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The Platform Company get into Telehandlers

Powered access company, The Platform Company Ltd, (No 3 in the Cranes&Access UK/Ireland 2005 Top 25) has entered the telehandler rental market with the purchase of 70 new JCB units. The new fleet includes four models from JCB's 'Loadall' range with lift heights from seven metres up to the 16.7metre 540-170.

JCB has been selected as the company's sole supplier, due,

it says to the combination of top design and build quality, backed up with excellent after sales service and support. The telehandlers will be offered from all of the Platform Company's eight locations.

The company expects its existing customers to take advantage of the convenience of using a single source for both aerial lifts and telehandlers. A service it already provides to some key accounts on a

re-hire basis. As part of its move into this market, the company will also offer CITB recognised telehandler operator training courses, through its existing training operation.



Iteco launch new Boom and Scissor lifts

The first of Iteco's new boom lifts the IT50DE, a 50 ft (15.3 metre) platform height articulated model, with both Diesel and battery electric power on board, is currently under construction ready for unveiling at Intermat. (See page 36)

The new boom is a classic dual-riser plus jib configuration, with an overall width of 1.8 metres, lift capacity of 220 kgs, a full 180 degrees basket rotation and a 180 degree rotating jib.

Iteco is also launching an 8 metre, "Off-Slab" compact electric scissor lift, the IT8151. It features an overall width of 1.5 metres, 400 kgs lift capacity, an overall length of 2.6 metres, GVW of 2,900 kgs and greater ground clearance, it is designed for working in outdoor locations around buildings.



The Iteco Off-Slab IT8151 scissor lift

The new Iteco IT50DE



New Tadano Truck crane carrier

Tadano has begun production of its new truck crane carrier in Shido, Japan. The first units, for the 55 tonne GT-55E, were delivered in March. Approximately 100 GT-550E's are scheduled on this carrier for 2006, but it will also be supplied to Tadano's Chinese manufacturing joint venture, BQ-Tadano (Beijing) Crane Co. Ltd., for local production.

As with all Japanese crane producers, Tadano truck cranes have traditionally been mounted on carriers built by commercial vehicle manufacturers such as Nissan and Mitsubishi. Tadano decided to produce its own carrier after Yusoki Kogyo, the subcontractor

to Nissan, Tadano's traditional carrier supplier, stopped production after it was acquired in 2004 by Fuji Heavy Industries.

Nissan supplies the power-train for the 8x4 carrier, which is matched to a turbocharged six-cylinder Nissan PF6TB diesel engine. The transmission has seven forward speeds and one reverse speed. Front axles use leaf spring suspension, while rear axles are full floating type with equalizer beams and torque rods. Tadano will also begin production of a carrier for the TL-300E this summer. An estimated 30 units a year of this carrier will be produced.



The new carrier is built at Tadano's Shido plant.

HSE issues retractable lanyard warning

The Health and Safety Executive has issued a "reminder" of the dangers of misusing retractable (inertia reel) type fall arresters following the interim findings of a research project commissioned by HSE. The findings reveal that retractable type fall arresters are commonly being used in circumstances that they have not been tested or designed for, creating safety hazards and an increased risk of fatality.

David Thomas, Principal Specialist Inspector and HSE's technical lead on fall protection issues, said "Employers and workers need to ensure that retractable type fall arresters are only used in the vertical plane with an overhead anchor unless the manufacturer's instructions clearly state otherwise. If this equipment is used in any other way, or combined with other components in a fall arrest system, it may be unsafe and could result in injury or fatality."

The findings also indicate that some manufacturers and suppliers

Retractable lanyards are only to be used for direct vertical drops, unless clearly stated otherwise.

in the UK are failing to provide adequate instructions and information to use the products safely, which is adding to the problem. "The European Standard does not cover retractable type fall arresters being tested for use over edges - which is sometimes how they are used. In a fall over an edge the retractable lanyard may break, the braking system might be overloaded to failure, or the fall might not be arrested in the distance available. There is a test used by some manufacturers - known as the VG11 test - but we have concerns over its intent and adequacy and will be considering this over the next few months."



The new Tadano-Faun ATF220G-5

First glimpse at the ATF220G-5

Tadano Faun has provided the first photographs and details of its new ATF220G-5 All Terrain crane that we first reported last October. The new crane was shown to an international distributors meeting in Lauf, Germany, earlier in March. The ATF220G-5 features a seven section 68 metre boom, which uses a single cylinder extension system, allowing partial telescoping of loads. The cranes rating is at 2.5 metres over the rear, the three metre 360 rating is 182.5 tonnes. As with most Tadano-Faun models the new crane will boast impressive lift duties through the load chart. Examples given include, 3.9 tonnes to 68 metres, over 30 tonnes at 20 metres and 10.6 tonnes to 40 metres.

A lattice boom extension offers up to an additional 37 metres, which includes a 5.4 metre heavy duty jib that can offset by up to 40 degrees.

The carrier has an overall length of 15.1 metres with a three metre width and is powered by an eight cylinder Mercedes coupled to a ZF AS-Tronic transmission.

The upper engine is a six cylinder Mercedes. The crane has a 10x8x8 configuration, with the third axle lifting for crab steer while the rear two axles feature Faun's electronic steering system that automatically shuts off at speeds of over 25 kph. 16.00 tyres are standard with 20.5's as an option.

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(L&R) John Dobson and Paul Chalk of Orion Access, with Richard Stok (centre) of SkyKing.

Six new Skykings for Orion

Orion Access Services of Erith near Dartford, has substantially expanded its powered access fleet with an order for six new E198PX truck mounted aerial work platforms from Market Harborough based SkyKing in a deal worth more than £250,000.

The E198PX utilises a two stage sigma type riser with top mounted telescopic boom. Providing 20 metres of working height, up to 8.5 metres of outreach, even at lower heights, up and over capability, zero tail swing and 360 degree rotation all on a 3.5 tonne, 2.90 metre wheelbase, Nissan Cabstar.

Lavendon back in shape

The Lavendon Group, Europe's largest powered access company, has announced its preliminary results for 2006. They show an operating income up by 28 percent to £7.3 million, while profit before tax was £2.9 million, compared to a £100,000 loss in 2004.

Net debt was reduced by over 25 percent (prior to the recent acquisitions of Panther and Kestrel) to £61.7 million. The company says that 2006 has started well and expects progress to continue.

John Gordon, the new chairman of Lavendon said, "Strong cash flows over recent years have strengthened the Group's balance sheet and are now providing the necessary resources to enable us to make acquisitions should we so choose".

Geoffrey Marsh takes over at CPA Crane group

At the last CPA mobile crane interest group steering committee meeting, Martin Ainscough retired as chairman, a role he has filled since the group's inception over eight years ago. Geoffrey Marsh was proposed as his replacement and duly elected.

It was also agreed that in future the chairman would serve a maximum term of five years, offering himself up for re-election every February at the steering committee meeting.

Geoffrey Marsh is the new CPA crane Interests chairman



The new PK25001EL joins Palfinger's range of cranes for specialist trades.

PALFINGER ADD SPECIALIST ROOFING CRANE

Palfinger has added a further model to its range of specialist cranes for specific applications. The PK 25001 EL has been developed specially to meet the requirements of roofing contractors and joinery firms, including the erection of prefabricated timber frame houses.

In order to meet the requirements of these trades, the PK 25001 EL combines long outreach, thanks to its long base and knuckle boom sections, with fast working speeds, ideal for erection work. Maximum powered outreach is 25.5 metres. The crane is fitted with Palfinger's PowerLink Plus system allowing the knuckle boom to articulate eight degrees above the base boom.

Standard features include: Radio remote control, HPLS (High Power Lifting System), oil cooler, return oil utilisation, a high speed winch and a full size slew bearing. A dual motor slew drive option is available for increased slewing torque.

New record for Ashtead

The Ashtead Group plc, owner of Sunbelt in North America and A-Plant in the UK, has announced record results for the nine months ended 31 January 2006, with revenues up almost 20 percent to £476 million. Operating profits at Sunbelt rose by over 62 percent, while A-Plant was up almost 15 percent.

Profit before tax and exceptional items for the period, almost tripled to £53 million. A net exceptional credit of £9.5million, took it up to £62.5million.

Ashtead's chief executive, George Burnett, said:

"We are pleased to report a strong performance in our seasonally weak third quarter. Favourable conditions continued in all Sunbelt's markets and drove third quarter revenue growth of 31.0 percent".

"The new sales structure at A-Plant introduced at the start of the current financial year began to deliver its planned benefits with revenue growth of 6.1 percent in the third quarter"

Full story on vertikal.net

VP makes another acquisition

Vp plc, owner of UK Forks and Hire station, has acquired Bukom General Oilfield Services Ltd, along with its overseas subsidiaries in Holland and Singapore for £5.7 million in cash. Bukom is a leading supplier of compressors, boilers, heat exchangers,

sand filters and other equipment to the oil and gas exploration market, operating from locations in Aberdeen, Singapore and Holland.

The acquired business will be merged with Airpac Oilfield Services, the VP division, which operates a similar business from locations in Aberdeen, Great Yarmouth and Singapore. The merged business will trade as Airpac Bukom Oilfield Services.

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New Hiab XS crane

Hiab is launching a new XS loader crane, the XS 377, which completes the company's 20 to 40 tonne line up. Hiab claim that it will be the most powerful crane, with the longest outreach, available for fitting to a three axle truck. The three model range will be exhibited at shows this spring. The XS377 will join the XS 244, XS 288, XS 322 and XS 422 range of intermediate cranes, and is intended to offer users the best combination of reach, lifting capability and low tare weight. With its optional jib, the new crane will take 450kgs out to its maximum radius of 26 metres, as well as providing exceptional "up and out" performance.



The XS377 completes Hiab's intermediate crane range.

First Omega RT scissor lift.



Omega Lift, the Dutch producer of crawler mounted scissor lifts, has built a new Rough Terrain scissor lift, the RS225-800, its first wheeled RT model.

The new model features a 20.5 maximum platform height, with 800kg lift capacity. The diesel powered unit has 4x4 drive, oscillating front axle, two wheel steer and auto-levelling jacks. The main platform length is 4.75 metres long and 2.35 metres wide, dual deck extensions extend it to 7.5 metres long for façade work. The first RS225-800 has been delivered to Steiness Liftcenter in Denmark which has also ordered one of Omega's narrow 26 metre scissor lifts.

The first Omega Rough Terrain scissor has been delivered to Steiness in Denmark.

Palfinger flying high

Palfinger, the rapidly growing crane and access manufacturer, saw revenues in 2005 grow by almost 29 percent to €520 million. Earnings before Interest and Tax were €65 million, up by 56 percent on 2004, while consolidated net profit, increased by almost 76 percent to €48.1 million.

The company's loader crane division continues to be the driving force of the business and the source of most of its profits. Crane revenues were up by over 25 percent with profits rising by almost 65 percent to €72 million.

The company's access division, Bison-Palfinger, saw substantially increased sales, but the company reported increased price competition. Add this to

production restructuring costs and it is likely that the division was not a major profit contributor in 2005. The non crane division saw losses rise from -€2.3 million in 2004 to a loss of €6.98 million in 2005.



The Palfinger board, (L-R) Herbert Ortner, Wolfgang Anzengruber - chairman, Wolfgang Pilz and Eduard Schreiner - finance director demonstrating how they have grown in 2005.

Access Industrie acquired

Paris based venture capital company, Butler Capital Partners of Paris has acquired a 70 percent stake in Access Industrie, the telehandler and aerial lift rental company with its HQ in south west France. Founder and president Daniel Duclos retains an eight percent holding.

The deal includes the underwriting of compensation for creditors, and the issuing of new shares. Butler will in effect be paying €50 cents per share, compared to a price of 47 cents, when they were suspended last April.

Existing shareholders will be able to maintain their holding in the company, with the right to purchase four new shares for each old one held at the same 50 cent price as Butler has paid. The transaction involves a restructuring of the company's finances, including a new €67.7 million line of credit; consolidated net debt will be halved from the current €80 million to €40 million. While the current negative net equity of -€12 million will be converted to a positive equity position of €34 million.

Nationwide take more Runabouts

Nationwide Access has purchased 20 additional Genie GR15 Runabouts for Heathrow's T5. The GR15's will join more than 70 scissor lifts with AMEC, the main mechanical and electrical contractor at the site. As more of the building is completed, reaching tight spaces in roof areas with scissor lifts was proving a challenge as existing piping and ducting was restricting access.

The new units were delivered in March and are expected to be on site for the best part of a year.

Amec has taken 20 additional Genie GR15 for T5



Strong cranes and access results from Terex

Terex has announced Group revenues for 2005 of \$6.4 billion, an increase of 28 percent on 2004. Full year earnings are expected to be at least 64 percent up on with Backlogs 62 percent higher at \$1.6 billion. Net debt was reduced by \$209 million to \$571 million.

Terex Crane's revenues increased approximately 18 percent, compared with 2004, thanks to a strong tower crane market. The company's crane backlog as of December 31, 2005 was approximately \$452 million, 80 percent higher than at year end 2004. Aerial Work Platform sales, largely Genie, rose by over 56 percent, with an order book at the end of December of approximately \$482 million, triple the level at year end 2004.

Bob Francis and the first "E" Manitowoc

Bob Francis the North Wales based crane hirer, has taken delivery of the first Manitowoc badged Kobelco crawler crane to be sold in Europe.

The unit a Manitowoc 8500E was delivered to the company at the end of March. Bob Francis

only entered the crawler crane market 18 months ago with a five tonne IHI mini crane, since then the fleet has expanded rapidly. The new Manitowoc is its seventh crawler crane. The balance of the fleet is made up of Hitachi 35 to 55 tonne cranes.

Manitou to build new parts centre

Manitou is spending €23 million on a brand new parts operation on a 13 hectare site close to the Autoroute near the company's headquarters in the town of Ancenis. Manitou's parts business has revenues of almost €107 million, over 10 percent of total company revenues. With its target to double revenues to almost €2 billion by 2014, the need for a larger parts facility is a key element of the expansion.

The site has already been acquired with construction beginning in the spring, the first two buildings providing 22,000 square metres of warehouse space, with a 5,500 square metres covered "concourse,

will be completed by February 2007." This is expected to satisfy the company's needs through 2010. After that a 6,000 square metre extension is planned to take the company through until 2020. The

New warehouse will include a wide range of high tech equipment, including automated storage and retrieval systems with extensive use of bar coding.



An artist's impression of the new Manitou parts centre



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New Truck cranes on the horizon

Terex Demag is to launch a new 55 tonne French built truck crane at Intermat; the new crane is aimed at rental companies that do not require the multi axle drive and steer offered by All Terrains.

Tadano is also said to be developing a 40 tonne version of its commercially mounted HC range (See where did all the truck cranes go? Page 28)

Finland in winter



Valla UK spreads its wings

Valla UK, the UK/Ireland distributor wholly owned by Peter Hird, has signed an agreement with manufacturer, Valla S.p.A of Italy, to sell, promote and service the full Valla Range of cranes on the North American market.

The future of Valla America has been up in the air since the death of John Valla last year. Valla has until now covered the American market from a company store headquartered in Fresno, with its main sales and service location in Dallas Texas.

Valla Italy is currently updating its ANSI approvals, while Valla UK is setting up the support infrastructure which will include the current sales and service organisation used by the late John Valla.

In a further unrelated move Valla UK is also



Peter Hird, accepts the 2004 Valla dealer of the Year award from Antonio Valla(L)

opening up a new market for Valla cranes in the Middle East. It is in final discussions with a local partner and expects to set up a regional office shortly.

The company has already secured an order for four cranes and plans to model the new venture on its UK set up. This will include a rental fleet in order to help sell the concept and demonstrate the capability of the Valla electric cranes.

In early March Hickstead based Facelift, along with Bronto and Blueline access, organised an incentive trip for some of its staff to Tampere in Finland. During the trip, which took in Bronto's manufacturing plants, the visitors had the chance to try their hands at Ice Rallying. On a private lake with the ice over 900mm thick, they had the chance to try their hands in both a front and rear drive car, both of which were equipped with studded tyres. We ran the picture opposite on Vertical.Net, offering a prize for anyone who recognised this motley crew and suggested what they were up to. The winner was Mark Butler, his entry is on our letters page.

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Skylift has specified CTE Z20's for its self drive fleet.

Nationwide relaunch Skylift

Over the past eight months Nationwide has been quietly restructuring its Skylift truck mounted aerial lift division. Skylift is the largest truck mounted aerial lift rental company in the UK, with a fleet of over 175 units. The business was established in late 1995, becoming fully operational by May 1996.

It was specifically set up as a separate entity, with its own staff and depots; however in 2004, in a bid to avoid duplication and reduce overheads, the division was merged into the Nationwide self propelled business. It did not exactly thrive, becoming lost within the 6,000 unit self propelled fleet, so last July the business was separated operationally. Peter Douglas, a Nationwide and Skylift veteran, took on the responsibility for rebuilding the Skylift business at that time and assumed the role of general manager-Skylift in January, along with the training and accessories divisions. Douglas joined Nationwide with the Access Rentals acquisition in 1992, teaming up with Mike Evans in 1995 when he set up Skylift for Nationwide.



Peter Douglas is the new general manager of Skylift

Skylift now operates from six stand-alone depots in, Glasgow, Manchester, Leeds, Luton/St Albans, Cardiff and Birmingham, while its fleet in Northern Ireland is fully integrated into Nationwide's Belfast branch for obvious practical reasons. The division employs 85 full time drivers, and 15 engineers among its 110 or so staff. Skylift also employ a few industry specific sales specialists, while the day to day sales are handled by the Nationwide sales team.

The Skylift re-launch includes new branding and a new image, the business will in future be known as "Skylift from Nationwide", the lifts will be painted in the Nationwide blue livery, in place of the pastel blues of the Old Skylift, as the older lifts are repainted or sold. Douglas told C&A that the truck mounted market requires a specialist approach and needs operations staff that are fully tuned into the different demands that truck mounted lift rental imposes. These range from the fact that most

go out with drivers, to the short duration of most jobs.

He also acknowledges that Skylift has largely missed out on the recent rapid growth of the self drive truck mounted market, but now aims to catch up "and then some". As part of this plan, the company has ordered its first batch of 15 CTE Z-20, sigma style, up and over booms, on 3.5 tonne Nissan trucks.

When asked why these units were selected rather than the more usual straight telescopic boomed models, Douglas said that they first looked at straight telescopic for its 3.5 tonne lifts. After polling its customers however and checking out specifications, it converted to the CTE model.

Douglas said that the Z-20 offers a good working height, over nine metres outreach, and a narrow base combined with zero tail swing. In addition many customers appreciate the up and over capability and the ability to do a parallel descent or lift. Other units ordered so far this year includes six 14 metre Bizzocchi units, which will be badged as CTE and use the CTE control panels. Two CTE Z32 and a 37 metre Bronto XDT with 750 kg platform capacity.

Skylift is also targeting longer term contract hire, and is prepared to purchase a lift to a customer's specification for a long term contract, it has also taken on a few specialist lifts, such as three large Teupen Leo, spider booms.

The new Skylift branding.



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Dawes has taken delivery of the 500th GMK5100.

Grove delivers 500th GMK 5100

Grove has delivered its 500th GMK5100 All-Terrain crane to Dawes Rigging and Crane Rental, part of the All Erection group. The 100 tonner was launched in 2000 and features a 51 metre main boom and jib lengths of up to 34 metres.

Man killed while loading MEWP

A rail worker was killed in late March, after being crushed under an aerial work platform that was being loaded onto a trailer. The lift had broken down and was being recovered. Neil Martin, 47 was helping to load the lift when it slipped off the bed or the ramps of the low loader pinning him underneath it.

The incident occurred at 4:00 in the morning, outside Waverley Station in Edinburgh. The station is currently undergoing a £150 million redevelopment. Martin was employed by Border Rail, a sub-contractor to AMEC, which is involved in building new platforms at the station.

Martin, from Nazeing in Essex, suffered multiple injuries and was taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, where he died shortly afterwards. The Health and Safety Executive is carrying out a separate investigation.



The new Fassi F330D demonstrates the above horizontal articulation.

Two new Fassi cranes

Fassi says that it will be launching two new mid range cranes this summer, the 33 tonne/metre F330D and 36 tonne/metre F360DXP Evolution". The new models replace the F330B and the F360BXP and build on the Evolution concept announced in October at SAIE.

The two models feature double con-rod linkage, a heat exchanger, the latest RCH remote control device, a new valve block developed with Danfoss, the company's "prolink" system allowing the upper or knuckle boom, to articulate by up to 15° above the horizontal main boom.

The cranes are equipped as standard with all the software required to manage all the possible options and accessories. Boom choices range from two extensions up to eight telescopic sections, with either the "C" - "short arm" range or, "L" range, with a jib system.

The F330D/F360DXP Evolution" have been conceived with both the building sector, and industrial moving trades in mind. The new models will not be ready in time for the upcoming round of CV shows, but Fassi says that they will be ready for shipment shortly afterwards.

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- **David Walkden** has been promoted to Head of Sales and Marketing at **Eve Trakway**, supplier of aluminium roadways for temporary access across muddy sites and at events.
- **Veri-Tek International** has taken over all of the operating assets of **Manitex**, Inc, the boom truck and aerial lift producer. Manitex was owned by **Quantum** value partners, which also happens to own the majority of Veri-Tek.

• **Crane crushes electrician**

The largest container handling crane at the Alabama state docks, tipped over after being struck by a departing ship, the ZIM Mexico III, a large container vessel, bound for Houston. It was manoeuvring under its own power, as it was departing the Mobile River, rather than being towed by tugs. It then struck part of the crane, causing it to tip over backwards, crushing a 46 year old electrician.

• **Tower crane collapse kills two**

A crane driver and his colleague were killed and eight other people injured when the entire top of a 130 metre tower crane broke loose from Tel Aviv's Neveh Tzedek Tower building. Workers at the site had warned that the crane was not in good operating condition. The building engineer and several others were detained for questioning by the police.

- **TTS Marine Cranes** and **TTXS Kocks** are to sign a production agreement with Brazilian company, **Teclabor Engenharia Equipamentos E Servicos** to produce deck cranes and capstans in Brazil.

- **Active Sales & Leasing Ltd** has been established as a sister company to Active rentals Ltd. The new business is managed by Actives **Andrew McCusker**, who says that it will sell the new Pop Up push-around scissors and will sell and lease both Genie and JLG booms and scissors.



- **Mark Butler** is planning to re-enter the access business, he told **C&A** that he is not yet ready to announce the details but we understand that his business **Monmouth platforms Ltd** has already ordered its first truck mounted lifts.

- The **Dana Corporation**, supplier of axles drive shafts and transmission for telehandlers, among other things, has filed for protection from its creditors, under chapter 11 of the US bankruptcy code.

- Crane veteran **Roland Hammer** has joined **Manitowoc** as director of strategic accounts, handling specific accounts in the Americas. Hammer, started out with Liebherr and more recently worked with Terex Demag. A German by birth, Hammer has spent much of his working life working in the USA.

- **Trevor Gamble** has been appointed as the new chair of the **Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS)** Management Committee. Gamble, of The Gamble Group, is currently a **CPA** Council member and sits on the board of **CITB-ConstructionSkills**.

- **Valla UK**, owned by **Peter Hird**, has resigned the **Locatelli** distribution for the UK, only a year after taking it on. In spite of Hird's efforts to launch the innovative Locatelli ATC20 city type crane with fork and platform options, results have been poor.

- Rental software company, **InspHire** has delivered its first system to Icelandic crane hirer **Formaco**.

- **Rival Scandinavia** and its managing director **Søren Rosenkrands**, celebrated a joint birthday party in March. The company's fifth and his 50th.



Søren Rosenkrands at his party

- A major fire at the Headquarters of aerial lift company, **Storm Hoogwerkers** in Hoboken, Antwerp completely destroyed a fleet of truck mounted work platforms, including a brand new **Bronto 46XDT**.

- **Arcomet** the Belgian based tower crane company, was 50 years old on March 19th 2006. On that day in 1956 **Mr and Mrs Karel Theyskens** officially opened for business.

- **JCB** has appointed **Mathew Taylor** to take over the role of managing director of worldwide sales from **Françoise Rausch** who will move to the role of executive director of JCB Sales.

- **Steve Brown 1966- 2006**: Steve brown, of **SE10** and previous editor of **Cranes Today**, prematurely passed away on March 16th aged 39, having fought a long battle with cancer after being diagnosed with a brain tumour in early 2004.

- **Colin Wood** managing director of the **CPA**, became **Facelift's** 10,000th trainee when he took an **IPAF** operators course at the company's **Hickstead HQ** recently.



Gordon Leicester congratulates Colin Wood

- **Wood** has now become a **PAL** card holder.

- Italian tower crane producer **Raimondi** has merged with tower crane rental company

S.M.I.E to form the **Raimondi-S.I.M.E. Group**. The general manager of the merged company will be **Enrico Natella**, a S.M.I.E director.

- The directors of **Brandon Plc** have recommended a cash offer from **Wolseley plc**, to take over the Bristol based rental company. The offer is 212 pence a share, a 15 percent premium over previous closing prices. Making the company worth £71.9 million.

- **Ainscough Crane Hire Ltd**, has bought over 736 **Ekman** fall protection harnesses from **Lloyds British**, the UK distributor, sufficient to issue one to each employee.

- **Manitowoc** has revised its earnings estimates for 2006 upwards by almost 15 percent, following a strong start to the year.

- **Finning International Inc**, owner of **Hewden**, has appointed **Michael T. Waites** as its executive vice president and chief financial officer effective May 1, 2006.

- **Ted Bratthauar** has been promoted to the position of vice president purchasing for **Manitowoc Crane Group** in the Americas.



Ted Bratthauar

- **David Hardin** has joined **Manitowoc Crane Care** as general manager of remanufacturing Operations. Taking over from **Ron Schumacher**, who is retiring

- **JLG** has appointed **JW Blake**, the Cumbrian based Agricultural and Plant hire dealer to handle it's telehandler sales in the Cumbria, Dumfries and Galloway regions. The company will exhibit JLG telehandlers at this years **Scotplant** exhibition. The stand will include a 17 metre JLG4017.

- **Teupen** has cleared its **Leo 50** to go back into service, following its investigation into the fatal accident in Belgium on March 24th (see page 49). It had asked owners to take their Leo 50's out of service on March 27th as a precaution.

- **Haulotte** has confirmed its 2005 results, with revenues up 45 percent to €388 million and net profits over five times those of 2004, at €46 million or 11.8 percent of sales.

- A gang attacked a **Securicor** van in the Dublin area on March 30th with a **telehandler** and made off with up to €600,000 in cash.

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