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## On the cover:

Construction of the massive Mittal Orbit structure designed by Anish Kapoor which will be the centrepiece of London's Olympic Park. At 115 metres high it will be the tallest sculpture in Britain and some 22 metres higher than New York's Statue of Liberty. Completion is scheduled for this Spring.



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The C&A review of 2011



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United acquires RSC, Lavendon rebrands in the UK, €40 million order for Liebherr, MSD Cranes restructures, Marchetti appoints UK/Ireland dealer, Bravi launches Spin-Go, IPAF to collect accident data, Welsh company appointed Sany distributor for UK, JLG to launch crush protection technology, Boels acquires Baurent and Warmerdam, Multitel spiders for Gardemann, UK Tower Crane register could go, Riwal restructures in Spain, Elev8 orders 50 metre Bronto, Sterling Crane to acquire Freo, ATN hits the majors, Ramirent acquires in Sweden, Kobelco launches new S series crawler cranes, New 12 tonner from Valla, R&B Engineering appoints European distributor and much more.....



Rental rate  
survey 17

A year ago the annual Cranes & Access rental survey reported on a bloodbath in the crane and access market, while telehandlers had hit rock bottom. Thankfully the latest survey covering 2011 reveals not only an improvement in rates - particularly with telehandlers and access equipment - but other encouraging signs for the year ahead.

Heavy lift 29



Heavy lift is one area where clients and lifting contractors work closely together and where price is not the final arbiter. 2011 saw a spate of new 'super heavy lift' product launches aimed specifically at saving both time and money on the largest projects. Here we review some of the most recent additions.

In the next C&A

In the next issue of Cranes & Access our February 2012 we will feature Self-Propelled boom lifts, Batteries, All Terrain cranes, the first Intermat preview, the IPAF summit, ARA review and Used equipment.

Truck mounted  
lifts 37

Over the past year or so there have been several interesting additions in the 3.5 tonne truck mount sector from the unusual - CTE 20.13MP and Cela DT21/24 - to the 'has it gone too far' 26 metre articulated CMC 260 and 27 metre Ruthmann TB270. All of these new machines



offer advantages in one area or another BUT so far have only captured a relatively modest slice of the 3.5 tonne market. We take a look at the new additions to the self-drive sector and ask are they too radical for their own good?

The Cranes &  
Access review  
of 2011 45

As we predicted 2011 was a far better news year than the previous two, for the industries we cover, with companies bouncing back into profit and rental rates moving steadily towards more sustainable levels. Here we take an extensive look back at 2011 - it wasn't all bad...

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# cranes & access

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**c&a**  
comment



## The pendulum effect

The social and business attitude of a country tends to follow the pendulum principal, oscillating between the State and the market. In Europe it has been acknowledged that state protection has

gone beyond what is affordable and is likely to be rolled back if we are to remain competitive on a global basis. This attitude is already starting to have an effect on attitudes regarding excessive Health & Safety regulation.

A recent UK government review has recommended a substantial cut in the number of regulations. It also suggests a shift in the way the HSE prosecutes companies following an accident, giving more credence to companies that have done all they possibly can to avoid an incident. It also identifies a much bigger problem where EU regulations are misunderstood and applied inappropriately or excessively. To maximise its effect the HSE will be "re-directing enforcement activities towards businesses where there is the greatest risk of injury or ill health" – i.e. the construction industry.

Last month my comment focussed on anti-crushing devices for boom lifts demanded by a UK contractor, frustrated with an industry it sees as dragging its heels over a statistically rare occurrence. A far more statistically common incident involves the overturning of cranes and some lifts with outriggers.

An example of this occurred at the Tate Modern TM2 site in London in December. Unusually the contractor that hired the crane issued a statement and guidance for site staff, subcontractors and suppliers. While it clearly states that human error was the main contributing factor (entering the wrong amount of counterweight into the load moment indicator?) the company says that it "intends to discuss with the HSE changes required in the regulations to enforce the requirement for ballast sensors on all mobile cranes".

Hopefully a more enlightened HSE will not get involved in 'regulatory changes' when all that's required is for contractors to pay a sensible rental rate for an impeccably maintained, right-sized crane with a well-trained, highly skilled operator and to respect his judgement. Uneconomic rental rates and a lack of respect for the professionalism of crane operation – hirer and operator – is the cause of far more incidents than any lack of regulation.

Our annual rental rate survey on page 17, while very encouraging, highlights uneconomic rate levels for many machines.

Hopefully 2012 will be the start of a move to a more sensible workplace, with each person taking responsibility for his/her own actions – and not trying to blame others, the employer or the equipment.

Happy New Year!

Mark Darwin

Please mail, email or fax any comments you may have, to the editor, stating if we may publish them or not.

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