

cranes & access

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September 2016 Vol.18 issue 6

Spider cranes

Large RT scissors



Top 30 rental companies

.....Arcomet and Skyline to merge.....WolfLift returns.....Vertical Days at Silverstone.....

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On the cover:

A nine axle Terex AC 1000 All Terrain crane on its way through forests and up steep and mostly unpaved winding roads to help erect wind turbines on the 1,600 metre high Pretul mountain in Styria, Austria.



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Arcomet UK and Skyline merge, Essex Cranes for sale, Vertikal Days on the move, First Böcker spider crane in UK, Ritchie takes Iron Planet, Hiab launches X-HiPro 558, Baldwin Crane Hire loses transport licence, New 14 metre Aldercote, Manitowoc to relocate crawler production, New mobile tower crane, 60th LTC 1050-3.1, Earthquake standard for tower cranes, The WolfLift returns, PB Liftechnik expands, Fork rotator for telehandlers, Lifterz acquires Spider Rentals, Management buy-out at MTS Nationwide, Terex Cranes to close Waverly and financials round-up.



C&A annual Top 30 rental company guide 17

Since our last survey it has been a relatively good 12 months for UK and Ireland crane, access and telehandler rental companies. Business has continued to improve and investment has been high across all sectors with most companies expanding their fleets. See how the leading companies have performed in this year's Top 30 company survey.



Spider cranes 31

As the spider crane market outside of Japan continues to grow at a steady pace, we take a look at the latest players and models, and assess if there is a move towards European designed and built equipment? We also visit UK company TCA Lifting, a company that likes doing things a little differently.



Safety first 43



Several recent fatal incidents with cranes and aerial work platforms have highlighted the dangers of not using safety equipment correctly. We take a look at some of the problem areas and the developments aimed at reducing the number of serious incidents - but only when used appropriately.

Rough Terrain scissors 49

We review the latest developments in the large Rough Terrain scissor sector as well as visiting Snorkel UK, charting its chequered history and looking at its significant efforts to again become a successful global access equipment manufacturer. It is also 25 years since the first production units of the UpRight Speed Level. We look at its development up to its recent relaunch.



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In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access scheduled for mid-October will feature: Heavy lifting including wind turbines, Rough Terrain boom lifts, a review of the Forestry and Arb show and take a look at Outrigger mats, pads and temporary roads. If you have any contributions or suggestions or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.

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Changing attitudes

I realise that in mentioning women in the industry I am probably already on 'sexist' ground, however if we continually skirt (no pun intended) around the issue, the real crux of the problem will never be addressed.

The recent appointment of a female chief executive at Ainscough Crane Hire should only be newsworthy because of a change at the top of the UK's largest crane rental company - not because of the fact she is a woman. But unfortunately that is not the case.

True there are an increasing number of high profile woman world leaders, such as the UK prime minister, the German chancellor and possibly the president of the United States. Apart from a few very notable exceptions this trend is not reflected in our industry, whether it be cranes, access or telehandlers, or for that matter, business in general.

In the UK for example, recent surveys suggest that fewer than 10 percent of executive directors at the top 100 companies are female - even though it has almost doubled since 2011! And the UK is comparatively good in this respect, apparently only Sweden has a greater proportion of senior women in business. In our sector I can think of only a handful of women chief executives, probably equating to less than one percent.

So what is the problem, why aren't more women - and for that matter young people - joining our industry? It is clearly not perceived as being attractive and appears to do an even poorer job of promoting women to senior roles. The solution is the same for both genders - better promotion of the industry, selling its many good points to attract more keen, talented individuals. The recent Stars of the Future awards at Vertikal Days is gaining momentum among young apprentices.... but only two of the 20 winners were female and the ratio of entrants far worse.

A love of science and engineering needs to be triggered at an early age. Parents play a big part in this, but tend to encourage their children towards the 'traditionally acceptable' 9-to-5 office jobs, rather than a career out on site or working with heavy equipment. Changing this will require an entirely new approach.

Initiatives such as My Future My Choice - which introduces children of all ages and gender to the exciting opportunities available in engineering - are essential for developing an interest, catching them before they set off towards the more typical career paths. Those who saw the school children at Vertikal Days having fun while learning about hydraulics and building and operating a simple crane, could see just how attractive they found it all. If young children are unaware of our industry, how can they even consider it as a career? We need more of this, not only so that we have enough skilled workers for the future but also to encourage more women to become involved at all levels of our industry.

Mark Darwin

Comment and feedback is most welcome via post, email, fax or phone stating if we may publish them or not: editor@vertikal.net

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