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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 where the bi-lingual site will guide you to hire companies throughout Europe. www.Vertikal.net/Vermieter

Hewden will focus on smaller cranes going forward



Hewden changes crane strategy

Hewden has announced a new strategy for its crane business which will eliminate cranes of over 100 tonnes from its fleet by October. The company says that it has already put 'partnerships in place for the supply of these larger cranes which will continue to be available on a nationwide basis'.

The new strategy will also see Hewden utilising its overall network of rental outlets in a bid to make cranes more widely available on a local level.

The change in strategy will involve the disposal of nine cranes from its existing fleet of 238 mobiles.

The company will also focus on reducing the age profile of the fleet with the disposal of older cranes and the introduction of new models. As part of this plan it has ordered 10 new Terex-Demag cranes including AC30 City, AC35L, AC55L, AC80-2 and the AC100.

Mark Hierons, Hewden's head of cranes, said: "Our strategy is concerned with improving focus on our core customer offering, enhancing the performance of the business, seeking areas for future potential

investment and improving our operating efficiency within the crane marketplace. As a result of the new strategy, a number of changes in responsibilities and staff reductions will occur."

The changes include the departure of 12 depot managers, 19 hire desk staff and 42 drivers. Three regional operational centres have been established in Edinburgh for the North East of England and Scotland, Castleford for Birmingham and the north, while Heathrow will cover the South of the country. The managers of these centres will take responsibility for the local depots.

Hierons told C&A: "There will be no depot closures, in fact cranes will be based out of more locations". He also said that the crane hire business will not merge with plant and tools, but will be part of the 'One Hewden' strategy and will run from three hire desks instead of twelve. The company says that it is committed to consolidating its position as the number two provider of cranes in the UK and will continue to provide an offering that provides a platform for growth.

Alfons Moog 1952-2006

Alfons Moog, 54, managing director of Moog GmbH, the under-bridge platform manufacturer, was killed on August 16th in a tragic accident on one of his platforms in France. Moog built his first under-bridge unit, the MBI 160-2, in 1980. Since then he has gone on to build an international business based in Deggenhausertal, near Lake Constance, in Germany. The company has over 350 large and highly specialised units at work around the world. Alfons Moog was a tremendously inventive and talented personality, who will certainly be missed.



Alfons Moog

Barclays buys into AFI-UpLift merger

As we go to print, the news came in that Barclays Private Equity has invested £15 million in a new company formed from the merger of AFI and UpLift, both of which are based in Wakefield. The new business will have a fleet of over 3,200 lifts, 17 locations and over 200 employees.

No valuation details on UpLift have been disclosed, nor information given on what share Barclays will hold in the merged business, although it is quoted as 'significant'. UpLift's founders and Joint managing directors, Nick Higgins and Ruairi Duggan, have both joined the board of AFI-UpLift along with the directors of AFI and Steve O'Hare, investment director at Barclays.

AFI is on target to generate revenues of £20 million this year with UpLift adding £5 million.

The merger leapfrogs AFI-UpLift into a clear number two position behind Nationwide. (for full story see *Vertikal.Net*)



Universal enters administration

Universal Aerial Platforms Ltd, the London based powered access rental company, filed for protection against its creditors, with KPMG being appointed as administrator on July 16th. John Ambrose, the founder and his family trusts own almost 60 per cent of the business while 3i the venture capital group owns 25 per cent. The remaining balance is split between Stephen Mann and Tony Dillon. It seems that the company's line-of-sight and mast location service to the telecom sector was largely to blame for

the failure. Steve Walker, who managed that business, departed just before the company entered administration.

Joint administrator, Myles Halley said: "Universal Aerial Platforms' difficulties follow the acquisition of a telecoms business. Turnover did not reach anticipated levels, leading to losses and cashflow problems. No redundancies are currently planned. We intend to trade the business for a period of time whilst options to restructure the business are explored."

Quigley dishes out the blame

Shaun Quigley, managing director of Quigley UK Lifting Services Ltd has written to customers explaining why Quigley United Kingdom Ltd was forced into administration. Reasons range from the unreliability of its fleet, its bank, the slowness of its customers to pay and the Crown refusing to agree to its payment plans. (Sounds like business as usual..ed)

For full story visit <http://www.vertikal.net/en/stories.php?id=2757>

or put Quigley into the search box on *Vertikal.net*

200 tonner for APH

APH Cranes of Lincoln, a subsidiary of Abba Plant Hire which is a member of the John Martin-Hoyes Group, has taken delivery of its largest crane to date, a new 200 tonnes five axle LTM 1200-5.1. The new crane has been ordered with a full spec, including the 'carried extra ballast configuration', 72 metre main boom and 36 metre luffing jib, giving a maximum hook height of 98 metres and up to 80 metres radius where it can lift 1,500kg.



John Martin-Hoyes (L) receives the keys to his new mobile crane from Liebherr's sales manager John MacGregor on the Abba stand at the Lincoln Show

The UpRight AB46HSRT was launched at Platformer days in August



IPS take on UpRight in UK

IPS, the Telford-based parts and service business, has signed an agreement with the Tanfield Group to take over the UK sales and support functions for UpRight Powered Access products. UpRight retains the right to sell its booms and scissor lifts directly to major rental companies and key accounts.

Darren Kell, business development director at UpRight, said: "We see this as a perfect partnership. UpRight is now the UK's leading powered access manufacturer and IPS is the UK's leading independent supplier of spare parts and product support." Tony Jennings, managing director of IPS, said: "We feel that UpRight Powered Access is a strong brand that is really going places and we can work well with its management team."

IPS was founded in January 2002 by Kevin Shadbolt, Rick Mustillo and Tony Jennings. All three have deep connections with the UpRight product range.

Thomas files for protection

Thomas Equipment, the Canadian producer of skid steer loaders, mini excavators and telescopic handlers has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary Thomas Equipment 2004, Inc has initiated court-supervised restructurings and has laid off 141 employees. The company says that the restructuring is designed to provide Thomas Equipment with appropriate financial resources to address short-term needs and successfully execute its longer-term strategic opportunities. Full story on www.vertikal.net

A Tovelizer telehandler acquired by Thomas in 2005



Builder hit for £124,000

Robertson Construction of Elgin, Scotland, was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay £103,975 in compensation to the family of James Weir, 38, who died following a 17 metre fall in July 2002. Weir, a self-employed roofer from East Kilbride, was working on the roof of the new Community School of Auchterarder when he fell through a gap. The contractor had just removed the safety net below, leaving a 17 metre drop. Weir died the instant he hit the ground.

Judge Lord Glennie ruled that the compensation award should be greater than normal because of the close relationship Weir had with his family.

His widow Audrey, 40, was awarded £35,000, while his children Steven and Stacie were each granted £17,000. The balance recognised the contribution Weir made to the family home and to cover the cost of his funeral.

Lord Glennie said: "The couple had been married for some 15 years at the time of his death. On the evidence before me the marriage was a particularly close one, with all of Mr Weir's earnings coming into the family, he kept little for himself."

c&a

news



Kesla has sold its aerial lift business to Nostolift Oy



Tommi Rautavalta (L) managing director of Nostolift

Kesla sells its access business

Kesla Oyj the Finnish based producer of lightweight telescopic self propelled boom lifts has sold its aerial lift business to Nostolift Oy, the Finnish producer of truck mounted aerial lifts. The deal includes designs for all of the company's aerial lifts including the current XS190 and XS240 models, inventory and goodwill.

Production will be transferred this autumn to Nostolift's 2,100 square metre plant in Eura, south west Finland and be rebranded. Nostolift opened its plant in Eura in 2002 and currently builds three models

there - the 23 metre platform height 25 which uses the superstructure from the Kesla XS240, the 35 metre model 35 and the 53 metre model 55. Most of its sales are in Nordic countries, particularly Sweden and Finland. Tommi Rautavalta, MD of Nostolift told C&A that sales of Kesla lifts would move over in September, with production transferring from October 1st.

Jukka 'Jack' Silvennoinen, Kesla's aerial lift sales manager will not be joining Nostolift and will leave Kesla after the transfer is complete.

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The Facelift team took first prize with the Barrel-Picker

The Barrel-Picker takes first

Powered access specialist Facelift Access Hire took first prize in the 'Paddle around the Pier Brighton' charity event in aid of The Rocking Horse Appeal, RNLI and Surf Aid. The company won with its unique raft come platform labelled the Barrel-Picker.

(for full story see vertical.net)

Access Link appoints two new members

Access Link, the national network of independent rental companies, has approved 2 Cousins Access of Oxford and Glo Hire of Dartford in Kent as new members. The companies - together with recently appointed Light Hire of Exeter - help to fill some of the locations lost through the departure of Panther and AMP following their acquisition by the Lavendon Group.

The Platform Company opens in Leicestershire... and Scotland

The Platform Company has opened a branch in Cosby, Leicestershire. The company expects to be running more than 250 machines from the 750 square metre (8,000 sq ft) purpose-built facility by the end of the year.

The company has also ventured north of the Border for the first time, opening its 10th location in Wishaw, south Glasgow. Slightly larger than the branch in Cosby, it will be the home to more than 200 machines over the next four months. Both depots will also be IPAF approved training centres.



The Platform Company now has 10 locations



Higher LPG

Higher Platforms of Cannock, has purchased a number of new lifts for the industrial, handling and storage industries.

The order includes six Genie 3384 propane powered rough terrain scissor lifts. With a 1134kg lift capacity, cleaner LPG power and white non-marking tyres the lifts have been targeted at heavy duty racking installation. Higher Platforms now has more than 40 LPG units - one of the largest fleets in Europe. It also purchased three JLG Liftlux 180-12 electric scissor lifts.

Higher Platforms operates one of the largest LPG access fleets in Europe



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New depots opening...

Youngman opens in Glasgow

Youngman, the alloy tower and ladder producer, has opened a new logistics and training centre near Glasgow. The facility which includes offices, warehouse and a new training centre covers 1,250 square metres (13,500 sq ft) and is sited on the Cambuslang Investment Park, eight miles south of Glasgow centre.

AFI moves into Bridgewater

AFI Aerial Platforms has opened a new South West depot in Bridgewater, Somerset, its 16th location. The new operation opens with a fleet of 120 boom and scissor lifts which, AFI says, it plans to expand significantly over the next 12 months. The depot offers full hire, sales, service and training facilities.

Ainscough opens in Cambridge

Ainscough Crane Hire, the UK's largest crane hire company, has opened its 24th depot in Cambridge - the first all new depot that the company has opened in years. Managed by Bob Harvey, the depot is already open for business with mobile cranes of up to 100 tonnes. Ian Carradice has been appointed as contract lift manager.

Access Rentals opens in Cumbria

Access Rentals has opened a new depot in Tebay, Cumbria, its 10th and the third this year. The company has continued to invest heavily in new equipment - primarily from Haulotte. Mike Wishart, managing director told C&A that the company is looking to add a few more depots and further develop its customer base.

Palazzani launches new Ragno XTJ48

Palazzani has divided its Ragno range of spider type machines into two ranges - the telescopic main boom and articulating jib (TSJ) and the shorter main boom and telescopic jib (XTJ). Palazzani has already shipped the first 'R' wheeled versions of this new model, while the first 'C' crawler models will be available at the end of September.

The first of the new models is the XTJ48 which features a platform height of over 46 metres with 14.5m maximum outreach. The telescopic jib offers up to 4.5 metres of horizontal



The JLG order includes JLG-LiftLux 245-12 heavy duty scissors

A-Plant to spend £80 million

A-Plant, part of the Ashtead Group, has announced that it is doubling its investment in new equipment for 2006/07 to £80 million. Almost half the total has already been committed to 20 manufacturers.

The powered access division is spending a total of £8 million of that and has £1.5 million with Nifty Lift to renew and update its trailer lift fleet and £5.5 million with JLG for booms and scissors. The company says that this year's orders are only the first phase of a three year, £32 million investment to expand and update its powered access rental fleet.



The New XTJ48R



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The new Wolff 4517 City, the first of a new range of Wolff city type tower cranes



The Wolff 4517 City, note the maintenance basket on the hook trolley

Wolffkran launches all - new Flat Top

Wolffkran has launched a new easy to erect flat top tower crane, the 4517 City, to replace the WK 71 SL and the WK 91 SL. The new crane was unveiled at an open day at the company's Heilbronn plant and is the first since the company was bought out from the MAN group by Dr. Peter Schiefer and Dr. Hans-Peter Koller.

The new model is the smallest crane in the company's current product range, but can utilise all of Wolff's latest components. The crane has a maximum jib length of 50 metres and capacity of 6 tonnes. The company says that this is the first of an all-new city crane range.

The key modules on the new crane allow a 4517 City configured with 35.5 metres of height under hook and 45 metre jib length, to be transported on just two trucks. Once on site, the easy-connect electronic components and the new sub assembly design, significantly reduces erection and commissioning times.

The cranes winches are located within the jib structure allowing the crane to be fully reeved while on the ground for greater speed and improved safety. It also acts as a built-in protection guard. An automatic re-reeving device allows rapid switches between two and four fall operations. The seven counterweight sections are all identical eliminating the risk of mixing up counterweights, and each is under three tonnes in weight.

A full erection sequence for the 4517 City can be seen on <http://www.vertikal.net/en/stories.php?id=2756> or type Wolffkran in the search box.

Ashtead buys Nations Rent

The Ashtead Group, owner of A-Plant in the UK and Sunbelt in North America, has acquired Nations Rent, currently the world's fifth largest equipment rental company. Ashtead's bid is worth just over \$1 billion, with a future payment of up to \$89 million, contingent upon Ashtead's share price performance.

The merger has propelled Ashtead into equal second place, roughly level with RSC, both of which are well behind the world's largest rental company United Rentals. Ashtead is raising £150 million through a rights issue with new debt funding the balance. Nations Rent has revenues of \$716 million and a rental fleet worth a \$1 billion dollars at initial purchase prices. The acquisition adds 267 locations to Ashtead's North American coverage, taking it up to 477 outlets. Both companies have extensive powered access fleets.

New 1,000 tonne AT from Terex-Demag

Terex-Demag is developing a new 1000 tonne capacity All Terrain crane. The nine axle, AC1000/9 will be available during the first half of 2008.

Klaus Meissner, Terex-Demag director of research and development, said that the design objective was 'to produce a machine similar to its 700 tonne AC700 - plus 50 percent'. He said that the crane will have a maximum load moment of 3000 tonne/metres and will be designed around the 'boom on concept'. In fact it will be the largest mobile crane that can travel with its boom

in situ, something the company currently claims for the AC700. The main boom length will be 50 metres, with a 100 metre boom option for buyers interested in a 'boom off' version, where the boom is removed for transport. The maximum luffing fly jib will be 126 metres. The nine axle unit will offer 12 tonne axle loads with 16.00 x R25 tyres, the 50 metre main boom and front outriggers installed. The outrigger base will range from 10.0 x 10.0 metres up to 13.5 x 13.5 metres.



The New AC1000/9 will be similar to the AC700 plus 50%

Grove to offer longer boom on new GMK4100

Grove says that it will offer a long-boom version of the new Grove GMK4100 All-Terrain crane that it launched at Intermat earlier this year. The long-boom version will feature a 60 metre seven-section main boom, which will telescope to its maximum length in less than nine minutes. The GMK4100-L, as

it will be called, uses the same 10 to 17 metre swingaway as the standard crane, offering an 83 metre tip height when the five metre insert is added. 12 tonne axle loadings will be achievable with 6.3 tonnes of counterweight, 16.00 tyres and a 20 tonne hook block.



The Grove GMK4100 was announced at Intermat

Boom lift demolishes bridge

A JLG boom lift being transported on an A-Plant low loader caused rush-hour devastation in Plymouth on July 20th when its lower boom hit a footbridge and tore it in two. Drivers and pedestrians watched as a 20 metre section of the bridge in Saltash Road, Plymouth was torn down and dragged more than 50 metres, blocking all four lanes of the road. An 18-year-old woman suffered minor cuts and grazes as the bridge fell, but was the only person injured

in the incident. Plymouth City Council has said the remains of the bridge will be pulled down.



A raised riser brings down the footbridge

Liebherr crane sales top €2 billion

The Liebherr Group has confirmed revenues for 2005 of €5.3 billion, an increase 15.6 percent on 2004. Mobile cranes sales totalled 1,100 units, representing 21 percent of group revenues at €1.14 billion -15 percent up on 2004. The tower crane division, improved 26 percent

to €501 million, while dock, ship and container crane sales increased by 21 percent to €330 million. Crane sales in 2006 are set to easily top €2 billion, (\$2.6 billion) while group revenues are likely to exceed €6 billion.

Paus appoints GGR-Unic crane for UK

Paus, the German based crane and access manufacturer has appointed GGR Glass-Unic as the UK distributor for its Skyworker, self erecting aluminium trailer cranes. GGR launched the Paus line at a series of open days celebrating its 10th birthday on September 14th and 15th. The 1.2 tonne capacity Paus Skyworker has been developed for lifting applications in areas where space or load bearing capacity is severely limited. Its 2.1 metre wide chassis has drive assist for easy manoeuvrability and has a fully equipped GVW of under 3,500 kgs.



The Paus Skyworker trailer crane will be sold in the UK by GGR-Unic

Palfinger sales up 14%

Palfinger, the loader crane producer, has announced record first half revenues of €289 million, up almost 14 percent on the same period last year. Organic growth was just over nine percent with the balance from the Ratcliff acquisition. Net profits rose by 3.4 percent to €28.5 million. The European crane business continues to be the driving force behind the results, but Palfinger says that crane sales and profitability growth and has been restricted by production capacity limitations and material supply bottlenecks.

Hewden slips back

First half revenues at Hewden Stuart were £145 million, marginally down on 2005. Weaker sales were blamed on continued competitive pressures in the UK rental marketplace, lower sales of used equipment (Hewden's big used equipment auction was in July) and a restructuring of the sales force. The restructuring was intended to improve efficiency, but has, the company says, had a short term negative effect on revenues. First half earnings, before interest and taxes, dropped by almost eight percent to around £8.4 million. The decrease is due, says the company, to lower recovery of consumables and fuel costs compared to the same period last year along with increased SG&A costs.

Tadano boosts sales by 14%

Tadano has announced its first quarter results, to the end of June 2006. Revenues increased to 30.7 billion yen (\$265/£140 million) 14 percent up on 2005 with exports representing 40 percent of sales.

Operating income increased by 45 percent to 2.88 billion yen (\$25/£13 million) - nine percent of revenues and net income by 55 percent to 1.98 billion yen (\$17/£9 million). Tadano has revised its estimates for the full year, forecasting revenues to rise by 12 percent and net income by 20 percent to 6.7 billion yen (\$58/£30 million).

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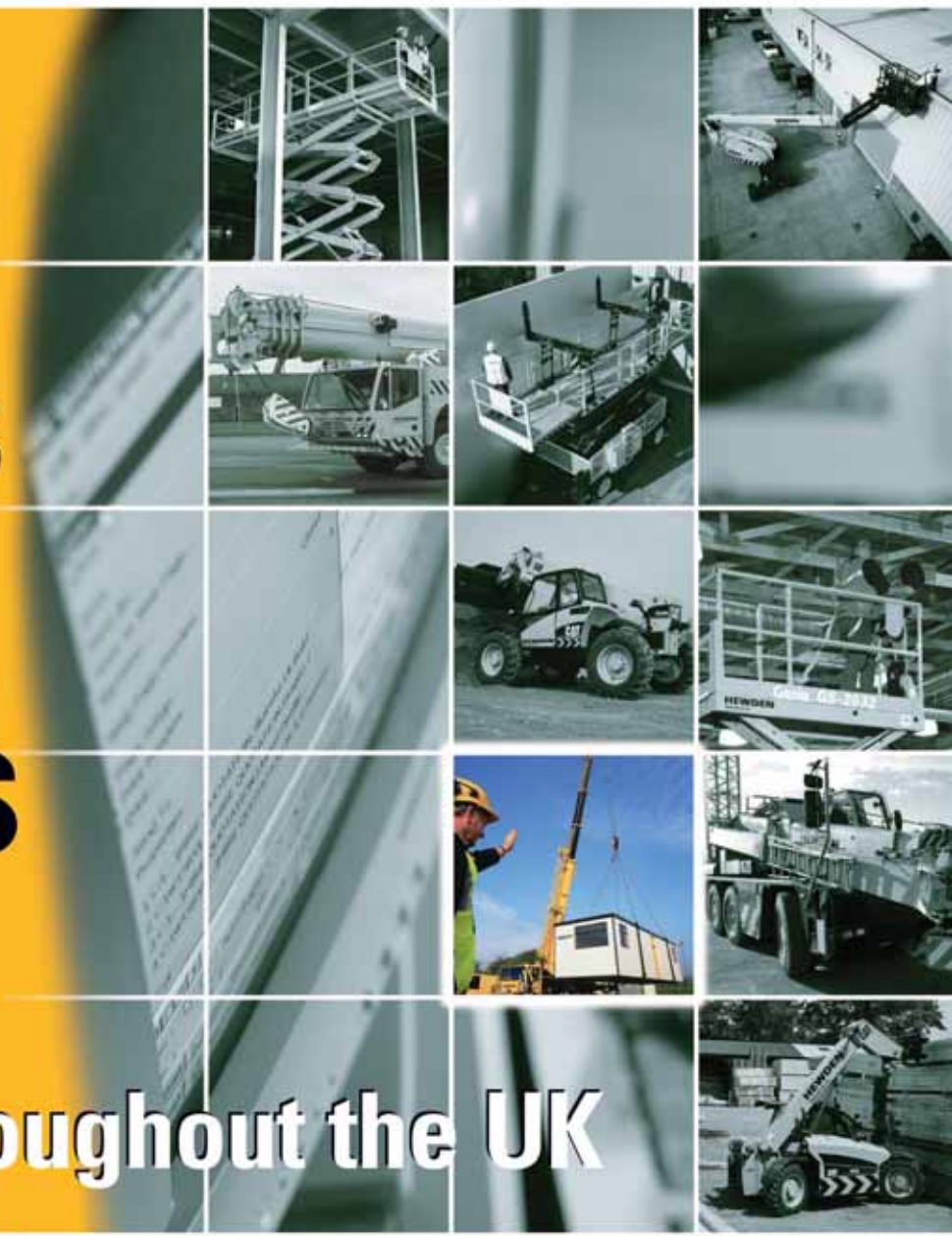
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Ormig's compact new 16 tonne 16TM

New yard cranes launched From Ormig...

Both Ormig and Grove have expanded their ranges of small industrial, pick and carry cranes. Ormig's 16TM is a compact unit that can lift 2.1 tonnes at seven metres radius. With an overall height of 2.37m and a crank angle on the rear steering wheels of 70 degrees, the unit is capable of operating in space restricted areas. The full powered main boom provides a maximum hook height of 12 metres with a 16 tonne maximum lift capacity. Attachments, such as forks, a hydraulic fly jib or a manually offset fly jib can also be added.

And Grove...

Grove has updated and expanded its line of YardBoss industrial cranes. The 20 tonne capacity YB7722 and YB7722XL 'beefed-up' versions of the 18.1 tonne 7720/7720XL models with the same 13.1 metre, three-section and 20.4 metre, five-section booms, plus optional 5.2 metre offsettable jib. The eight tonne YB4409-2 is a new addition to the product line, created by taking the chassis of the 7.7 tonne YB4409 and matching it to the superstructure from the 9.5 tonne YB4411. The three-section 9.5 metre



The new YardBoss 4409

main boom and the offsettable jib provide up to 14.6 metres of reach, which Grove says gives the YB4409-2 a 2.5 metre advantage over its nearest competitor. All three models are built for Grove by Shuttlelift under the OEM agreement that the companies signed in June 2004.

SkillsDirect launched

The CITB and Construction Skills companies have announced a new faster service to obtain the cards that will be required in the UK on all MCG member sites from the end of this year.

The company says that the new service, called SkillsDirect is a one-stop-service, delivering the three key elements of the CSCS card:

- The CITB-Construction Skills Health & Safety Test,
- S/NVQ assessments, where required, and
- The application process.

A national hotline number will, says the company, automatically select the simplest route to qualify and manage callers through the process.

Vertikal hits new record

In spite of the August holidays, or maybe because of them, Vertikal.net posted a new record with 42,626 visitors, from 23,626 different companies (or servers).

Those visitors chalked up almost 1.2 million hits and viewed over 280,000 pages.

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Genie to open Middle East operation

Genie is to set up a sales and support operation in the United Arab Emirates later this year. To date, the company has sold into the region from the UK and locally through Lavendon's Rapid Access, which has operated as a sales agent particularly for end users. The operation will be headed by recently appointed regional sales manager, Brad Abrahams, who is relocating to Dubai.

Falling load costs Contractor £50,000

Surrey-based Gleeson Construction Services Ltd has been fined almost £50,000 after mortar tubs fell from a crane on one of its sites, injuring a worker below. Self-employed Colin Beamish, 48, of St Neots, Cambridgeshire, was working for Gleeson on the site of a new health

centre in Huntingdon when the incident happened on 31 March last year. The crane was being used to lift empty mortar tubs back to the silo for re-filling when they fell and struck Beamish. He suffered three fractures to his C7 vertebra.

McNally takes first Liebherr LTR1100

Windhoist /Dan McNally Limited, the Monaghan, based crane hirer and wind turbine specialist, has taken delivery of the first 100 tonne Liebherr LTR1100 telescopic boomed crawler crane in the UK or Ireland. The new crane will be employed predominantly to erect the large mobile cranes that the company uses on wind farm assembly work, and as an assist crane for tailing in the longer wind turbine elements. McNally has depots in Dublin, Fermanagh and Irvine in Scotland. Windhoist Ltd was established some eighteen months ago as an offshoot to its crane hire business, specialising in the growing market for wind farm installation work which McNally has been involved with since 1998.



The first LTR1100 in the British Isles

Accident triggers recall

A man from Lymm, Cheshire was killed in late August when the jib collapsed on the truck mounted lift he was using for street light maintenance, in Princess Way, Seaforth, Merseyside. The lift - a Versalift VST4000 - was owned by Highland Access. Versalift UK told C&A that it has not yet determined the exact cause of the accident, but as a cautionary measure notified all owners of lifts with a jib of a similar design to take them out of service while it investigated the cause. A total of 18 units worldwide were initially thought to be affected however this quickly reduced to five units, including one which had been scrapped and the accident unit. The remaining three were being inspected as C&A went to press. The lifts affected were all sold between 10 and 14 years ago.



Jim Sutherland (L) and John Morrison directors of SMS Ltd

SMS wins offshore crane contract

Specialist Maintenance Services Ltd has renewed and extended its crane contract with Mobil North Sea Ltd. Under the new contract, SMS takes complete responsibility for Mobil's crane and lifting operations, including onshore management and offshore crane maintenance.

SMS has provided such services on the Beryl platforms in the northern North Sea of the UK continental shelf under an earlier contract. The new agreement extends this to nine, southern North Sea platforms plus three in the Norwegian sector. John Morrison, joint managing director of SMS, said the firm is currently recruiting additional personnel to service the extended contract.

Two men and a dog

Trevor Chinn, Grant Rogers and dog Meg of access company LTC Specialist Scaffold, are walking from Lands End to John O'Groats in Scotland. As C&A went to press, the trio had passed Bristol and were heading towards Shropshire.

Having covered 181 miles in the first 10 days the two were slightly behind their own schedule to complete the charity walk. In total they will cover 1,300 miles (2,100 km) in aid of cancer charities and a local hospice.

If you would like to help by sponsoring them you can reach Katie Chinn on 01752 480400. Or pledge on line via: http://www.justgiving.com/lands_end_to_john_ogroats



Harness could have avoided fatality

A window cleaner died after the truck mounted aerial platform he was using, was struck by a delivery vehicle, his colleague survived. The two window cleaners were working on the façade of the Nord LB bank building in Hanover, from a 7.5 tonne Sigma-telescopic truck mount at a height of around 20 metres when the accident happened.

The impact from the truck caused the platform to tilt sideways breaking a street lamp and hitting a facade in the process. The lift righted itself but catapulted one of the men out of the basket to the ground. The man, a father of 49,

appears to have died on impact. His 24 year old colleague managed to maintain his grip on the guardrails and remained in the basket. He was later rescued by the fire department.

In this particular case if the man had worn a harness he would most likely have survived totally unharmed.



Street crane moves into China

Street crane - the UK based overhead crane and hoist manufacturer - has agreed a licensing deal with Nanjing Hoisting Machinery General Works Company Ltd to produce Street cranes for the Peoples Republic of China. The deal covers the complete line of Street electric overhead travelling cranes from two to 25 tonnes extending to 50 tonnes in 2008/9. A new 145,000 square metre production facility is under construction beside the Yangtze River and will include workshops for machining, hoist assembly, steel structures, motor manufacture and metal treatment.

HSE says cut the paperwork

The Health and Safety Executive has urged businesses to spend more time on putting practical risk assessment actions into effect and less time on paperwork.

To help companies achieve this, it has revamped its risk assessment guide featuring examples that spell out, in plain English, what is and what is not expected. The guidance 'Five Steps to Risk Assessment' has been revised and re-written for normal business people and not just health and safety experts.

The guide is available free online at: www.hse.gov.uk/risk.

Al Laith adds self propelled access rental

Al Laith Scaffolding, the sales and rental company based in Dubai, is entering the local rental market next month and has placed start-up orders for a range of self propelled lifts with heights of up to 35 metres. The purchases include nearly 40 Skyjack scissor lifts, 30 Genie booms and 10 Snorkel straight booms, including the 66ft and the new 85ft models. The balance is split between UpRight AB38 and Nifty Lift HR15 Bi-Energy units. All lifts have been ordered with CE specifications. Initially the company will focus on its home market, Dubai.

Remote control Potain for Chernobyl

A Potain MD 3200 tower crane owned by Kiev-based UTEM is being used for the reinforcement of a collapsing wall at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The crane is lifting steel elements to reinforce the existing wall and roof of Nuclear Reactor Number 4 - the location of the major accident 20 years ago.

The crane's operators are located 100 metres from the reactor and operate the unit by remote control from an anti-radiation shelter. Cameras attached to the crane allow the operators to monitor lifting operations, while feedback screens show the precise position of the load. The MD 3200 travels to and from the power plant wall on a 15 metre wide, 100 metre long track. The MD 3200 has a hook height of 72 metres and can handle up to 80 tonnes on six falls of cable, with a capacity of 39 tonnes at the tip of its 70 metre jib.



From a distance - the Potain MD 3200's operators are in an anti-radiation shelter 100 metres away

- **HTC Plant Ltd**, the Sheffield based tower crane hirer, has received the HealthSure Healthy Workplace award in acknowledgment of its on-going commitment to the health and well-being of its employees.
- **UpRight** Powered access equipment, has appointed **Holger Johan's Powerlift** as the master dealer for its products in Germany.
- **Paul Nolan**, CEO of **HSS** and a member of the 2004 Management Buy In team, has left the company and been replaced by **Chris Davies** who joins the business as CEO.
- **Anthony Lazenby** has joined **Manitowoc** Crane as its sales manager for the states of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland in Australia
- **Alimak Hek** has purchased the rental assets of **Conrent**, the Australian mast climber business, from **Coates Hire Ltd**.
- **Erik Olsson**, chief operating officer of **RSC** has replaced **Tom Zorn** as president and CEO.
- **Finning** has announced that it has sold the business and assets of its UK material handling division to **Briggs Equipment UK Ltd** for around £85 million. Finning says that the Material handling business, which includes Lex-Harvey, no longer fits with its focus on construction and that it will concentrate on Hewden and CAT distribution.
- **Oshkosh Truck** has acquired **Iowa Mold Tooling - IMT**, the American loader crane producer
- **Madame Andréé Braud**, mother of **Marcel Braud**, grandmother of **Marcel Claude Braud**, died earlier this year aged 96. She played a major role in the development of **Manitou**. *See more details of her incredible story on www.vertikal.net*
- **Tat Hong Holdings Ltd**, the Singapore-based crane rental company has announced the establishment of a joint venture crane hire business in China - **Shanghai Tat Hong Equipment Rental Co** its partner is **Shanghai Zhao Mao Mechanical Engineering Co**.

- **JLG** is planning to add four new 1/32 scale models to its current seven model line up. The new models will include one of the first scale models of a trailer lift and a mast type stock picker lift. The new models are: the 860SJ telescopic boom lift; the 10MSP vertical mast stock picker; the T350 TowPro trailer lift and the JLG Lifluxe 260-25 heavy duty scissor lift.



The first JLG scale model - a 60F - is dwarfed by the latest 1:32 scale JLG3394RT scissor lift.

- **Andy Pearson** managing director of AMP Access Ltd of Taunton, completed the UK Iron man Triathlon at Sherborne Castle in Dorset on the 20th August. The event involved a 2.4 mile swim followed by a 112 mile cycle course and a 26.2 mile run. Pearson finished the race in 11 hours 59 minutes, raising over £1,500 in aid of The **Lighthouse Club** (South west).



Iron Man Andy Pearson crosses the line after 140 miles

- **Andie Ross**, a veteran used crane and access trader, and a regular on the auction circuit died in a shooting accident in Scotland on September 2nd, he was 68.
- **Arcomet**, the Belgian based tower crane company, has taken on the distribution of **Potain** tower cranes in Ireland. The agreement covers sales and service of Potain top-slewing and self-erecting cranes.
- **Brian McFarland** has joined **Equipment Parts Wholesale** in Fresno, California, as the new general manager
- **Malcolm Bowers** is joining the **Lavendon** group on the 1st October 2006, as a consultant to 'support' its new regional businesses.
- **Jim Pearson** has been appointed as the operational director for **A-Plant Powered Access**, following **Steve Shaughnessy's** recent promotion.
- **Craig Paylor**, currently responsible for North American sales, marketing and product support at **JLG** has been promoted to senior vice president, marketing, taking on these duties on a worldwide basis...

-At the same time **Timothy Morris** has been promoted to vice president, North American market development and sales, essentially taking over a good portion of Paylor's current role.
- The **Construction Clients' Group** has backed plans by the **Major Contractors Group** to only allow approved card holders on its member's sites from the end of the year.
- One of the oldest active directors in the specialist access world, **Herbert Bird**, chairman of the **Delta Group**, celebrated his 80th birthday in August. His 60 year career was honoured with a celebration at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall.

- **Jonathan Till** of GT access was married on August 19th
- **Manitowoc** has confirmed that it will not proceed with its takeover bid for UK based food equipment company, **Enodis**
- **Tanfield**, owners of **UpRight Powered Access** has appointed **Ken Taylor** as the quality manager for its massive new facility in Washington on Tyneside.
- A crane caused **Tokyo** to lose most of its power supply during the rush hour on August 14th. The crane was being transported by barge down the Kyo Edo river while rigged with 33 metres of boom, when it struck two main overhead cables.
- **Favelle Favco Bhd**, the Malaysian based crane manufacturer was officially listed on the Malaysian stock exchange in mid August.
- **Wolffkran** the tower crane manufacturer has opened a sales and service operation in Sint-Amands, Belgium.
- **Safeworks**, the parent of **Power Climber** and **Spider** has been sold to Wynnchurch Capital Partners, a Chicago-based private equity firm
- A **Unic** mini crane has become embroiled in a local dispute over the safety of Hastings pier in the UK.
- **Ranger Equipment**, the UK distributor for **Teupen** access platforms, has appointed **Jamie Francis**, a qualified tree surgeon, to help promote its product to the arborist market. Ranger has also launched **Ranger Financial Solutions** to assist its customers with funding arrangements.



Jamie Francis

- The **Manitowoc Crane Group's** Asian-Pacific operation in Singapore has relocated to new premises
- **Hire Association Europe's** managing director, **Kevin Minton** has announced his intention to step down from the post he has held since March 2003. He will remain with the association returning to his previous duties.

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