

MBO at Falck Schmidt

The Danish-based Skako group has sold its spider lift division – previously Falck Schmidt – to the company's managing director Finn Schlitterlau and financial director Thyge Mikkelsen. The new company will trade as TCA Lift (Tall Compact Aerial Lift) and continue to market the lifts under the Falcon brand. The Denka trailer lift business which is also based at the Odense plant, is subject to separate negotiations with a group of investors. When completed Denka production is expected to relocate to a separate facility. 30 staff have transferred from Skako to TCA Lift which will continue to represent Blue Lift in a number of countries.

The Skako/Reachmaster business in the USA is not included in either of the deals and in the short term will remain part of Skako.

Falck Schmidt and Denka came together when Denka owner VT Holdings acquired the Odense-based spider lift specialist in 2005. The two companies merged under the name Worldlift Industries but retained separate brands and production facilities in

Holbæk for Denka and Odense for Falck Schmidt. Last year the successor to VT Holdings - Skako - decided to rebrand the business reflecting its intention to integrate the aerial lift business as a core activity. After sustaining losses of more than DK100 million as it absorbed massive restructuring and new product costs, and realising that there was little to no synergy with its concrete and vibration businesses, Skako put the two famous brands up for sale.



A Falcon spider lift at the Odense assembly plant

Dinolift first

Finnish-based Dinolift will unveil its first fully self-propelled boom lift at Apex later this month. The Dino 185XTS 54ft articulated Rough Terrain boom offers a working height of up to 18.5 metres, 250kg platform capacity and 11.7 metres of outreach.



The Dino 185XTS

The unit incorporates four wheel drive, oscillating axle, 45 percent gradeability, 360 degree continuous slew, 180 degrees of platform rotation and 150 degrees of jib articulation. The new machine uses Dino's heavy duty over-centre dual riser lift mechanism, two section telescopic boom and 1.6 metre articulating jib. Overall width is 2.29 metres and the unit weighs 8,000kg.



The Spider modular 360° suspended platform provides full access to turbine blades

A new modular wind maintenance platform

The Spider division of SafeWorks has launched a modular 360 degree suspended platform for wind turbine blade access which can be configured for simple blade inspection and main tower access needs. Its modular design and light weight is said to make it easy to transport to site and assemble.

The platform sits on a support or stabilisation frame to which the hoist motors attached. The frame has runners which travel up the main turbine tower, helping stabilise the platform. Horizontal movement of the frame is possible with a simple hand crank, so it can be kept centred on the vertical blade.

The entire system is available for purchase or rent from Spider's 25 locations in the Americas. John Sotiroff vice president of Spider sales & distribution said: "Our blade contractor customers look to this platform for their 'up tower' work as it is easily configurable for a range of jobs and is simple to operate, own and source. The simple modular design of the platform eliminates the need to mobilise expensive ground-based solutions."

New Plant Hire Investment report

Catherine Stratton has published the 2010/2011 Plant Hire Investment Report. The annual report now in its 18th year, charts the progress of the UK's 75 leading rental companies in great detail, using a wide variety of information and input, including the statutory information filed with Companies House. We plan to review this year's edition in the October issue of Cranes & Access. In the meantime copies cost £499 each, but a £100 discount is available for Cranes & Access readers reducing it to £399. Copies can be ordered by emailing Mandy Rees at mandy@executivehirenews.co.uk or check the website www.phir.co.uk



Dates announced for Vertikal Days 2012

Vertikal Days 2012 will be held on June 27th and 28th and the event will once again be held at Haydock Park. The organisers are also working on a number of improvements in order to build on this years' success when visitor numbers increased almost 25 percent. The popular all inclusive format will remain unchanged. Exhibitor packs will be available from mid-September and will include an early-bird discount for those who confirm bookings early in the New Year.



Teupen adds four models

Teupen will unveil four new products at Apex this month including two spiders, a truck and a trailer lift. The spider lifts are developments of the company's existing Leo 15 and 18 GT models into premium specification 'Plus' models. The 15 Plus will replace the current Leo 15GT, while the 18GT will run alongside the 18 Plus. The two new models feature a new stabiliser and articulated jib design and join the Leo 25GT Plus.

The Leo 18GT Plus superstructure will also be mounted on a 3.5 tonne truck to create the new EuroB18GT, weighing 3,240kg with an overall height of 2.3 metres and 8.5 metres outreach. The fourth new model takes the Leo13 GT superstructure and mounts it to a trailer to create the Gepard 13GT trailer lift.

Teupen also says that it will unveil a new control station which it is calling 'Fuzzy IV'. The key element of the new station is an information system, complete with graphics that it says are easily read even in direct sunlight.

Chief executive Michael Wotschke said: "By shifting the entire production to Germany thanks to a high degree of component similarity and commonality, we are able to transfer our high standards of quality and safety to the trailer and 3.5 tonne truck-mounted segments."

Teupen's new Fuzzy IV control station



Another Multitel

Italian manufacturer Multitel Pagliero is to unveil a further three new models at Apex. The latest new model to be announced is the 25 metre MX250, the largest MX model on a 3.5 tonne chassis. The unit offers 25 metres working height and up to 12.2 metres of outreach. Features include inboard outrigger jacking, while the full width jacking for maximum outreach keeps the front jacks in-board while the rear ones extend to 2.8 metres, with the option of keeping one side retracted. The lift offers 11 metres of parallel lift outreach from a height of two metres up to almost 20 metres.

Melvyn Else, managing director of Access Industries, Multitel's UK distributor said: "This is best small platform Multitel has introduced since I started working with the company in 1988. This level of outreach may be achieved by straight telescopic platforms, but no one has ever achieved such performance from an articulated platform mounted on a 3.5 tonne chassis. We see this platform as taking the self-drive 3.5 tonne sector to a new level."



The 25m MX250

Gantic opens in UK



Norwegian - based battery charger specialist Gantic has opened a UK operation - Ganticharger UK based in Leicestershire. The new company will be managed by UK sales manager David Townsend, who joins from Punch Taverns where he was draught dispense manager. "I'm extremely proud to be responsible for bringing this unique and exciting product into the UK market. Users of battery powered access equipment will be well aware of the costs, pitfalls and environmental impact of batteries that are damaged by inefficient charging. GantiCharger addresses all of these issues and is truly a revolutionary product."

Runaway crane fatality

A popular heavy crane operator, Lindsey Easton, 49, of Sowerby Bridge, Halifax, died on August 15th after the 500 tonne All Terrain crane he was driving ran away as it descended a steep slope from the Scout Moor wind farm at Edenfield quarry, Rossendale, north of Bury. The crane ran off the road into an earth bank. Easton was employed by the crane's owner Baldwins Crane Hire and was clearly a very professional and well liked individual. The news report on www.Vertikal.Net generated a record number of comments from those wishing to pass on their last respects. An investigation is on-going into what happened.

Sany America has moved into its new 37,000 square metre (400,000 sq ft) facility in Peachtree City, Georgia



Three new lifts from Socage

Italian platform manufacturer Socage will unveil three brand new models at Apex. The A314 NAT (Natural Aerial Transport) mounted on an Ecomile FAAM electric truck is powered by a 96 volt AC electric motor from a 150 Ah Li-Po lithium-ion battery. The truck mounted lift has a claimed travel range of around 100km and a maximum speed of 80kph. The company is also mounting the A314 top on a Piaggio Porter chassis, calling it the A314 UP (Urban Platform). The third new model is the 20 metre T320 telescopic boom mounted on 3.5 tonne Nissan Cabstar with an outreach of 11 metres and a 225kg platform capacity. Equipped with a 'within the mirrors' stabilising system with extendible front outriggers (single side or both) giving the operator three different configurations. The T320 has 360 degree continuous slew and 180 degrees of platform rotation as standard.



The new Socage T-320.



The crane stows under cover within the nacelle

Big order for Palfinger Wind

Wind turbine producer RePower has ordered 48 Palfinger cranes for service and maintenance of its offshore turbines. The order is for Palfinger's PK 40002 which is stowed within the nacelle of Repower's 5 and 6MW turbines. The two companies have worked together on such products since 2003 it is now almost a standard component on this type of turbine. The delivery of this latest order will begin in 2012.

...and more details on new platforms

Palfinger has released more details on the two new truck mounted lifts that it plans to launch at Apex (see Apex preview P35). The 21 metre, 3.5 tonne P210 BK telescopic will feature a rotating jib in addition to its platform rotation, following the principles on some self-propelled boom lifts. The new model will share the jacking and other chassis details of the P220 B and P260 B, and will include a 'no-jacking' mode which will allow the jib to be rotated in order to provide some lateral outreach, without the need to set the outriggers.

The second unit, a 7.5 tonne model will be the 30 metre working height P300 KS which will include the 'KS' counter slewing system acquired by Palfinger when it took over Bison. The system allows the counterweight to slew in the opposite direction to the superstructure in order to keep it within the set-up width of the machine, while allowing the boom to run the full length of the truck, keeping its overall length to a minimum. It also maximises the lift's outreach without adding extra weight.



The crane is used to load and unload as well as work on the turbine within the nacelle

Loxam to acquire Locarest

French-based rental company Loxam has announced that it is holding exclusive negotiations to acquire regional rental company Locarest from its principal owners EPF Partners. It expects negotiations will be concluded within the next few weeks. Locarest had revenues of €48 million last year operating from 66 locations - while a general rental company it operates a fleet of telehandlers, aerial lifts and scaffold towers.

Loxam plans to merge Locarest with its Loueurs de France business, one of three networks that Loxam operates in France, to create another national rental player with 115 branches.



The new high capacity 550-80WM

Two new telehandlers from JCB

JCB has added two Wastemaster telescopic handlers to its range, the compact 527-58WM and the high capacity 550-80WM. Measuring two metres wide and two metres high, the 527-58 has a lift capacity of 2.7 tonnes and lift height of 5.8 metres. It can handle 1.25 tonnes at its maximum forward reach of three metres.

The 550-80 Wastemaster has an 8.1 metre lift height and five tonne capacity and aims to satisfy demand for a machine with greater lift performance at reach. It is JCB's highest capacity telehandler and it has been specifically designed for bulk handling operations in heavier duty waste applications such as metals recycling.

New Zealand Crane fits TRAM

New Zealand Crane Group has decided to install Standfast's TRAM (Travel Restraint Access Module) fall protection system, on every crane above 80 tonnes. Managing director Deane Manley said: "It has been standard industry practice for years to climb on top of booms without adequate fall protection, but this has just got to stop."

The TRAM unit enables users to walk on top of the crane boom without the risk of falling. The user has a double lanyard that clips onto a moveable handlebar at waist height. The handle is fixed at foot level to a rail along the length of the boom. By tying off at waist level rather than foot level, TRAM users have no distance to fall in the event of a slip or trip, and still have total freedom to do their work.

Manley says there are also commercial rewards of fitting the system as it helps position the company as likely supplier of choice for any customer that takes safety seriously. It has also been a key component of a safety programme that has secured a 20 percent discount on insurance premiums.



The TRAM fall arrest system

New heavy-lift partnership

Ainscough, the UK's largest crane rental company and heavy transport and lifting company ALE have announced an official partnership for UK-based contracts. A statement from the two said: "The partnership will provide an unrivalled combination of expertise and equipment. Customers of both organisations are set to reap the benefits of a more efficient and expansive service, combined expertise and a first class fleet of equipment."

"The partnership combines the strengths of two market leaders," added Mark Harries, executive director at ALE. "We are delighted to be amalgamating our plant, expertise and industry knowledge to offer a complete solution to clients."

Ainscough and ALE in partnership



Lavendon to pull-out of Spain despite increased revenues

Lavendon has announced that it will withdraw from the Spanish rental market later this year. This in spite of a five percent improvement in revenues to £3.9 million in the first half and having reached break-even. The business, which combined the Zoom and DK Rentals Spanish operations, only represents around four percent of group revenues.

John Standen, interim executive chairman said: "Due to the weak long-term outlook for our market in Spain, we have concluded that the capital currently invested in our Spanish operation will achieve better returns if substantially re-deployed to our other markets. Consequently we have made a strategic decision to exit the Spanish powered access market during the second half of 2011."

Lavendon expects the pull-out from Spain to cost £5 million after disposals of equipment not transferred elsewhere, £1.25 million of this is cash, the rest a write-down on the books.



The new Hek TPL 300 and TPL500 extend the company's Light Range of hoists



Alimak extends Light hoist range

Alimak Hek is extending its Light Range of hoists with the introduction of the TPL 300 and TPL500. The new models are completely modular and are available in three phase 500kg capacity or 300kg single phase configuration. They offer dual functionality for use as either a transport platform or material hoist. The three phase unit has a lift speed of 12 metres a minute in transport platform configuration and 24 metres as a material hoist. The single phase manages 10 metres a minute. A simple key switch converts the units from transport platforms to material hoists, with all appropriate safety features enabled.

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Terex completes Demag acquisition

Terex has completed its purchase of Demag shares under its tender offer and now owns 82 percent of the company.

Terex chief executive Ron DeFeo said: "We are very pleased with the addition of Demag Cranes to the Terex group.

It adds a new business segment with world-class products in industrial cranes, hoists and port technology and services. We are satisfied with the results of the tender process and believe strongly in the compelling industrial rationale of this deal and the growth opportunities for both companies."

Demag earlier reported a 30 percent improvement in order intake in its third quarter results and joins Terex with an order book of €394.5 million, up 16 percent on last year. Revenues for the nine months were €746.1 million, while pre-tax profits fell 38 percent to €12.05 million, due to a loss in the third quarter of €8.6 million from one-off charges, including more than €22 million in advisors fees for fighting the Terex take over.



Demag AG includes Gottwald mobile port cranes

GT Access takes Swift Access

UK-based powered access rental company GT Access has acquired the assets of Stoke-based Swift Access for an undisclosed sum.

The deal for Swift, which had gone into administration shortly beforehand, includes its depot in Stoke and 149 lifts, mainly scissors. All the staff and services will be retained, adding to GT Access' four existing depots in Bromsgrove, Telford, Gloucester and Hereford.

500 tonne Liebherr for Port Services

Scottish-based crane and logistics company Port Services has taken delivery of a 500 tonne Liebherr LTM 1500-8.1. The crane features a seven section 84 metre main boom and 91 metre luffing jib, together with the latest generation of Liebherr's 'Y-Guy' superlift system.

Port Services new 500 tonne Liebherr LTM1500-8.1



AFI-Uplift acquires AJ Rentals



AFI has acquired the access rental division of AJ Access Platforms strengthening its presence in South Wales. The company will operate as A J Rentals using the AFI corporate identity. AJ has a fleet of around 400 aerial lifts operating from depots in Swansea and Caldicot (near Newport). Rental manager John Swift will move to AFI with the business. Tony Mort, who founded AJ Access in 1990, will continue to own and operate the sales, maintenance and training sides of the business as AJ Access Platforms.



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Iteco self-propelled push around

Italian-based Imer has announced a self-propelled version of its Iteco Easy Up 5 push-around scissor lift. The new model - the Easy Up 5 SP - features a 626 mm x 1,250mm platform with 3.2 metre platform height, 21 seconds lift speed to full height and compact dimensions of 1400mm by 760mm wide and 1.8 metres closed height. The new machine weighs 490kg and boasts a platform capacity of 150kg. Steering is via counter rotating drive motors allowing the unit to turn in its own length, while a hand-operated mechanical lock allows the two pivoting front wheels to be locked in the direction of travel. The standard battery charger is dual-voltage.



The new Iteco Easy Up 5 SP

New Nacanco depots and 10 years in Italy

Italian access and telehandler rental company Nacanco opened two new purpose-built facilities in its top two markets - Milan and Rome - as it celebrated the 10th anniversary of its move to Italy this July. The company began operating in Rome in 2006 and started looking for new premises soon after. A plot was found close to the original location with around 2,500 square metres of high bay warehouse space and 4,500 square metres of open yard. A fleet of between 350 and 450 aerial lifts and a good portion of its 350 unit telehandler fleet are now based in the City which also serves as a 'hub depot' for its South Central region.



Nacanco's new depot in Rome

The new buildings have been developed not only to provide more space for a larger fleet, but also to make operations more efficient and environmentally friendly. Solar panels provide heat and electricity while cleaning wash-down water is cleaned and recycled.

Nacanco operates from 13 locations in Italy with a fleet of over 2,300 aerial lifts, 350 to 400 telehandlers and a few 30 /35 tonne Terex Rough Terrain cranes.



Over 300 customers attended the two openings



A Gehl skid steer

Manitou UK takes over Gehl

Manitou UK has taken over the full responsibility for the marketing of Gehl products in the UK and Ireland. Gehl products sold in Europe include skid steers, articulated loaders and tracked dumpers. Gehl Europe is now fully integrated into the Manitou group following its acquisition in 2008.

Manitou UK's chief executive Ivor Binns said: "We have adopted a robust approach to create a new dealer distribution network in the UK and Ireland to maximise the sales potential of the Gehl product. We have got the best of both worlds, appointing existing Manitou dealers as Gehl dealers, while retaining the strongest Gehl dealers which have specialist knowledge of the Gehl machinery."

Merlo takes over UK distribution

Italian telehandler manufacturer Merlo has acquired its UK distribution company, Merlo UK, as its joint founder John Iles, 73, retires as managing director. His shares in the business have been amicably acquired by the Merlo group, giving it 100 percent of the company's equity.

Iles will stay on as a non-executive director and deputy chairman so that his expertise and experience continue to be available to the company, at least during an extended transition period. Merlo has appointed Maurizio Gaudio-Mego as the new general manager. Speaking of the changes he said: "John and his team have set a tremendous foundation for the Merlo product in the UK. John is, quite literally, an icon of the rough terrain truck market in the UK and we are delighted to retain his experience."

"Merlo is planning a considerable expansion in the UK and this move opens the possibility for more investment in order to achieve the longer-term aims of the group."

Merlo already owns its distribution companies in France, Spain and Australia and has a joint venture in Germany.



John Iles is retiring from Merlo UK

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Financials

From mid-July to the start of September many companies in the sector issue their half year results with a few first quarters and third quarters thrown in for good measure. They are always a good indicator or more often statistical confirmation of the market and its trends. With the late 2010 pick-up gathering pace through 2011 the numbers are mostly looking positive and quite encouraging – at least in revenue terms. However when it comes to profitability it is a much more mixed bag. The following are brief overviews from some of the main companies in our sector. Full results – often with a comment – can be found on www.vertikal.net, simply put the company name in the search box and press enter.

Haulotte lifts revenues 30%

Haulotte has reported first half revenues of €148 million up 30 percent on last year.

Machine sales were €112.4 million - up 33 percent - parts and service €15.6 million - 21 percent higher - while rental improved 18 percent to €20 million. The company remained in the red with a net loss of €14.7 million.



Lavendon up 4%

First half revenues at UK-based international rental company Lavendon rose four percent to £110.1 million, while pre-tax profits were £1.5 million compared to a loss of £300,000 in 2010. The results include £3.57 million of one-off exceptional charges.



Liebherr rises 9%



Revenues at Liebherr - the world's largest crane maker - improved nine percent in 2010 to €7.59 billion. Mobile crane revenues increased 2.7 percent to €1.8 billion, tower cranes and mixers edged up 1.1 percent to €520 million and maritime cranes 9.2 percent to €730 million.

Wacker Neuson up 35%

First half revenues at telehandler/light equipment manufacturer Wacker Neuson were €478.7 million, up 34.5 percent. Pre-tax profits jumped from €9.1 million to €46.7 million.



JLG sales up 44%

Third quarter access and telehandler revenues at JLG improved 44 percent to \$562.7 million. Sales of components to parent company Oshkosh dried up as contracts completed causing operating income to slip 4.7 percent to \$29.5 million.

Ramirent lifts revenues 18%

Finnish-based international rental company Ramirent has reported first half revenues of €283.9 million - 18.1 percent higher than in 2010. Pre-tax profits leapt from €78,000 last year to €12.4 million this year.

Manitou up 45%

Manitou has posted half year revenues up 45 percent to €561.6 million. Most of the growth came from its Rough Terrain Handling division, up 45 percent to €397.3 million. Compact equipment – largely US-based Gehl – improved 67 percent to €90.6 million.



Palfinger rises 39.3%

Loader crane and aerial lift manufacturer Palfinger has reported half year revenues up 39.3 percent to €414.3 million. Pre-tax profits jumped from €11.9 to €30.07 million.

Genie up 92%

Terex AWP/Genie has reported half year results showing revenues of \$860.9 million - 92 percent up on last year - while operating income was \$34.2 million compared to a loss of \$22.6 million last year.



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Manitowoc up 16%

First half revenues at Manitowoc Crane improved 16 percent to \$948 million, while operating income slipped from \$43 to \$42 million. The backlog improved 58 percent to \$839 million.

Strong order intake at Bronto

Finnish-based truck mounted lift manufacturer Bronto booked \$66.8 million of new orders in the first half, up 30 percent on last year. Revenues fell 16 percent to \$45.9 million. Operating income was \$1.5 million from \$3.6 million last year.

Hiab/Kalmar up 37%

The Industrial & Terminal division of Cargotec - Hiab loader cranes and Kalmar port equipment - reported first half sales up 37 percent to €927 million while order intake improved 25 percent to €1.05 billion, taking the order book to €819 million. Operating profit was €40.8 million compared to a loss last year of \$1.9 million.

Cramo back in the black

First half revenues at Finnish-based rental company Cramo improved almost 42 percent to €305.4 million, with a pre-tax profit of €1.8 million, compared to a loss of €10.7 million in 2010.

United Rentals up 11%

First half revenues at US - based United Rentals were up 11 percent to \$1.2 billion - 11.5 percent higher than in the same period last year, while rental revenues climbed more than 15 percent to \$958 million. Pre-tax profits were \$12 million, compared to a loss of \$61 million last year. on 2010.

Profits halved at Tat Hong

First quarter revenues at Asia/Pacific's largest crane rental company Tat Hong grew six percent to s\$158.4 million with growth in all sectors except tower crane rental. Pre-tax profits fell almost 50 percent to \$9.27 million due to higher depreciation, lower sales and high repair/maintenance costs.

Terex Cranes sales flat

Terex Cranes has reported first half revenues of \$862.4 million, while last year's operating profit of \$13.9 million turned into a loss of \$56.5 million.

The backlog was up almost 33 percent to \$918 million. The company also said that its Chinese truck crane business is struggling.



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- UK-based access specialist **Lifterz** is opening a new location in North West England headed by **Lee Jolley**.



Lee Jolley

- A new version of the 2.8 tonne **Maeda MC285C** spider cranes - the MC285C-2 has arrived in Europe.

- New Holland** has added two new models to its LM5000 agricultural range of telehandlers.

- UK-based **Lavendon Access Services** has taken delivery of 62 new delivery trucks for Panther and Nationwide Platforms.

- California-based rental company **Pacific High Reach** is seeking an investor after filing Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

- UK-based rental company **Speedy Hire** has ordered 250 **Skyjack** slab scissor/mast lifts.

- Ernst van Hek**, previously of Alimak-Hek has established a new trading company - **van Hek & Partner** - in Austria.



Ernst van Hek (L) with Rene Stich

- Universal Construction Machinery and Equipment** says it will build **Useter** tower cranes in India.

- Ladder and mobile tower manufacturer **Zarges** has launched the fibreglass version of its Teletower.

- US-based **Elliot Equipment** has launched a new 88ft/27m truck mounted lift with GVW under 26,000lb/11,880kg.

- French access industry veteran **Bernard Volut** has passed away after losing his fight against cancer.



Bernard Volut

- US crane and access company **H&E Equipment** saw first half revenues jump 30% as it moved into profit.

- IPAF** will hold its first-ever national convention in the USA this November.

- Austrian-based crane and access rental company **Prangl** has ordered 115 new **Manitou** telehandlers.

- Manitowoc Crane Care** has certified **H&E Equipment's** Salt Lake City branch for its EnCore Partners programme.

- Ireland's **Eircom** has taken delivery of 34 **Skyking S125RA** 12.5 metre van mounted work platforms.

- The University of **Notre Dame** has launched its aerial lift awareness campaign as agreed in its settlement with IOSHA.

- Terex Aerial Work Platforms** has appointed **Paul Waller** as vice president sales - central region in North America.



Paul Waller

- Jim Haigh** has re-entered the UK powered access market after selling the original **Eagle Platforms** in 1997.

- Terex AWP** has signed a five year extension to the lease on its Moses Lake production facility in Washington State.

- Italian access manufacturer **Oil&Steel** has appointed **Michael Schapperth** as sales manager for Germany.

- UK-based rental company **HSS** has reported first half revenues up 9% while profits grew 10.4%.

- Hertz Equipment Rental** has reported first half revenues up 13% while reducing its losses.

- Ferruccio Moritsch** the founder of **Comedil**, a pioneer and innovator in the tower crane industry, has died.



Ferruccio Moritsch

- The **Leoni Sceti Group (LSC)** has invested in UK-based crane hirer **MSD Industrial**.

- Jonathan Cwiecek** has won the Apprentice Plant Mechanic of the Year award for the second year running.

- US-based **Global Crane Sales**, has delivered the first 260 tonne **Zoomlion QUY260** crawler crane in the USA.

- Manitowoc cranes** has appointed **Kelvin Kent** as general manager of Australia and New Zealand crane operations, while **Neil Hollingshead** moves down under as sales and marketing director.



Kelvin Kent



Neil Hollingshead

- Terex Cranes** has confirmed that it will end crane production at its Wilmington, North Carolina facility by the end of the year.

- Equipment Parts Wholesale (EPW)** has opened its new parts distribution centre in Louisville, Kentucky.

- Stockport, UK-based **Highland Access** has appointed an insolvency practitioner to liquidate the business.

- Indian equipment manufacturer **Action Construction Equipment** has reported profits up 40%.

- Donegal-based **AlturaLift** has sold three crawler mounted **Isoli** platforms in Ireland.

- Ashtead** has announced the planned retirement of finance director **Ian Robson**. **Suzanne Wood** will take over.

- UK-based replacement parts supplier **IPS** has been appointed as parts distributor for Grove Manlift products.

- Linden Comansa** has signed German rental company **BKL Baukran Logistik** as distributor for Germany.

- Genie** has appointed **Dave Roddy** as territory sales manager for the North of England/ Scotland and **Emmanuel Mouillièrè** as territory sales manager for the Western region of France.



Dave Roddy



Emmanuel Mouillièrè

- Liverpool-based **Sutch Crane Hire** has taken delivery of a new **Spierings** mobile tower crane.

- Cargotec**, is taking legal action against **SweFrame Port Equipment** of Sweden for information theft.

- Canadian sales and rental company **Strongco** has been appointed exclusive dealer for **Jekko** cranes in Canada.

- Cargotec**, owner of **Hiab** and **Kalmar** is to form a joint venture with **Jiangsu Rainbow Heavy Industries** in China.

- UK-based **Speedy Hire** has appointed **Lynn Krige** as group finance director taking up her role in October.

- US rental company **RSC** has reported first half revenues up 23.6% as it returned to profit in second quarter.

- ALL Erection & Crane** has appointed **Craig Hunt** as general manager of its Raleigh North Carolina location.

- Spanish manufacturer **Ausa** has reported a 71% jump in sales of its **Taurulift** telehandler range in the first half.

- The **Epsilon** subsidiary of **Palfinger** has signed a cooperation agreement with **Caterpillar** for forestry loaders.

- German-based **Auto Böhler** has taken delivery of a new 100 tonne **Liebherr LTM 1100-4.2 All Terrain** crane.

- Alberto Bayona** director of R&D and product marketing at Spanish manufacturer **Mecaplús** is leaving the company.

- The US-based **SIA** will change its name to the **Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA)** in October.

- German-based **Sennebogen** has added northern Ontario to Canadian distributor **Strongco's** territory.

- Telehandler and compact equipment manufacturer **Wacker Neuson** has appointed **Cem Peksaglam** as chief executive.



Cem Peksaglam

- UK-based access distributor **APS** has entered the deep cycle battery distribution business.

- UK-based **AFI-Uplift** is taking this year's spend on fleet modernisation to more than £5 million with 500 new lifts

- Brisbane-based **RoadTek Plant Hire** has taken delivery of two new **Barin ABC 70/L** underbridge inspection platforms

- Netherlands-based **Loxam BV** has added **Niftylift Height Rider 12** boom lifts to its fleet.

- Manitowoc** has appointed **Joe Maslizek** as vice president sales for **Manitowoc** and **Grove** cranes in North America.



Joe Maslizek

- UK-based **Horizon Platforms** has taken delivery of a further 20 **Youngman Boss X3** series scissor lifts.

- German-based **ELS** has been appointed to handle **Imer Access/Itenco** sales and product support in Germany.

- German-based joint venture **Neeb-Schuch** has taken delivery of a new 500 tonne **Liebherr LTM1500-8.1**.

- UK-based **Wilson Access Hire** has purchased two new 21 metre **CTE Zed21J** truck mounted lifts.

- UK-based rental company **Mr Plant** has taken delivery of a large number of new **Skyjack** electric scissor lifts.

- Moffett Engineering**, the Irish-based manufacturer of **Hiab Moffett 'Piggy-Back'** forklifts has changed its name to **Cargotec Ireland**.

- Polish-based **Herkules** crane rental has purchased four black **Liebherr** mobile cranes with red boom noses.

- Finnish-based lift manufacturer **Leguan** has appointed **Jukka Karjalainen** as its new managing director.



Jukka Karjalainen

- Snorkel** has announced that it has terminated all distribution agreements with **Hubarbeitsbühnen Bielefeld** in Germany.

- Unic Cranes Europe** has appointed **AMIR Engineering** as the exclusive dealer for **Unic** spider cranes in Israel.

- Cumberland UK** has agreed to represent access equipment manufacturer **Niftylift** in Iraq.

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