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A major event in the show calendar

This year's Vertical Days has established the show as a major event in the European exhibition calendar. With a display of cranes and access equipment unrivalled this year, the show has grown and developed year on year, not only establishing itself as the UK's top lifting event but increasingly attracting visitors from further afield.

Held again this year in May, the weather - despite poor forecasts that included high winds during set-up - was warm and sunny on the first day while the Thursday remained dry, although cold. Traffic congestion in the vicinity of Haydock Park - caused by major road works at the intersection of the East Lancashire Road and the M6 - meant queues to reach the venue were longer than normal, but even these did not spoil visitors' enjoyment.

This year is the ninth since its launch in 2007 with the show growing in size every year since, setting new records again this year in terms of the number of exhibitors and visitors. Many subtle improvements were again added including the layout, relocating and expanding the Marketplace, entrance layout, food and evening party. Coming just a few weeks after Intermat in Paris, one might have thought would have caused a few problems. However the buoyant UK market ensured a record turnout with all the major manufacturers or dealers being present.

Each year the show aims to improve the visitor experience and this year was no exception. The relocated and extended Marketplace was busier than ever with almost 40

exhibitors showing a wide range of products and services from as far afield as North America and the Far East. With the ALLMI village absent this year it meant more space and a more regular stand layout for the increasing number of exhibitors in the open area. The food serving arrangements in the catering pavilion were doubled and this eradicated the queues of previous years - unfortunately a bi-product of the show's success.

Cranes

The crane exhibitors were out in force with the best display of crawler, mobile, pick & carry, spider and tower cranes for more than 15 years. All the major manufacturers were present, reflecting the current mood of the industry. The prize for largest crane at the show went to crane rental company NMT and its new 700 tonne Terex AC700, not only centre of its stand but also dominating a large proportion of the show with its hefty luffing jib. However there were many other impressive mobile cranes on show, including several with capacities of more than 300 tonnes and Grove used the global



New cab on the new 250 tonne Grove GMK 5250



C&A

vertikal days



Probably the best display of cranes in the UK for more than 15 years

launch of its new 250 tonne GMK 5250-1.

First time exhibitor Kobelco, together with long-time supporters NRC and Liebherr all showed large crawler cranes - a 135 tonne Kobelco CKE 1350G, 80 tonne Hitachi-Sumitomo SCX800A-3 and 60 tonne Liebherr LTR 1060 - and

it was also good to see several telescopic crawlers including a world premiere of the all-new 50 tonne Sennebogen 653E on the AGD stand. Other notable exhibits included two telescopic crawlers from Link-Belt - the Tier IV TCC1100 and 50 tonne TCC500 which made its European debut.



Biggest crane at the show was NMT's 700 tonne Terex AC 700 with its hefty luffing jib



World premiere of the new 50 tonne capacity Sennebogen 653E telescopic crawler

with the 1.5 tonne capacity Hooka pick & carry crane from Hook-Up Solutions. Its latest version - designed to move bulk building materials and seen for the first time at the show - included a 700mm longer boom, making it easier to lift and place bulk-bagged material.

Spider cranes were also well represented with the latest models from Unic - the Unic 295 with a 3.4 metre hydraulic jib - and Maeda's articulated MK 1033. JT Cranes showed the latest upgraded 1.5 tonne Hoeflon C6 spider crane, while Promax displayed a Reedyk C3412.

With interest growing in the UK for Rough Terrain cranes, Crowland Cranes displayed a 40 tonne Grove RT540E alongside a 20 tonne Yard Boss YB5520-1 industrial crane - a possible replacement for older 'Iron Fairy' cranes? If not then there were more traditional pick & carry units from Valla and Galizia, with two new Valla models - the 12 tonne 120ES and the 18 tonne 180ES both with new five section booms.

Truck cranes were also represented with the 60 tonne Marchetti MTK60 making its UK debut. Aluminium truck cranes were catered for by Böcker and a Paus trailer crane and furniture lift was also to be seen. Mobile tower cranes were out in force on the Spierings stand, including its latest Euro 6 SK1265-AT6 with new cab which has already found numerous buyers including Bronzesield, City Lifting, Bryn Thomas Crane Hire and BCHC (Birmingham Crane Hire).



AGD Equipment was showing this 60 tonne Marchetti MTK 60 truck crane with 40m power boom and 8-14.5m fly

Of course Vertikal Days is also about the unusual and the slightly different. This year there were several tracked chassis utility vehicles - the Terrain Master TC600 and Versalift's range of tracked utility vehicles - along



Hook-Up Solutions' new 1.5 tonne Hooka pick&carry crane with 700mm longer boom to lift pallets or bulk materials bags.

And finally tower cranes... City Lifting was well represented around the show with mobile cranes, but on its own stand showed an eight tonne capacity Comansa 11LC 160 which has a maximum 65 metre jib length and compact slewing platform design with new trolley system. The company also represents Artic Cranes and had details of its latest articulated jib Raptor 184, which should go into production soon. The crane can lift four tonnes at its maximum radius of 36 metres and eight tonnes at 22.5 metres, while the jib folds to within 2,300mm of the tower and it has an out of service radius at the rear of about 3.6 metres. Using six metre tower sections the maximum free standing height is 42 metres. Finally on the Manitowoc stand there was the Potain IGO M14 self-erecting tower crane.

Access

Vertikal Days is a must visit event for anyone interest in powered access. Since its inception it has attracted all types and sizes of access equipment. This year big truck mounts were back in fashion. After a few lean years sales of the 40 metre plus machines have picked up and this is seen in the larger exhibits from the likes of Bronto, Palfinger and Ruthmann.



One of the first two axle Palfinger 48m P480's in the UK sold to Loxam

Skyking - UK Palfinger platform distributors - showed a 90 metre P900 sold to Blade Access, as well as the first of three, two axle 48 metre Palfinger P480 in the UK sold to Loxam. Bronto debuted the 47 metre S47XR mounted on a 26 tonne Volvo FM chassis as well as a 90 metre S90HLA. Ruthmann had several truck mounts on display, including a 63 metre T630 and 72 metre T720.

At the opposite end of the access scale, the small push around lift is always well represented. This year Italian company Big Astor launched its People Lift push around scissor the four metre working height MAK 1, with removable guardrails. Show regular Power Towers highlighted its new 4.2 metre Ecolift - the Pecolift's big brother. The Access Platform Company had the recently launched



The Almac bibi 850 showing off its levelling capabilities

Skywinder 300 AT with rough terrain tyres and outriggers for outdoor use. Moving up the height scale and making its UK debut was the latest 7.5 metre working height, 250kg capacity Almac bibi 850 tracked scissor with auto levelling chassis, with at least four orders booked during the two days.

The number of debutants is enormous so here are brief details of just a few which included -

Hinowa's 26 metre Lightlift 26.14 spider lift, Snorkel's S3219E and S4732E electric slab scissors, the largest scissor at the show - Holland Lift's HL-275 Hybrid with 27 metres working height and 1,000kg capacity, ATN's new secondary guarding system, Avant Techno Leguan 135, Genie Z-33/18 and Z-62/40 booms, the Manitou Man'Go 12, the 12 metre JLG Toucan 12E Plus and 26 metre X26J Plus spider lift, Dingli's 11.5 metre mast boom, Multitel SMX 300 HD spider and 16.2 metre MT 162 truck mount, 20.7 metre CTE Zed21.2JH, the re-engineered Niftylift HR17N Hybrid boom, Oil&Steel's 20 metre Snake 2010H, Platform Basket's 33 metre 33.15 lithium powered spider and 22 metre 22.10 spider, Skyjack's new 86ft SJ86T, France Elevateur 142TPFe van mount and 24 metre 284TBE truck mount on a 3.5 tonne chassis and several Versalifts including the ETM38F and 13 metre ETL36F van mounts....

There were so many new and unusual items of equipment - some arriving unannounced at the show - that it is difficult to identify each and every one. Most will be covered in the pictorial review which also includes telehandlers from JCB, Faresin, Manitou, JLG and Genie and other interesting equipment, services, training, electronics and components that were on show.

Vertikal Days has never been about visitor numbers, although those attending must represent around 90 percent of the UK buying power.



As well as showing its Pedestrian Tunnel and modular pedestrian footpath, Big Astor showed its first People Lift push around scissor. Working height of the Genius MAK 1 is 4m and it weighs just 94kg.

Ultimately a show's success is measured by good contacts and relationships being made and the resulting sales. Many exhibitors reported 'out of the blue' unexpected sales, and as usual there were many comments about the quality and serious nature of the visitors with regards to enquiries

and purchasing ability.

Next year - 2016 - will be the show's 10th anniversary and further developments and improvements are planned. Let's hope the industry continues on its upward trend and Vertikal Days 2016 will be even bigger and better!



A Snorkel A62JRT



Air-Seal was showing its range of tyre sealants which claim to prevent up to 95 percent of all punctures up to 30mm



Duncan Titmarsh of Bright Bricks building a Genie boom out of Lego



Genie's recently launched 62ft diesel Z-62/40 boom lift



All smiles on the Cumberland Platforms stand - now UK dealer for Imer and Iteco access equipment



One of two sizeable truck mounted platforms purchased by AA Access - this one was on the Ruthmann stand



JLG telehandlers with the 2505H in the foreground



A world exclusive - Grove's 250 tonne GMK 5250



An impressive line-up from Tadano



Access Sales International's stand with Ruthmann truck mounts



JCB 525-60 Hi Viz



Comansa's UK flat top tower crane distributor City Lifting showed off an 8 tonne 11LC 160 which has a 65m maximum jib length

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Universal Crane Mats launched two all new products the UniMat Aluminium Modular Load Spread System tested to 150 tonnes and the Azobe (Ekki) Sleepers System



In the Market Place Solum was showing off its new aluminium temporary foundation and crane outrigger mats



Easy R180 spider lift on UK distributor Skyking stand



Both Quinto Cranes and City Lifting had several mobile cranes at the show - these are on the Tadano stand



Crowland Cranes is experiencing a lot more interest in cranes such as this Grove RT540E



ATN's Pfaf 810 tracked mast boom during the show set-up



Is it a bird, or is it a plane Two visitors shield their eyes against the sun and try and get a better look at a large truck mounted platform



The Ascendent access Ant Arctic trailer



King Lifting's Liebherr LTM 1300 6.2



KFS Special Vehicles' plant trailer



John Sutch's 350 tonne Liebherr LTM 1350-6



Just part of the large selection of platforms on the Versalift stand



As well as its Terex AC700, NMT also had this Terex Challenger 3180 on its stand



Manitou 260TJ



Hird was showing these two Valla pick&carry cranes including the new 18 tonne 180ES at the rear



Autoguide's Terrain Master TC600 designed to carry a 9 tonne metre loader crane or 20 metre work platform

Cautrac was showing this Marooka crawler chassis mounted with a PM 17.5P loader crane



JLG stand



First time exhibitor Kobelco had its 135 tonne CKE1350G crawler on the stand



A 13.2 metre Socage A314 truck mounted lift on an Isuzu D Max chassis



A selection of Custom Equipment's low level access platforms on the Hy-Brid Access Platforms stand



Terex AC350-6 to Bronzeshield

The new Platform Basket 33.15 lithium with other cranes and access exhibits



Biggest crane at the show was NMT's 700 tonne Terex AC 700



Lifting and rigging equipment specialist Lifting Gear UK had plenty on show



The Access Platform Company showed its widest range of low level access equipment to date including the 5m Skywinder 300AT and handpowered lifts including the Quickstep, Powerscissor and Powerlift



The Liebherr stand including the Weldex crawler



Versalift's new 13m ETL-36-135-F on a 3.5 tonne van



Virtual simulation specialists CM Labs Simulations was making its show debut with two sophisticated training simulators. This five screen set-up is for training on cranes and heavy equipment



Dinolift 220XTC II



Every type of equipment was at the show

Terex Explorer 5800 in Bronzeshield colours



Manitou's Tony Hobbs with the new Man'Go 12



Italian lift and scaffold manufacturer Faraone and its travelling stand



A CTE Zed 21 JHV sold to Clements Equipment Hire



One of several CMC lifts - this is an S19.07 sold to Higher Access

C&a vertical days



ATN, France Elevateur and Oil&Steel distributor Utility Equipment was showing this France Elevateur 142TPFe van mounted platform



Ainscough Training Services is one of the UK's largest independent lifting training providers



Clare Engelke of the Vertical Press taking on the Bronto 2015 Operator Challenge on Bronto's latest training simulator



Oil&Steel's 20 metre Octopus 20 spider lift



(L-R) Tim Blanchard, Mark Underdown and Charles Sterling of Hook-Up Solutions and the Hooka pick&carry crane



Lots of equipment on the popular Hinowa stand



Teupen spider lifts



JT Cranes showing off its new 1.5 tonne Hoeflon C6 mini crane and its two tracked carriers including the new 4 tonne D40



Models in the entrance tent



Mitas launched its CR-01 radial crane tyre suitable for ATs



Spreader beams from Lifting Gear UK

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A red Snorkel scissor lift is shown in a warehouse environment. The lift is partially extended, and its platform is visible. The background shows industrial shelving and a concrete floor. The lighting is somewhat dim, highlighting the lift as the main subject.

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talked about
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A 13.2 metre Socage A314 truck mounted lift on an Isuzu D Max chassis



Easy R180 spider lift on UK distributor Skyking



A Versa-Lift 40-60 industrial forklift from Bryn Thomas Industrial Services



ATN new secondary guarding system on its boom lift



Hoeflon 1,5 tonne C6 mini crane



Martin Cheese of Power Towers had a good show



Ground-Guards launched its MaxiTrack temporary roadway system in the UK



Winlet glass handlers



The new IPS branded workshop consumables range



Lifting and rigging equipment specialist Lifting Gear UK had plenty on show



The Galizia GF200E pick and carry crane on the GGR stand



Scheuleur SPMT



The only self erecting crane - the Potain IGO M14



Link Belt TCC1100 on the NRC stand with King Lifting's 300 tonne Liebherr in the background



Show manager Pam Penny of the Vertikal Press awarding the TVH mini forklift to draw winner Martin Stevenson service manager at CTE



City Liftings latest Bocker AK44-4000PLC on a MB Atego 15 tonne carrier with hydraulically extending luffing jib and slew restriction