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Hewden pays for Canary Wharf crane collapse

Hewden has paid a full and final settlement of £4.875 million to Yarm Road Limited (YRL) and Cleveland Bridge UK Limited (CBUK), following the collapse of a tower crane at the HSBC headquarters, Canary Wharf in May 2000, which killed three workers. The settlement brings to an end more than three years of litigation.

Michael Whittard, Peter Clark and Martin Burgess, who were working for Hewdens at the time, were killed, and two other employees injured, when a MAN Wolffkran

Hydro 32BF tower crane collapsed, while a specialist team from Hewdens was increasing the height of the crane by the process 'climbing'.

After the collapse, however, discrepancies arose in establishing which company was legally in control of the crane when the accident happened, and therefore responsible for the damages incurred. After several court appearances, full responsibility was eventually placed upon Hewdens shoulders.

New national crane group for UK customers

Twenty-eight UK crane hire companies have combined their resources and crane hire services to provide a nationwide crane hire facility with access to more than 500 mobile cranes.

Dubbed the 'National Crane Group', the new service has been set up to promote safer lifting operations and provide UK customers wishing to hire in a crane anywhere in the UK with an alternative to the existing larger UK national crane hire companies.

Under the National Crane Group's umbrella, the UK has been divided up into seven main 'Areas' with a main group member at the head of each location. A further three members operating under each of the main group members have also been allocated to ensure sufficient crane hire cover for each of the seven Areas.

On dialling a single national coverage telephone number, customers will be transferred directly to the main member of the relevant Area, while a facility to allow clients to hire a crane in their particular Area using the single national number has also been set up.

The main members at the head of each area have been named as;
Area 1 (Scotland) James Jack Lifting Services;
Area 2 (North West) John Sutch Crane Hire;
Area 3 (North East) Mammoet UK;
Area 4 (Wales) Bob Francis Crane Hire;

Area 5 (Midlands) NMT Crane Hire;
Area 6 (South West) McSalvors (Plant Hire);
Area 7 (South East) Terranova Lifting.

Commenting on the new service, Alec Glover of representative for the South East, Terranova Lifting, said: "The National Crane Group has been established to offer corporate clients national crane-hire coverage as they don't have many options left.

"Our main motive in setting up the service is to provide a first-class service to our customers. The majority of our members are family operated companies that apply well-monitored safety systems."

"Our aim is to prevent site accidents and we will be apply the latest Health and Safety regulations in accordance with PUWER 1998, LOLER 1998 and BS7121 Safe Use of Cranes Part 1 1989 and Part 3 2000."

The group's fleet of more than 500 mobile cranes will include all sized truck-mounted cranes, all terrain cranes from 7 to 1000 tonnes capacity, city class cranes from 10 to 70 tonnes and various capacity crawler cranes.

Bouffault replacement named by Manitowoc

The Manitowoc Crane Group (MCG) has named Phillipe Cohet as it's new executive vice president for the European, Middle East and Africa (EAME) regions. The appointment follows the recent announcement by the current post holder, Jean-Yves Bouffault, who said that he would be retiring from the crane business at the end of September. Mr Bouffault was chief executive officer of the Potain group prior to its acquisition by Manitowoc in 2000.

Mr Cohet will be based at Manitowoc-Potain's Ecully site in France and report directly to MCG's president Glen Tellock.

MCG also named Larry R Bryce as the new vice president of its executive team for worldwide marketing.



Mr Bryce replaces executive vice president, Larry Weyers, who will now concentrate on managing the worldwide operations of Manitowoc Crane Care, the company's after sales service organisation.

AFI GETS FINANCIAL GO-AHEAD

AFI Aerial Platforms has completed a £1.5 million fund-raising process with venture capital firm, Northern Venture Managers (NVM). With the investment, AFI plans to expand its current 1,600-strong aerial platform fleet and open a further three depots, two confirmed being in Newport South Wales and Southampton, taking the firm's total up to 12 UK depots.

"We have exciting plans for the future and NVM's investment in AFI will help create a stronger business, so that we can expand geographically and grow our rental fleet at a faster rate," said AFI managing director, David Shipman. AFI has trebled in size during the past two years, increasing its annual turnover from £2.2 million to £7.5 million.

The latest purchase by the company includes 135 scissor lifts from Skyjack.



From left to right in pic: David McNicholas, assistant director of Leeds-based Corporate Finance firm Deloitte & Touche, AFI managing director, David Shipman, AFI corporate development director, Nick Selley and AFI financial director, David Ridge.

All eyes were on East German crane operator, MaxiKraft/Kranlogik of Saxony, recently who was responsible for the positioning of the dome on top of the reconstructed Frauenkirche Cathedral in Dresden. The company called on the prowess of its 550 tonne capacity Liebherr LG 1550 mobile crane for the spectacular lift, which entailed raising the 28-tonne golden dome 80 metres up into the air at a 39 metre radius. The crane was rigged with 49 metres of main boom, a 70-metre luffing jib, a 6-metre whip line and a underhook height of 120 metres for the lift, which took just ten minutes to complete.



Mobile crane sales down at Liebherr

The Liebherr Group has disclosed a 4.7 percent drop in its mobile crane sales to €864 million (UK£581 million) for the 2003 fiscal year, compared to revenues of €907 million (£610 million) reported in 2003.

The declining mobile crane sales, however, were offset by an increase in total crane and earthmoving equipment sales, which lead to a marginal improvement to the Group's consolidated turnover of 0.1 percent to €4,087 million (£2,749 million).

The construction (tower cranes) crane and concrete machinery operations reported an increase of 3.2 percent, or €10 million (£6.7 million), to €326 million (£219 million) during the same period. However, it was strong sales in Liebherr's mining and earthmoving sectors, which saw a five percent rise, or

€61 million (£41 million), to €1,298 million (£874 million), during 2003 that were largely responsible for the consolidated growth.

Turnover in the maritime cranes sector increased by 3.7 percent to €258 million (£174 million). 'Certain Asian markets had an important effect on stabilising the turnover,' said Liebherr, with The People's Republic of China and South Korea in particular, and also Japan, all being growth markets for the company in 2003.

'Only partial growth was experienced in Western Europe,' according to the company, 'with slight increases in turnover in Austria, France and Spain failing to compensate for falling sales elsewhere, such as Italy and The Netherlands.' Turnover in Germany remained flat at just over €1 billion (£0.7 billion).

Worker escapes boom collapse



A worker was seriously injured last month when the ground gave way under a JLG 600AJ articulated boom lift working on the new Joseph Wright sixth form building at the Derby College. The machine fell against the building's framework, which prevented it from falling further.

The 36 year-old operator suffered serious arm injuries after being trapped inside the platform before colleagues were able to reach him using a platform suspended from a crane that was working on site. The job site was immediately closed down pending a Health and Safety Executive investigation.



Cat launches top tele

Caterpillar has topped its telehandler line-up with the introduction of what is now the company's largest model. Allocated the TH580B, the new unit is rated at 5 tonnes capacity with a maximum lift height of 17 metres, and completes Caterpillar's eight-strong B-Series telehandler range up to 5 tonnes lift capacity and lift heights up to 17 metres.

Aimed at the large construction and civil engineering sectors, the TH580B is available in two configurations, Construction and Construction Plus – the main differences being a much higher specification cab, including air conditioning and air suspension seat with the Construction Plus version.

The unit utilises a fully synchronised, four-section boom, with load-sensing hydraulics, which is electro-hydraulically controlled for proportional and simultaneous boom movements.

Additional hydraulic circuits and mechanical or hydraulic quick-couplers can also be fitted to accommodate numerous work tool extensions, such as forks, buckets and grapples, material handling arms, pick-up brooms, and two access platform basket versions.

As with all units in the B-Series range, the TH580B features a side-mounted engine layout and an electronic control system with diagnostic capabilities that can be accessed by way of a laptop, or remotely through the GPS-based Cat Product Link system.

Nationwide has won the contract to supply BAA with all its powered access requirements during the construction of a 32-metre high passenger bridge that will eventually span a live taxiway at Gatwick Airport's North Terminal.

that we have about 60 machines on site at any one time." The project is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

"We're supplying everything from small scissors lifts to 40-metre self-propelled booms on this job," said Nationwide project manager, Julie Wallace.

"We have planned for 1,200 machine-weeks, which means



First half sales jump in line with Palfinger's plan

Palfinger, the Austria-based knuckle boom crane producer, has posted sales of €190.6 million (UK£128.3 million) for the first half of 2004, a €23 million (£15.5 million), or 14.3 percent, increase compared with the same period last year. Profit before tax also showed strong growth to €16 million (£10.8 million), or a 10.6 percent increase.

Palfinger attributed the 2004 first quarter revenue increase largely to developments in North America and growing interest in newer hydraulic systems. In the second quarter, the revenue increase was mostly put down to strong performance by the company's European crane operations.

Looking forward, Palfinger remains confident that it will exceed 2003's record revenue of €334.1 million (£225 million), generated by the sales of more than 18,000 cranes and systems, by the year-end.

AJ Access acquires Cox Plant

AJ Access Platforms, based in Gwent, south Wales, has acquired the access rental fleet of Cox Plant for an undisclosed cash sum. The purchase includes over 100 machines that will be incorporated into to AJ Access' core used equipment business. All existing hire contracts will be honoured.

"We have orders for most of the equipment already as currently there appears to be a shortage in the market place and new deliveries appear to be extended," said AJ Access director Tony Mort. "These machines are not for our own rental fleet, but are specifically for our used/resale sales activity, which remains the company's main focus world-wide."

Cox Plant said that the disposal of its access rental fleet would allow it to focus on its core strategy of specialising in general plant hire. AJ Access has also launched a new website to enable the purchase of used equipment from the company live over the Internet.

Sam Hire, Chadwicks and Jacksons come together

The Heiton Group has recommended a take-over bid from Grafton Group Holdings to acquire approximately 70 percent of the shares in Heiton that it does not already own.

The offer values the company at €339 million (UK£223 million) and the combined group will have annual sales in the region of €2 billion (£1.3 billion). The main activities of the two groups are branded builders' merchants in Ireland and the UK, but both have significant rental operations and are a relatively large provider of access equipment.

Heiton has concentrated its rental activities under Sam Hire, which rents out tools and general plant and is a significant player in the powered access and alloy tower market in Ireland. The Grafton group owns Chadwicks and Woodies in Ireland - Chadwicks has a significant powered access and scaffold division in Ireland with 12 locations.

Orders for 3055 top 100

More than 100 confirmed orders have been received for Grove's new 55 tonne capacity GMK3055 since its launch at bauma 2004, according to the company. Such has been the interest shown in the 3055, said Grove, that it decided to take the unit on a four week, 2000-kilometre demonstration tour across The Netherlands, which it recently completed at the point of the first sale to Herpertz of Heythuysen.

"We know the predecessor model, the GMK3050, very well because we already have four in our fleet, and they have been stalwart performers for many years," said Herpertz owner, Jan-Paul Herpertz. "But, the technology has moved on, and the performance of the new model is even better, so we will progressively replace all of our 50-tonners with this new 55 tonne machine."

The GMK3055 has been designed with a new, longer 43-metre boom, which makes it a strong contender in the 60-tonne capacity class.



Runcorn-based Quigley Crane Hire recently looked to its 350 tonne capacity Demag AC350 SS2 mobile crane to lift a 3 tonne bronze sculpture onto the new Peel Holdings building at Trafford Quays, Manchester. A 46.9-metre main boom combined with a 48-metre luffing jib provided the necessary up-and-over reach for the delicate lift to height of 42 metres and a radius of 56

metres. The sculpture, entitled Venus Trinity is a twice-life-size bronze casting of three naked female figures by Manchester sculptor, Colin Spofforth.



Panther Platforms recently put the UK's first Oil & Steel Eagle 44/30 to work on a project for Mowlem construction that required the refurbishing of a Miton Keynes Safeway store. The unit's cage, which is perched on top of 16-metre long, three-stage telescopic upper boom, was fitted with 150psi water tanks and generator for the job.



SkyJack sales up 84 percent

Canada-based aerial lift producer, Skyjack, has disclosed a massive 84 percent sales increase in its 2004 first half sales to C\$121.4 million (£50.9 million). Net earnings improved from a loss of C\$11.9 million (£5 million) reported in 2003 to a profit of C\$4.1 (£1.7 million) this year. European sales were approximately C\$18.5 million (£7.8 million).

Frank and Linda Hasenfratz, chairman and main board director at Skyjack's parent company Linamar, commented: "Strong sales growth in the second quarter of 2004 compared to the same period in 2003, follows similar results in the previous two quarters. For the near term, this market trend appears to be continuing. However,

this market is very competitive and price pressure is severe. Skyjack remains one of the leading companies in the elevated work platform market and it is continuing to develop its European and North American markets."

Skyjack has undergone extensive changes in the way it produces its product, focusing efforts on

reducing costs and altering the manufacturing strategy from one of a complete component manufacturer to a design, assembly, marketing and distribution strategy. The company claims that this has contributed to the noted improvements in the company's results.

Full story on www.vertikal.net.

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HSE to blitz UK crane hirers

The Construction Division of the UK's Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has begun targeting UK crane hire companies as part of a 'crane-hire blitz' to crackdown on unsafe lifts performed under CPA crane hire conditions.

In a letter to Colin Wood, chief executive of the Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA), Susan Thompson, HM inspector of Health and Safety, disclosed that the visits are scheduled to take place during the Autumn/Winter of this year.

Mrs Thompson said that "during 2004/5, the emphasis of the HSE's work on lifting operations will be on the use of mobile cranes on site and that it will be focusing on the crane-hire industry.

"We have increasing evidence that lifting operations are being undertaken without proper organisation when cranes are hired out under CPA crane hire conditions," said Mrs Thompson. "In particular, we are concerned that those who hire in the crane are not competent to plan the lifting operation and that there is no appropriate supervision once the crane arrives on site.

"We believe it is important that those who hire-in cranes are aware of our concerns regarding planning for safe lifting and that we will be pushing for CPA contract hire arrangements where they, as clients, cannot demonstrate competence in this area. Full story on www.vertikal.net

Couling to head Versalift

Steve Couling, European sales and marketing director for UpRight, has been named managing director designate of Versalift Distributors, to replace its current managing director Tony Coleman who retires at the end of the year.

Part of the Time manufacturing group based in Waco, Texas, and owned by O'Flaherty holdings of Dublin, Versalift distributes and mounts its aerial work platform product throughout the UK and

Ireland from its Northamptonshire base. The company has become the market leader in van mounted lifts in the UK and Ireland in the 10 years since it was founded in 1994.

Versalift conducted an unusually high profile, public recruitment campaign to find a successor to Mr Coleman. UpRight has confirmed that Mr Couling will be leaving the company effective from September 17, but declined to comment on his future role.

Terex sales up

The Terex group has announced a 20 percent rise in sales to \$2.4 billion (UK£1.3 billion) in its first half results for 2004. Net income rose to \$76 million (£42.2 million) from a loss of almost \$40 million (£22.2 million) 12 months earlier.

Terex Cranes performed better than expected with sales for the second quarter marginally above last year's level at \$276 million (£153.5 million). Sales for the first half were \$486 billion (£270 billion), less than five percent short of last year's record year, firmly placing the business on track to achieving full year sales close to the \$1 billion (£0.6 billion), that it achieved last year. The company's backlog at the end of June was \$285 million (£158.5 million) compared to \$153 million (£85.1 million) reported in 2003.

"While North America remains a difficult market, we expect modest improvements heading into 2005," said Steve Filipov, president Terex Cranes. "Our international cranes businesses, most notably Terex-Demag, delivered improved operating margins on reduced net sales, mainly attributed to low used crane sales in 2004. The tower crane business - the smallest crane operating group - also produced superb results for the quarter."

Mr Filipov said that he remains optimistic about Terex Cranes' future prospects. "We continue to see signs of a stabilizing market in North America, a market that has seen an approximate 70 percent downturn in demand since 2000."

Booms

Terex aerials, predominantly the Genie business, one of the group's most profitable divisions, showed strong sales growth, up by almost 30 percent in the first half to \$406 million (£225.8 million), with the second quarter outperforming the first.

Margins and profits were up significantly, with gross margins exceeding 21 percent and half year operating income increasing by over 40 per cent to \$53.9 million (£29.9 million) compared with the previous year. Backlogs rose steeply to \$115 million (£63.9 million) from \$21 million (£11.6 million). Significant revenue improvements were reported in North America, Germany, France and the UK.

"While cost pressures from many of our suppliers, particularly steel, negatively impacted our gross margin, our operating margin continued to improve," said Bob Wilkerson, president Terex Aerial Work Platforms. "As customers continue to demonstrate improved financial performance, we expect many will look to expand their rental fleets to meet increased demand for light-duty rental equipment. Our performance growth continues to be mainly driven by replacement demand, as rental companies have stopped ageing their fleets."

Industrial lifting equipment specialist, Seward Wyon, has been awarded a contract by Southampton Container terminal to raise the height of five Morris quayside gantry cranes. The job requires raising the height of each crane by five metres, from 31 to 36 metres under the spreader, in order to cater for higher deck stows and to service the larger vessels that call at the port.

A 1000-tonne capacity modular system, comprising 185 strand jacks controlled by a central computer, and capable of jacking up to 5.5 metres, was designed to complete the work.



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Orion takes new Wumag

Orion Access Services of Erith near Dartford has added a 35-metre working height Wumag WT 355 truck-mount, purchased from SkyKing Equipment, to its year-old fleet. The unit is mounted on an 18-tonne MAN chassis and will boost Orion's service portfolio for heavy-duty applications.

"Although we currently supply a number of 3.5- and 7.5-tonne vehicles on a self-drive basis, we want to focus our attention on the training and supply of



equipment to companies operating in the highways and construction sector," said Paul Chalk, managing director at Orion.

Orion recently supplied the unit for the fitting of pigeon prevention spikes on Westminster Cathedral in London (pictured).

Offshore Crane Engineering rescued

Offshore Crane Engineering of Aberdeen has been acquired by mystery company, TSI (Crane), a new subsidiary of TSI (UK), within just two weeks of filing for provisional liquidation on 20 August this year.

Established in 1986, Offshore Crane Engineering, and its two divisions, Bucyrus Erie Marine Cranes and Caledonia Lifting and Certification Services, provide a one-stop crane management service to the offshore industry, from the provision of cranes, maintenance,

overhauls, specialist personnel and associated consultancy services to meet the needs of the North Sea oil and gas sector from its base in Dyce.

Bob Glatley, former chairman of Offshore Crane Engineering said: "It was obviously a sad day when the old company went into provisional liquidation, but I firmly believe that this new company will flourish under TSI's wing and I look forward to working with the business to continue to give the industry 'best in class' service."

Haulotte profits up

Pinguely-Haulotte has posted a 16 percent increase to €127 million (UK85.2 million) in its 2004 first half-year sales. Sales in the second quarter of the period were also up by seven percent on the same quarter last year at €74.2 million (£50 million).

Excluding the LEV and UK Platforms acquisitions, like-for-like revenues were €114.3 million (£76.7 million), showing a seven-percent increase over 2003. Alexandre Saubot told C&A that the like-for-like increase is actually greater than this, due to inter-company sales between Haulotte, LEV and UK platforms being eliminated in the consolidated accounts.

According to Mr Saubot, order intake for the six months rose by 20 percent compared with 2003,

'reflecting signs of market recovery, which were confirmed in the second quarter.'

"Considering the significant second-quarter increase in production levels, the persistent weakness of the dollar and the rise in steel prices, Haulotte is on schedule to achieve its target revenues of €280 million (£188 million) and a net income of five percent."

When asked about how the company was coping with the steel and component shortages facing the manufacturing industry, Mr Saubot said that it was merely a question of price rather than availability, but that there was concern for the fourth quarter.

HEK launches 'plug and go' platform

The Netherlands-based hoist producer and wholly-owned subsidiary of Interevict of Sweden, HEK, has introduced a new 300-kilogram capacity material hoist that utilises a single-phase, standard power supply for use where heavy-duty power supplies may not be available.

The HEK GL 300 S has been developed around a 'plug-and-go' concept, which operates from a basic 240v 50/60 Hz single-phase supply. The platform itself measures 1-metre wide, 1.7-metres deep and operates at a hoist and



descending speed of 8 minutes per minute to a maximum height of 50 metres.

The company is targeting the GL 300 S at rental and plant-hire companies that serve house building, maintenance and refurbishment contracts on low- to medium-height buildings - an area not typically served by material hoists.

Tadano Faun boosts UK service

UK Cranes, the UK and Ireland distributor for Tadano Faun cranes, has contracted Crowland Cranes of Crowland, Peterborough, to provide Tadano Faun customers with after sales support, including warranty cover.

The deal, which became effective in August, has boosted UK Cranes' mobile service team to a manager and five engineers. "There is a shortage of good crane engineers and managers in the UK, so this agreement provides us with significantly more experienced cover, immediately," said Joe Lyon, managing director of UK Cranes.

As part of the deal, which covers England and Wales - separate cover already exists for Scotland and Ireland - customers now have the option of calling either UK Cranes or Crowland Cranes for all service and warranty issues.

Manitowoc sales increase

The Manitowoc Company has reported half-year group sales revenues of \$938 million (£523 million), up 21 percent from \$774 million (£431.6 million) in 2003. Net income for the same period jumped to \$21.5 million (£11.9 million) from \$6.5 million (£3.6 million), a whopping 330 percent increase.

Crane sales for the six months rose by 24 percent compared to the first half of 2003 to \$583 million (£325 million). Operating income for the same period rose by 65 percent to \$28 million (£15.6 million).

The strong performance was attributed to improved global market penetration and increased demand across a number of international markets for mobile

telescopic cranes, tower cranes, and boom trucks, which helped offset weak demand for crawler cranes in North America.

"Global demand for our broader crane product offering continues to improve, especially in parts of Europe, Asia, and Australia," said Terry D. Growcock, Manitowoc's chairman and chief executive officer. "It's clear that our acquisitions, as well as our restructuring and consolidation efforts, are making a difference. Our product line and global market penetration have enabled us to deliver improved earnings despite continued softness in the US crawler crane market and significant increases in raw material prices."

Hewden sees growth in revenues and profits

Revenues for the Hewden hire businesses, part of Canadian group, Fanning international saw revenues for the first six months of 2004 rise by almost five percent to C\$341 million (£140 million) compared to the same period of 2003. Earnings before interest and tax were C\$16.9 million (£7 million), up by 12 percent on last year in spite of higher costs and depreciation. For full story see www.Vertikal.Net

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Outreach opts for competitor crane brand

Outreach, the Falkirk-based forestry and timber waste industry handling equipment supplier, has chopped its 24-year long agreement as the sole UK distributor for Loglift and Jonsered cranes, to make way for a national distribution agreement for previous competitor, Epsilon. Epsilon is now part of the Palfinger Group, for whom Outreach has been the exclusive dealer for Scotland for almost 30 years.

The Epsilon range was previously available through Palfinger's own England and Wales distributor, TH White, which will continue to sell the Epsilon construction crane line. Under the new arrangement, Outreach will be the sole UK distributor for the Epsilon timber and recycling crane range, while both firms will act as sub-dealers for the other.

"The decision for us to switch brand was not taken lightly," said Outreach managing director, Wilson Paton. "Outreach had

represented Loglift and Jonsered in the UK for 24 years, achieving dominant market leadership in the sector during every single one of them. We observed the purchase by Kone of Loglift and Jonsered's parent, Partek, and naturally had become aware of some of its future plans. We concluded that now was the best time to make a change.

Palfinger Group marketing director, Wolfgang Pilz said that "the new arrangement for the UK market will provide the best possible support for its customers and bring obvious commercial benefits to both Outreach and TH White."

**Pictured, Epsilon Kran managing director, Ing. Hans Freidrich (left) and Outreach managing director, Wilson Paton.*



J Barnsley returns to Thames Barrier for crane overhaul

J Barnsley, the West Midlands crane producer, has been awarded the contract for the servicing, refurbishment or replacement of all cranes, hoists and jibs that it supplied for the Thames Barrier when it was first constructed more than 30 years ago. The company originally supplied more than 40 cranes and jibs for the seven offshore piers to control the barrier and help prevent the City of London flooding, as part of an order placed by UK contractor, Davy Cleveland Consortium, in the 1960s.

The UK's Environment Agency, which has been responsible for operating the equipment since its installation, recently requested that



J Barnsley undertake an appraisal of the original equipment, which includes cranes ranging from 5 to 12 tonnes capacity.

UpRight is opening a new opening a new 28,000 square metre production facility in Mexicali in Baja California, Mexico. Located close to the Mexican-US border, the plant is expected to ship the first MX19 and TM12 electric scissor lifts within the next two weeks. Boom lifts and diesel scissors are expected to follow soon after. The company has already announced that the new Speed Level will be produced in Ireland from later this month.

With just a couple of months to go before new STGO plates must be fitted to cranes in the UK, the UK representatives of four of the world's main crane manufacturers, Grove Cranes, Kato Cranes, Liebherr Great Britain and Terex Demag, have informed the Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) and crane users of the procedures to be undertaken. The full document can be viewed at www.vertikal.net.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Hugh Cole, previously head of regional operations at Avis, has been named as the new managing director of Nationwide Access. Mr Cole will also join the executive committee of Nationwide's parent company, the Lavendon Group.

Kobelco Cranes North America has announced the promotion of Jack Fendrick to the position of general manager. Mr Fendrick joined Kobelco over nine years ago and has been instrumental in establishing the Kobelco range in North America.

The IPAF approved access training provider, Instant Training, has acquired Training Direct and is now operating from three centres in Bromsgrove, Gloucester and Newport.

Bobcat has extended the catchment area of its Wallingford-based distributor, R F Hayden Machinery Sales and Service, to cover Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Warwickshire and Oxfordshire.

A-Plant has named Harvinder Azad as the firm's new UK financial controller. Based at A-Plant's Warrington head office, Mr Azad will report to finance director, Tony Durant.

Southern Electric Contracting has taken delivery of 20 Versalift 14- and 12.9-metre cherry-picker access platforms mounted on 4.6 tonne chassis 411CDI Mercedes panel vans for maintenance and installation work.

Load Instrumentation, producers of the Loadwise brand of load moment indicators, has been taken over by the Hawkley Group. The Hawkley Group, based in Bordon, Hampshire, makes weighbridges and portable truck scales as well as the Timotex range of forklift weighing systems.

The UK arm of off-highway transmission producer, ZF Transmissions, has transferred its UK after sales service from the Hindle Group in southern and north east England and Scotland, to Walkden-based Ecodrive Transmissions and Powertrain Products of the West Midlands. The changes do not effect ZF's after sales service network for Ireland.

The Lifting Equipment Engineers Association (LEEA) has unveiled a new logo to help raise the association's profile and raise awareness of critical safety issues with the specification, operation and maintenance of overhead lifting equipment. The new logo replaces the old design used by the LEEA since its creation as the Chain Testers Association in 1944.



Bill Boulton, best known to industry for his chairmanship of what was BET Plant Services during the eighties and nineties, has died at the age of 72.

Imes Group has appointed Derek Penny as the new General Manager of Buchan Inspection. Mr Penny was previously general manager at ABB Control Valves. Buchan Inspection is a specialist provider of high integrity accredited independent third party inspection, testing and advisory services for lifting equipment.

Bob Gleason, owner of the former Chicago-based crane distributor and rental company, Gleason Cranes, has died at the age of 81. He died in his sleep at his Chicago home on August 21st.

UpRight has appointed Shane Marshall as its new UK sales manager following Bob Elcomes departure in May. Mr Marshall was previously sales manager with Haulotte UK and more recently with UK platforms.

United Rentals, the world's largest rental company and the owner of the worlds largest fleet of Aerial lifts has announced that it received notice that the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") is conducting a non-public, fact-finding inquiry of the company.

Finning, the Caterpillar distributor and owner of Hewden, has been awarded the Perkins engines distribution rights for the UK from January 2005.

The market leading Toucan range of mast booms appeared in JLG's orange and cream livery for the first time at the recent Platformers' Days in Germany.

Easi UpLifts the Irish/Scottish powered access hirer (no. 11 in this years top 20) has been named as new distributor for Aichi self propelled work platforms in the UK and Ireland.

Pietro Pagliero, one of the great pioneers of the truck mounted platform industry, has died at the age of 70. Just two months prior, Mr Pagliero received an award from the Italian chamber of commerce for 53 years of dedicated service to Pagliero, which he inherited from his father along with brother Giorgio.

LAST MINUTE NEWS

At the time of going to press, C&A, learnt that Hewden has placed a multi-million pound order with Terex-Demag for around 25 Demag mobile cranes and around 100 Genie aerial work platforms. The story will be covered more extensively in the October issue.