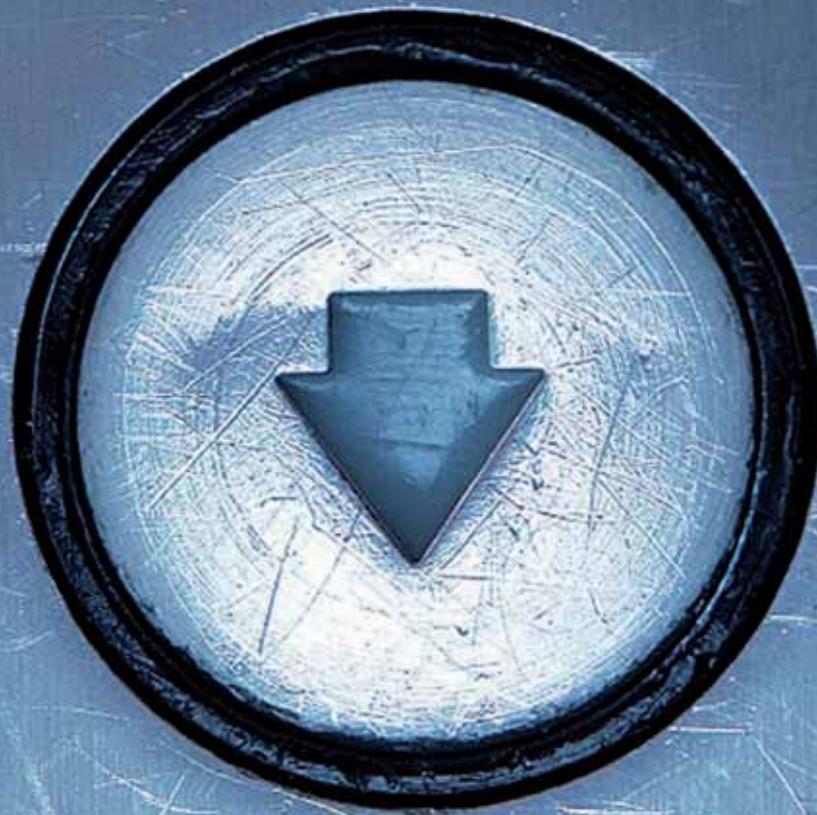


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## On the cover:

The operator of the world's largest crane - the recently launched 200,000 tonne/metre Mammoet PTC 200 - checking controls, main boom and winches before starting a lift.



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Over the past few months we have seen numerous examples of items being 'picked' and 'carried' without using the traditional pick & carry crane. Here we take a slightly unconventional look at machines that can carry out this role including the new generation Mammoet PTC super heavy lift crane.

## Riding the decks 25



Steel erector Steelcraft Erection Services has gained additional benefits from a solution it helped to devise to get men off the steelwork on high rise jobs in order to meet the work at height regulations without reducing efficiency. The result is the Niftylift Deck Rider which provides users with the same benefits enjoyed by those working from aerial lifts at lower heights.

## In the next C&A

In the bumper August/September issue (out mid-September) we have the APEX show preview, the 2011 Top 30 rental company survey, a look at lifting in the wind turbine sector and have a round-up of the latest developments in telehandlers and insulated access platforms.

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With summer and the holiday season approaching many companies are gearing up for scheduled maintenance and shutdowns. We take a back to basics look at the pros and cons of the wide selection of methods and equipment available for working at height and run through the good (and bad) points of the various types of access equipment that might be used in an industrial setting.



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This year's Vertikal Days - the fifth since it was established in 2007 - was the biggest and most successful so far, breaking records across the board. Here are our photo review highlights.

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For its size Kettering-based County Lifting is one of the most diverse lifting companies in the UK. Cranes & Access interviews father and son team Steve and Daniel Drury and takes an in-depth look at a company that operates in the industrial lifting/moving, crane and access sectors.

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# c&a

comment



## Tainted optimism

The general feeling of optimism at this year's Vertikal Days was apparent to all. The almost buoyant mood was shared by exhibitors, manufacturers and visitors alike, perhaps relieved that the worst of the economic problems are now behind us and we may be looking at a period of slow but steady growth.

Vertikal Days 2011 stepped up to the 'next level' and provided visitors with the best display of lifting and access equipment outside of the major international shows. So many new products were launched, so many deals were done and so many just had a good time.

Much of the show's visitor growth this year came from 'major end users' while many of the new exhibitors were companies with associated products and services - the crammed Market Place was a testament to this. Safety and safety products were prominent all over the showground. At last almost all exhibitors now realise the importance of showing how to do it right by using items such as outrigger mats and wearing harnesses where appropriate. However the Vertikal safety team still had a couple of 'run-ins' with delivery drivers who did not want to wear a harness while unloading boom lifts.

You could argue that if we - the crane and access industry - can't get it right then how can we expect the average construction site worker to?

The UK's Health & Safety Executive published some worrying statistics this month. In spite of all the efforts and the general high level of safety awareness on UK sites, 22 percent more construction workers died over the past year compared to the year before. In fact the first rise in figures in four years.

Delving deeper into the numbers shows that the problem lies not with the large construction contractors and projects, but with the smaller sites - possibly those without a patrolling safety officer or with very little thought to Health and Safety at all. As the HSE said "This is not about money, it's about mindset - planning jobs properly and thinking before you act."

Larger companies have got the message that safe equipment and good practice need not be a cost. In most cases the equipment is also more efficient and as our article on page 25 shows - safer can be faster and cheaper.

Exhibitions such as Vertikal Days promote the very latest and best equipment that the industry has to offer. All we need now is for everyone - not just those working on large construction sites - to be aware of its existence and the benefits it can bring. Attending displays like Vertikal Days can show contractors and their employees how to protect themselves and their friends.

Mark Darwin

Please mail, email or fax any comments you may have, to the editor, stating if we may publish them or not.

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