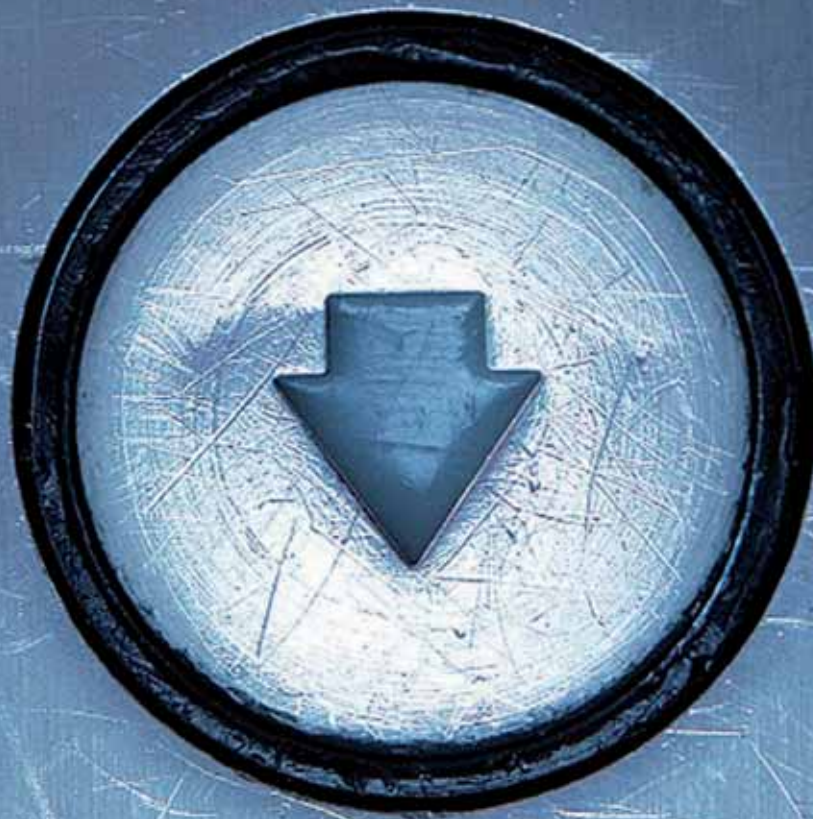


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On the cover:

Can the 2.5 tonne capacity BT425 Manitou Buggiscopic fend off its more recent compact rivals? Find out on page 49.



C & a contents

17

Wind turbines



49

Telehandlers



57

Insulated booms



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Comment 5

News 6

MBO at Falck Schmidt, New platform for wind turbine blade maintenance, Dinolift unveils first fully self-propelled boom, Dates confirmed for Vertical Days 2012, Four new Teupen platforms, Plant Hire Investment report now available, Another new Multitel, 48 crane order for Palfinger Wind, Alimak Hek adds to light range, New Zealand Crane fits TRAM fall protection, JCB launches two new telehandlers, Ainscough and ALE form heavy-lift partnership, Lavendon to pull-out of Spain, Terex completes purchase of the Demag, AFI-Uplift acquires AJ Rentals, GT Access takes Swift Access, Nacanco opens new facilities, Iteco self-propelled push around, Merlo acquires 100% stake in Merlo UK.

Wind turbines 17

2010 was a year of highs and lows for European wind power. We review the market, talk to the leading UK and Ireland leading specialist wind turbine lifting and installation contractor Windhoist and look at some of the problems lifting wind turbines.



C&A Top 30 rental company survey 25

This year's Cranes & Access Top 30 UK/Ireland rental company survey highlights the fact that the sector is beginning to pull out of the recession.

It is also clear that telehandlers and powered access are faring significantly better than cranes.

All is revealed in the 2011 survey.



In the next C&A

In the next issue of Cranes & Access available in October, we have a review of the Apex show, a preview of the SAIIE show in Bologna, we take a look at outrigger mats and pads, round-up developments in crawler cranes and take a look at SD boom/AT lifts.

APEX show preview 37

The international powered access exhibition APEX, held every three years in Maastricht, Holland, opens later this month. Now in its 15th year, the show has become a first class event for those interested in access equipment with a full spread of products from a wide range of manufacturers. Check out what to see in our comprehensive preview.



Telehandlers 49

With compact and sub or ultra-compact telescopic handlers becoming increasingly popular to the point where they are beginning to take over some work previously carried out by skid steer loaders, we take a look at how the two compare. We also have a brief market round-up and an interesting application.

Insulated booms 57

We take a look at the market and the latest equipment developments available to utilities companies involved in distribution and overheard power line work and try and fathom out why Europe differs so much from the rest of the world.



regulars

ALLMI Focus 65

Training 67

IPAF Focus 69

PASMA 71

Innovations 72

Models 73

Letters 75

What's on 80

On-line directory 86



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c&a
comment



A photo never lies?

We all know the expression 'a photo never lies' and those of a certain age will know exactly what is meant. In these days of Computer Generated Imagery (CGI) and Photoshop, many realise that a picture can be as far

from the truth as the skill of the manipulator.

Yes but what has this got to do with Cranes & Access – I hear you say?

Well about a month ago the BBC ran a programme called 'Richard Hammond's (the little one from Top Gear) Journey To The Centre Of The Planet'. You may have been one of more than five million to see it, including the images with Hammond in the basket of a large boom lift, moving in front of a giant graphic of the earth, without a harness.

Several readers pointed this with comments such as "all the work on safety harnesses and 'the Clunk Click campaign appears to be a waste of time".

We were also surprised and asked some questions.

This is the reply we received from a BBC Spokesperson:

"The BBC takes health and safety issues in the workplace extremely seriously. As many of the sequences featuring the crane in Richard Hammond's Journey To The Centre Of The Planet were CGI and shot against a green screen, Richard did not in reality go above six feet when he was in the crane. A representative from the crane hire company was on set at all times to ensure we complied with health and safety regulations and advised that Richard did not need a harness for the shots where he was filmed in the crane."

So the picture lied – Hammond was only a few feet off the floor! But that's not the point. To all those watching the programme he was operating a boom lift without a harness on national TV – not the safety image we want to portray.

It is all very well being clever and 'faking' shots with CGI and green screen, but they should still be 'correct' where possible. Given that the BBC likes to do things right it would have taken very little effort for Hammond to have put on a harness – particularly as a 'how the programme was made' clip shows that harnesses were supplied with the platform.

The 'Beeb' wouldn't dream of filming a car test without Hammond wearing the seat belt. And its building programmes always include hard hats and hi-viz vests – even where there is no risk of falling material or moving vehicles.

So sorry BBC you got this one wrong.

Oh and please stop calling a work platform a crane!

Mark Darwin

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