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## Central European rental companies

The world's largest on-line listing of mainland European crane and access rental companies is available to you now. Just click the link below to go to [Vertikal.net/Vermieter](http://Vertikal.net/Vermieter) where the bi-lingual site will guide you to hire companies throughout Europe. [www.Vertikal.net/Vermieter](http://www.Vertikal.net/Vermieter)

# HSE suspends Falcon cranes

As a result of the Liverpool accident coming so soon after the fatal tower crane collapse Battersea, the Health & Safety executive acted swiftly and imposed a prohibition order on Falcon cranes. It ordered Falcon to immediately take all of its cranes out of service, unless they had been subjected to a thorough examination by an independent competent person in the past 12 months.

Those cranes that were taken out of service will be allowed to resume work once they have been subjected to a thorough independent inspection by a third party inspector. Falcon said that it had around 170 cranes throughout the UK which were affected by the order and that Jaso, the Spanish manufacturer of the collapsed crane in Liverpool, had provided a team of four inspectors which were joined by inspectors from a number of UK inspection agencies. Falcon issued a statement on January 22nd (See full text on [www.vertikal.net](http://www.vertikal.net) - Jan 22) and estimated that it would be able to complete the inspections within two weeks.

As soon as a crane has been inspected and confirmed as being clear from a Class-A defect, an e-mail is sent to the HSE, which immediately releases the crane back into use. A Class-A defect is classified as one that is likely to affect safety or structural stability.

Doug Genge, managing director of Falcon Crane Hire said, "Safety has always been at the heart of all the company's operations and I am deeply concerned that after 30 years of crane hire without a single tower crane loss, we should be faced with two incidents within five months. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the families and friends of those who lost their lives"

## More tower crane accidents

In addition to the Liverpool incident there were at least four top slewing tower crane accidents between mid December and mid January. In Bahrain a 27 year old construction worker was killed when a tower section was dropped during a climb, then in January four tower crane erectors died in Bucharest when the crane they were dismantling collapsed. Strong winds toppled a 63 metre crane at Utrecht university in

Holland thankfully no one was injured. And on the same day a crane driver died in Katowice, Poland when his crane experienced a structural failure in high winds.



Strong winds all over Europe in mid January brought down this crane in Utrecht



# Luffing tower crane collapses in Liverpool

A 40 metre high Jaso J138 luffing tower crane collapsed on site in central Liverpool on January 15th killing a construction worker.

The crane driver, 31 year old Barry Walker, was cut free of the cab after being trapped for over an hour. He was taken to the Royal Liverpool Hospital and released the following day.

Walker was probably saved by the fact that the cab came to rest between two buildings before hitting the ground. The cause of the collapse is not clear and is subject to an HSE investigation. Wind was initially blamed but wind levels in the region were under 25 mph at 4pm when the accident occurred. The crane's jib came back over the rear of the crane as it toppled over striking a Polish

employee of main contractor David McLean.

The crane is owned by Falcon Crane Hire of Shipdham Airfield, near Thetford, Norfolk, the UK's second largest tower crane hirer and the same company that owned the crane involved in the fatal Battersea accident last September.



The crane driver was trapped in his cab for over an hour

The Jaso J138 luffing tower crane collapsed in central Liverpool on January 15th

## HSE issues tower crane technical alert

The HSE issued a tower crane technical alert on January 25 warning tower crane hirers and owners of the need to check high tensile bolt connections. The HSE took care to point out that the alert was issued without prejudice to any ongoing investigation.

The introduction to the alert said:

"The HSE is issuing this technical alert to remind those who own, operate and hire tower cranes that they should ensure that high tensile bolt connections, including those on masts, jibs and slew rings of their tower cranes, are correctly installed and pre-loaded (tensioned). Failure to do so could lead to the bolt connection failing, with catastrophic consequences".

(The full text of the alert can be found on [www.vertikal.net](http://www.vertikal.net) -Jan 25th).

## New notes from the CPA Tower Crane Interest Group

In the UK the recent accidents have caused concern among members of the CPA tower crane interests group which met before the latest incident, on January 11th. The group has been very active over the past 12 to 18 months introducing a number of new safety initiatives. These have included the publication of 16 Technical Information Notes which effectively set new 'best practice' guidelines for all companies to follow. At the end of 2006 the group added a further three notes:

018 Tower Crane Life

019 Contract Lifting and Crane Hire when Erecting, Dismantling and Using Tower Cranes on Construction Sites

A more detailed report on the meeting will be published in our March issue.

017 Radio Communication For Lifting Operations



# New compact Roto 360's from Merlo

Merlo has announced five new compact Roto 360° telehandlers with lift heights of 10, 14 and 16 metres, replacing its existing K and KS series. The new models are based on the KS series, but feature major changes to the cabs and booms. Merlo has added its new cab which it claims is the widest in the industry, providing more internal width and a greater glazed area. The single lever controls uses the company's latest electromechanical joystick, combining direct control of lift and tilt functions with proportional control of boom extension, turret slewing and attachment circuits through thumb-operated rotating switches.

*The new range is as follows:*

All but the 10 metre model, (which has 5,000kg lift capacity) offer a 3800 kg maximum lift capacity and can raise a 2,500kg load to full lift height. This is a significant improvement over its predecessors and, say Merlo,

most competitors. All machines are fitted with a 74.9 kW turbo Deutz engine, full 'Load-Sensing' hydraulic systems and hydrostatic transmissions. The 'S' models also feature the company's hydro pneumatic suspension, permitting a 40 km per hour top travel speed.

The new booms retain all telescope components internally within the base section, protecting the components from damage and benefiting long boom lift capacities. The company says that other benefits include faster telescope speeds and rapid access to the boom telescope mechanism for service or repair.

Merlo says that it has designed the new models to be simpler than the ones they replace, with 415 degree non-continuous rotation and fold down cab controlled outriggers. They are also 50mm narrower for transport and working in tight areas, however the outrigger spread is 220mm greater than the KS models.

| Model  | Max capacity | Max lift height | Capacity at max lift height | Suspension |
|--------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 38.14  | 3800kg       | 13.90m          | 2500kg                      | No         |
| 38.14S | 3800kg       | 13.90m          | 2500kg                      | Yes        |
| 38.16  | 3800kg       | 15.70m          | 2500kg                      | No         |
| 38.16S | 3800kg       | 15.70m          | 2500kg                      | Yes        |
| 50.10S | 5000kg       | 10.40m          | 2500kg                      | Yes        |



*The new small Roto range telehandlers are said to be faster, roomier narrower and less complex.*

*The new wider cab includes one hand joystick control*



*Up she goes - the new Spierings seven axle SK 2400- AT 7 high capacity mobile tower crane.*

## Spierings delivers first seven axle crane...

Spierings, the Dutch based mobile tower crane manufacturer, held a large party in December for its customers to celebrate production of its 500th crane and the unveiling of its new, seven axle SK 2400- AT 7. The first unit was handed over to local crane rental company, Verschoor, which is developing a habit for taking the first units from Spierings.

The SK 2400- AT 7 was announced just over a year ago and was planned with a lifting capacity of five tonnes at 42 metres radius at a hook height of 36 metres, and to take the five tones up to its 56 metres maximum height.

The final calculation and stability testing by Dutch notified body, Aboma/Keboma has confirmed that the crane can in fact lift six tonnes at 42 metres radius with a 38 metre hook height, and to maximum height in winds of up to Beaufort force six. Spierings quickly dubbed it "The crane with the 120 percent load chart", capable, the company says, of replacing a 300 tonne telescopic crane. Maximum lift capacity is 18 tonnes at 16 metres radius.

## ...And delivers its 500th

The second event of the day was the hand-over of the 500th Spierings crane built so far. The crane, a model SK 1265- AT 6, has been sold to crane hirer, RKB of Ridderkerk, which has an all Spierings fleet, having bought its first of 15 units back in 1987. Leo Spierings handed the crane over to 'his first and most loyal customer' Arie Dijkstra, owner of RKB, his wife Anita, their son Erwin and daughter Anita.



*Leo Spierings toasts Arie Dijkstra who holds a photo of the 500th crane with the entire Spierings team, son Erwin is on the far left and his wife, Joke, in the centre*

## Nationwide changes Strategy

Lavendon's Nationwide Access, the UK's largest platform rental company, has announced that it is restructuring its business, moving to what it calls a 'general management structure'. The net effect is that the company will once again combine its sales and operations, creating seven regional self propelled businesses: London East & West, East Anglia, Midlands, South West, North & North East, North West, Scotland & Northern Ireland, plus two for Skylift truck mounted platforms. Each region will have a general manager who will be responsible for sales, fleet management, deliveries and service will report to Nationwide managing director Peter Whittal.

The Nationwide sales and training operations will move into the new Lavendon UK structure, which also includes credit control and human resources. The company says that the overall aim is to simplify the business making Nationwide an easier company for its customers to deal with.

In a separate move Nationwide is also adding 12 industry sector managers who will focus on specific markets. These include: roofing/cladding, steel, media, telecoms, signage, M&E, main contractor, re-hire, local authorities, utilities, major projects and FM. These 'business sector managers' will report to commercial director Peter Douglas along with the two Skylift managers.

# The TruckMat Safety System



## constructive solutions

Deaths caused by falls from trucks in 2001/2002 were only 3 fewer than falls from roofs.



The use of airbags as collective passive fall protection is now incorporated in the Work at Height Regulations (2005).

The TruckMat Safety System is a development of the patented AirMat Safety System which is widely used in the construction industry and is designed specifically to address the issues of falls from height when loading and unloading trucks and trailers or when carrying out high level maintenance.

## Want to know more?

Contact Dave Knapp on 07900 571457

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[www.airteksafety.com](http://www.airteksafety.com)



A Grove YardBoss version of the carrydeck cranes built by Marine Travelift

## Manitowoc buys Shuttlelift

Manitowoc has purchased the designs for the Shuttlelift Carrydeck range of pick and carry industrial cranes from Marine Travelift for an undisclosed amount. Marine Travelift currently builds the cranes under the Shuttlelift name for its own dealers and supplies Manitowoc with branded versions under the Grove YardBoss name. It will

continue manufacturing them until the end of 2007 when Manitowoc will take over, most likely building them at Grove's Shady Grove facility. Manitowoc plans to continue selling Shuttlelift branded cranes through its existing dealer network. Marine Travelift will now focus its effort on its boat and mobile gantry cranes.

## European move

Japanese crane producer Kato is close to finalising an agreement with the Rigo family to establish a new European crane producer called EuroRigo located at an existing Rigo facility, north of Verona. The new business will have a start up capital of €3 million, 80 percent owned by Kato and 20 percent by the Rigo family. Both Rigo and Kato are vague about the exact product line but it is likely to include re-engineered versions of the current Rigo All Terrain cranes.

The new venture will also begin to design new products developed jointly by Rigo and Kato engineers and likely to be marketed under the Kato brand name.

## Universally speaking

Universal Plataformas Aéreas in Spain has been sold to Yardbourne Ltd, owned by Alexander Lawrence Harvey, which purchased the assets of PAS (Powered Access Services) back in 2003. PAS is managed by David Cadman, one of the three directors and a shareholder of PAS Ltd when it went into administration in 2003. Neither Cadman nor Harvey would comment or confirm the news. Conleth Farrell the current general manager of Universal Spain will stay with the business and continue to manage it.

## Kalmar buys CVS

Kalmar Industries - the container handling division of the Finnish Cargotec group is to buy Italian CVS-Ferrari. CVS which made crane carriers now specialises in container handling solutions, acquiring reach stacker company Belotti in 2002. The company has revenues of about €85 million and employs 305; in contrast Kalmar has revenues of around €1.2 billion with around 3,400 employees. Kalmar says that CVS will remain a separate entity within the group. Its reach-stackers are sold in North America under the Taylor brand, under an agreement which dates back six years.



A Ferrari reach stacker



The Staff of the new internet rental auction business [onestophire.com](http://www.onestophire.com)

## On-line bidding for hire rate

Martin Ainscough of Ainscough Crane Hire has launched what he claims is the UK's first on-line hire auction, [www.onestophire.com](http://www.onestophire.com). Customer's enquiries will be sent electronically to suppliers who match the geographical area and product requirement. Suppliers can then choose to bid against each other for the work giving the customer the lowest price available on the day.

[onestophire.com](http://onestophire.com) Ltd is a totally separate business from Ainscough Crane Hire.

"We are not just targeting the plant hire industry but also the labour, car and tool hire industries. In fact, eventually we hope to include anything that it is possible to hire," said Ainscough.

Andy Stafford, a director of the new company added: "This is a totally new concept for the hire industry but we feel there is great potential in the business as it saves customers having to ring around for price and availability and allows suppliers to bid for work based on supply and demand."

## More time to appoint persons

The UK based CPCS card scheme has extended the 'Assessed Route of Entry' for experienced Appointed Persons following lobbying from the crane industry.

This means that anyone with suitable experience has a further six months to sit the test to obtain a blue 'competent' appointed persons card without having to attend a full training course.

After 1 July 2007 a full training course must be undertaken and will result in the issue of a red card simply stating that the person has been trained. They then need to pass the test to qualify for a blue card. The candidate may also add Crane Supervisor to the blue card - providing they are sufficiently experienced, have an employer endorsement, and hold a slinger/signaller card.

The experienced route to a crane supervisor card deadline passed in October and is not being extended. Trevor Gamble, chairman of CPCS said: "The extension will allow candidates enough time to take any refresher training and pass the test."

## Liebherr reaches twin landmarks

Liebherr recently delivered its 1,000th 55 tonne LTM1055-3.1 All Terrain crane to Polish family-owned crane rental company Warylo. The three axle crane was unveiled in 2001 as the LTM 1055/1, and is now one of the company's most popular models with more than 200 units shipped a year.

### ...and the 20,000th EHINGEN crane

Liebherr has also delivered its 20,000th EHINGEN-built crane - a 100 tonne LTM 1100-5.2 - to Hovago, the Dutch based crane company. Liebherr Werk EHINGEN was established in 1969 to produce the company's mobile and crawler cranes previously built alongside its tower cranes in

Bieberach. The EHINGEN facility was intended not just to add capacity for growing mobile crane sales, but also to become the group's 'competence centre' for mobile cranes.

*Hans-Georg Frey (L) presents the 20,000th crane to Doron Livnat of Hovago: L-R Hans-Georg Frey, Marianne Livnat, Doron Livnat, Dr. Ulrich Hamme, Mario Trunzer and Dr. Hubert Hummel,*



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## Interim president at JLG

Following its acquisition of JLG, Oshkosh has appointed its executive vice president and chief financial officer Charles L. Szews as the interim president of JLG. Szews will lead the integration of JLG into Oshkosh as well as continuing in his current capacity.

(See our interview with Szews - face to face page 45)



Charles Szews

## New Links

Access Link - the group of independent access rental companies that combine to offer a service throughout the UK and Ireland - has appointed two new members: Peter Hird, the Hull-based crane and access rental company and High Level Platforms based in Wareham near Poole in Dorset.

Hird has a fleet of more than 200 lifts and covers the north east of England while High Level Platforms has a fleet of 50 lifts ranging from a 19ft Genie scissor up to the 51ft Genie Z51/30J boom lift and will cover the Dorset and Hampshire area. High Level also says it has placed significant machine orders for 2007 delivery, including the GS5390, 50ft rough terrain scissor and 60ft Genie Z60/34 articulated boom.

## Orangutan reduces maintenance costs

The cost of wind turbine maintenance looks set to fall with a new lifting device called Orangutan. If successful, the device will reduce the cost of using large cranes and platforms to maintain the growing number of wind turbines.

Designed by Aberdeen-based Oreada, the lifting device is being further developed with a £2 million boost by ITI Energy. Orangutan consists of two friction clamps connected by a hydraulic structure that allows a caterpillar-like motion as it climbs the wind turbine mast. The device has the capacity to also carry the required maintenance tools.

Maintenance is a significant part of the overall cost of energy from wind and both crane and aerial lift companies have designed large machines specifically for this market. However they are expensive and cannot be used in high wind conditions. The Orangutan lifting device claims that it can overcome these problems.

While using the device on land could save costs, the company says the real commercial benefits will be offshore, where using cranes or big truck or track mounted aerial lifts is even more complicated.

The wind farm industry is currently growing at around 20 percent a year. At the start of 2006 it is thought that there was 35 gigawatts of installed capacity globally, expected to rise to 90GW by 2010, with more than 40,000 operating turbines worldwide.

## New Owner at Mateco

Odewald & Compagnie, a Berlin based private equity company has acquired a majority stake in Mateco the second largest powered access rental company in Germany from previous owner Hans Peter Kauderer. Mateco has revenues of around €45 million.



The new Bil-Jax SLT-3632T

## Fits the Bil

Bil-Jax the Archibold, Ohio based manufacturer of scaffold products and trailer lifts has unveiled its first self-propelled telescopic boom lift. The 36ft SLT-3632T is the first in a series of up to six models the next

of which says the company will be a 45 foot model. The unit is self propelled only in the stowed position and must set its outriggers before the boom is raised. Top speed is four miles per hour. Features include 4x4 drive, articulated axles and auto-levelling. Bil-Jax hopes that a wider product range will make it a more attractive line for new distributors - particularly helpful for its planned entry into the European market.

## SkyKing delivers first GSR E228TJ

Powered access equipment hirer EPL Access has taken the first GSR built SkyKing E228TJ truck-mounted telescopic boom lift in the UK. Mounted on a 7.5 tonnes Iveco 75E17 chassis, the E228TJ offers a 22 metre working height and 17.7 metres of outreach coupled with a 280kg payload.

"Although we operate a number of other 22metre working height platforms, the E228TJ provides almost a metre more outreach without comprising on safety or stability," said EPL's business development manager Danny Cooper. "We also liked the fact that even when narrow jacked it can still provide a very useful 10metres of outreach and single sided jacking for the most awkward or confined spaces."

EPL has purchased the first Skyking E228TJ truck mount in the UK



## UK access companies call for Harnesses in Booms

A meeting of the combined CPA and IPAF Powered Access Interests Group met on December 18th, to agree a high level campaign to encourage harness use in boom lifts. Launching the new Clunk Click campaign the group called on the HSE and major contractors to support the wearing of harnesses and

short lanyards in boom lifts, moving it effectively towards becoming a mandatory requirement.

(Read full report on page 39).

IPAF has printed enough stickers for every boom in the UK and Ireland



# A new high

The tallest wind turbine ever with a 160 metre hub height and 205 metre blade tip height was erected near Cottbus, Germany in December. The huge structure was erected by a 750 tonne Liebherr LG 1750, eight axle lattice boom mobile crane owned by Nolte crane rental of Hanover. Initially Rigged with a 91 metre main boom, the heavy lift crane placed lower segments of the windmill's tower, some weighing as much as 100 tonnes. A 77 metre luffing jib was then added to place the upper tower segments.

The same boom and jib configuration was then used to lift the 2.5 megawatt turbine house into position on top of the tower. The housing with hooks and lifting tackle exceeded 61 tonnes and was lifted at a radius of 35 metres.



The Liebherr LG1750 truck crane lifts the nacelle into position over 160 metres up

In order to reach the highest point required to assemble the rotor hub and the 111 tonnes of blades, the LG 1750 had to be reconfigured with an additional seven metres of luffing jib, taking it to 84 metres. This was the first time the crane had been rigged to such a height, providing a 174 metre hook height.

## New owner for Alimak Hek

European private equity firm Triton has acquired mast climber and hoist supplier Alimak Hek. The firm focuses on investing in market-leading companies in the Nordic and German speaking areas of Europe and has more than €1.7 billion of invested funds. It paid owners Ratos and 3i SK2.2 billion (£162 million) for the company.

Petter Arvidson, president and CEO of Alimak Hek

said: "Alimak Hek has enjoyed a tremendous development over the past four years and now has a very strong platform for further profitable growth".



## Speedy alliance

Speedy Lifting, the material handling division of Speedy Hire, has agreed a strategic alliance with GGR-Unic, the European master distributor for Unic mini cranes. The deal will see all of Speedy Lifting's 70 locations - including the Lifting Gear Hire outlets acquired in late 2006 - offer its customers mini cranes and vacuum handling equipment from Unic-GGR. To cope with demand GGR-Unic is increasing its UK mini

crane rental fleet to over 50 units and expanding its two premises in Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire and Manchester. Claudio Veritiero, managing director of Speedy Lifting, said: "As pressure for tower crane time on site increases, added to the focus on removing manual handling where possible, we are seeing demand for machines that can operate where access and working space are restricted."



Speedy and Unic-GGR have teamed up to offer mini cranes to a wider customer base

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**Hyva takes Amco Veba**

The Hyva Group of Alphen aan den Rijn, Holland has acquired Amco Veba of Poviglio, Italy. Hyva, a €200 million business, whose largest shareholder is 3i, owns Kennis, the Budel based loader crane producer which at one time was teamed up with Effer. Amco Veba not only produces its own range of loader cranes of up to 85 tonne/metres but also owns Ferrari which has traditionally built smaller articulated loader cranes. The combined loader crane production



An Amco Veba 936 crane

capability of the merged business could approach 4,000 units in 2007, putting the company among the top half dozen producers worldwide.

**Tadano-Faun planning innovative Bauma.**

Tadano-Faun has confirmed that it will show its new 360 tonne ATF 360g-6, 90 tonne ATF90G-4, 50 tonne ATF50G-3 and a new 40 tonne ATF40G-2. along with its new GR-550EX Rough Terrain crane and its HK40 commercial mount truck crane. It is also teaming up with KranXpert to offer an easy to use lift planning programme that includes the full load charts and specifications of over 240 cranes, allowing a crane rental company to easily select the best crane for the job from a wide range of new and older crane types.

**New Haulotte telehandlers**

Haulotte will unveil the first two models in its Top Lift telescopic handler range - the four tonne capacity, 17 metre HTL440-17 and the 3 tonne capacity, 14 metre HTL30-14 - at Bauma in April. It claims that its all new designs will 'revolutionise this competitive market'. Haulotte is giving away no details prior to the show but does say that the new models will lead in terms of compact dimensions, noise and CO2 levels and cab comfort.

The units will be produced at the company's new plant in Spain with deliveries beginning by mid year.

**Valla moves into Middle East**

Valla Cranes UK owner Peter Hird has established a new venture, Valla Cranes (Middle East) LLC, in partnership with unnamed local investors. The company will cover Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Yemen, Egypt and Kuwait, in addition to the United Arab Emirates which Valla Cranes UK already covers. Peter Hird said the intention is to expand from its base in the UAE by adding three locations offering sales, support and training back-up for the full range of Valla cranes.

**New Telescopic IGO from Potain**

Potain will show an innovative new all lattice IGO self erecting crane at Bauma. The new crane will lift its own counterweight into place when removed and can add its own additional sections to its telescopic tower. More details in the March C&A.

**First Glimpse -1,200 tonne Liebherr LTM11200-9.1**

A highlight of Liebherr's stand at Bauma will be the new LTM11200-9.1 the nine axle All Terrain with a 100 metre eight section main boom. More in our March issue:

*The new Liebherr 1,200 tonne LTM11200*





## PASMA lifetime achievement awards

PASMA - the prefabricated access suppliers' and manufacturers' association - has for the first time ever, presented lifetime achievement awards to three of its longest serving members. At a recent award ceremony at its council meeting, Ken Richardson and Tony Williams were both presented with the award in recognition of their services to PASMA and the industry. Brian Madden of UpRight Ireland, unable to attend the ceremony, was presented his award at his retirement party in Dublin a few weeks later.

Ken Richardson, still an active member of the PASMA council has been in the industry for 43 years and a member of the association since its inception in 1974. Tony Williams has also been in the industry for more than 40 years but has recently stepped down from an active role in the association.



Tony Williams receives his award from PASMA chairman Brian Houston

Brian Madden headed up the engineering efforts at the Dublin-based producer of Instant, UpRight and Zip-Up towers and systems for as long as most can remember is retiring after 40 years with the company.

The awards at the council meeting were presented by PASMA chairman Brian Houston.



Brian Houston (L) presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to Ken Richardson

## IPAF confirms Europlatform

The International Powered Access Federation (IPAF), is to hold Europlatform - a pan-European access conference in partnership with Access International on 11 September 2007 at the Ramada Plaza hotel Basel, Switzerland. The one-day conference will be dedicated to access platform safety and rental management issues, with presentations aimed at executives, senior managers and owners of access rental companies and training providers.

"Europe's access rental business is in a process of high-speed evolution," said IPAF managing director Tim Whiteman. "Europlatform is a superb opportunity for senior management to get the latest information on safety and management issues for that vital competitive edge."

## Skyjack and hydraulic division form new Linamar group

Linamar, the owner of Skyjack, has converted its hydraulic components production business into a new Fluid products division, which will be part of a new Industrial Group with Skyjack its principal customer. The aim is to strengthen sales to external customers in the agricultural, drilling/mining, material handling,

construction and industrial equipment markets. The company named Ken McDougall, currently vice president of operations for Skyjack as group president of the new Group, which is largely Skyjack. Lloyd Spalding, previously group president-industrial, continues as president of Skyjack.

## Bircham Newton loses appeal.

The CITB has lost its planning permission appeal to build 225 houses at its Bircham Newton training centre. The intention was to use the funds raised from the development to fund redevelopment of the National construction industry training college which is badly in need of upgrading, expansion and improvement. The college now says that it has exhausted all methods of raising funds and may have to close if around £14 million cannot be found.



Allen Access has just moved into new premises which includes these offices and workshop

## Allan Access gets a lift

Allan Access has been appointed as Bluelift distributor for the UK. Italian-based Bluelift is a relative newcomer into the access market, but now offers a range of seven spider lifts with working heights from 12 – 21 metres.

At the SAIE show in October the company launched a 16 metre compact with almost eight metres of outreach on a 780mm wide chassis. While new to the market a sister company has years of experience in the production of crane and aerial lift fabrications for other manufacturers. It has used this knowledge to produce some exceptionally well designed and built lifts.

Phil Allan, managing director of Allan Access told C&A that the first units ordered for stock should arrive at the end of February/early March. Allan Access, which also handles Nifty vehicle mounts, Socage truck mounts and Altec insulated booms, has recently moved into larger premises on the outskirts of Market Harborough, Northamptonshire.



Bluelift at the recent SAIE show in Bologna

## UpRight reveals strategies

UpRight's new UK production facility in the north east hosted about 100 distributors recently to discuss the company's longer term plans and strategies. Over three days, distributors learned of additions to the current production line-up, increased production to reduce lead times and improved parts and service.

The company says that it is in the final stage of negotiations on two potential production facilities in the USA, with work on the chosen site commencing soon.

A full line-up of medium to large self propelled booms for the worldwide market will be produced at the new plant, primarily for the domestic American market.

Darren Kell, CEO of UpRight's new owner, Tanfield, said: "Our business has grown rapidly in line with our strategic plans, and now is the right time to launch full line production in North America. This will be a large factory that is capable of producing significant numbers of larger, high quality booms alongside our high volume scissor lifts."



Tanfield has big plans for UpRight which it discussed with dealers at its new facility in December

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• **Joe Collinson**, a well known, respected and popular service engineer working with JLG, Nationwide and APS, suffered a fatal heart attack just before Christmas. He was 55.



The late  
Joe Collinson

• **John Jennings MD of Clements Plant & Tool** of Coventry has completed an MBO acquiring the business from the Deeley group. He becomes chairman and is joined by **Jim Longstaff** as MD and an investor.

• **Fraco**, the Canadian based mast climber manufacturer has opened **Fraco (UK) Ltd** in Hampton Middlesex. It is managed by **Ken Beesley** who also owns a minority shareholding.

• **Manitowoc Crane Group** has announced record revenues, earnings and cash flow for 2006 sales jumped 38 percent to \$2.2 billion.

• **Merlo UK** has appointed two new construction dealers - **Clive Barford Ltd** with six outlets from Cornwall to Kent and new company, **Professional Machinery Solutions** of Aldermaston

• **PopUp** has launched the **PopUp+** with a metre more working height than the original model.

• **Palfinger**, the loader crane producer has announced record revenues and earnings for 2006 with revenues up 12.5 percent and earnings up 18.2 percent.

• **Caterpillar** achieved new records for 2006 achieving \$41 billion in sales and expects to exceed \$50 billion by 2012.

• **Manitou** has announced revenues for 2006 of €1.1 billion, an increase of 14.5 percent on 2005, a new record.

• **Dino Lift** has demerged into two new companies, **Dinolift Oy** the operational business and **Dino Lift Premises Oy** which will own the real estate.

• **PAT-Krueger** parent **Hirschmann** has been acquired by **Belden** cable from previous owner **Hg Capital**

• **Unic Cranes Europe** has appointed the access equipment manufacturer the **Clow Group** as its distribution and rental partner in Scotland.

• **Harsco**, owner of **SGB** has approved a two for one stock split.

• **Orlaco** the Dutch based crane boom camera company has appointed **Cranesafe** as its UK distributor.

• **Maxim Crane** has approved a share repurchase programme to build shareholder's equity.

• Congratulations to **Gill Riley** and **Craig Parkin** who were married on December 8th.



Gil & Craig

• New regulations are being drawn up for the erection and dismantling of tower cranes in **Bahrain** following a tragic accident last month at a Bahrain City Centre site.

• **Airtrax**, the omni-directional fork-truck maker, has said that it is due to begin testing the prototype of its **King Cobra** self propelled scissor lift.

• **James Woodward** previously chief financial officer of JLG has joined mining company **Joy Global**

• **Penny Hydraulics** is set to launch a new one tonne crane at the CV show.

• Irish fencing and scaffolding group **Siteserv** has reported €2.6 million profits and acquired **Easy Access** for a maximum of €23 million.

• **Youngman** has joined **OSEM** the system scaffold organisation whose aim is to curb the copying and mixing of scaffold components.

• **Konecranes** is to start manufacturing straddle carriers based on the system developed by **Consens Transport Systeme**.

• **Snorkel** has appointed **Roman Heindl** to head up its European product support efforts.



Roman Heindl

• **Southern Hoists Services** has opened a new depot in West London.

• **Tanfield** states that its **UpRight** business will soon be building 100 lifts a week as it continues to ramp up its new UK plant. It also announced £14 million orders in one week, at the end of January

• **SGB Access** has been awarded a new scaffolding contract for the British army worth in excess of £2million.

• **Kingfisher Access** is providing a free harness, helmet, safety glasses and Hi-Vis vest on its **IPAF** courses.

• **AFI** has taken delivery of 60 **PopUp** push around scissor lifts and ordered 10 **Snorkel AB60** articulating boom lifts.

• Spanish rental company **GAM**, has placed an order for 600 **Haulotte** aerial lifts for delivery in 2007.

• **Frank Bernhard**, previously sales manager with **MAN Wolffkran**, has joined **KSD**, producer of **Pekazett** cranes.

• **Tat Hong Holdings** - the Singapore-based crane rental company - has announced a new tower crane joint venture in China.

• **Manitowoc Crane Group** has appointed **Bob Hund** as the new vice president of worldwide marketing.



Bob Hund

• Finnish-based **Cramo** group has acquired **Hamar Lifttulleie** an access rental company based in **Hamar Norway**.

• **Spain Crane** has won the **Unic Cranes Europe** dealer of the year award for 2006.

• **Hyva** the Dutch based group that owns **Kennis** loader cranes has completed its acquisition of **Amco-Veba** following approval by the EU anti competition authorities.

• **Fernando Bazo** the international sales manager has left **ADI**, the used platform company and moved to **RSC** one of the largest rental companies in North America.

• **Colin Robertson** has resigned as executive VP of operations of **Terex**

• **Malcolm Bowers** and son **Ben** have established their new aerial lift rental business, **Lifterz Ltd**, in **Ossett, West Yorkshire UK**.

• **Bernie Kiebosch** of **Haulotte Australia** has taken over as president of the **Elevating Work Platform Association of Australia**.

• The **Hire Association Europe (HAE)** has named **Graham Arundell** as its new managing director.

**Hiab** has won a €30 million service contract with the **Dutch Army**.

• **Terex** is to spend \$200 million on a share buy back programme. It has also appointed **Robert G. Isaman** as president of **Terex Construction**.

• North American crane hirer **All Erection & Crane Rental** is adding 150 new cranes to its fleet.

• **Skyjack's Brad Boehler** has been appointed to chair the **ANSI A92.6** sub-committee

• **Lifting Solutions**, the **Thurnscoe** - based company has moved to new premises and is 30 years old.

• **Finning International** expects 2007 revenues to increase by up to 10 percent above 2006 with net income up 16 percent.

• Scaffold and formwork company **Peri** has opened a design and sales support office in **Bristol**.

• **Terex** has sold its South African distribution business to **Imperial Holdings of South Africa**.

• **Kohlberg Kravis Roberts** and **Siemens** plan to sell their 33.2 percent stake in **Demag Cranes** worth €245 million.

• **Haulotte** exceeded €500 million in revenues in 2006, an increase of 34 percent on 2005.

• **Versalift**, the vehicle mounted aerial lift producer is expanding its field service and in-plant refurbishment capacity.

• **Brand Energy & Infrastructure Services**, the largest provider of scaffolding services in North America is to be bought for \$1.1 billion (£580 million) by a private equity firm.

• **Hewden Access** has implemented a 100 percent testing and recording regime for cables and chargers on electric scissor lifts to meet **PAT** rules.

• Ipswich-based **Sky High Access** hoist division has taken the UK's first five metre platform conversion kit for the **Geda 1500 Z/P**.

• A crane-safety conference following the **Seattle** crane collapse has agreed steps to improve safety and restore confidence.

• The **Greater London Authority** is pressing ahead with its plans to demand the fitting of diesel particulate filters on construction equipment. The UK's **CPA** has published a helpful guide.

• **High Level Platforms** of **Wareham**, has joined the UK's **Access Link**.

• **Lavendon** has issued its trading statement indicating an increase of 23 percent on 2005.

• **Andy Wright**, previously with **Aggreko** is to join **Lavendon UK** in January.

• Around 1,500 visitors joined **Spierings**, the **Oss**-based mobile crane manufacturer, to celebrate the unveiling of its latest model and the completion of its 500th crane.

• The draft order that clarifies which equipment can use **red diesel** in the UK was laid before parliament yesterday.

• **Bob Buijsten** has left **Spierings** to join his family's crane rental company **Kuiphuis Kraanverhuur**.



Bob Buijsten

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