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On the cover:

A Palfinger Systems marine crane – The Palfinger Group has recently acquired the marine division of Palfinger Systems as well as Dutch davits and deck equipment manufacturer NDM, expanding its marine crane business.



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JLG enters the spider lift market and announces a new Toucan, New president appointed at Skyjack, Big Ecostar from Holland Lift, SED closes its doors, €70 million mega order for Terex, Genie launches shipyard booms in China, JCB compensated for copying, new 1,500 tonne jack-up vessel, Palfinger to produce in India, Terex unveils 60 tonne challenger, First Euro 5 van with Versalift platform, CAT buys Bucyrus, Big Liebherr offshore pedestal telescopic, Facelift opens on Tyneside, Emerson invests, Pop Up production moves to UK, Weldex chooses Hyster ReachStackers, JCB launches EN15000 compliant control system, New UK dealer for Altec, Crane Management UK chooses Maeda and third quarter financial results roundup.



Truck mounted lifts 17

The truck mounted lift was arguably the first form of powered access. Today it can be found in every country even those few places where powered access has yet to make an impact. We take a brief look at its development and delve into the minefield that is the 3.5 tonne truck driver license requirements and equipment. We also compare two unusual new products the CTE 20.13MP and the Cela DT21.



Loader cranes 25

In recent years, loader crane manufacturers and installers have had to endure more than their fair share of red tape. The latest version of EN12999: 2010 has recently been finalised by the European Committee for Standardisation. While many may complain, the legislation has been introduced to improve safety and reduce accidents. We take a look at the changes and how manufacturers will comply as well as rounding up other loader crane news.

Tower cranes 33

Now approaching 100 years old tower crane developments have been relatively slow and steady. In recent years there have been some radical ideas some which have caught on, some which haven't. We take a look at some of these developments as well as a number of interesting applications.



SAIE review 44

Might this year's SAIE show in Bologna be the last at which access companies attend on annual basis? In spite of this being a Bauma year, there was still plenty of new and interesting product launches to see. We bring you the show's highlight in a largely pictorial review.



Face to face 50

The UK-based Specialist Hire Group brought together all of its crane rental operations under one umbrella on 1st October. This growing crane company, which made it into the UK Top 100 fastest growing private equity funded companies in 2008 and 2009 has another side which includes heavy-duty fork trucks. Mark Darwin travelled north to one of its depots in Wigan, Lancashire to speak with managing director John Chappell.

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In the next C&A

In the next Cranes & Access issue we feature our Annual Rental Rate Survey, we look back on 2010 and another eventful year as well as covering Mobile Cranes for the city and Push Around Lifts.

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comment



Competent or not?

In this our last issue before Christmas we look at the new loader crane standards and the additional safety systems that are now required. Given that overload devices have been on cranes for around 75 years you may well ask why some have not been mandated before.

The new legislation - which requires sensors to ensure that outriggers are fully deployed - focuses on trying to make the hardware 'idiot proof' and compensate for the lack of common sense or competency of an 'idiot' operator. This is battle that will never be won - there will always be a bigger idiot out there. However, experience shows that by giving competent people more responsibility the safer they tend to be. The town of Makkiga in Holland is famous for removing all the sign posts and road markings, making people more responsible/accountable for their own actions. The number of accidents fell considerably.

The key word is of course, competent, a word widely used in the crane and access business. A machine lifting people must have a Thorough Examination every six months, carried out by a 'competent person' - every 12 months for a crane. But try and define 'competent' and you will almost certainly get a variety of answers.

For this reason organisations such as ALLMI and IPAF have developed programmes to certify individuals as competent, while an increasing number of companies choose certified third-party inspectors for their Thorough Examinations. Into this mix are the inspectors who carry out annual inspections for insurance companies. Many loader crane owners assume that an insurance company inspection will suffice as a thorough inspection - after all if they miss something then surely that's the insurance company's problem?

Some of the inspectors sent by insurance companies are well qualified and thorough individuals - 'competent' in every way. However, many are not. Would you risk your company's reputation, the safety of your employees and members of the public on the say so of a person who may know nothing about the type of equipment he is inspecting or who is not even qualified to operate it?

This week a telehandler operator in the UK was fined £7,000 following a fatal accident. While carrying out his daily checks, the operator raised and fully extended the boom. The machine was not on firm, level ground and tyre pressures were low, as a result it tipped over and the forks landed on a parked car with three occupants - killing one and injuring the other two. The operator was diligent enough to carry out pre-work checks, but was this the action of a competent person?

Perhaps it is time to focus on individuals taking more responsibility for their own actions and being truly competent, rather than constantly trying to make the equipment idiot proof?

Mark Darwin

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