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Central European rental companies

The world's largest on-line listing of mainland European crane and access rental companies is available to you now. Just click the link below to go to Vertikal.net/Vermieter where the bi-lingual site will guide you to hire companies throughout Europe. www.Vertikal.net/Vermieter

Ainscough buys Crane Services

(L-R) Martin Ainscough, David Slack and Niel Partridge (Ainscough) in front of a Crane Services Liebherr 500 tonner.

Ainscough Crane Hire has once again hit the acquisition trail purchasing Nationwide Crane Hire - which trades as Crane Services of Leeds - for an undisclosed sum.

Crane Services has a fleet of 36 cranes including some of the largest mobiles in the UK. Its three Liebherr 500 tonners and Liebherr 1000 tonner on order, provided users with a big telescopic crane alternative to Ainscough. The move effectively gives Ainscough a stranglehold in this sector of the market.

Chairman Martin Ainscough said: "We are delighted to have concluded this purchase and our intention is to run Crane Services as a separate business in the immediate future to ensure the minimum disruption to its customers."

David Slack owner and MD of Crane Services will remain with the business for four months as a consultant to ensure a smooth handover of the business.

Slack said "it was important for me to ensure a secure future for the staff and employees, many of whom have worked with me for many years, some since school. They have built up this business side by side with me and frequently gone above and beyond the call of duty to get the job done I am sure that they will continue to prosper under the Ainscough banner."

David Slack and his family took full control of the company just over a year ago when it purchased the remaining 50 percent of Nationwide Crane Hire from business partner Bob Dickey.



(L-R) John Cusack, Seamus O'Dwyer, financial controller, Skylift and John Fuller of Genie on concluding the €15 million deal.

Skylift order

Limerick-based Skylift has ordered more than €15 million of aerial lifts from Genie industries. The deal covering a wide range of products is targeted purely at servicing the domestic Irish market. The company says it is the first of a number of planned major investments in new equipment over the next 18 months cementing its position as the leading access equipment supplier in Ireland.

Skylift was founded in Limerick almost 10 years ago by managing director John Cusack and now has locations in Limerick, Cork and Dublin.

Frey to join Junheinrich

In a surprise move, Hans-Georg Frey, currently managing director of Liebherr Ehingen is to join fork truck and material handling company Junheinrich. Frey will take over as chairman of the management board from 1st May.

Frey (50), a lawyer by education, has been with Liebherr since he replaced Friedrich (Freddy) Bär in

late 2001. Mario Trunzer, currently the chief financial officer at Ehingen will take over Frey's responsibilities adding them to his existing duties until a successor is found. Jungheinrich is a public company with revenues of about €1.75 billion.

It provides a wide range of forklift trucks, shelving systems and services.



Hans-Georg Frey is leaving Liebherr to join Junheinrich.

Tower cranes on air

Watch out for four short documentaries on London tower crane drivers to be aired shortly on Channel 4. Starting at 19:55 on March 19th and following at the same time on March 20th, 21st and 22nd, the shorts are part of the '3-Minute Wonders', which follows the Channel 4 News.

"Without cranes our modern cities would be hard to imagine, yet, most of us never notice cranes or their drivers," said the director, Eva Weber. "My aim is to give people a better understanding of what it takes to be a crane driver and to see London through their eyes."

"Due to the tragic accidents in Liverpool and London, the crane industry has recently had its share of negative headlines in the mainstream press. 'City of Cranes' hopes to redress the balance by allowing viewers to experience what it is really like to work hundreds of feet above the sky".

Blair opens Vigo centre

Tony Blair formally opened UpRight's new Vigo centre last month spending an hour touring the facility and speaking to employees.

Managing director Darren Kell, said "The Prime Minister spent an hour with myself and our chairman Roy Stanley, touring the 23,000 sq metre factory and speaking to our colleagues in the offices and on the shop floor. He was extremely well-informed about aerial work platforms."

Addressing the workforce, Blair said: It is fantastic that you have

built up this company so quickly. This will be a company that will really make its presence felt not just in the North East, but throughout the world."

The visit came in the same week as the new UpRight celebrated its biggest weekly order intake to date, booking forward orders for 1,300 units worth €14 million.



Tony Blair at the new UpRight facility with Darren Kell.

Train hits platform

On February 6th a Moog MB250 underbridge inspection platform on hire from ES Access was hit by the mainline Paddock Wood to Gillingham train traveling at around 60 mph. Amazingly no-one was injured in the accident although the platform suffered major damage. Investigations are continuing, but reports suggest that the platform was incorrectly instructed to set up on a bridge over the mainline railway, rather than on a river bridge about 150 metres further down the M20 motorway.

The train hit the centre part of the platform's deck scattering parts for quite a distance along the track. The windscreen of the train - the point of impact - was also shattered. Fortunately neither the operator from ES or the contractor's staff were in the platform when the train struck.

Keith Hunwick, proprietor of ES Access told C&A that the platform operator was one of his most experienced, with full certification and factory training on the Moog

platforms. In accordance with normal British Transport Police procedures, the operator was immediately arrested, but later released on bail.



Tower crane summit

Senior managers of the UK's Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) met with Stephen Williams, HSE's chief Inspector of construction, in February, following the incidents in London and Liverpool.

On the agenda was legislation, standards and industry good practice. Various items were identified for further development, including best practice guidance on maintenance and thorough examination of tower cranes.

The CPA says that this guidance will be drafted 'to produce robust practical information which will contribute significantly to raising standards in the industry, building on the work already carried out by the CPA's Tower Crane Interest Group'.

"The HSE is pleased to see the industry taking ownership of the need to improve health and safety. We had a very constructive meeting with the CPA and welcome their very positive approach," said Williams.

For sale

William O'Brien Crane Hire of Cork, the fifth largest crane hire company in the 2006 C&A-UK/Ireland Top 30, has appointed Merrion Capital to find a buyer for the business.

Willy O'Brien founded the company almost 50 years ago, handing over to his son William O'Brien Jnr in 1996. The Bishopstown, Cork-based business is the largest crane company in the region, employing around 85 staff with, it claims, 76 cranes and has depots in Limerick, Waterford and Cahir.

Revenues passed the €10 million mark in 2005 with assets in the region of €15 million.

Arcomet-Airtek

Arcomet of Belgium has acquired the 50 percent holding in Airtek Cranes UK that it did not already own, from Airtek Safety and has appointed Steve Rooney as managing director of the new Arcomet-Airtek Cranes.

Arcomet also owns Midland Cranes, which sells and rents self erectors - and Arcomet Tower Cranes which rents top slewers. Paul Phillips, chair of the CPA tower crane interests group also

works for Arcomet, selling Potain tower cranes to other rental companies in the UK and reporting directly to Arcomet Belgium.

Arcomet now plans to integrate its UK businesses and to this end has appointed Graham Baukham of Arcomet Tower Cranes as UK group managing director while Tony Reeves becomes UK chief financial officer. The company was appointed as the Potain distributor for the UK in January 2006 and added Ireland later in the year.

Venpa buys Locatelli



Venpa 3 - the Italian rental company - has bought Locatelli, the Bergamo based crane manufacturer. Locatelli specialises in rough terrain and small city cranes in the ranging from 12.5 to 60 tonnes capacity.

Venpa was originally an offshoot of Genie distributor CTE and still has a

level of common ownership with the CTE group. It operates from 36 locations in Italy and Eastern Europe with 3,500 machines including aerial lifts, mobile cranes and general construction equipment. No financial details of the deal have been released.

Fraco in UK

Canadian based mast climbing manufacturer Fraco has opened its own, majority owned distribution and rental company in Hampton, Middlesex. Fraco (UK) Ltd will be headed by managing director Ken Beesley, who also owns a minority shareholding in the new business. The first units - all single mast 1.8 tonne capacity ACT 4s - have recently been delivered to a site in Bristol which is looking to take 22 units in total. A further 16 units have been quoted for sale to a London contractor.

Beesley told C&A that as well as selling the units, he hopes to build up a rental fleet of around 30 units mainly single mast ACT 4s and the 3.63 tonne capacity ACT 8s, but also the trailer based, fast set up FRSM1500's.

Fraco originally entered the UK with Universal Sky-Platforms, which established a specialist rental business in the London area but then slipped back after losing its general manager.

Brogan Scaffolding using a Fraco mastclimber.



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The Manitowoc 21000 lifting an 812 tonne cracker with 54 metre main boom and Max-Er attachment.

A cracking lift

Manitowoc 21000 crawler crane has lifted an 812 tonne hydrogenation cracking unit during reconstruction of the Beijing Yansan Petrochemical Complex in China. The crane, owned by oil company Sinopec, easily positioned the 32 metre high unit - the largest lift in the project.

Sinopec used Manitowoc's Max-Er superlift attachment, boosting the crane's maximum capacity to 907 tonnes. The crane was rigged with a 54 metre main boom for the lift which took less than 30 minutes from picking the vessel to final positioning. Ma Zengtao, Sinopec's crane manager.

Up and running 10 year check

Hi-Lift's newly formed division Eco-Lift has purchased 10 Maeda mini crawler cranes - a mixture of MC104, MC285, MC305, MC405 and LC785 models.

This is a new venture for Hi-Lift. Its sister company Hi-Reach powered access has seven depots across the UK and a significant customer base and the company clearly sees potential in adding mini crawler cranes to its range.

"We hit the ground running on March 1st with a team of fully trained staff, capable of providing effective technical advice for our customers," said Hi-Lift's managing director Paul Richards.

The UK's Transport and General Workers Union is calling for an annual check on all cranes over 10 years old. It is also urging the HSE to blitz sites to ensure compliance with tower crane regulations.

Health and safety officials from the TGWU have distributed posters to sites across the country to gain support. Forty-one MPs have apparently signed an early day motion backing the campaign. Bob Blackman, T&G national officer, said: "I understand that contractors are starting to take ownership for crane safety. They're checking cranes as they come to site, rather than relying on hirers."

Genie magic Terex Aerial Work Platforms - largely trading under the Genie brand - saw 2006 revenues rise by 41 percent to \$2.09 billion despite slowing domestic demand for telehandlers and trailer mounted lifts in the fourth quarter. Gross margins jumped from 19.8 percent to 25 percent while income from operations almost doubled to \$525 million or 17.8 percent of sales, up from 12.9 percent for 2005.

The large self erecting tower crane caused extensive structural damage.



Off the rails

A large self erecting tower crane which collapsed in St Petersburg, Russia killing at least three people was ready to be dismantled and apparently toppled as it was inadvertently driven off the end of its tracks.

The crane fell onto a 12 storey apartment block smashing through the walls of the top four floors and causing extensive structural damage. A 65 year old woman, an 18 month old child and an unidentified man were all killed while at least three others were injured. The contractor - Energomashstroy has refused to comment.

Terex Cranes up

Terex cranes saw revenues rise to \$1.74 billion last year up 37 percent on 2005.

Gross margins rose substantially from 13.4 percent of sales to 16.8 percent or \$293 million. The net effect was a rise in operating income of 256 percent to \$155 million or 8.9 percent of sales compared to 4.7 percent in 2005.

The crane group's order book more than doubled to \$1.13 billion or almost eight months.

The Terex Corporation as a whole posted revenues up almost 25 percent to \$7.65 billion with net after tax income more than double that of 2005 at \$400 million. The group's backlog grew by almost a \$1 billion to \$2.49 billion.

One or two?

CTE has added a second machine to its spider platform range, the 17 metre working height CS170.

The new model is available with a choice of one or two man platforms.

The two-man CS 170 has a lift capacity of 200 kg, while the CS 170/1 offers 120kg. The new model has an overall travel width of 800 mm, a GVW of 2,000kg and an outreach of 7.5 metres. CTE claims that the unit is able to climb gradients of up to 31 percent.

Weighing just over 2 tonnes the unit has a 15 metre platform height.



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The addition of the Bronto GL 101 means that Gerken now has 11 truck mounted platforms over 70 metres.



Another big Gerken

Düsseldorf-based Gerken has taken delivery of a Bronto GL101 truck mounted lift, the highest work platform in the world. The Bronto joins Gerken's 100 metre Ruthmann unit. The new lift went directly to work, inspecting an external stainless steel stack at a newspaper printing plant, for damage following almost hurricane level winds. With its lighter weight and more compact dimensions the company was able to manoeuvre the Bronto much closer to the building than would have been possible with the Ruthmann which has been in the fleet for three years. "These characteristics make the GL 101 suitable for new fields of use which until now were not possible for 100 metre platforms," said Ludger Pottbecker, head of the vehicle mounted lift division at Gerken.

Liebherr confirms UK rental

Liebherr has confirmed that it will open its previously announced UK rental business within the next six months. A separate company, Liebherr Rental Ltd will be based at the company's UK headquarters in Biggleswade but equipment will also be based in Bathgate, Scotland and Wigan, Lancashire.

Liebherr has been crystal clear about its intentions and stressed that it will only offer products for rent that it does not sell to rental customers. These will include specialist earthmoving, quarrying and demolition equipment. The company has stated categorically that it will not be entering the crane hire market and is also not likely to add telehandlers to its fleet.

Liebherr is currently recruiting a managing director for its rental operation and has placed orders for 55 machines with a total value of around £7 million.

Liebherr's Mietpartner rental operation in Germany along with similar operations in France, Italy and Spain generated revenues of €143 million in 2005 from 124 locations.

Enter the ESTA Awards

If you are a crane, rigging or heavy transport company you have a couple of weeks left to enter a job that you have done in the past 12 months for a 2007 ESTA award for excellence.

The forms can be either sent by e-mail to: esta@verticaltransport.nl or by post to:

ESTA Offices, Blokdruckweg 8
NL - 4104 BD Culemborg
The Netherlands

Book now for the ESTA awards dinner

The awards will be made at the annual ESTA awards dinner which will be held on Thursday 26th April at the Hilton Munich Park Hotel during the Bauma exhibition.

All entries for a Crane Award should be sent in no later than 30th March. There are two crane categories:

Category I for all lifts with cranes up to 100 tonnes lifting capacity.

Category II for all lifts with cranes of over 100 tonnes capacity.

Each job entry will be judged on three major criteria involved in the execution of a specialised transport or a crane/lifting operation:

All members of associations affiliated with ESTA are eligible to enter the job of the year competition. In the UK that means that all CPA members are eligible. Tickets for the dinner are €110 per person.

No.	Major criteria	Options					
1.	Complexity of the enquiry	C	R	R	R	C	C
2.	Solution to the problem	C	C	R	R	C	R
3.	Execution of the operation	C	C	C	R	R	R

C = complicated R = routine

The rules have been revised to simplify the process and entrants must now submit clear digital photographs with a detailed description of the lifting operation, together with a completed entry form.



Dutch based Saan was runner up last year with this lift.

Dinolift expanding

Finnish trailer-mounted platform specialist Dinolift is expanding. Production this year is set to double to more than 1,000 units. The company delivered its 5,000 lift in August 2006 and will shortly deliver its 6,000th..

To cope with this increase, a new 3,500 sq metre extension to its main facility in south east Finland is being built resulting in a total of 18,000 sq metres of production space. To further expand, the company is looking to new export markets including North and South America - in co-operation with Haulotte - and to Eastern Europe, particularly the growing Russian market. Total revenues in 2006 exceeded €20 million.

Heavy investment in production equipment maintains quality says Dino.



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Moving into Top Gear

Fans of BBC's Top Gear might have seen the recent episode where Richard Hammond and James May attempted to launch a Reliant Robin rocket into space. This amazing feat was in fact the largest non-commercial rocket launch attempt in European history.

Ainscough Crane Hire's Newcastle depot provided a 50 tonne Liebherr LTM1055-5.1 All-Terrain crane to assist with the assembly of the 8 tonne rocket

Top Gear get a lift.



Top Gear's James May and Richard Hammond.

and to recover the pieces after the launch. In spite of a successful launch however, the Reliant Robin failed to release from the main booster and crashed into the hillside with a spectacular explosion - Top Gear's biggest ever.

Weldex orders SL6000

Inverness-based crawler crane rental company Weldex has ordered two new Kobelco SL6000 crawler cranes. The first 550 tonne maximum lift capacity unit will be on show at Bauma rigged with a 48 metre main boom plus 48 metre luffing jib. However, the unit will be delivered to Weldex with an 84 metre main boom plus 84 metre luffing jib. The second unit is expected to be delivered a couple of months later.



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Straubing calls

Crane and telehandler manufacturer, Sennebogen has unveiled plans for a new factory on a 10ha/25 acre site at Straubing in Bavaria, Germany. The new plant, construction of which will begin later this spring, will significantly add to the company's production capacity. The first phase of the facility, a 13,000 sq m assembly hall is expected to cost €25 million and will include new product development and international visitor centres.

New office buildings and social areas will be built in a second phase. Sennebogen currently employs around 1,000 people across three production plants, two of which are in Germany (Straubing and Wackersdorf) plus a steel plant in Hungary.



Sennebogen's new plant will include a new product development and international visitor centres.

AFI in new areas

AFI-Uplift has ordered 800 new aerial lifts valued at £12 million, expanding its powered access fleet to more than 4,000 units. The majority of new machines will be small electric platforms including Pop Up push around lifts, Haulotte Star 6 and Star 10s, Genie IWPs and Genie GR15 Runabouts. In order to cope with the extra deliveries it was ordered 20 new delivery vehicles and eight trailers.

The company is also opening a new depot in Scotland this summer and relocating some of its existing depots to larger premises.

Wolffkran expanding all over

Go-ahead tower crane producer Wolffkran has opened a production facility in Lübben, maintaining its 'made in Germany' if not 'made in Heilbronn' status. Around 80 staff are now employed at the new facility producing around 1500 generic tower crane elements per year. According to managing director Dr Peter Schiefer, even multiple shifts and 50 additional staff at its Heilbronn facility have failed to meet increased demand.

The company has also entered into two sales and marketing agreements. Abu Dhabi-based Kanoo Machinery will concentrate on the hire and sale of cranes in the United Arab Emirates and its agreement with Streif Baulogistik will lead to a Wolffkran hire fleet in the Ukraine. "As with our partner HTC in England, we are opening up new markets not by establishing a branch of our own, but by collaboration with a local service provider", says Schiefer.



L- R: Sigmund Przybilla (MD- Streif Baulogistik Polska), Dr. Peter Schiefer (MD-Wolffkran), Czesław Legut (MD- Streif Baulogistik Ukraina), Thorsten Wiesendorfer (MDSreif Baulogistik GmbH)

Rumsby goes out in style

Tony Rumsby the, proprietor of Wonalift-Hevingham, Norwich, died suddenly on Jan 24th aged 67. He left three specific requests for his funeral:

1. His beloved Coles 825 truck crane was to transport him to the funeral;
2. He was to be buried wearing his hard hat, coveralls, boots and Hi Viz jacket and finally
3. His wife Lorraine, was to say a few words at his funeral.



All three wishes were granted to prepare him for the next life and those in attendance heard Lorraine give a tribute that left many hardened construction professionals with tears in their eyes.

To say Tony led a colourful life would be an understatement. There are many stories, including one where on a site in Gt. Yarmouth, the agent explained he had a yellow and red card notice. One yellow card meaning you are being watched, two yellows lead to the red card, which means a sending off. Rumsby turned to the site agent and said, "I drive a crane, I do not play football, so stick that Red Card up your a**e," and drove off the site to another job. The industry has lost a true character and is the poorer for it.

Anthony J Rumsby 1940 - 2007 going out in his own personal style



Allan switches to Terex

Market Harborough based Allan Access has been appointed as the UK distributors for Terex Utilities, the producer of specialist aerial lifts and digger derricks for the utility industry. Allan previously represented Altec in the UK. The distribution deal will focus on the Telelect and Hi-Ranger product lines.

Allan Access has been in the powered access business since 1993, while owner Phil Allan has spent his life in the vehicle mounted aerial lift industry and been instrumental in its development. The company recently moved into new premises in order to cope with the expanding market for the products it handles, which includes Nifty vehicle mounted lifts and Socage truck mount and spider type aerial lifts.

Biggest mini crane?

Unic Cranes Europe is set to unveil what it claims is the world's biggest mini crane at Bauma. With six tonnes capacity at three metres and a hook height of 19.5 metres, the URW-706 is now the largest crane in the Unic range.

Despite its size the unit is still able to pass through a standard double doorway.

The 706 also features a three metre long, self-stowing three fly jib, another first for a mini crane, together with an optional searcher hook.



The new Unic 706 - the worlds largest spider crane?

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Stirnemann announces management succession

Stirnemann Ag the Olten, the Switzerland-based crane and access distributor has announced the appointment of Lorenzo Cassani (46) as general manager and president designate. Stirnemann president Alfred Wyss is aiming to formally hand over to Cassani later this month



Lorenzo Cassani

and then depart the day to day activities after Bauma. Wyss will then remain as a non executive director.

Cassani has spent the past seven years working for Caterpillar in Geneva. He has held a number of general management positions in the construction equipment industry and is fluent in German, English and French. He officially started with Stirnemann on January 8th and will formally take over as general manager at the next full board meeting and AGM in March.

Wyss (63) joined Stirnemann, which was the Richier and Grove distributor, in 1970 as parts and service manager. He became managing director in 1984.

(Full story see vertikal.net)



Al Wyss

New crane and access event

A new cranes and access event - Vertikal Days - is set to take place on September 19th and 20th at Haydock Park racecourse. Organised by The Vertikal Press, publishers of Cranes & Access, the event is aimed at bringing together UK industry professionals for a two day 'get together'. Rental companies, fleet owners and lifting professionals will have a chance to view the latest products, meet with a wide number of suppliers and discuss their purchasing or technical requirements for the year ahead.

Based on the successful formula of Platformer Days in Germany, there are no parking charges and hospitality is included. Qualified visitors can pre-register, be invited by an exhibitor or purchase an all inclusive pass.

There will be no earthmoving or other unrelated equipment, no large distances to walk, and apart from a short wait at the buffet or the bar, no queuing!

For exhibitors, there is a fixed price entry which is all inclusive. The organizers say that no special ground preparation, private catering, stand structures or graphics are allowed. The only add-on is a basic gazebo/cover to keep out any rain.

If the event takes off it could become a regular event, either at the same location or rotating between southern and northern venues. Leigh Sparrow, of Vertikal said:

"The plan is for this to become a UK industry event with the participants deciding its development in terms of location and frequency."

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A TEREX COMPANY

- Plant hirer **Hewden** has appointed **Nick Childs** as its new head of access. He takes over from Andrew Spencer who left the company late last year.
- **Terex Utilities** has appointed **Allan Access** as its UK distributor for its equipment, including the Telelect and Hi-Ranger product lines.
- **Hiab's** latest UK forestry dealer, Perthshire-based **Forest & Field Engineering**, has made a record-breaking start - selling nine machines in a single month.
- **Ashtead** has appointed **Christopher Cole** as its non-executive chairman.
- **Alan Russon** managing director of Russon Access the Holland Lift and Mani-access dealer for the UK and Ireland, has married **Caroline Phillips** at a ceremony on February 19th in Antigua.
- A bill requiring crane inspection and operator certification in **Washington State** has been introduced.
- US telehandler and skid steer producer **Gehl** has reported improved results in the face of a softening US telehandler market.
- **HSE** Inspectors have started carrying out a series of intensive farm inspections in **Scotland** focusing on work at height.
- **Linamar**, owner of Skyjack is buying the minority holding in its Hungarian affiliate.
- Australian crane and access company **Boom Logistics** has reported revenues up 40% and profits up 25% and confirmed that CEO **Rod Harman** is to retire.
- French lifting gear company **Verlindé** has appointed Wirral-based **Hoist UK** as the UK distributor for its full product range including Stagemaker.
- **Airtrax**, the Sidewinder fork truck and Cobra aerial lift manufacturer, has raised \$3.2 million to fund further growth.
- A member of the salvage team removing containers from the beached **MSC Napoli** was airlifted to hospital after he was knocked off a shuttle barge by a crane.
- **Socage** is to supply Spanish rental company **Nacanco** with 100 truck mounted platforms to be delivered in the first half of 2007.
- **Platform Sales Europe**, the Dutch based aerial lift distributor, has ordered 1,300 booms and scissors from **UpRight** and agreed a wide ranging distribution deal.
- **Ruthmann** will auction its 10,000th platform at the end of the Bauma show. The unit - a TB220, on a Mercedes Sprinter chassis - will be put on ebay with a starting bid of €1 - with a proportion going to a children's charity.
- **Haulotte** has appointed **Laurent Demartz** as the new head of its Mexican subsidiary which opened in January
- A further 16 **Hewden** depots have achieved the International Environmental Management System Standard ISO 14001.



Russon weds



Richard Tindale, Arjan Roelse and Darren Kell

- **Tutt Bryant**, the Australian subsidiary of **Tat Hong Holdings**, has acquired **Muswellbrook Cranes Services**.
- Powered access rental company **AFI-Uplift** came 5th in a top 100 list of companies with the fastest growing profits in 2005.
- **Hewden's** owner, **Finning International** has announced record results for 2006, but saw only marginal improvements in its UK businesses.
- **RSC** the world's second largest equipment rental company recently sold by Atlas Copco to two venture capital companies is to launch an IPO.
- **JCB** has been named Industrial Company of the Year in the first-ever Best of British Industry Awards.
- **Cummins** has announced that its A Series engines have been certified to EPA Tier 4 Interim emissions regulations .
- **JLG** is to add an own brand version of **Dakota-shine** paintwork restorer to its range of after care products.
- Georgia-based High Reach Equipment Services - with annual revenues of about \$11 million - has been bought by **United Rentals**.
- The first wind and gas, dual energy scheme sited off the Cumbrian coast has been given the go-ahead. The Ormonde project will be sited 10km from Walney Island near **Barrow in Furness**.
- The mayor of **New York** has proposed to spend \$6 million to improve the safety of **suspended scaffolds**.
- Curtain wall specialist **Antemex** has taken delivery of its 6th Valla crane 12 months and has confirmed **Valla** is its preferred supplier of compact crane for its wall installations worldwide.
- **Loxam** has purchased **Realsa Alquiler** in south east Spain adding six locations to its existing operation in Spain.

- **Associated British Ports** has appointed **Peter Jones**, formerly chief executive of Mersey Docks & Harbour Company (MDHC) as its new chief executive.
- The **Australian** rental industry is looking to tempt skilled professionals to migrate to the country to help solve a serious skills shortage.
- A museum in Wales is looking for an old 10 tonne crane. Contact **Internal Fire** (web site www.internalfire.com) situated just north of Cardigan.
- Ossett based **Lifterz**, the new company owned by the **Bowers** has spent over £1million with **Nifty Lift**.
- **Cranes&Access** forum on **Vertikal.Net** has added a section where victims of theft can post details of cranes, platforms and telehandlers that have been stolen.
- **JLG** has been awarded a new \$102 million **US Army** contract for 566 JLG Atlas II telescopic handlers for delivery over the next five years.
- **Harsco** the US based owner of **SGB** and **Hünnebeck** increased the sales of its Access Services division by 37%
- **PopUp** has unveiled the new **PopUp-Plus** a higher version of its highly popular PopUp push around scissor lift with a 4.6m working height.



(L-R), Ben Bowers, Tim Ward of Niftylift and Mark Trueman



The new PopUp plus

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