

cranes & access

February 2015 Vol.17 issue 1

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Mobile tower
cranes
Batteries

Hybrid/electric
scissor lifts

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On the cover:

The Skyjack SJ6832 RTE battery/electric powered compact Rough-Terrain scissor lift claims to be the first of its size with crossover symmetrical four wheel drive and 45 percent gradeability.



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New Genie telehandler, New booms for Intermat, AFI acquires SAS assets, Grove badges Sennebogen, Liebherr tower crane elevator, Terex acquires Dueco, Hiab to launch its largest loader crane, HTC sells hoist division, New CTE Zed truck mounts, Global Parts Centre for Kobelco, Fork Rent goes Manitou, Palfinger's assisted crane folding, Jekko articulated mini crane, Manitex to build PM in N. America, Financials round-up.

Hybrid/electric scissor lifts 17

Hybrid is the buzz word of the moment as manufacturers strive to meet ever tougher emission regulations and cater to contractors demands for equipment that helps them reduce their 'carbon footprint'. We take a look at the various 'hybrid' systems and see how manufacturers are adopting them. We also interview Eline Oudenbroek of Holland Lift.



Mobile tower cranes 27

The mobile tower crane continues to grow in popularity due to its rapid set-up times and faster working cycles. We take a closer look at its benefits as well as interviewing Oliver Arnold, the new owner of UK-based Quinto Cranes.

Vertimac 35

Cranes & Access visited Vertimac in Belgium which has quickly established itself as a major international player in the used aerial lift market.



In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access - scheduled for mid-March - will feature our main Intermat preview, a review of the New Orleans and Coventry rental shows, Mast booms and small electric/hybrid booms and Small to mid-range All Terrain cranes. If you have any contributions or suggestions, please contact our editorial team.

Batteries 39

Deep Cycle batteries are critically important factor in the running cost of electric scissor and boom lifts. We take a look at the latest developments in the market and what companies are doing to reduce costs and improve reliability.



Intermat taster 47

This year's big international construction equipment show is Intermat, which will be held in late April in Paris. We offer a brief 'show taster' along with some planning information to help you decide whether to attend or not.



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By three methods we may learn wisdom: first, by reflection, which is noblest; second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.

Confucius

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Getting better or worse.....

Some of our more mature readers (myself included) will remember a time when improving safety on a construction site meant having fewer beers at lunchtime or not walking on scaffold poles six storeys up. I recall in 1980 seeing a client's consulting engineer with a fluorescent jacket and safety hat while everyone else on site was wearing donkey jackets and thinking "what a wally". My, how times have changed particularly with site

safety, PPE and equipment that promotes safer working practices.

The aerial lift has revolutionised work at height, providing a safe, stable platform from which to carry out tasks that in the past would have been done from makeshift scaffolding, a man-basket hanging from a crane or the bucket of an excavator. Platforms are inherently safe and highly efficient, speeding up work and cutting disruption. In the early days, boom lifts were promoted by manufacturers as being able to reach over production lines or busy streets to reach the work, while business continued as usual below. Increased health & safety awareness now means that pavements, walkways or work zones below a crane or platform are cordoned off, just in case anything falls or there is a problem with the machine. However some of our readers have recently questioned applications where manufacturers or users have appeared to ignore this principal.

For example aerial lift manufacturer Ruthmann has repeatedly used pictures in its promotional material of truck mounted platforms working over busy streets. Earlier this month Time Denmark supplied a customised 25 metre hybrid Versalift truck mount fitted with an elevating turret to renovate existing street lighting in Copenhagen. When operational the vehicle is parked at the side of the road and as in the promotional photos, the boom is extended over a busy street. In a response to a readers criticism, Time pointed out that Denmark only requires traffic management cones behind the machine and a person in a hi-viz jacket directing traffic. But is it right to work over a busy street?

Another recent product launch is the Genie Fall Arrest Bar - a sliding lanyard anchor point fixed to a platform's guardrails - for those who need to exit the platform at height. A few years ago JLG also launched an aviation boom lift with an external anchor point, for the user to attach his fall arrest lanyard when working outside the basket. Many safety officers feel that leaving the platform at height carries too many risks and issues such as if the person falls can the machine or the attachment withstand the dynamic loading etc...?

Are we becoming too extreme as we strive to eliminate risk from everyday life? And by trying to rule out almost every possible risk do we lose sight of the fact that using this equipment is a much safer way of working? The manufacturers - who are obviously in the firing line if anything goes wrong - are obviously confident that their products can be used safely in the way they are being promoted - but have risk assessments and safety gone too far?

Mark Darwin

Comment and feedback is most welcome via post, email, fax or phone stating if we may publish them or not: editor@vertikal.net

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