

cranes & access

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October 2017 Vol.19 issue 7

Mobile tower
cranes

Boom lifts

Tree care

Outrigger mats
and trackway

...New owner for Acces Industrie...New 20t Terex flat top tower crane...Loxam snaps up Nacanco....

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On the cover:

A trained abseiler with Southern Cranes & Access helping remove equipment from the plant room on The Lloyd's building in London.



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New owner for Acces Industrie, Comet UK opens for business, Five new Sennebogen cranes, Loxam moves into Italy with Nacanco, New MEC boom and scissor lifts, 30m spider from Platform Basket, Binladin staff acquitted, New Terex tower crane, New scissors from ELS, Mammoet expands in Australia, Biggest GIS so far, GGR's largest glazing robot, Almac moves into China, New 46ft Airo slab scissor.

Shows 45

September saw two successful exhibitions for cranes, access and telehandler buyers and users - Platformers Days in Hohenroda, Germany and JDL in Beaune, France. We bring you a few of the highlights

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After several years of internal struggles, Hiab has entered a new era and expressed a new vision of the future. Mark Darwin reports

from Hiab's main production facility in Sargard, northern Poland.



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Mobile self-erecting tower cranes 17

Mobile tower cranes appear to be coming of age as an increasing number of markets begin to take them more seriously. The UK for example has seen the mobile tower crane fleet increase by



more than 25 percent. So has the sector finally made it into the mainstream crane rental market?

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Developments within the self-propelled boom lift market have been coming through thick and fast over the past few years, following a dearth of development for many years. We catch up



with some of the latest new models and product changes.

Lifts and lifting for arborists 35

Statistics show that the tree care industry is one of the most hazardous occupations there is, accounting for a fifth of powered access related fatalities, a higher percentage of falls from height and an alarmingly high rate of crane overturns.

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Mats and trackway 39

In recent years the use of outrigger pads and mats have become far more widespread and this seems to have contributed to a reduction in the number of cranes and large truck mounted lift overturning incidents. However, there is still



plenty of work to be done spreading the word...

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No country for old men

The title of the 2007 Best Film Oscar is taken from the opening line the poem by William Butler Yeats *Sailing to Byzantium* written in 1928.

*That is no country for old men. The young
In one another's arms, birds in the trees
- Those dying generations - at their song,
The salmon-falls, the mackerel-crowded seas,
Fish, flesh, or fowl, commend all summer long
Whatever is begotten, born, and dies.
Caught in that sensual music all neglect
Monuments of unageing intellect*

The poem is a lament for the way the young neglect the wisdom of the past and presumably the old. We have all heard the conundrum - 'you can't get a job without experience but the only way you get experience is by having a job!' Yet we have seen many large companies appoint younger highly qualified middle managers - some straight out of university - replacing older and far more experienced people.

One access manufacturer - MEC - is doing the opposite, seeking out these 'more experienced staff. It believes that these senior people are of huge benefit to the company.

We work in an industry where 'people buy from people' and personal relationships can often make the difference between winning or losing business. These 'elder statesmen' bring experience and contacts gained over many years, in an industry that despite what some may say, does take a good few years to establish a reputation.

Of course, it is wonderful to see young people entering the industry, but there is a distinct lack of young blood at the grass roots level, an area critical for the industry. No matter the qualifications, new entrants need many years' experience before they are truly self-functioning. We should recognise that doing an excellent job is not age or training, but experience and competency related. And it is vital to recognise that having been trained is not the same as being competent.

For example obtaining an IPAF PAL card does not mean you are competent to operate a large platform on a busy, challenging job site - that requires experience. Training + experience = competency. This is even more so with cranes, where the load and rigging is a constantly variable and critical factor.

Sarens has three levels of operators and riggers - entry level where the newly trained begin with level three being the fully qualified/experienced and competent operators.

In many companies however a high proportion of level one and two operators or rigger drop out of the industry after several years - particularly in the UK - because of the long, unsocial hours including weekends and the travelling - at a time when they have young families to support.

But if competency is critical how do you measure it?

One suggestion at the recent London crane conference was to introduce a tough independent test unaffiliated with the training - such as the HGV driving test. However you look at it, experience plays a major part at all levels in our industry and getting rid of it makes no sense at all. Being 'more experienced' should be looked on as being a definite positive.

Mark Darwin

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