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On the cover:

The first Genie S-3800 shipyard boom lift in Europe has been purchased by German rental company Willenbrock Platforms and is working for BLG Logistics Wind Energy in Bremerhaven.



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Bauma preview



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Wilbert enters administration, IPAF issues first year accident reports, Palfinger unveils biggest knuckle boom, Manitowoc and Shantui form JV, Tadano Faun ATF180G-5 ready for Europe, Sogage unveils 28 metre truck mount on 3.5 tonne chassis, Death Wish of the Year, Terex reshuffles management team, Helicopter crashes into tower crane, APS to distribute X-Step, Terex launches Quadstar 1100RT Rough Terrain crane, Bluelift to unveil new 18 metre spider, GGR to distribute Cormidi, Financial round up and news highlights.



Self-propelled
booms 17

For many years, the self-propelled boom sector has seen few major developments which differentiate new models from the old. Recently however there have been several exciting new product launches and new entrants that look set to re-ignite the sector. Cranes & Access investigates...

Spider cranes 27

The growth of the spider crane has perhaps been restricted by lack of awareness and the generally slow adoption of new ideas by the construction industry. Little by little this is changing as the number of units in rental fleets is on the increase again in many countries. We take a look at the market and new products.



Bauma preview 35

This year's Bauma - the 30th international trade fair - will be its biggest show to date with more than 570,000 square metres of exhibition space and over 3,300 exhibitors attracting more than half a million visitors. Our coverage is the first of a two part look at the new products that will be on display.



Batteries 43

Our annual look at the deep cycle battery market considers which manufacturers are worth considering and stresses the money that fleet owners can save from having a decent sourcing and maintenance programme. We also take a look at the uptake of lithium battery technology.



Harnesses 47

In this introductory feature covering harnesses and personal safety equipment, Ed Darwin takes a look at the basic selection process for personal fall protection following the completion of an IPAF Harness Safety Course.

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With Brazil hosting the 2014 football World Cup and the 2016 Olympics, Cranes & Access takes a look at this rapidly growing economy and why it is attracting so much interest from crane and access manufacturers.

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In the next C&A

In next month's issue of Cranes & Access we take a look at electric scissor lifts and big telescopic cranes. We will also feature our second preview of the new products that you can expect to see at Bauma 2013.

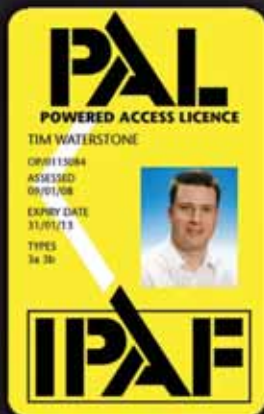
Always try to do what you cannot do, in order that you may learn how to do it

- Anon

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c&a
comment



To copy or not

With events such as Bauma China at the end of last year and Bauma 2013 in Munich this April, hundreds of thousands of visitors have the opportunity to view the very latest offerings from the major equipment manufacturers. The largest Chinese producers have an eye on world

domination, while other 'Bric' countries look at how they can join the party. Meanwhile established western producers attempt to find decent footholds in the local Chinese market in order to maintain their global positions.

At Bauma China it was difficult to avoid a negative first impression faced with what looked like local copies of US and German products - "Is that another P-Boom or an LTM11200 copy?" Wherever you looked it seemed that local producers had slipped back to the stereotypical art of copying western designs.

However on closer inspection this was not the case. What initially looked like a Sany copy of Grove's unique GTK telescopic tower crane was, on closer inspection a similar concept with a vertical telescopic tower topped by a telescopic boom, but the whole approach was different. Likewise the 'copy' of Liebherr's P-Boom turned out to be a mix of a twin boom topped with a P-boom-type concept.

But when is it a copy and when not? The fact remains that almost every manufacturer has copied or adopted a basic concept at one time or other. Everyone does or progress would be sclerotic. For example Selma Manlift introduced the first self-propelled scissor lift, the concept was quickly adopted - or copied - by others. Austin Western introduced a swing cab Rough Terrain crane and within a year or so Grove introduced a similar product in that it was a Rough Terrain crane with a superstructure mounted cab. The same concept, but was it a copy?

On the other hand we have also all seen blatant copies, including companies which have included the original design errors in the copied products. Bauma China had its fair share of these, largely - although not entirely - found among the smaller access equipment manufacturers, some of whom even used the Genie or JLG photographs in their literature of the machines that they had copied. While such companies are unlikely to stay the course, it is all too easy to brand Chinese manufacturers as copiers when after all they are only doing what other European, Asian and North American companies have already done many times over.

As they say 'Nothing is original' or perhaps as Einstein said: "The secret to creativity is knowing how to hide your sources".

Mark Darwin

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