

cranes & access

June 2022 Vol.24 issue 3

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**LOW LEVEL
ACCESS**

**ALL TERRAIN
CRANES**

TELEHANDLERS

REMOTE CONTROLS

**VERTIKAL
DAYS REVIEW**



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Next generation LGMG slab scissor lifts and electric booms, New 29 metre Isoli truck mount, Two new all-electric Niftylifts, Crane less wind blade installation, New Grove TTS9000-2, Terex Aerials all-electric utility platform/bucket truck, Potain to build MCT 135 in India, Genie brings back the Z-45/25J RT and launches DC & hybrid telescopic, New electric Zoomlion booms, Solar powered lift, European built Sinoboams, Enerpac's new eMover skate, mastclimber Alert and financials round-up...

LOW LEVEL ACCESS 17

Falls from heights of less than five metres are the biggest cause of life changing injuries and fatalities. Using low level work platforms increase safety as well as being more cost effective. We review the sector as well as visiting the latest access manufacturer Metal & Modular to find out more about its new all mechanical Navigator 6.0.

ALL TERRAIN CRANES 27

In Europe the All Terrain crane has been the mainstay of most crane rental fleets for more than 30 years. We take a brief look at the development of the two and three axle models as well as the

changing face of the sub 55 tonne mobile crane sector which used to make up around 70 percent of the market.

TELEHANDLERS 37

The telehandler has established itself as a hugely popular and essential materials handling machine in many countries around the world, particularly in the construction and agricultural sectors. We take a look at the latest new model introductions and product developments from the compact to the all-electric.

VERTIKAL DAYS REVIEW 47

This year's Vertikal Days returned to the East of England Showground in Peterborough at its traditional time of year. This extended review is purely pictorial but even then, with so many products and exhibitors it was impossible to cover every stand or exhibit.

REMOTE CONTROLS 59

Since the turn of the millennium, there has been a radical change in the way an increasing range of crane types and models are operated. Will North spoke to Potain's Remi Daporte about the changing face of remote controls in the self-erecting tower crane market.

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ON THE COVER

The brilliant Fat Cat Brass band entertained the evening Networking event at last month's Vertikal Days



IN THE NEXT ISSUE Scheduled for publication late July, the next issue of Cranes & Access will include features on Tower cranes, Scissor lifts, Equipment for arborists, along with the first preview of the Bauma show and our annual source guide. 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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COMMENT

TRAINING IS NOT COMPETENCY

Europe and North America appears to be experiencing a massive and growing labour shortage which threatens economic stability. The latest UK statistics for example indicate a record 1.3 million vacant positions, coupled with very low official unemployment. The situation is exasperated by 900,000 people who have apparently dropped out of the labour market altogether, while those that could work, lack the required skills or even the aptitude for the jobs available. As a result, most if not all industry sectors are struggling to find suitably qualified people.

For as long as I can remember, the UK construction industry has lobbied the government for help to solve the skills shortage problem through improved education and training policies. Yet the net result has simply seen more 16 to 18 year olds go down the academic path towards university and 'office based' careers, rather than apprenticeships and a skilled trade. As a result, good people are becoming harder to find, exacerbated by the number approaching retirement age.

With unemployment rates throughout Europe and North America at a record low, who is going to fill those vacancies?

UK ministers have spoken of creating "Super Talented" people, however their idea of education sounds as though it may create 'Super Educated' rather than Super Skilled people? Training does of course play a vital role in creating highly skilled people, but it requires much more than successfully completing a course, no matter how long it is. On-the-job experience and mentoring is perhaps even more critical.

In recent years anecdotes abound of nurses - now trained to degree level at Universities - with little ability or aptitude to actually 'care' for patients when they start work proper. The term 'over

educated and under qualified' springs to mind. Thankfully these remain the exceptions rather than the rule... hopefully.

Some companies appear to have little or no respect for experience, gained through years of honing skills in the real world. Witness the recent P&O Ferries debacle in the UK, or the government's notion that agency train drivers can be brought in to cover for proposed national rail strikes. Where are all these competent people when you need them?

Good quality, varied training combined with real work experience is what leads to competency.

There are thankfully signs of encouragement among the young. The CPA's Stars of the Future programme in the UK recognises exceptional apprentices/trainees in the equipment sector. The judging involves carefully evaluating those outstanding individuals that are nominated, looking for serious commitment, enthusiasm, a hunger to learn and grow, and that added 'X factor', marking them out as future stars. For the second year running the judges have been hugely impressed with all of those making it to the final stage. As one judge said while struggling to choose a winner: "Looking at these people, our future is in very good hands, it is heart-warming to see so many talented, enthusiastic young people coming into our industry."

The world needs far more of them, but that requires a complete change in attitude and funding from companies and governments. And you never know, it may also solve a few social issues along the way?

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