

With so much happening in 2007, the year seemed to be over in a flash. Here we recall some of the more notable industry highlights together with news stories that made headlines around the globe.

# A look 20

## January

**Valla Cranes UK** opens a new joint venture operation in the Middle East

**Manitowoc buys Shuttlelift** pick and carry crane designs and brands with the aim to continue to market the products under both the Shuttlelift and Grove brand names.

**The HSE** imposes a prohibition order on Falcon Crane Hire following its second accident in three months, the collapse of a 40 metre high Jaso luffing tower crane in the centre of Liverpool which killed a construction worker.

**Kato buys into EuroRigo** Japanese crane producer Kato reaches an agreement with the Rigo family to establish a new European crane producer called EuroRigo, which will include Rigo cranes.



**A 750 tonne Liebherr LG 1750** lattice boom mobile crane erects the world's tallest wind turbine near Cottbus, Germany. The windmill has a 160 metre hub height and blade tip height of 205 metres.

**The Bank of England** raises the bank interest rate to 5.25%.

**Fraco** establishes a new mast climbing business in Hampton, Middlesex, headed by managing director Ken Beesley.

### Liebherr record

Liebherr delivered its 20,000 Ehingen-built crane - an LTM 1100-5.2 All Terrain unit - to Dutch-based crane company Hovago.



**Martin Ainscough** of Ainscough Crane Hire launches the UK's first on-line hire auction - [www.onestophire.com](http://www.onestophire.com).

**Speedy cranes** GGR-Unic agreed an alliance with Speedy Lifting to offer customers mini cranes from all 70 of its locations.



### A media storm

erupts over racist comments made against Shilpa Shetty, the winner of Celebrity Big Brother.

## February

**New Zealand fishermen** catch a colossal squid measuring about 10 metres long and weighing 450kg, the first adult squid ever landed.



**Self Propelled Biljax** American based Biljax launches its X series, a range of Self Propelled boom lifts with outriggers.

**Venpa 3** purchases Italian rough terrain and city crane specialist Locatelli.

**Arcomet Airtek** Arcomet purchases the 50 percent of Airtek Cranes, its UK joint venture, that it did not already own.



**Tony Blair** opens UpRight's new 23,000 sq metre Vigo plant, touring the facility and speaking to employees.

Dutch based **PSE orders 1,300 UpRight lifts.**



**Ainscough Crane Hire** purchases Nationwide Crane Hire/Crane Services effectively gaining a stranglehold on the large telescopic crane market in the UK.

**Contaminated fuel** damages thousands of cars and Tesco and Morrisons withdraw supplies after silicon was detected in unleaded petrol.

# back at

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April

**AFI-Uplift**, opens a depot in Bellshill near Glasgow - its first depot in Scotland - with an initial fleet of 100 boom and scissor lifts.

**A US shooting** rampage at the Virginia Tech University results in 33 people, including the suspected gunman, dead.



**Australia** wins the ICC Cricket World Cup beating Sri Lanka by 53 runs at the Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados.

**The Lavendon Group** acquires Rise Hire and its rental fleet of 150 van mounts and a similar number of fork trucks which operates from a single location in Over, Cambridgeshire.

**Skyjack**, the boom and scissor lift producer, doubles its standard warranty plan to a full two years parts and labour

**Height for Hire**, which operates internationally as Easi-UpLifts, adds 11 new Maeda mini crawler cranes into its rental locations in Ireland and the UK.



**Wacker Construction Equipment** announces a merger with Neuson Kramer and plans for an Initial Public Offering of its stock.

**Hybrid Equipment** receives CE certification for the Custom HB1030E low weight self-propelled scissor lift.

**Merlo** unveils its new self propelled concept the Platform MPR series at Bauma. The unit is based on a Roto 360 degree telehandler chassis with an articulated telescopic boom lift mechanism.



March

The new **£800m Wembley Stadium** is finally completed - its first match is a 3-3 draw between England and Italy in an U-21 friendly.



**Fifteen British navy personnel** are captured at gunpoint by Iranian forces as they boarded a boat in the Gulf off the coast of Iraq.



**Grove's** radically different GTK 1100, was seen in the metal for the first time when Vertikal.Net published 'scoop' photos.

**Genie** appoints Matt Fearon as managing director and vice president of Genie Europe replacing Jim Otley.

**Wilbert tower crane** appoints ABP Cranes as its dealer in Ireland in response to increased demand.



**GSR announced the** E179T a new 17 metre straight telescopic truck mounted boom lift for 3.5 tonne trucks.

**Winners Access** orders the first 37 metre working height Wumag WT370 mounted on a MAN TGM 18 tonne chassis.



**MSD-MBO** Maurice Johnson, completes an MBO of the crane hire division of MSD Darlington Ltd.

**Hewden** appoints Nick Childs as its new head of access.



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## Manitowoc: Performing near you

The 200 t (220 US t) Model 14000 joins Manitowoc's celebrated line of lattice-boom crawler cranes, offering an 86 m (282 ft) main boom and 113.7 m (373 ft) luffing jib. The Model 14000 features the exclusive EPIC<sup>®</sup> with Can-Bus control system enhancing the performance of all crane functions. Crane setup is optimized using FACT<sup>™</sup> connection technology to reduce assembly times.

For more information about the Manitowoc Model 14000, go to: [www.mcgads.com/1185](http://www.mcgads.com/1185).

 **Manitowoc**



## May

**Three year old Madeleine McCann** goes missing from her family's holiday apartment at the Ocean Club, in Praia da Luz.

**Glen E. Tellock** takes over as president and chief executive officer of the Manitowoc Group while Eric Etchart replaces Tellock as president of Manitowoc Crane Group.

**JLG** parent - Oshkosh finally announces that Craig Paylor has been appointed as president of JLG.



**CTE** launches the Power Tower - a powered push-around access platform which uses an in-line sigma type lift mechanism.

**The Platform Company** adds more telehandlers and places orders to take its fleet up to 250 units by year end.



**Facelift** shows its new 52 metre Bronto fitted with a very clever mini-jib/searcher hook fitted to the main boom at SED.

**Irish-based Mantis Cranes** appoints US dealer.

**Independent Parts and Service (IPS)** forms a new company, UpRight Powered Access Sales UK and establishes a new operation in Finland called IPS Oy.

**Bluelift** sorts out its UK distribution by appointing SkyKing.



## June

**Tony Blair** stands down as UK prime minister after 10 years in the job. He is succeeded by Gordon Brown.

### The London 2012 Olympics

logo is unveiled and is instantly mauled by the public.



**Tanfield**, owner of UpRight, buys Snorkel for \$125 million and expands each brand's product range with a dual brand policy.



### A blazing vehicle

packed with gas canisters was driven into the front of Glasgow airport's Terminal One building.

**Another tower crane accident**, this time in Croydon. The crane's operator was seriously injured and three men were trapped in the tower. The (HSE) discovered that the superstructure of the tower crane was not attached to the tower or the climbing frame.



**Lavendon** acquires Wizard Workspace - previously known as Independent Access Supplies with its fleet of 1,300 aerial lifts and nine depots. Andy Wright is appointed as overall head of Lavendon's UK businesses.



**Haulotte** appoints Phillip James as MD of Haulotte UK which includes UK Platforms.

**Private Equity company 3i** sells its interest in HSS to a group of investors led by Archie Norman, the ex MP and ex Asda CEO for about £310 million.

**Outreach** - the Palfinger distributor for Scotland and IPAF and ALLMI training centre - is acquired by its two senior managers Gary Potts and Derek Payne.

**Hewden Stuart** agrees to sell the business and assets, excluding real estate of its UK tool hire division to Speedy Hire for £115 million.

**Power Lifting Services** is appointed Böcker dealer in the UK for the truck and trailer mounted ranges of aluminium cranes.





**Flooding continued** for the third month with as many as 140,000 people in Gloucestershire cut off from water supplies and having to use bottled water.

**Speedy Hire** continues to expand by acquiring Waterford Hire in Ireland and employs Eugene Heather as its MD.

**BBC correspondent Alan Johnston** - kidnapped in Gaza on 12 March - was released.

**J. Martin Benchoff** the man that built Grove manufacturing into a worldwide crane and aerial lift manufacturer, dies at his home in Rouzerville near Waynesboro, Pennsylvania aged 80.

**Roger Federer** wins his fifth Wimbledon men's singles title equaling the modern-day record of Bjorn Borg.



## July

The seventh and **final Harry Potter book** breaks sales records on both sides of the Atlantic, selling 11 million copies in its first 24 hours.



**JLG** announces a new European parts distribution centre next to its existing production facility in Aasmechelen, Belgium.

**Liebherr** adds a new 600 tonne lattice boom crawler crane - the LR 1600/2 - targeted at the wind turbine installation market.

**Doosan buys Bobcat** from Ingersoll Rand following several months of bidding.

**Ray Ledger** re-enters the access market by leading a Management Buy Out at Stoke-based Kimberly Access.



**Manitowoc Crane Group** acquires Shirke Construction Equipments of Pune, India, a leading player in the Indian tower crane market and a manufacturing partner for Potain since it acquired Richier in 1982.

**Liebherr** appoints Christoph Kleiner as a Geschäftsführer of Liebherr-Werk Echingen, responsible for worldwide sales.



## August

**Disaster strikes** in the US state of Minnesota when a road bridge over the Mississippi collapses during evening rush-hour killing 13 people.

**Thousands of people** in the northern hemisphere witness a spectacular light show of shooting stars, known as the Perseid meteor shower.

**Zenith Aerial Platforms** - owned jointly by Mark Butler and Andy Ainsworth - takes delivery of the UK's largest truck mounted lift the Bronto S90HLA.



**London Tower Service** takes the first JLG 1230ES mast type lift in the UK, taking its fleet of JLG machines to more than 100 units.

**Crowland Cranes** confirms an order for the first 10 Zoomlion 30V truck mounted crane units.

**Rise Hire** orders 52 Versalift van mounted platforms worth £2.6 million and 14 new Landrover mounted booms from Gardner Denver.

**Wire Rope Corporation of America**, (WRCA) announces it is to acquire the entire business of German specialist wire rope company Casar.

**Cramo** forms a new joint venture in Russia with Moscow-based crane and access rental company Rentakran.

**Potain** ships its 1,000th GTMR 386 self erecting tower crane making it one of the most popular Potain self erectors ever.



**Nationwide Skylift** takes delivery of its first of five 37 metre Ruthmann T370 Truck mounted platforms part of its £4 million, 47 unit investment.

Yet another **Lavendon** acquisition sees the company snapping up **Higher Platforms** for a total of £8.9 million.

**Elavation** takes the first new **Skyjack boom** - an S45JT - to arrive in the UK. The booms are part of a 50 machine order.



# September

The global credit crunch takes its toll on **Northern Rock** with customers queuing to take out their money.

**Liebherr** unveils its new HS 825 HD Litronic, a 40 tonne hydraulic duty cycle crawler claimed to be the most powerful in its segment.

The first **Niftylift HR21 Bi-energy** rough terrain articulated boom lifts are delivered to Dutch rental company HWS by Nifty's dealer Eurosupply.



**Return to Haydock** The first **Vertikal Days** event at Haydock Park - which featured numerous new products from more than 50 exhibitors - received a massive thumbs-up from visitors and exhibitors.

**UpRight International** the alloy tower company unveils a new corporate image and change in the company name to **Instant UpRight**



**Terex Cranes** opens a new distribution and sales centre in Helsingborg, Sweden to cover the Scandinavian region.

**JCB's** Loadall Telehandler business unit **wins** Queen's Award for International Trade.



**A-Plant** places a further £13 million worth of orders for new equipment including a wide range of JCB telehandlers.

**Skyjack** buys into telehandlers with the acquisition of **Carelift** and its Zoom boom range.

**Skyjack** purchases the assets of N-C Liftteknik AB, its Swedish distributor.

**Wumag** unveils its WT1000 at 102.5m the world's largest platform, at a special open day in Krefeld Germany and then at Europlatform in Basel.



**City Lifting** takes delivery of the first seven axle Spierings SK 2400- AT 7 mobile tower crane and the first Unic 706 mini crane in the UK.

**Independent Parts and Service (IPS)**, the **UpRight** distributor for the UK and **Access Platform Sales (APS)** the Snorkel distributor, agrees to form a new company to sell the merged product range, with each company holding 50 percent of the equity.

**IPAF** reaches 250,000 active PAL (Powered Access Licence) card carriers.

**Kranlyft** announces a full two year warranty for its **Maeda** spider cranes.



**Manitou** launches the MT Privelege range of telehandlers with heights from 14 to 18 metres. Designed primarily for the construction sector.

# October



**South Africa** defeat England 15-6 in the world cup final at Stade de France to add a second Webb Ellis Cup to the one they won as hosts in 1995.

**Liebherr-Rental UK**, appoints Paul Clark as general manager - managing director designate.

William O'Brien Junior purchases the 75 percent holding in **William O'Brien Plant Hire** that he did not already own.

**Palfinger** launches a new Hi Performance loader crane range at a major event in Bologna Italy.

**Vertikal Press** launches **Cranes&Access Russia** - distributed to 15,000 readers throughout Russia and the CIS states. **VertikalNet.ru** website goes live.

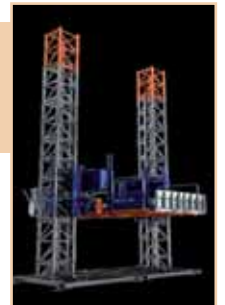
**Potain** adds a third and smallest model to its City Topless range - the MCT78.



**Alimak Hek** unveils its new modular mast climber system which allows a wide range of mast climbing work and transport platforms to be built from a small number of interchangeable modular components.

**AFI-Uplift** acquires **North East Access** the powered access rental company based in Hebburn, Tyne and Wear.

**Link Belt** appoints NRC as its crane distributor for the UK and Ireland. NRC already sells and services Hitachi Sumitomo crawler cranes.



**Terex Demag** hands over its new 3,200 tonne capacity CC8800-1 Twin - the world's largest mobile crawler crane - to its new owner Al Jaber.

**Skylift Hire** of Limerick celebrates 10 years in business and wins a national branding award.



**Ainscough Crane Hire**, announces the sale of the business to the existing management team headed by Neil Partridge, for £255 million.

**MEC** unveils its plans to develop a full line of boom lifts starting with a 40ft straight boom followed by a 45ft jibbed version.





**JLG Australia** launches the LiftPod - a lightweight one-man portable lift that fills the gap between ladders and larger aerial work platforms for one-person lift applications.



**Manitou** unveils its Manitrac telehandler agricultural tractor.

**Kobelco** confirms its new 110 tonne capacity crawler crane - the CKE1100 - will be available from early next year.



**Apple's** much-hyped iPhone finally hits UK shelves.

All charges were dropped against **ES Access** operator John Whitfield in relation to the accident involving a train striking the platform of his Moog MB250 under-bridge unit in February this year.

**United Rentals** files a lawsuit against Cerberus Capital Management, for failing to go through with its acquisition of the world's largest rental company.

**Potain** secures its biggest single order ever through its UAE-based dealer and rental company, NFT placing an order for 208 cranes.



**Genie** announces that it has produced more than 500, Z-45/25 articulating booms in Perugia, Italy since April and plans to start construction of a new facility in the USA next year.

**Two computer discs** holding the personal details of all families in the UK with a child under 16 go missing.

**The Lavendon Group** agrees the acquisition of Belgium-based DK rental along with its operations in Spain and France for £61.4 million.

**Nationwide Access** managing director Peter Whittall, announces he is leaving the company by mutual agreement.

**Saez**, changes its name to the Saez Group in preparation for a planned diversification including a range of telescopic handlers.

**Haulotte** opens its latest sales and service subsidiary, Haulotte Middle East FZE in the Dubai Airport Duty Free Zone.

**AFI-UpLift** acquires **Central Access**, the Newstead, Nottingham-based powered access rental and training specialist.

## December

**Mantis Cranes** teams up with UK crane company R & B Construction Logistics by taking a 30 percent investment in the Cambridge-based company.

**IPAF** announces new lift categories for its PAL card, effective from 1 January 2008.

**Pakistani former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto** is assassinated in a suicide attack. A gunman shot her in the neck and set off a bomb.



**Led Zeppelin** re-form to play a one-off gig at the O2 Arena in London.

**Bob Francis Crane Hire** supplies equipment for the new cafeteria at the top of Mount Snowdon. At a height of 1085m, the steep terrain makes any construction difficult.

**A J Access Platforms** opens a new branch between Southampton and Portsmouth and a support office next to East Midlands Airport.

**Palfinger** takes over MBB Liftsystems - one of the leading suppliers of tail lifts. The deal is Palfinger's largest acquisition to date.



**Aichi** releases more details on its new products which include two new narrow aisle electric slab scissor lifts aimed at the international market and new 40/46 ft straight boom. It also has plans to start construction on a new production facility in the USA next year.

**Sharon Winter**, co-founder of Supa Scaffolding, wins the Everywoman Athena Award, for outstanding entrepreneurial success.

**Steve Shaughnessy** has been appointed as managing director of **Loxam UK**.

**Wolffkran** announces it is to build a new state-of-the-art 8,000 square metre production facility in Luckau, Brandenburg Germany.



## Departures in 2007

**Mike Reid**, actor 67

**Alan Ball**, footballer 61

**Ian Richardson**, actor 72

**George Melly**, jazz singer and critic 80

**Kurt Waldheim**, United Nations head 88

**Anita Roddick**, The Body Shop founder 64

**Marcel Marceau**, mime legend 84

**Ned Sherrin**, broadcaster 76

**Alan Coren**, broadcaster 69

**Lord Forte**, Hotelier 98

**Magnus Magnusson**, Mastermind presenter 77

**Ian Smith**, Rhodesian PM 88

**Bill Deedes**, journalist 94

**Carlo Ponti**, director 94

**Art Buchwald**, columnist for the Washington Post 81

**Sidney Sheldon**, author, 89

**Boris Yeltsin**, Russian President, 76

**Frankie Laine**, singer 93

**Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr.**, Historian 89

**Betty Hutton**, actress 86

**Rev. Jerry Falwell**, evangelist 73

**Ingmar Bergman**, director 89

**Liz Clairborne**, fashion designer 78

**Beverly Sills**, opera diva 78

**Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson** 94

**Merv Griffin**, talk show host 82

**Deborah Kerr**, actress 86

**Luciano Pavarotti**, legendary Italian tenor 71

**Jane Wyman**, actress and 1st wife of Ronald Reagan 90

**Lois Maxwell**, Miss Money Penny 80

**Oscar Peterson**, piano legend 82

**Joey Bishop**, last surviving member of the Rat Pack 89

**Robert Goulet**, actor 73

**Norman Mailer**, author 84

**Evil Knievel**, motorcycle stunt rider 69

**Ike Turner**, musician 76

**Benazir Bhutto** - Pakistani leader 54

**Mike Hunt**, UK powered access pioneer, 65

**Brian Field**

**Peter Frisk**, founder of Zip-Up Svenska, 73

**Martin Benchoff**, Grove Manufacturing, 80



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