

Appleton steps down at Lavendon

Kevin Appleton, chief executive of the Lavendon Group, the world's largest powered access rental specialist, has decided to step down at the end of June.

A search for a successor is already underway and until it is completed chairman John Standen will become executive chairman, while Jan Astrand, the company's senior non-executive director, will become chief executive of the company's continental European operations. Mike Potts and Andy Wright will continue as chief executives of the UK and international operations respectively.

"I would like to offer the sincere thanks of the board and the wider company to Kevin for all he has achieved in increasing the scale and quality of the business during his nine years with the Group," said Standen. "He has been instrumental in leading a full review of the business, and this confirms our belief that there is a strong future for the Group, building on the foundations that have already been laid. This is reflected in our current trading performance which is fully in line with the Board's expectations."

...And changes German management

In an earlier announcement Maarten Mijnlief managing director of the company's German-based operation - Gardemann Arbeitsbühnen - is also leaving the business. He is replaced by Matthew Hickin, a new recruit to Lavendon. Hickin previously worked as director of strategy & business development at the Vaillant Group in Germany, before becoming a member of its management team in the Netherlands and Asia-Pacific.

Mijnlief has been a director of Gardemann for nine years after he led a management buy-in with Christian van Eeden in 2002, purchasing the business from their previous employer Brambles, which had acquired it from Arnold Gardemann. The two then sold the business to Lavendon in 2006. Mijnlief remained on board to head both Gardemann and Lavendon's existing German business - Zoom. The two were merged at the start of 2008.



Kevin Appleton



Matthew Hickin

Four yearly crane overload testing

The UK's crane rental association - the Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) - has issued a Technical Information Note (TIN), a letter and a declaration form to help UK crane rental companies overcome customer demands for a four year overload test that is no longer required or even recommended. The overload test is a hang-over from the old UK crane regulations abolished in 1998 and replaced by current LOLER requirements.

Many contractors have continued to require a current four year overload test for any crane entering their sites, even though crane manufacturers have campaigned against regular overload testing for many years. The CPA's best practice guide, co-published last year with the UK Health & Safety Executive (HSE) confirmed this, recommending strict documented thorough inspections by qualified individuals as a better alternative.

The TIN is available in the Vertikal Library - Best Practice Guides - on www.vertikal.net.



New products for Vertikal Days 2011

The UK's leading lifting and access show Vertikal Days (Haydock Park 22/23rd June) is now just days away just and looks like being the very best ever.

A good number of worldwide product launches and UK premiers have already been announced including new products from Multitel/Pagliari, Zoomlion, Ormig, Unic/GGR, Cela, Euro Towers, Pop-Up, JMG/Compact Lifting, Versalift, MEC, Liebherr, Tadano, Terex Crane, Ascendant, Haulotte, Faraone, Easy Lift, Ranger/Teupen, Niftylift, Genie, Cela, Socage/Cumberland, Shield batteries, Imer/Itenco, Skyking, Snorkel, Youngman, Bravi, Gantic battery chargers, ZT Safety Systems, Standfast, CTE, Isoli, Platform Basket and almost certainly several others.

For those who like to combine events when out of the office, there are a number of excellent short seminars and workshops as well as industry meetings organised by ALLMI, IPAF, the CPA and PASMA. See the guide in this issue.

Loxam goes with AJ

Loxam Access has purchased more than 100 'young' used aerial lifts for its UK rental fleet from Caldicot, UK-based AJ Access. The units, some of which have been refurbished, include a variety of booms and scissor lifts including Genie GS4390 and 5390 Rough Terrain scissor lifts and Genie Z45/25, S65, Z60/34 and S125's all fitted with on board generators. The lifts are aged between one and four years and have been delivered directly to Loxam depots throughout the UK.

Brian Stead Loxam's UK managing director said: "Loxam has increased its UK fleet by more than 15 percent this year to respond to significantly increased demand from our customers."



Richard Onslow (L) sales manager of AJ Access with Brian Stead of Loxam and one of the used Genies.

Tadano unveils new 400 tonner

Tadano Faun has unveiled its new top of the line, six axle 400 tonne ATF400G-6 All Terrain crane at its manufacturing plant in Lauf, Germany.

The company says that the new crane is not just an updated version of the 360 tonne AFT360G-6 that it showed at Bauma in 2007, but is an entirely re-engineered product that is easier to set up and road in Europe. It is still rated at 360 tonnes at three metres radius with the 400 tonnes at 2.7 metres.



The new Tadano Faun ATF 400G-6

The 360 was designed and built in Japan and missed a number of key criteria for the European market and as a result it was not marketed here. The new model is a global product and will be built in Germany. The main boom remains at 60 metres - eight metres shorter than the company's longest boom - while maximum system length is 125 metres when equipped with full luffing jib. Maximum counterweight is 138 tonnes, but the crane has a reasonable chart with no counterweight. The benefit of the shorter heavier boom is revealed with some of the structural capacities when full counterweight is installed. The crane can take 69.5 tonnes to 16 metres, 41 tonnes to 26 metres and 10.8 tonnes to 52 metres on the main boom. Capacities on the fully extended main boom range from 38 tonnes at 10 metres radius and 4.8 tonnes at 58 metres. The new crane uses a highly efficient, environmentally-friendly Mercedes BlueTec carrier engine coupled to a ZF transmission and features a 12x8x12 drive steer configuration.

The company has said that going forward Germany will be the worldwide design and production centre for All Terrain cranes, Japan will do the same for Rough Terrain and truck cranes and the USA for crawler cranes.

Land Rover chassis recall

Land Rover has issued a "No charge customer satisfaction programme" (recall) for Defender 130s built between 2007 and 2011 fitted with 13.5 metre platforms and follows

our report on a number of 2009 Gardner Denver chassis failures. The bulletin highlights a weakness around a hexagonal hole in the chassis behind the cab and calls for substantial chassis reinforcement plates to be installed. The recall is free of charge and is estimated to take seven and a half hours. If you have one of these platforms and have not heard from the supplier of the platform or a Land Rover dealer then we would recommend you contact your nearest Land Rover dealer and quote Programme number Q135.



The chassis failure with the rear radius arm fixing to the bottom right



Terex launches hostile bid for Demag Cranes

Terex has made an open cash offer directly to shareholders of the industrial overhead and port crane manufacturer Demag Cranes. The offer of €41.75 a share, which Terex says it will not improve on, follows attempts by the company to hold talks with the Demag management regarding a potential acquisition. While the offer - which is open until the end of June - is a substantial premium over the share price when bid rumours started in October, it is now well below the current €45 to €47 trading range. The Demag management dismissed the offer as too low, but has now offered to hold talks with Terex. Chief executive Aloysius Rauen described the offer as "inadequate from a financial point of a view for Demag shareholders and not in the interest of the company." Several Demag shareholders have also said the offer is too low, some indicating that €51 would be more appropriate given the improved earnings projections from the company.

Terex chief executive Ron Defeo said: "Demag is a leader in industrial cranes and port technology and our companies are highly complementary. By combining our businesses, we would add a new product category of industrial cranes and hoists and create the leading worldwide player in port equipment."

3,600 tonne Sany crawler

Chinese equipment manufacturer Sany has unveiled what it claims is the world's most powerful crawler crane. The 3,600 tonne SCC86000TM was unveiled at the company's development centre in Kunshan, Jiangsu province at the end of May and has been designed for heavy lifts within nuclear power plants and clearly targeted at the domestic market.

Sany has not released any detailed information or responded to requests for a statement on the new crane. It looks very similar to the 3,200 tonne Terex CC8800 Twin from the front with twin booms and derrick mast. The track set up is more similar to the Manitowoc 31000 utilising four smaller tracks rather than the more traditional two. It also looks as though the bulk of the counterweight will be carried on a four tracked ballast carrier in a super lift type format.



The Sany SCC86000TM 3,600 tonne crawler as it came off the production line at the end of May



Another new Multitel

Multitel Pagliero has launched another new truck mounted lift, this time the 19.5 metre Multitel HX195 mounted on a 3.5 tonne Nissan Cabstar or Renault Maxity chassis. The new model will be one of three new models on the Access Industries stand at Vertikal Days later this month. The new platform incorporates some of the MX range structural components as well as a new all-hydraulic control system – hence the HX nomenclature. It also features an increased elevation angle on the lower boom taking it almost to the vertical.

Targeted at the bottom end of the self-drive rental sector (and developing markets) the HX195 has been designed to be simple and cost effective with a no frills specification. It offers 9.35 metres of working outreach with 200kg platform capacity and boasts eight metres or more of outreach all the way up from three metres to almost 16 metres working height.

Melvyn Else managing director of Access Industries – Multitel's UK distributor said: "If you compare the HX195 envelope with that of other platforms in this size range you cannot fail to be impressed. The 1,400 x 700mm basket has up to 60 degrees of rotation in either direction, while the hydraulic controls are fully proportional and very smooth to operate." The company says that it the third new product to be shown will remain a secret until the show.



The new Multitel HX195

Power Towers opens in Holland

Low level lift manufacturer Power Towers has established Power Towers Nederland, in joint ownership with two local investors - AA Installation Group - owned by Arie van Tienderen - and Miwacom a marketing company owned by Michael Waardenburg.

The new business is currently based alongside AA Installatietechnik in Numansdorp to the south of Rotterdam. The company specialises in the heating ventilation and cooling market and overhead electrical installation work. As such it has a regular need for low level access equipment and already owns a number of Power Towers. Access industry veteran Hans van Gameren is working with the new company to help establish the Power Tower product range in the Netherlands. The latest move follows the opening a couple of months ago of a German branch of Power Tower, where the company already has considerable success with Gardemann – part of the Lavendon group. There are also plans to open in France where a number of machines are currently being evaluated by one of the country's largest rental companies.

The Dutch shareholders in Power Tower Nederland - (L-R) Michael Waardenburg of Miwacom and Arie van Tienderen of AA Installatietechnik.



Movex produces three Land Rover models with two or three section booms

Movex to extend dealer network

Leading Spanish vehicle mounted lift manufacturer, Talleres Velilla is looking to expand its dealer network into northern Europe and the UK and Ireland in particular. The company - formed in 1949 in Canovellas near Barcelona – adopted the Movex brand in 1976 for its range of self-propelled pick and carry cranes. Truck mounted aerial work platforms were added in 1980 with the first units designed specifically for municipalities and utilities which remains its strength today. A special model for fire brigades with a platform mounted water monitor and rescue equipment was also introduced.

Since 1996 the company has used TÜV Germany to certify all of its machines and the range has increased to include a very handy looking Land Rover mounted telescopic boom line - currently the company's top selling product range - with working heights from 10.5 to 12 metres and outreach of up to seven metres. Other products include van mounted telescopic booms, classic truck mounts up to 16 metres and an all-electric 12 metre telescopic truck mount, the 120H Hybrid.

FEM advice on lifting people with cranes

The European material handling federation - FEM (Fédération Européenne de la Manutention) - has formally published its position paper on the handling of personnel with cranes, which virtually outlaws the lifting of people for entertainment purposes. The paper says that people can only be lifted in cable suspended platforms when it is the safest possible option for the application and in exceptional, rather than routine, circumstances.

When these conditions are met and a hook suspended platform does have to be used it lays out some simple requirements and guidelines that should be followed. They include de-rating the cranes lift capacity by 50 percent, running the 'job' with an empty platform to gauge stability and available capacity and conducting an overload test for all parts of the platform and rigging chains/cables. The paper also 'bans' lifting people for fun, such as Bungee jumping or base jumping.



Dairmund Gavin's sky garden at this year's Chelsea Flower show contravened FEM's new rules

Altec acquires Aerial Lift

US-based crane and lift manufacturer Altec has acquired 'certain assets' of Milford, Connecticut-based Aerial Lift, a manufacturer of lifts for the tree care industry that went into bankruptcy at the end of April. The purchase of the company was made through its wholly owned subsidiary Altec Nueco.

Altec Nueco will provide replacement parts and service support to customers who own Aerial Lift equipment, but is not expected to recommence production of the company's lifts. Aerial Lift was established in 1958 but has struggled since the death of its founder.

Altec chief executive Lee Styslinger III, said: "This acquisition provides us with a unique opportunity to strengthen service to our tree care, landscape and line clearing customers. Aerial Lift has a well-established reputation for producing reliable, quality products for more than 50 years and will enhance Altec Nueco's support for customers in these industries."



A rear mounted Aerial Lift bucket truck

New anti-surf podiums

UK-based access equipment manufacturer Youngman has launched its first 'anti-surf' podiums. Following consultation with a number of key clients about safety, the new models have been designed specifically to prevent users 'surfing' or pulling the unit along from the platform. The P1000-AS and P1500-AS models can only be moved once the user has dismounted from the platform. The automatic braking has been achieved by replacing two of the caster wheels with solid rubber feet.

The P1000-AS and P1500-AS units, which offer working heights of 2.94 and 3.44 metres respectively.



Youngman has launched two new anti-surf podiums

UK launch for Easy Lift truck mounts

Italian-based Easy Lift will launch its truck mounted aerial lift range in the UK and Ireland at Vertikal Days in late June. The company will show its new 21 metre ET210 telescopic model with over 10 metres outreach. See Vertikal Days guide.



The new Easy Lift ET210

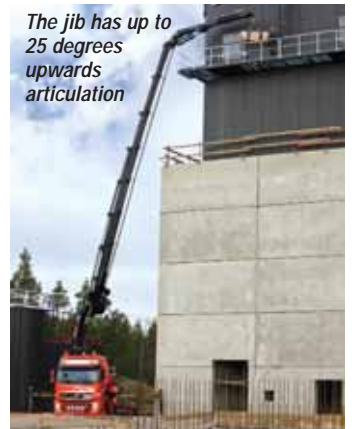


The Hiab jib allows the XS622 to get in closer

New Hiab loader crane

Cargotec has introduced a new heavy lift Hiab loader crane, the 58 tonne/metre Hiab XS 622 which offers up to 32 metres of outreach, while the jib has up to 25 degrees of above horizontal articulation. The new crane is said to offer more outreach while being smoother and easier to control. It incorporates a new boom system and cylinders, improved couplings and seals, while the HiPro control system and variable pump are both standard.

Mikael Rietz, vice president, loader cranes, at Cargotec said: "New technical solutions make the boom system more stable, even at maximum reach lateral deflection is negligible. By mounting a Hiab jib



The jib has up to 25 degrees upwards articulation

150 X on the crane, loads can be placed in spots previously inaccessible for a crane of this size. In the most powerful configuration the maximum outreach will be 32 metres."

LSI steps up European presence

Canadian-based safe load indicator manufacturer Load Systems International (LSI) of Quebec City, has signed a European warehousing/technical support agreement with Peterborough-based Crowland Cranes. The agreement will see LSI install and maintain an inventory of its products and parts at Crowland's warehouse in the UK.

LSI specialises in stainless steel wireless load indicators and associated safety components such as anti-two block cut-outs, anemometers and boom angle sensors. The company is in the process of developing its European product distribution and has worked with Crowland as a UK-based master distributor for the past two years. The LSI products are ideally suited to retrofitting to older cranes or to replace existing systems that have become expensive to maintain.



LSI's GS550 load indicator console.

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50,000 tonne Mega Jack system

Heavy lift and transport company ALE has launched a new Mega Jack system which the company says 'is capable of lifting 50,000 tonnes to a height of 25 metres'. Developed for the offshore industry to jack up larger and heavier oil and gas platform modules and other large structures, the system utilises jacking towers each with a capacity of 5,200 tonnes



Testing the Mega Jack

and four jacking bases containing a hydraulic jack with a stroke of 1,250mm. A temporary support is situated on top of each jacking base, which is also a hydraulic turntable. The result is a simple, but powerful five metre by five metre self-erecting tower, which can be built up until it reaches the desired height. The whole system is totally scalable with the number of towers adapted and increased according to the size, weight and balance of the structure. ALE says that it opens up new possibilities for an offshore sector under increasing pressure to build ever bigger rigs. It also plans to continue developing the Mega Jack system to handle heavier loads to heights of 50 metres.



ALE's new Mega Jack system.

Loxam acquires Stammis

Loxam BV of the Netherlands has acquired general rental company Stammis from Riwal. Stammis - established in 1965 - offers a full range of power and general equipment for rent from five branches in Northern Holland. The company was acquired at the end of 2005 by Instant Holland of Badhoevdorp near Amsterdam, which was then taken over by Riwal at the end of June 2009. Instant merged the Stammis aerial lift fleet into its own, but left the rest of the Stammis business as a stand-alone operation. Riwal followed the same strategy when it merged Instant Holland into its fleet.

The Loxam group of France moved into Holland in 2006 with the acquisition of Spreeuwenberg Hoogwerk Systemen. The five Stammis locations will add to Loxam's current network of two general equipment and five access branches. We understand that the current Stammis management team will remain with the business.



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Manitou up 64%

Telehandler manufacturer Manitou has reported a 64 percent increase in first quarter revenues to €266 million, but was hampered by component supply challenges. It anticipates 20 percent growth for the full year and a return to profit with low to mid-single digit earnings before tax and interest. Order intake continues to increase and stood at more than 10,000 units at the end of March.



Skyjack revenues almost double

The Industrial division of Linamar, which is largely Skyjack, saw revenues climb 94 percent in the first quarter to \$66.3 million, although the division remained in the red with a loss of \$2 million compared to a loss of \$6.3 million last year. Much of the loss was generated by a substantial investment as the company ramps up product development in preparation for future growth.

Speedy edges upward

2010/11 year end results at UK-based Speedy Hire show revenues up one percent to £354.2 million. Irish revenues improved slightly to £5.9 million – possibly helped by a stronger Euro – while the UK slipped one percent to £339.9 million, the Middle East quadrupled from £2.4 to £8.4 million. The company's pre-tax loss improved from a loss of £11.7 million last year to a loss of £6.2 this year.

Manitowoc lifts revenues 7.1%

Manitowoc Crane revenues for the first quarter improved 7.1 percent while the order backlog jumped 40 percent. Revenues were \$392.8 million, while strong order intake coupled with deliveries hampered by Tier IV engine challenges – now resolved – boosted the order backlog to \$800 million.

Growth was mainly from the Americas and the Crane Care product support business. Operating income increased to \$12.5 million, almost triple the \$4.5 million recorded in the first quarter 2009.

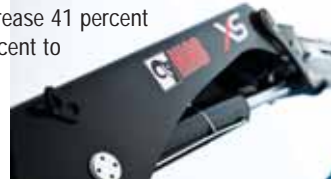


Cramo up 42%

Finnish-based international rental company Cramo has reported a 42 percent rise in first quarter revenues to €144.2 million while halving its losses. This year's revenues include €10.6 million from the recent acquisition of Thiesen. Pre-tax losses were cut from €6.6 million last year to €3.9 million this year. Capital expenditure, excluding acquisitions, was €18.6 million, compared to just €3.5 million in the same period last year.

Cargotec up 37%

Cargotec – owner of Hiab and Kalmar – saw first quarter sales rise 37 percent with a sharp increase in profits. The company has also raised growth estimates for 2011 to 20 percent. The Industrial & Terminal division – Hiab and Kalmar – saw revenues increase 41 percent to €442 million, while order intake grew 29 percent to €535 million, pushing the division's backlog up 22 percent to €778 million. The division made an operating profit of €18.8 million compared to a loss in the same quarter last year of €8.9 million.



HSS profits up 21%

UK rental company HSS reported first quarter revenues of £46.9 million with an EBITDA of £11.2 million – more than 21 percent higher than in the same period of 2010. It also stepped up investment in its rental fleet, with levels back to those of early 2008.

Ramirent lifts revenues 20.5%

Finnish-based international rental company Ramirent reports first quarter revenues up 20.5 percent to €134.4 million, with a pre-tax loss of €200,000 compared to a loss of €6 million in the same quarter last year. Capital expenditure during the period was €31.9 million compared to €12.5 million last year.

Powered access up 96.5% at Mills

Brazilian-based rental and industrial services company Mills has reported a 96.5 percent rise in powered access revenues. The company's rental division – dedicated to powered access – opened 10 new branches in 2010 and saw revenues climb to R\$33.7 million (\$21 million), up 9.6 percent on the fourth quarter.

JLG up 53.6%

JLG increased its external sales in the first half of its fiscal year by 53.6 percent and moved back into profit, helped by increased replacement demand in North America. Total sales were down substantially due to the ending of the intercompany military subcontract business, but sales of access equipment and telehandlers were up by 72.7 percent in the second quarter to \$471.2 million. At the same time the company made an operating profit of \$17.7 million – down from \$45.8 million last year. The company's order book almost tripled from \$203.3 million last year to \$596.3 million this year.



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Time for a new outrigger

Time/Versalift has launched a new 'up-under' radial swing-out outrigger for van mounted platforms. The patent pending outriggers 'swing out and down' using a single hydraulic cylinder, allowing rapid set up.

The company says that the outrigger sub-frame provides much more room inside the van and can be mounted to Renault Master, Opel Movano, Ford Transit and Iveco vans.

Demonstration units can be seen at Vertikal Days in June. Versalift has had basic 'up-under' sub frame technology since 1976 and radial up-under outriggers since 1986.

The new swing out outrigger from Time Versalift.



King Lifting takes five

UK crane rental company King Lifting has purchased five new Terex All Terrain cranes including three 60 tonne AC60-3L and two 40 tonne AC40-2L to be delivered shortly. The AC 60-3L is equipped with a 44 metre main boom for a maximum on-board system length of almost 60 metres. The two-axle, AC40-2L features a 37.4 metre main boom.

"This new investment supports our commitment to customers through the constant modernisation of our crane fleet during these challenging times," said commercial director Tristan King. "While increasing our expansion into the mobile crane market, this new order further emphasises our dedication to the UK crane hire industry."

King Lifting purchased a new 350-tonne capacity AC350/6 and two other Terex AC40/2L ATs in the latter part of 2010.



King purchased this AC350/6 last year

Lube-A-Boom moves into Europe

US-based boom lubrication specialist, Lube-A-Boom has appointed UK-based Crowland Cranes as its first European dealer. Crowland Cranes has built up a substantial crane repair, refurbishment and service operation in the UK and has in recent month been adding products to its aftersales product range. The company was recently confirmed as a major LSI distributor and stockist of its crane safety products for Europe.

Lube-A-Boom - formed in 2002 - is based in Indianapolis, Indiana and markets a range of specially developed greases and lubricants for telescopic booms.



Lube-A-Boom products are available in bulk and aerosol



The new Ruthmann T-330 'in the iron'

Ruthmann unveils T330....

German truck mounted lift manufacturer Ruthmann unveiled its new 33 metre T330 mounted on a 7.5 tonne vehicle at the recent CeMat show in Hanover. The new lift offers up to 21 metres of outreach, a maximum platform capacity of 320kg and a full 180 degrees of platform rotation, jib articulation is 185 degrees. Installed on a two axle, 3.9 metre wheelbase MAN truck, overall length is just 8.79 metres. Outrigger jacking is completely variable with up to five degrees levelling capability. Ruthmann says that it has already booked several million Euros of orders for the new machine.

.....and adds telematics

Ruthmann has also introduced a new telematics package called Connect. The remote diagnostics system utilises Rösler's Obserwando system that takes information into a central data centre, from where it can be accessed by any computer with a secure password. Connect includes all the normal theft-prevention and location features as well as monitoring operating hours, usage/access control, diagnostics and operator help functions. In the event of a problem, the system allows a technician to remotely check for the usual problems including emergency stops depressed, outriggers incorrectly set up, lack of fuel etc... often saving an expensive call out.



Ruthmann Connect can be accessed from any laptop or work station.

Boom time for Hewden

UK-based rental company Hewden has invested £1.2 million in 40 new Genie Z45/25 booms which, the company says, is "intended to increase the size and availability of its access equipment portfolio".

Andrew Swallow, Hewden product director said: "Over the last year, we have seen demand for our range of access equipment rise steadily, which is in part, driven by the preferred supplier status we now have with many of the country's major contractors."

One of the first customers to benefit from the new platforms was the Shell UK Stanlow refinery in Ellesmere Port, where two units have been supplied by on a long-term rental contract.



(L-R) Matthew Skipworth of Genie, Gary Hussey - contracts manager at Hewden and Phil Smith of Shell UK with one of the new booms

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Manitou has appointed Eric Lambert as president of its Rough Terrain Handling (telehandler) division.

LiftSmart, the USA-based manufacturer of portable material lifts, has moved into a production plant in Vista, California.

LiftSmart



UK-based access rental company AFI-Uplift has relocated its Milton Keynes depot to substantially larger premises.

Pop-Up Products has issued a permanent fix for an involuntary lift incident.

German crane rental company A.K.V. has taken delivery of a new Liebherr LTM1070-4.2 All Terrain crane.

UK-based Prolift Access has delivered a completely refurbished Skyjack TK46 to rental company Facelift.

Terex and the GAZ group have agreed a joint venture to build construction and road building equipment in Russia.

Terex Aerial Work Platforms has appointed Matthias Jung as vice president - finance for the European region.



Matthias Jung

Norwegian contractor Veidekke has renewed its supply and co-operation agreement with Ramirent until 2013.

Ramirent has opened a new depot in Sochi, Russia in order to benefit from the build up to the 2014 Winter Olympics.

UK-based scaffolder, ThyssenKrupp Palmers has purchased five new Hiab XS 144B loader cranes from Cargotec.

German truck mounted lift manufacturer Ruthmann has appointed Tru.cs as its aerial lift dealer for Italy.

The first Potain Igo T130 self-erecting tower crane is working on a new museum construction project in Denmark.

Hitachi Sumitomo has supplied three telescopic crawler cranes for use on an oil and gas drilling installation in Indonesia.

Russian-based rental company LTECH has opened a depot in Sochi.

The US-based crane operator certification company, NCCCO has won another lawsuit against John Nypl.

Palfinger Platforms has appointed Yannick Borgel as sales manager for France, effective immediately.



Yannick Borgel

Crane mat provider Quality Mat Company is supplying 6,000 hardwood mats for ALE's AL-SK190 mega crane.

New York-based Bay Crane has placed the first order for the new 90 ton Terex Roadmaster 9000 truck crane.

Stirnimmann, the Grove and Potain distributor in Switzerland has renewed its distribution contract for Potain tower cranes.

Steil Krnarbeiten based in Trier, Germany has expanded its fleet with three Nooteboom trailers.

New England-based Shawmut Equipment has joined Manitowoc Crane Care's EnCORE remanufacturing programme.

Manitou Finance of the UK has appointed a dedicated sales team to serve both dealers and end customers.



Steve Cosgrove, Ian Barker and John Bolton of Manitou Finance

Finnish-based rental company Cramo has signed a supply agreement with German-based scaffold producer Layher.

Glyn Williams of Loxam UK has retired after 15 years in access due to a terminal illness.

Socage has sold 10 of its A314 lifts mounted on Mercedes G300 pick-ups to electric utility company VSE of Slovakia.

Oil & Steel has appointed a new technical manager Paolo Balugani who moves to a new strategic commercial role.



Paolo Balugani

Wisconsin-based scaffold company Safway Services has acquired Atlantic Hoisting & Scaffolding of New York.

Singapore-based IPAF training centre BS Technology, has become the first MoM accredited trainer for aerial lifts.

Dutch-based access rental company Arentis (formerly Eyke Hogendoorn) has added two Hitachi HX140B boom lifts.

Brazilian-based crane & rigging company Makro Engenharia has been certified as compliant with the ISO 14001.

UK-based Clements Plant & Tool Hire has appointed Rachel Canning as its new financial director.



Rachel Canning

US-based boom truck and material handling manufacturer Manitex has reported first quarter revenues up 44%.

ALL Erection & Crane Rental has appointed Jeremy Hunter as general manager of ALL Carolina Crane Rental of Wilmington.

UK-based 1 UP access has added more Skyjack, Nifty and JLG lifts to its fleet and has entered the tower market.

Chris Wraith of Lavendon is moving to the International Powered Access Federation as its technical officer.

Heavy lift and offshore specialist Huisman has handed over a new 600 tonne offshore pedestal crane.

Essex Crane has reported revenues up 260% for the first quarter, while losses grew at a similar level.

Dublin-based Montana Plant Sales has been appointed Bobcat dealer for the Republic of Ireland.

Alberta, Canada-based Mains Crane & Rigging has appointed Alan Swagerman as its president.



Alan Swagerman

Ramirent has acquired Finnish-based scaffold supplier Suomen Saasuja from its owner Pekkaniska.

French-based scaffold and light equipment manufacturer Altrad has acquired UK-based Beaver 84.

Singapore-based Tat Hong has reported an 18% rise in full year revenues, while profits fell 30%.

AGS - the French-based manufacturer of safety devices for tower cranes - has opened its own subsidiary in Spain.

Liebherr has appointed Andrew Esquilant as sales manager for Australia/NZ for mobile cranes and large crawlers.

Ann Mingins, head of access at UK-based rental company Hewden, has left the company.



Ann Mingins

UK-based Access Platform Sales has appointed Stuart Parker as its new replacement parts manager.

German crane and access pioneer Helmut Kemkes passed away on April 20th aged 86.



Helmut Kemkes

Dirk Schlitzkus of Thiesen has been appointed to the Cramo management board as part of its integration into the Group.

H&E, the Louisiana-based equipment dealer and rental company, has reported first quarter revenues up 17.6%.

A Chicago area steel erector has been fined \$75,000 for failing to use lanyards and fall protection in a boom lift.

Linda Hasenfratz, chief executive of Linamar - owner of Skyjack - is to be proposed as new director of Paris-based automotive equipment supplier Faurecia.

Italian-based manufacturer Oil & Steel has won a major contract to supply Turkish electricity company Enerjisa Basket.

The operator of the tower crane that collapsed in Bellevue in November 2006 has been awarded \$1.45 million.

Ramirent has acquired the Czech construction machinery rental company Rent MB with locations in Boleslav and Liberec.

The Illinois training site of Local 150 International Union of Operating Engineers has become an AWPT training centre.

US-based Manitex has received approval to acquire the key assets of Italian port handling equipment manufacturer CVS.

Terex Cranes has promoted Matthew Dobbs from manager tower cranes to director of sales western Region.



Matthew Dobbs

Snorkel has appointed Prague-based AHA Tech as its new distributor for the Czech Republic.

United Rentals has acquired the assets of GulfStar Rental Solutions, a generator and HVAC equipment rental company.

Bobcat - the skid steer and telehandler manufacturer - has announced that it is increasing its prices.

US-based Historical Construction Equipment Association is holding an old equipment show alongside its annual convention this July.

Netherlands-based rental company Hovago has confirmed an order for nine new All Terrain cranes from Terex.

Hertz has appointed Lois I. Boyd as president of its equipment rental business moving from its Advantage car rental business.

Harsco Infrastructure which incorporates SGB, Hünnebeck and Patent has seen a 4% rise in first quarter revenues.

Terex Cranes has appointed Coast Crane to distribute its entire crane product line in West Coast North America.



Terex CEO Ron Defeo (L) with Ron Shad sealing the deal ..and the order

Speed Works, a Belgian telecom installation specialist, has taken delivery of a 53 metre Bronto Skylift S53XDT.

UK-based Speedy Hire is to sell off its Accommodation division for £34.9 million in cash.

US rental company RSC has reported first quarter revenues up 25% but interest costs result in \$80 million loss.

German-based spider and truck mounted lift manufacturer Teupen has appointed Nacanco as its Italian distributor.

Shayne Wright has been appointed as managing director of telehandler rental company UK Forks.



Shayne Wright

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