

cranes & access



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June 2015 Vol.17 issue 4


Tower cranes

Trailer lifts

**Heavy
transport**

**Vertikal Days
and Intermat
reviews**

... JLG acquires Power Towers.....New 50 tonne Sennebogen.....Hiab launches Z-crane...



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Five Arrows Business Finance

FIVE ARROWS BUSINESS FINANCE ~ DRAWN TO A CHALLENGE

On the cover:

A Potain MCT 88 flat-top crane - the largest in the MCT series - being used on a dam project in Tahiti, an island in the central Southern Pacific Ocean.



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Tel: +44 (0)8448 155900 Fax: +44 (0)1295 768223
E-mail: info@vertikal.net

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JLG acquires Power Towers, New 50 tonne Sennebogen, AFI acquires Hampshire Plant & Access, Wolffkran confirms HTC acquisition, New Solid range from Palfinger, New Manitowoc for Bigge, Triple boom fatality in Albuquerque, New Z-crane from Hiab, First 33.15 Platform Basket in UK, Isoli replaces PNT210J, Able acquires Altitude, New compact telehandlers from Bobcat, Two 750 tonners for Windhoist,



Tadano ships 1,000th 100t/80tn RT, New start for Dinolift in the UK, Liebherr unveils LTC 1045 successor, IPS launches consumables range and financials round-up.

Tower cranes 17



It has been an interesting and varied year for tower cranes, with major developments on all fronts. We round-up the latest news as well as looking at new product launches and a few applications.

Trailer lifts 25

Cranes & Access takes a look at the trailer lift which appears to be increasingly overlooked by the regular specialist rental companies and larger generalists - in spite of several new developments over the past year.



Scottish spiders 33

IAPS' rental company in Scotland recently changed its name to Specialized Access and appointed a new director. Ed Darwin travelled to its base in Wishaw to find out more...

In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access - scheduled for mid-July - we will have the Annual dealer guide as well as taking a look at Telehandlers, Industrial pick&carry cranes and Industrial access/low level lifts. If you have any contributions or suggestions, to make, or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.

Vertikal Days

review 35

This year's Vertikal Days - the ninth - has established the show as a major event in the European exhibition calendar with an unrivalled display of cranes and access equipment. In our extensive review we highlight new products and sales at the two day event.

Heavy transport 45

In C&A's first heavy transport feature we take a look how companies are dealing with transporting heavier and bulkier items as well as SPMTs and new products.



Intermat review 51

Despite the fine sunny weather, Intermat 2015 sadly did nothing to raise its position above that of a big regional show. Despite a relatively poor showing of equipment in the cranes and access sectors there were many new products to see.

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Henry Ford

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Editorial team

Mark Darwin - Editor
Edward Darwin - Deputy editor
editor@vertikal.net

Associate editors

Rüdiger Kopf (Freiburg)
Alexander Ochs (Freiburg)
Leigh Sparrow

Sales & customer support

Pam Penny
Clare Engelke
Karlheinz Kopp

Production/Administration

Nicole Engesser

Subscriptions

Lee Sparrow

Publisher

Leigh Sparrow

Advertising sales

UK-based

Pam Penny pp@vertikal.net
Tel: +44 (0)7917 155657
Clare Engelke ce@vertikal.net
Tel: +44 (0)7989 970862

Germany-based

Karlheinz Kopp khk@vertikal.net
Tel: +49 (0)761 89786615

Italy

Fabio Potestà,
Mediapoint,
Corte Lambruschini,
Corso Buenos Aires 8, V Piano-Interno 7,
I-16129 Genova, Italy
Tel: 010 570 4948 Fax: 010 553 0088
email: mediapointsrl.it

The Vertikal Press

PO box 6998 Brackley NN13 5WY, UK
Tel: +44(0)8448 155900
Fax: +44(0)1295 768223
email: info@vertikal.net
web: www.vertikal.net

Vertikal Verlag

Sundgaullee 15, D-79114,
Freiburg, Germany
Tel: 0761 8978660 Fax: 0761 8866814
email: info@vertikal.net
web: www.vertikal.net



Progress?

Prior to each C&A issue we review the latest Vertikal.net news stories for possible inclusion in the magazine. This month I was struck by the unusually large number of incidents, and in particular fatalities relating to cranes, access and telehandlers from around the world. Perhaps it is just an unfortunate

coincidence, but there appears to be many more deaths than I can remember in any single month since I started, more than nine years ago.

Two incidents in particular stand out - a father, his seven year old son and 12 year old nephew all died, while a 10 year old neighbour's son was critically injured when a boom lift overturned in Albuquerque, USA. In the UK a woman was hit when walking along the pavement, by the inadvertently extended outrigger beam of a loader crane as it drove down the road in Altrincham, Cheshire.

Sadly there are many more examples I could have chosen. Figures for occupational fatalities are not available for all countries, but for various reasons the countries/regions that feature most in the news are supposedly the safest - Europe, North America and Australia. One factor may be the increased reporting and coverage of accidents in recent years, however at the same time equipment has improved significantly, while the focus on safety measures and devices has reached unprecedented levels.

Over the past eight weeks of so we have had two major trade shows - Intermat and Vertikal Days - where manufacturers displayed their latest equipment, bristling with hi-tech performance and safety features designed to make work quicker, easier and safer.

Based on this month's news, better equipment does not seem to be making as much of an impact on reducing such incidents as you might expect. Manufacturers can only go so far with safety systems. In the incident in Albuquerque the father extended the JLG boom lift to its full height with five in the basket, while it was sitting on the back of a two axle trailer! In the USA a court ruled in favour of Genie over the gross misuse of one of its AWP models (see news story page 6). Yes in theory the manufacturer could have made it impossible for the lift to be moved when elevated, but the court found that this would have restricted the machine's functionality to a point where less safe alternatives might be used to reach the work.

So why do so many incidents continue to occur when equipment, training and safety awareness has improved so much?

Ultimately we are at fault. We try to save time, effort or money by taking risks or we are completely oblivious to the potential dangers and/or lack the training and foresight to stop it happening. Safety is the responsibility of the operator and owner who should ensure the equipment is used and maintained correctly.

Hopefully we are not seeing operators placing total reliance on the machine's safety systems, assuming they will prevent them from doing anything stupid. At the end of the day, we are in control and are ultimately responsible when it goes wrong. Unfortunately in the incidents above, three out of the four who died were innocent bystanders and paid the ultimate price for errors made by others.

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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