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Crane boom technology for demolition machines

Rusch Kraantechnik, the Dutch boom repair and fabrication company has built the world's highest demolition excavator with a maximum tool height of 60 metres. The company was originally approached by Caterpillar dealer Pon to build a 55 metre high machine on a second hand excavator base, but after discussing the possibilities with Rusch, Pon decided to go ahead with a 60 metre boom on a new Cat 385C excavator base.

According to Ruud Schreijer the owner of Rusch, stability is not the issue with these big machines - the company modifies the Cat base, making it wider, longer and heavier, on top of this he claims that the incorporation of crane boom technology means that his 60 metre boom is lighter than current 50 metre demolition booms. Scheijer is convinced that his crane boom experience, including the use of the latest ultra-high strength steels, means that he can go even higher, possibly to 70 metres. Although at this height operator visibility becomes a real challenge - boom tip mounted cameras only go so far!

One major crane feature that Rusch has incorporated is a single telescope cylinder for the three big sections with boom pinning. This technology - common place these days on mobile crane booms - is new to the demolition excavator and some significant changes had to be incorporated to cope with the multi-directional stresses and dynamic loading from the tools used on the end of the boom.

The wear pads for example are tapered so that they block up the sections when the boom reaches full extension and boom pins have additional retention devices. The resulting structure is, says Schreijer, very rigid.

So why did Rusch take this project on? Well one point is the sheer challenge of doing it, but it was also keen to diversify into a non-crane product in order to provide the company with an alternative revenue source when the crane market goes through its next slow period.



Crane boom specialist Rusch has built the world's tallest demolition excavator boom, the first unit is sold to Beelen Sloopwerken



It's Showtime

Next week is the busiest in the UK exhibition schedule, at least in terms of access equipment. Three events collide, SED which we have already covered, the Safety & Health Expo at the NEC with the Access Industry Forum's Working at Height conference within the show on May 23rd at 9:30. Last but not at all least and most likely the event where the most fun is likely to be had - Access Days, the Niftylift led event held at the Kingfisher Country club near Milton Keynes.

Access Days

This year the event runs for all three days of SED and will be attended by Niftylift, Skyjack, APS which represents Snorkel, Hinowa, Ommen and Bravi and BlueLine Access, the Bronto and Ascendant dealer. Starting at 10:00 each day events go on till late with evening entertainment. New jointly held company truck rental company Mammoth will have its new 46 metre Bronto on display and this will be an ideal opportunity to test the new Ascendant A17/12 British built truck mount on a 3.5 tonne chassis.

Sadly for us it is going to be hard to

cover all three events as we would like, we will of course be attending SED where we are the official publication for the cranes and access village but we will also be visiting the other events. As a straight forward visitor though you can attend SED on the 22nd when the queues are a little shorter, then the Safety&Health show on the 23rd to pick up the AIF conference and finally Access Days on the evening of the 23rd to chill out and socialise. Then you still have the 24th to try out the machines at the Kingfisher and even pop back over to SED.



Kevin Fox gives it his all at Access days