

cranes & access



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December/January 2021 Vol.22 issue 9

**Crawler
cranes**

**Look back
at 2020**

**Scissor
lifts**

**Annual rental
rate survey**

...Electric Liebherr crawlers...Time Versalift acquires Ruthmann...New Magni fixed telehandlers...



The new AC 450-7

Benchmark on 7 Axles.

The new Demag AC 450-7 is in a class of its own: With a carrier length of 15.99 m and an outrigger base of 8.45 m, it is as compact as a six-axle crane, and yet is as powerful as some eight-axle cranes. In fact, the Demag AC 450-7 can reach lifting capacities of up to 23.7 tonnes when its 80 m main boom is fully extended, and that is without even using the SSL system. Bring in SSL, and the lifting capacity goes up to an unbeatable 37.3 tonnes.

In addition, Demag is using a new Sideways Superlift design for the first time ever in the AC 450-7 – one that makes job handling and setup easier. The system can be extended with an 81 m luffing jib, and the sections of this jib can also be used to assemble fixed extensions.

Above. Ahead. Always.

DEMAG
TADANO GROUP

On the cover:

A Liebherr LR 1500 crawler crane from HKV Schmitz + Partner of Koln, was rigged with SL2DB boom with 280 tonnes of suspended ballast to remove 60 tonne bridge support beams at a radius of 67 metres from the Viktoria Bridge in Bonn, creating space for a new structure.



C&A contents

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Crawler cranes



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Rental rate guide

Weekly rates for tower cranes				
Flat tops and saddle jibs	Average (£)	Lowest	Highest	Ideal
Up to 70 tonnes/metres	553 ▼	480 ▼	625 ▼	850 ▼
120 tonnes/metres	850 ▼	750 ▲	850 ▼	1,100 ▼
200 tonnes/metres	1,225 ▼	1,100 ▼	1,450 ▼	1,434 ▼
300 tonnes/metres	1,750 ▼	1,700 ▼	1,800 ▼	2,465 ▼
Luffers				
	Average (£)	Lowest	Highest	Ideal
Less than 70 tonnes/metres	1,050 ▼	900 ▼	1,200 ▼	1,223 ▼
100 tonnes/metres	1,400 ▼	1,400 ▼	1,950 ▼	1,705 ▼
180 tonnes/metres	2,394 ▼	2,250 ▼	2,650 ▼	2,467 ▼
300 tonnes/metres	3,006 ▼	2,700 ▼	3,350 ▼	3,421 ▼

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Scissor lifts



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Time Versalift acquires Ruthmann, Zoomlion launches 217ft boom, Magni adds fixed frames, electric crawlers from Liebherr, Artic upgrades Raptor, Spierings ships e-Lift cranes, Bobcat brands Magni 360s, Mammoet readies Focus 30, US crane investigation dropped, new CTE spider lift, Multitel launches MJ range, Palfinger introduces Smart Plus line, JLG Davinci scissor launched, Sarens adds depots, France Elévateur updates Topy 11 - plus a roundup of the latest financials, acquisitions and news highlights.

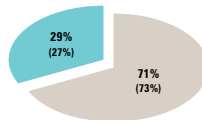


Crawler cranes 17

As a new generation of larger, higher, wind turbines become commonplace, Will North reports on how wind farm developers are employing larger lattice and telescopic crawler cranes to install them.

Rental rate guide 23

In the 20 years of compiling our annual UK and Ireland rental rate survey this one has to stand out as one of the strangest given the current pandemic, although perhaps the industry fared better than most in 2020?



Scissor lifts 37

With almost 90 percent of all scissor lifts already battery powered, we take a look at the remaining 10 percent that remains diesel powered which mostly consists of full size Rough Terrain models.

Wind safety 47



A serious wind farm accident in 2008 led to a decade long process of safety improvements in the sector and offers a casebook example of how to build understanding of safety between all those involved.

Will North speaks to Klaus Meissner and Ton Klijn who explain the resources available to ensure safe lifting on wind farms.

Look back 2020 51

Without a doubt 2020 was a bad year, and one that certainly requires no reminders. So rather than focus on the bad we have decided to avoid it entirely and instead focus on all

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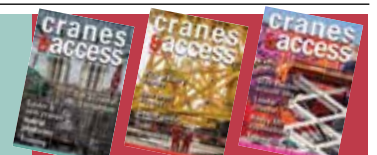
The next issue of Cranes & Access, scheduled for March, will include features on van and small truck mounted platforms and self-erecting mobile tower cranes. It will also include a review of the latest battery technologies on the market as well as take a look at what Vertical Days – likely Europe's largest lifting exhibition in 2021 – has to offer.

If you have any contributions or suggestions to make, or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact us today.

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A Bright New Year?

Few people would claim that 2020 was a stellar year, it may however turn out to be a profound and important year in terms of social and economic change. Those who believe in any kind of deity may well think that – following numerous warnings on the dangers of pollution and the abuse of our planet – the celestial powers have finally decided to dramatically intervene.

With the global economy having slumped as a result of the pandemic, one could be forgiven for assuming that the drive towards ecological sustainability might be destined for the 'back burner' on the basis of affordability right now. However, the opposite seems to be true. One of Joe Biden's first executive orders on entering the White House was to re-join the Paris Accord on Climate Change. He is also planning a massive investment in the green economy, while China has committed to being carbon neutral by 2060. So, it looks as if the drive towards sustainability is set to accelerate dramatically.

The growth in online shopping and the accelerated demise of the high street was also a big feature of 2020. Combined with the growth in home working, one wonders if the global move from the countryside to cities, that began with the Industrial Revolution, could be coming to an end. Such changes will, of course, have repercussions for the lifting industry. For example, will we see a slowdown in high rise residential development and a shift towards low rise suburban construction? If so, it would herald a shift from tower cranes to telehandlers and self-erectors. The bigger more efficient wind turbines emerging bodes well for big crawler cranes, while cleaning, inspecting and maintaining them will create work for high reach work platforms and long boomed cranes.

Periods of dramatic change are usually triggered by events such as war, pandemics or natural disasters. I have been reading how the ongoing lockdowns are changing people's lives in unexpected ways, for example, after an initial upsurge in computer gaming and Netflix streaming, there is now a shift towards traditional crafts and pursuits, some dating back more than two centuries. Pastimes like needlepoint, cross stitch, reading proper books, piano playing, board games and jigsaw puzzles. We have seen strong growth in requests for hard copies of Cranes & Access, generated by a strong upsurge in readership for our digital versions.

This first issue in 2021 of Cranes & Access sees the publication of our 20th Annual Rental Rate Guide. Gathering the data this year was a tough undertaking. We also ran an online poll asking readers if they thought 2021 would be better than 2020. We expected most respondents to say Yes! However so far just 49 percent expect 2021 will be better. A sizable 24 percent said they thought 2021 would be worse! The rest think it will be about the same. Let's hope that the 49 percent are right.

Whatever your outlook for the year ahead, all of us here at Cranes & Access would like to wish you a happy, safe, healthy and prosperous 2021.

Leigh Sparrow

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