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November 2019 Vol.21 issue 8

Spider lifts

**Alternative
lifting &
transport**

**Technology
& remote
controls**

**Access & lifting
for arborists**

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On the cover:

Arborist Peter Berecny of Port Tree Fella rescues a koala from the forest fires in Lake Innes Nature Reserve, near Port Macquarie, NSW, Australia, using a Platform Basket 18.90 spider lift supplied by Monitor Lifts.
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Technology and remote controls 43

Until recently, if you raised the subject of remote controls in relation to lifting equipment, most would be quite clear about what you meant. However, this is beginning to change as we enter the world of the 'Internet of Things' (IoT), a technological change that is quietly slipping into the control systems of cranes, aerial work platforms and telehandlers.



Jens Ennen interview 49

At the beginning of August Tadano completed its \$215 million acquisition of the Demag mobile crane business from Terex. The new subsidiary is managed by chief executive Jens Ennen, who joined Tadano earlier this year after 25 years with Grove. Cranes & Access talked to Ennen about the new company and its plans going forward.

A look at Klaas 53



Earlier this month German aluminium crane company Klaas held two open days at its headquarters in Ascheberg, Westphalia, Northwest Germany, for customers and dealers along with its 320 employees and their families. Cranes & Access editor Mark Darwin chatted with chief executive George Küter about the company and its products.

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In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access scheduled for mid January will feature Scissor lifts, Rough Terrain cranes, the C&A annual Rental rate guide, a Look back at 2019 and Transport & rigging. If you have any contributions or suggestions to make or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.

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Sinoboom's new 153ft articulated boom, XCMG 88000's first overseas lift, Liebherr uprates LTM 1750-9.1, Ahern - Tanfield dispute goes legal, Manitou launch four more ANSI booms, Jekko unveils new SPX1280, Skyking closes down, Boels bids for Cramo, New IPAF CEO, New 16m telescopic Movex, Manitex splits PM and Oil&Steel, Magni appoints Kranlyft UK, Snorkel begins production of lithium Speed Levels, Manitou for Ardent, New Helix fall arrest crane, Manitou acquires UK dealer and financials round-up...

Alternative lifting and heavy transport 17

Despite the increasing capacity of All Terrain, crawler and customer-built mega lift cranes, they cannot come close to raising some of the massive loads that need to be lifted and transported. This month we take a look at some of the alternative lifting and moving solutions from around the world.



Spider lifts 27

As each year passes, the spider lift becomes a more established concept and mainstream product for working at height. For some it has become the go-to product. The past few years has seen more manufacturers expand their ranges to include larger models most recently in the 30 to 35 metre range. We review the market and latest developments.

Access and lifting for arborists 37



Working with trees is probably one of most dangerous occupations in the world, combining a lethal mixture of working at height, powerful cutting equipment and the unknown nature of individual trees. An increasing number of arborists are using aerial work platforms and mobile cranes to carry out tree work - we take a look as some of the reasons and some of the equipment.

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Provide the tools for the job...

It is now almost two and a half years since London's Grenfell Tower fire disaster in which 72 people died, so what has happened since?

In short - not a lot. Yes, the Phase 1 report has been completed with several recommendations - but no mention of the lack of large aerial work platforms or rescue equipment capable of saving people from a burning high rise building. There are still 267 such buildings in the UK with the defective ACM cladding, despite ministers saying that it should be

removed from social housing by the end of this year and from private housing blocks by June 2020.

Even Phase 2 of the Grenfell report - which will not be completed until 2022, five years after the disaster - will not cover the very equipment capable of rescuing stranded people on the upper floors of a tower block. A similar cladding fire at The Cube student accommodation building in Bolton earlier this month highlighted the ongoing problem and how high level rescue should now be in the public spotlight.

In another incident late last month a man trapped his leg on a ladder at the top of an 88 metre factory chimney in Carlisle in the early hours of the morning and was left hanging upside down. The emergency services attempted a helicopter rescue at first light but the strong downdrafts it created exacerbated the problem and the rescue was abandoned. Sometime later the emergency services made a public appeal over local and national radio stations for a 'crane' and then an access platform to help with the rescue.

As soon as it was notified rental company Height for Hire sent a 90 metre Bronto truck mounted lift from its Glasgow depot, which allowed the emergency services to reach the man shortly after it arrived on site late that afternoon. Sadly by then the man had died from hypothermia and cerebral swelling caused by hanging upside down for almost 15 hours.

Both this and the Grenfell incidents were avoidable tragedies. Both are examples of fire and rescue services that have not kept in touch with developments in the crane and aerial lift market or where to source them. Why is it that in other countries, such as Germany, most fire services not only operate their own cranes but can quickly call on platforms of 100 metres or more?

There was a time when every fire department in the UK subscribed to Cranes & Access magazine in order to keep abreast of the latest developments and the companies offering this type of equipment. A special free subscription was provided for the emergency services as a gesture of goodwill in the face of cutbacks, and yet, several fire services have stopped their subscriptions after the named recipients moved on, stating it was 'no longer required'. Clearly it is! It is also surprising that more fire services are not members of IPAF - after all, they work at height on a regular basis.

Perhaps in light of these incidents the emergency services will sit up and take notice. Equipment is available to buy or rent which would allow firefighters to save more lives without risking their own.

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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