains to be as innovative as possible with the Model 31000.

By introducing a new hydraulically Variable Position Counterweight (VPC) it says it will keep the crane's centre of gravity over its four trunion mounted tracks. These tracks will allow greater pick-and-carry capacities while keeping the machine's footprint relatively small at 17 metres by 20 metres when the counterweight is retracted.



The Variable Position Counterweight



Manitowoc and Mammoet celebrate the order at Conexpo

While the 31000 follows the Model 21000 with its four crawlers, the 31000 uses four single tracks, rather than the dual crawlers on the 21000. And in place of regular slew bearing it uses a 12 metre roller path slewing ring - reminiscent of some of Manitowoc's earlier Ringer attachments - to keep loads evenly distributed over the four track assemblies.

The 31000's main boom has a maximum length of 105 metres, with fixed jibs of up to 42 metres and a luffing jib of up to 102 metres. The maximum height combination is 192 metres. The company says that it dismissed any idea of a twin boom for transportation reasons. Manitowoc is claiming a total of 85 trucks and 12 days of erection for a typical set up. The first unit should be ready for delivery some time in 2010.

....And takes its biggest order

No sooner had it announced the Model 31000, Manitowoc confirmed that Dutch-based crane and transport specialist Mammoet had given it a record order worth \$90 million (£45 million). The deal, which will be scheduled for delivery over the next two years, includes 60 Grove All Terrain cranes and seven Manitowoc crawlers - two Model 21000 and five Model 16000s. The order is a record for both Mammoet and Manitowoc and forms a central part of the major expansion plan currently underway by Mammoet.

Ex Liebherr director hit for £1 million

Peter Walker - an ex finance director of Liebherr Sunderland Ltd, a division of Liebherr Nenzing, the marine and duty cycle crawler crane manufacturer - has been ordered to pay Liebherr Sunderland and Liebherr Nenzing a total of more than £1 million (£822,000 plus £196,000 interest) as a result of a civil action by Liebherr to recover assets. No criminal case has been filed in the UK. Walker was listed as the first defendant while Harald Muehlhauser a Nenzing director and former Sunderland service manager was named as the third and Gary Cockburn an accounts clerk in Sunderland listed as the fourth defendant. The second defendant was unnamed.

All four men involved in the civil suit were dismissed by Liebherr in April 2007.

Muehlhauser was ordered to pay Walker over £196,000 plus his legal costs, while Cockburn was ordered to pay him almost £140,000. Muehlhauser, a successful employee within Liebherr's marine crane and offshore business was arrested in Austria last year and held for a couple of months before eventually being released on bail. He may yet face a criminal trial and a jail sentence.

SGB buys Sovereign

SGB UK, the façade scaffold to powered access rental company, has acquired Sovereign Access Service, the Jarrow (Newcastle) based mastclimber and suspended platform rental specialist. Sovereign also has an operation in Birmingham and will now trade as SGB Sovereign.

In addition to its mast climber business, Sovereign also rents, suspended platforms and cradles, ship tanker access systems and storage tank access equipment. The deal will enhance SGB's already strong position within the UK mast climber market.

A Bronto F32RL firefighting platform in action recently at the North Wales Police HQ



Bronto goes direct

Bronto Skylift, the large truck mounted aerial lift manufacturer, has taken on Alan Cowper who will be responsible for overseeing both technical and sales support for Bronto in the UK and Ireland. Cowper was previously with Blue Line Access, Bronto's UK dealer that called in the administrators in late March. Cowper has been involved in the truck mounted aerial

lift market since 1989 when he joined EPL, one of the UK's leading truck mounted rental companies. Sales and support for Bronto's range of firefighting platforms, handled by Anglocoare are not effected by these changes. Co-operation with Ray Foster concerning maintenance and repair of the firefighting lifts will also continue as normal.

Manitowoc buys in China

Manitowoc Crane Group has acquired 50 percent of TaiAn Dongyue Heavy Machinery a truck mounted crane manufacturer located in TaiAn City, Shandong Province, approximately 300 miles south of Beijing. TaiAn Dongyue was founded in 1972 and has a new, 57,000 square metre purpose-built facility similar in size to the Grove plant in Shady Grove. Employing more than 900, it specialises in the manufacture and assembly of truck mounted telescopic cranes for the Chinese market with a product line of 10 models, ranging from eight to 50 tonnes capacity. The move follows Terex's purchase of 50 percent of Sichuan Changjiang Engineering Crane Co in Luzhou, Sichuan Province in 2006. Non Chinese companies are currently prohibited from buying more than 50 percent of truck crane manufacturers.

Another Twin

Terex has announced an order for its 3,200 tonne capacity CC8800-1 Twin crawler crane from China Nuclear Engineering and Construction Corporation (CNEC), the largest nuclear power construction company in China. Its first job will be at the Haiyang nuclear power project site located in Haiyang County, Shandong Province.

The deal for the world's largest crawler crane is reported to be worth more than RMB200 million (\$28.5 million). CNEC is a state-owned enterprise based on former China National Nuclear Corporation companies and administered by the central government.



The Terex CC8800-1 Twin

Tower crane take-over

Kranenbouw has taken over STK (Stravers Transmate Kranen) making it one of the largest tower crane rental companies in the Netherlands. The combined fleet now totals more than 150 cranes as well as an extensive service and maintenance team. As an independent rental company, Kranenbouw has built up a fleet of Liebherr, Comansa, Peiner, Saez and Jost cranes. The company is also a Saez dealer for self erecting cranes and telehandlers as well as dealer for Platform Basket self propelled aerial work platforms in the Benelux countries. It also manufactures Jost flat top cranes under license, selling them to rental companies all over Europe.

STK Travers is currently the importer of Terex-Comedil in Holland and has probably one of the most modern fleets of flat top cranes in the country, mainly Terex Comedil CTT models, as well as some Liebherr, Jaso and Jost cranes delivered by Kranenbouw. Berry Stravers will head the rental and sales departments with particular emphasis on rental.

Cable car crane

The Unic 706 being transported on a specially adapted platform



Specialist haulage company, Emil Egger, recently hired a Unic 706 from Unic's Swiss dealer, Senn AG to shift and install heavy equipment at a power station located in Robie, high in the Swiss Alps. Some 1,900 metres above sea level the power station can only be reached by cable car. The crane and a five tonne forklift truck were transported up the mountain in a specially adapted cable car with a loading platform. Once at the top, the forklift was used to off-load various smaller components, while the crane was used to lower the larger objects - some weighing up to three tonnes, approximately 15 metres into position.

LMS loses Energy

LMS Capital has sold its entire stake in Aberdeen-based Energy Cranes International to a management buyout team backed by Close Brothers Private Equity for £83 million. Energy Cranes owns Sparrows Offshore and Titan Cranes employs around 2,000 at 21 service bases around the world. In addition to selling new and used cranes it provides crane operators, mechanics and spare parts. The company has annual revenues in the region of £110 million.

Hiab in SA

Loader crane manufacturer Hiab has acquired a majority stake in South African based Bowman Cranes, its long-term agent in the region. Hiab together with Bowman's largest shareholder, Phakisa Fleet Solution, will form a joint venture under the name of Hiab (Pty) Ltd. The company's revenues in 2007 were around €18 million and it employs 70.

Vertikal.net record breaker

Vertikal.Net broke all records in March with almost 3.9 million hits and 82,000 visitors viewing the best part of a million pages.

New Clear Line flat top

Wolffkran's latest in its Clear Line range of flat top tower cranes, is its smallest. The 140 metre/tonne load moment 6015Clear joins the 180 metre/tonne 6023Clear and the 224 metre/tonne 6031Clear and will be available to ship in April. The unit has a maximum lifting capacity of 8.5 tonnes at up to 14.8 metres radius and a jib tip capacity of 1.5 tonnes at 60 metres.

Featuring three different tower connections, it can be fitted to the UV 15, TFS 20 and UV 20 towers. It also offers two frequency controlled winch options, which offer up to 115 metres per minute line speeds even with the full 1.6 tonne jib capacity. The two line trolley is the same standardised unit that is used on the other Clear Line cranes and is provided with a service platform/cage. Using this, the erector can travel to the end of the jib and can also reel in the hoist cable from the basket avoiding the need to walk along the jib.

The counter jib is manufactured in one piece with dimensions optimised for container transport. A permanent 1.8 tonne counter weight block is incorporated into the counter jib structure while 10 identical 2.05 tonne counterweight slabs are installed directly in front of the winches.

Note the rear mounted winches and equal counterweight segments



Up and up for Ashtead

Ashtead, the parent of Sunbelt Rentals in North America and A-Plant in the UK has reported nine month revenues of £760.7 million, up 15 percent. A-Plant contributed £160 million - up 14 percent on the same period in 2006 while its operating profits increased 54 percent to £21.9 million. Group pre-tax profits were £95.9 million.



Norwegian's would

Norway's Kynningsrud and Stangeland Groups have agreed to merge their two crane rental businesses - Kynningsrud Kran and Stangeland Kran - into a jointly held company called the Nordic Crane Group. The two crane companies will continue to trade under their own names and management. With a combined total of almost 300 mobile cranes - from 20 to 600 tonnes capacity - the two companies claim that the combined business will be the largest crane company in Scandinavia.

Very good Veri-Tek

Veri-Tek, the owner of Manitek boom trucks and Noble, Lowry and Liftking fork trucks boosted revenues by 163 percent to \$107 million last year largely due to a full year contribution from Manitek. Pre Tax profits were just under 2.3 million, compared to a pre tax loss of \$786,000 in 2006.



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Dino expands

With increased demand for its expanding range of lifts, Dinolift of Finland has completed its 3,500 square metre of production facility expansion. The new building will produce the company's XT and RXT models and include new-style production lines which, it says, will significantly increase production. The additional space and improved efficiency, together with additional employees, will provide a significant boost to the company's overall capacity, along with additional flexibility. Dino says it will build its 8,000th aerial lift later this year, the company shipped its 5,000th lift less than 18 months ago.

Vp on buying spree

UK rental company Vp, (Vibroplant) the owner of UK Forks has made two acquisitions within the space of a week. First was UM (Holdings) and its subsidiary U Mole for a total price of £4.5 million, followed by the purchase of Redding hire of Wellingborough for £2.9 million. U Mole, operates across the UK from its base in Cambridgeshire and hires and sells trenchless installation equipment to the utility contracting markets. Redding is engaged in the hire and sale of trench shoring products and earth moving equipment to the construction and civil engineering sectors.

O'Shea chairman

Kevin O'Shea



Kevin O'Shea of Atlanta-based Mastclimbers, has been elected chairman of the IPAF Mast Climbing Work Platforms (International) Committee at its last meeting held in Las Vegas during Conexpo. "The MCWP International Committee has many challenges and opportunities to address in the next few years," said O'Shea, "including the introduction of new regulations and training standards into new territories and the representation of its members' interests and best practice."

Easi does it

Easi UpLifts - the Irish-based aerial lift sales and rental company - has opened its first operation in continental Europe with a sales base in Holland. Ronan MacLennan, previously responsible for the company's used equipment

business has been promoted to new business development manager and has relocated to Nieuwegein, just south of Utrecht. "We are strengthening our sales operation on the continent in tandem with our entry into the European rental market," said MacLennan. "We will have a large number of 'ready to go' machines to offer directly to the customer."



(L-R) Patrick McArdle, Ronan MacLennan and Fergus McArdle at the Big 5 show in Dubai last November.

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Ranger now Spiderlift

Ranger Equipment, the Teupen distributor for the UK and Ireland - has changed its trading name to The Spiderlift Company to better reflect what it does. The name change is coupled with a major expansion for the business that includes a new corporate identity and a move to larger premises later this year.

The company is also recruiting additional service staff in order to keep pace with demand and is also scheduled to take on the Dinolift product line.



A Teupen Leo 50GTX working for the UK's National Grid

Skyjack in telehandler talks

Skyjack the Canadian-based aerial lift company is negotiating the acquisition of the Ingersoll Rand telescopic handler assets from Volvo Material Handling Equipment. The acquisition would include four fixed frame telehandler models and two RT forklifts. Skyjack purchased Carelift heavy-duty Zoom Boom telehandlers last year and it is expected that both Carelift and the Ingersoll Rand models would be built in new plant that Skyjack has commissioned for telehandler and boom lift production.

Linda Hasenfratz, chief executive of Linamar - Skyjack's parent company - said: "The addition of Volvo's Material Handling Equipment products will complement our premium Zoom Boom telehandler brand, allowing us to bring our products to a broader group of customers."

Linamar, has also released its 2007 results. The industrial division, which is largely made up of Skyjack aerial lifts and more recently Carelift, saw revenues climb by almost 26 percent to around C\$477 million (\$482 million).



The VR1056 is the largest of the units Skyjack is hoping to acquire



Alan Dotts at Conexpo

Toyota distributes Aichi

Aichi has reached an agreement with Toyota Material Handling USA, to distribute its self propelled aerial lifts in North America through its 150 fork lift outlets.

Alan Dotts general manager of Aichi USA said: "This is a good move for Toyota and Aichi, giving us a well developed network for after sales support and distribution." With Toyota USA now involved directly in the distribution of Aichi lifts, expect to see local production back on the agenda before too long.

Palfinger up again

Palfinger revenues for 2007 rose by almost 19 percent to €695.6 million, while pre-tax profits increased by over 35 percent to €102.4 million. Loader cranes, which are largely sold in Europe, represent more than 73 percent of the total sales at €510 million. Palfinger said that it had made strong progress in Eastern Europe, particularly Russia, as well as Central and South America. The USA which represents around five percent of its revenues was affected by the real estate/financial crises as well as the weak dollar against the Euro.

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Access Days

This year's Access Days event will be held over three days rather than the usual two. The event, now in its fifth year, has grown from the original open day at Niftylift's factory in Milton Keynes to become a popular 'get together' for the UK access industry. The dates are May 13th, 14th and 15th.

Held at the Kingfisher Country Club at Deanshanger near Milton Keynes, principal hosts Nifty and Skyjack will be joined by new company R2 Access Platforms with the Manitou boom lift range.

As usual there will be a free barbeque lunch and a heavily subsidised bar with all proceeds going to The Lighthouse Club. A round of golf will be arranged for anyone who wants to hack around the nine hole course and for those staying overnight, an evening meal and live entertainment has been booked.



Ahern up

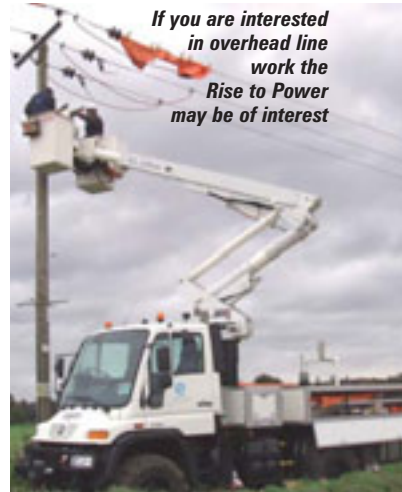
Ahern Rentals, the largest privately owned rental company in the USA with a fleet of 20,200 aerial lifts and telehandlers as well as 13,000 general rental machines, has posted full year 2007 revenues of \$342 million (£174 million), an increase of 29 percent compared to 2006. Rental revenues were up by 24 percent on the year with same location - like for like - revenues up by over 19 percent. Pre tax profits dropped from \$25.2 million to \$21.9 million a fall of 13 percent. Don Ahern, CEO, said: "All of our markets, particularly non-residential, have remained strong and the current level of activity remains quite high."

Overhead line solutions

Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions is hosting a one day safety meeting on April 23rd and 24th to discuss safe working on overhead power lines, primarily focusing on wood pole operations. Entitled 'Rise to Power' the event will include a number of speakers along with the presentation of a number of different solutions for working on overhead lines. Speakers will be drawn from the HSE, CE Electric and Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions.

Held at CE Electric's Kepler training school in Durham, the event will include a significant amount of discussion time, with the aim to have a sound exchange of ideas and views on the subject to help formulate best practice solutions.

If you are responsible for work on pole based overhead lines, or have a vested interest in the subject and would like to attend and add to this event then please contact Debbie Oakland as soon as possible on 0114 2329700 or email her on Debbie.oakland@bbusl.com.



If you are interested in overhead line work the Rise to Power may be of interest

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Big Chinese order

Chinese crane manufacturer Sany used Conexpo to announce a 36 crawler crane deal with Dutch company P van Adrighem BV. Worth 200 million RMB (\$26/£13.2 million) the order includes 10 each of its 50, 80 and 100 tonne crawler cranes as well as five, 320 tonne and one 400 tonne crane to be delivered over the next 18 months. The company also said that Sarens has placed a 20 unit order for delivery over the next 15 months.

Sany launched a 900 tonne crawler in China at the end of January with the first unit sold for work on domestic power station construction. In total, two 900 tonne cranes will be built this year and two in 2009. The company is currently developing a 1,600 tonne crane for launch next year as well as a 3,200 tonne unit. Sany is also planning to introduce its truck cranes into Europe later this year.

New Access Link members

Anglia Access of Norwich and Altitude Access of Mansfield have been appointed Access Link members.

Anglia, with a predominantly Haulotte fleet, is a relative newcomer to the access rental market and fills a gap in the Link's geographic coverage. Altitude, more JLG orientated and founded in 1996, takes over part of the territory vacated when Central Access was acquired by AFI last year. The Link Fleet now numbers 4,400 units.

Access Link chairman Malcolm Bowers, said: "These two new members are ideally placed to help with our national depot network. Anglia is a relatively new company, with a good fleet mix and fills an important location on our map. Altitude has invested heavily in plant and premises lately and their setup is first class."



Martin Davies joins MEC

Martin Davies has returned to the aerial lift business joining MEC to head up a new subsidiary for the UK and Ireland selling MEC's scissors and new boom lifts.

Davies spent many years heading up Skyjack's UK and then European operations but left to develop his photographic business which he has recently sold.



Martin Davies on the MEC stand at Conexpo

Kestral joins Panther

Kestral powered access has merged with sister company Panther, Kestral is now Panther's Bristol branch adding over 400 machines and increasing both national coverage and equipment choice. Later in the year AMP and Higher Platforms will also join Panther as all of Lavendon's regional companies come under the Panther branding.

Panther's managing director, Richard Miller said: "Panther's first class reputation and straightforward approach to powered access hire, in partnership with Lavendon's international experience, makes for an extremely strong and force going forward in the UK powered access market."

A Panther truck mounted lift in the new livery



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ANSI models shown.



• **Liebherr Nenzing** the Harbour, crawler and offshore crane and reach stacker producer has appointed **Gordon Clark** to establish an office and head a major expansion in South Africa.



Gordon Clark

• **Cramo Sweden** has acquired 100% of Kranab, the Stockholm-based aerial lift rental company.

• **Ashtead**, owner of A-Plant in the UK and Sunbelt in the USA, has put Ashtead Technology up for sale.

• **Three** of the first nine tower cranes re-examined in the wake of the deadly crane collapse in **Manhattan** failed the inspection and were shut down.

• **Florida** state governor **Charlie Crist** has said that he supports legislation held up in the state legislature enforcing crane operator certification.

• **JCB** has teamed up with Green motorsport team Drayson-Barwell and Aston Martin Racing for the American Le Mans series.

• **Straightpoint UK** has signed a long term agreement to supply a number of its products on an OEM basis to **Pfeifer Seil**.

• **Chris Koch** head of **Haulotte USA** since early 2006 has left the company.

• A man died after he fell while de-icing a plane at **Dublin Airport**.

• Coventry-based **Clements Plant & Tool Hire** has made **Tony Stokes** a director of the company.

• Australian mining company **BHP** has introduced a quarterly check system for every aerial lift coming onto its sites, with a focus on control panel protections and dead man switches.

• Finnish-based rental company **Cramo** has agreed a deal to buy Latvian rental company **SIA Tapeks Noma**.

• **Trico Lift**, the New Jersey based rental company has appointed **Pat Schmetzer** as vice president of operations while **Andrew Volponi** moves to logistics.



Pat Schmetzer

• **Ernest Fuller**, MD of **Worldlift Industries**, the parent of **Denka** and **Falck Schmidt** has left the company. **Kent Lyngaard Vinkel** has taken over the managing directors role.

• Charges have been filed against **Port Weller Dry Docks** and **Seaway Marine and Industrial** following the fatal crane collapse last year.

• A fire has destroyed the buildings at **Cranes and Equipment Specialists** of Chicago.

• Pop-Up Products' push around scissor lift has been named 'Best Performing Product' at the **HSS Hire Awards**.

• **Birchwood** has won the Industrial Product Design award for its 'self erecting tower' the **Razor Deck**.

• An operator training centre in California is suing **NCCCO** for removing it from its list of approved examiners.

• Commissioners in **Miami Dade County**, Florida, have approved the ordinance implementing tough new regulations for tower cranes.

• **Terex Aerial Work Platforms** has appointed **Janos Persa** as director of facilities and business development for the European region.



Janos Persa

• **Howard Wilkinson** has been appointed as director of distribution and logistics for Terex Aerials Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

• **United Rentals** has merged its aerial lift and general rental operations. It has also appointed **Matthew Flannery** as senior vice president - operations east and **Steven Nadelman** senior vice president - operations west.

• **JLG** has appointed **Frank Cholewski** as vice president - Americas finance responsible for finance practices and fiscal reporting for the Americas and global financial responsibility for the Caterpillar Alliance Group and government business.



Frank Cholewski

• Three construction workers drowned after a suspended work platform fell 30 metres from an Interstate bridge into the Arkansas River near **Little Rock** in the USA.

• Supervisor **James Kadiri**, working for **Fabricom** an electrical sub-contractor on **Laing O'Rourke's** Paradise Street construction project in Liverpool, suffered two broken ribs after a truck crashed into his platform only minutes after giving a Health & Safety talk to his men.

• Armed robbers in **Copenhagen** used a mobile crane to smash their way into a money transport depot stealing DK30 million.

• A prisoner at a jail in **Baoding City, China**, escaped by driving a crane through the compound wall.

• **John Fuller** of **Genie Europe** is to move into a new job handling major accounts. **Glynn Goodwin** will assume his current position as district manager for the UK and Ireland.

• **Pierrick Lourdain** one of **Haulotte's** most senior sales and marketing managers has left the company.



Pierrick Lourdain

• A 45 metre exclusion zone was put up around a **Liebherr** tower crane in Edinburgh while it was checked for structural damage after being affected by a blaze, it is now being removed.

• **Easi-Uplifts** the Irish based rental company has ordered three, new 42 metre track mounted **Falck Schmidt's**.



(l-r) Fergus McArdle, John Ball and Brian Falck Schmidt

• **Link Belt** cranes has appointed **Roy Burger** as its international sales manager.

Steve Filipov officially handed over leadership of **Terex Crane** to **Rick Nicholls** at a surprise party at Conexpo.

JLG has promoted three of its senior sales and marketing managers. **Andrew Satterley** is now managing director for Australia and New Zealand. **Tim Morris** is vice president, market development and sales for the Americas and **Wayne Lawson** is now vice president, sales and customer support for Europe Africa and the Middle East.

Cramo has agreed a deal to acquire **Techniline** in the Czech Republic.

• **Speedy Hire** has appointed **Justin Read** as group financial director

• Limerick-based powered access company, **Skylift**, has been short-listed for an All Ireland Marketing Award.



• **H&E Equipment**, (Head&Engquist) has reported revenues up 24.5% in 2007, while pre-tax profits jumped 250%.

• An 80 tonne All Terrain crane tipped over as it participated in a multiple crane lift of a bridge beam in **St Louis**, USA.

• **Liebherr** sold a record 15 mobile harbour cranes in South America in 2007.

• **Singapore** is to introduce new measures to raise safety standards of crane operations, following a fatal tower crane accident.

• US Crawler crane company, **Essex Crane Rental** has been acquired by **Hyde Park Acquisition Corp**.

• **Finning Group (UK)** has announced that it is to centralise the group business support services at Cannock, Staffordshire.

• The Glasgow depot of UK aerial lift rental company **AFI-Uplift**, is to give a lift to the Children's Hospice Association Scotland.

• A disgruntled construction worker scaled a 52 metre crane in **Dublin** to protest over the pension rights of builders.

• UK rental company **Vp** has acquired Northern Site Services and the business and assets of Northern Site Services Test & Calibration

• More than 30% of refurbishment sites visited in the February 'blitz' by the **HSE** in the UK were so dangerous that work was stopped immediately, mostly due to work at height issues.

• **Ahern Rentals** and **Custom Equipment** have agreed a distribution deal for the company's range of ultra compact electric scissor lifts in the USA.

• **Gehl**, the US based telehandler and skid steer loader producer has reported full year 2007 results with revenues down 6%.

• **Mateco Hellas E.P.E** of Greece has purchased a number of **Holland Lift** heavy duty scissor lifts and opened an operation in Bulgaria.

• **The Tulsa Winch Group** has purchased Canadian based **Lantec Winch & Gear**.

• **Finning International**, the parent of UK based **Hewden** has appointed **Michael T. Waites** as its president and chief executive officer.



Michael T. Waites

• **Bronto Skylift** has appointed **F.lli Pichler** to handle sales and service of its truck mounted platforms in Italy.

• Russian rental company **ZAO Cramo Rentakran**, has opened a new operation in Ekaterinburg.

• **Roy Stanley** the chairman of **Tanfield**, owner of **UpRight** and **Snorkel** aerial lifts, is to take over as chairman of **Business Link North East**.

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