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Air protection

SAFEFORCE, the safety equipment division of Hire Station, part of the Vp plc group, has designed and introduced an airbag safety system that can be temporarily installed on construction sites for increased work at height safety. The "soft fall arrest" Airbag Safety System comprises individually inter-linked modular air mattresses that when inflated, by an electric or petrol fan, expand and join together to form a continuous, cushioned protective surface to protect from falls from heights of up to 7 metres.

Each bag has been subject to examination by the Building Research Establishment to test resistance to falling weights by dropping 85 kilogram masses from a height of 16 metres. No damage was caused to the bags. The airbags are available in standard sizes and can be configured to suit individual applications.

Safeorce says that its decision to produce the bags follows figures published by the Health & Safety Executive, which show that during 2001/2002, 68 people were fatally injured and nearly 4000 suffered serious injury following falls from height in the workplace. ■



REID LIFTING has developed a new version of its Porta-Davit lifting

system by way of the 500 kilogram capacity Porta-Davit T, which can be specified with a beam reach of up to 2 metres. The unit features a horizontal lifting beam with integral winch, while the incorporation of two built-in shackles allows chain-block lifting if required. Made from high-tensile aluminium, the unit can be packed-down into two heavy-duty carry bags. ■

Tiny titans



GERMANY-BASED ROTZLER has introduced the surface-mounted Titan Compact (TC 1/2) rope winch range for knuckle boom and marine cranes and special hoisting applications. The TC line comprises three compact versions with lifting forces of 7, 10 and 19 kN, the smallest of which weighs 50 kilograms and measures just 320 millimetres in length, 280 millimetres in width and 280 millimetres in height.

On each winch model, the gearbox torque (load) is constantly measured and converted into a linear analogue signal with the aid of an electronic measurement control device (MCD). The signal can be integrated into almost any electronic crane control system to allow the operator to keep an accurate check on the crane's load at all times. A linear signal also provides a means of generating acoustic or visual warnings, which must be given if the winch exceeds 90 per cent of its load rating.

The gearbox measuring function is effective while the winch is hoisting and lowering, and also while static with the holding brake on. Also incorporated into the winch's electronic system is the ability to identify the lowermost hook position, which prevents the operator from un-spooling beyond the minimum three safety windings demanded by EN 12999. ■



Chain gang

ABUS CRANE Systems in the UK has added to its range of chain hoists with the launch of the GM2. The unit is a low headroom unit for load capacities of up to 630 kilograms safe working load (SWL), and provides hoist speeds of up to 20 metres per minute and a duty rating up to M7 heavy-duty rating (dependent SWL).

Features include a brake design which allows around 1 million braking operations to be performed under normal operating conditions before any brake adjustment may be necessary, and a specially hardened modular load chain. A 'teach-in' limit switch is also available.

Abus Cranes offers complete cranes up to 100 tonnes SWL, wire rope and electric chain hoists, floor and wall mounted jib cranes, mobile gantries, remote control systems and the 'HB' range of light crane systems. ■

THIS NEW chemical and water resistant outrigger protection pad for cranes and access equipment is now available from Stilton Surveys in the UK. Manufactured from PP/PE, the pad measures 600 x 600 millimetres, is 40 millimetres thick and weighs 13.5 kilograms. ■



Please send in all your product innovations to: Innovations, The Vertical Press, Unit 1/Level 5, New England House, New England Street, Brighton, BN1 4GH.