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On the cover:

Hydro Mobile supplied the mastclimbers for the renovation of the Church of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph, Ontario, one of the finest examples of religious French Gothic Revival in all of Canada.



17

Mastclimbers



29

Loader cranes



37

Lift and Access show



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Comment 5

News 6

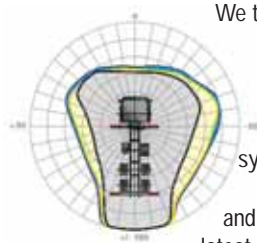
Gardner Denver to quit access market, Lavendon buys Blue Sky and unveils the SkySiren, Skanska UK demands anti crush devices, AFI introduces the Sanctuary Zone, Zoomlion looks for acquisitions, New Dutch crane rental group, JLG ships 1,000th Toucan 10E, Barry Barnes retires, Mammoet PTC claims world record, Jost appoints LTC, Tadano launches four new RTs, Nacanco goes with Socage, Crowland installs crane road test rig, Financials round-up, Palfinger launches new loader cranes, New Chinese cranes from Terex, Havator acquires Norrlandskranar.



Mastclimbers and hoists 17

The mastclimber and hoist market in the UK is a relatively close market with only a handful of players. We profile manufacturer Alimak Hek UK, and mastclimber rental company Adastra, two companies vastly experienced in this sector.

Loader cranes 29



We take a look at the latest product developments including the new, more sophisticated overload/stability systems, interview Atlas Crane owner Fil Filipov and take a brief look at the latest new product launches.

In the next C&A

In the next issue of Cranes & Access out January 2012 we have the annual Rental rate guide, a look back at events of 2011 and feature Heavy lift cranes and Truck mounted lifts.

C & a contents

Lift and Access Showcase Symposium 37

The first Lift and Access Showcase and Symposium was held in Scottsdale, Arizona earlier this month. The event included an expanded product Showcase, crane Rodeo and a conference. We report on the event and the main new product launches, including the new Genie compact electric RT scissors and a new trailer scissor lift.



London Tower Cranes 43

One tower crane manufacturer currently in the process of changing its direction and product line-up is German-based Jost Cranes. A few months ago it sold its flat top designs to Zoomlion and is now concentrating on its luffers. Cranes & Access met up Alexander Jost and its new UK/Ireland dealer, London Tower Crane Hire & Sales (LTC).

IPS 10th anniversary 47

IPS – Independent Parts & Service – has just celebrated its 10th anniversary. Mark Darwin visited the Telford based company to find out about its past, present and future.

regulars

Books and Models 51

ALLMI Focus 54

Training 57

IPAF Focus 59

PASMA 61

Innovations 63

Letters 64

What's on 69

On-line directory 74



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c&a

comment



Even safer platforms...

Let me say at the start that using an aerial work platform is almost invariably the safest and most efficient method of working at height. Statistically accidents of any type involving aerial lifts

are very rare. Accidents in which an operator is crushed against an overhead object are rarer still - perhaps just four or five a year in North America, Europe and Australia combined.

Boom and trailer lift manufacturer Niftylift launched its 'anti-crushing' system - SIOPS (sustained involuntary operation prevention system) - more than two years ago - a possible response to concerns expressed by Balfour Beatty in the UK and BHP in Australia?

Just a few weeks ago Skanska UK took matters a step further saying that as 'bolt-on' anti-crushing devices are now available, all boom lifts it rents after January 3rd must have these devices fitted. At the same time two new safety systems developed by rental companies - AFI's Sanctuary Zone (cage) and Lavendon's SkySiren (alarm) - were launched (see page 6 for details).

While it is not a good idea for contractors to make design changes or modifications, it clearly shows a frustration that the industry is dragging its heels over this statistically rare but obviously important issue.

What should be remembered is that some crushing incidents are caused by the boom being driven over uneven ground resulting in a rapid impact, in which case only a cage system might save the operator.

If contractors or rental companies believe these systems are effective and necessary, they must fit them to all platforms to avoid prosecutions from those having an accident on a non-modified unit.

If the risk of crushing is so serious (and what about the more probable risk of overhead electrocution?) why are rental companies doing the development work? Surely it is the manufacturers' responsibility as it was with pot-hole protection for scissor lifts in the 1990s. This would also eliminate interference issues with the machine's existing electrical and safety systems, not to mention CE documentation.

It would be nice to think that this influx of extra safety systems is just about making operators safer. Sadly I think it is more liability driven, but so long as they work without interfering with the machine's operation then it is a positive development. But there is no getting away from the fact that this is an upside down development process.

Mark Darwin

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