

## The Italian job

Launched at SAIE, Dieci's 2.6 tonne capacity Dedalus 26.6 is now the most compact machine in the Dieci range.



ITALY-BASED telehandler manufacturer Dieci has said that construction of its brand new €20 million (UK£14 million) production facility is set to begin in Spring, 2004. The new 100,000 square metre complex will initially feature a 28,000 square metre covered factory comprising four separate production lines.

The company is currently located at its Reggio Emilia location in Italy where 685 telehandlers were produced in 2002/3, accounting for an annual turnover of €53 million (£33.96 million).

Ciro Correggi, vice president at Dieci said that the company has set a 3000 machines per year target at the new facility, telehandlers accounting for 80 plus per cent. Production is expected to begin by September 2005.

The company also launched three new telehandler models at the SAIE exhibition. The compact 2.6 tonne capacity Dedalus 26.6 is a 6.6 metre working height machine with a two-section boom, with the option of a 74-kilowatt intercooler or 88-kilowatt intercooler engine.

The bigger compact Runner 35.10 features a 3-section boom capable of lifting 3 tonnes at 9.8 metres and 3.5 tonnes at 7 metres. The third model joins Dieci's existing 16 metre working height class machines and has been specially designed for the UK market where demand is strong for a 17 metre machine. Comprising a 4-section fixed boom, the unit can lift a maximum load of 4 tonnes.

Also, a brand new cab design incorporates double joystick operation and a hydraulic flow management system which allows the simultaneous operation of five movements. Initially, the cab will only be available for mounting on Dieci's continuous rotation telehandlers.

A new 6.5 metre extension boom with basket, dubbed the 'positive/negative boom', was also exhibited, designed for underbridge work from above roads. The boom is compatible with both fixed and continuous rotation machines and, in addition to the 360 degree rotation available when used with continuous rotation machines, a further 400 degree arm rotation is provided by the boom system itself. ■

Italy's lifting equipment manufacturers didn't seem to take much convincing of the importance of the country's, and Europe's, largest construction equipment exhibition this year. Indeed, many of the new products on show at SAIE 2003 came from Italy's home-grown producers.



# SAIE

TWO OF Europe's prominent telehandler producers, Manitou Construzione Industriali and Dieci, were among those that introduced brand new telehandler products at the show, both of which also announced heavy investment in their Italian telehandler production operations. The full reports can be seen on each side of this feature.

Another of Italy's finest, Merlo, also used SAIE to introduce the crowds to a prototype of its new 25 metre lift height 40.25 continuous roto model with a five-section boom. The 4 tonne capacity unit is capable of lifting 1.5 tonnes at its maximum height and can reach out to 8.2 metres with its maximum load. Most significant, says Merlo, is a new cab design that features a tilt capacity of up to 13 degrees. The unit will be available at the beginning of next year.

Komatsu also showcased a prototype of its own all-new 12.7 metre working height, 3.3 tonne lift capacity WH613 telehandler.

The unit will be introduced as part of a new telehandler line, available towards the middle/end of next year. Terex also unveiled preliminary details of three new additions to its telelift telehandler series, the 6 metre lift height, 2.5 tonne capacity 2506, and the two larger 4 tonne capacity 4015 and 4017 units with respective lift heights of 15 and 17 metres.

As is always expected at SAIE, the industry's knuckle boom manufacturers put on a grand display. Palfinger plated-up the latest additions to its Performance range, the PK 27002, and two new additions to its Compact range, the PK 2700 and PK 3200, suitable for use on smaller commercial vehicles. Also launched was the PKK 12500, the first crane to be launched from the company's new cost-efficient Advantage knuckle boom generation.

Effer introduced no less than six new knuckle booms in the 11, 70, 120 and 140 tonne/metre classes, while Fassi impressed



Autogrif Rigo's 65 tonne capacity RTT 654.



Komatsu's 13 metre working height class WH613

## Manitou moves in Italy



The MRT assembly line at MCI's new Castelfranco facility.

MANITOU CONSTRUZIONE Industriali (MCI) officially cut the ribbon of its new 36,000 square metre telehandler assembly facility last month at its new location in Castelfranco, Emilia Province, Italy.

The €17 million (UK£11.83 million) factory will retain a focus on the assembly and distribution of Manitou's 25-strong Maniscopic telescopic forklift line, comprising the MRT rotation machines, the MHT heavy-duty forklifts and the MVT range of hydraulic transmission machines. Approximately 1380 machines rolled off of MCI's assembly lines last year, but the company prefers a figure closer to the 1300 mark for 2003, while retaining a new model development rate of two to three machines per year.

Space has been allocated on the new Castelfranco assembly lines for three brand new Maniscopic telehandler models, introduced for the first time at the facility's opening, and also publicly exhibited for the first time at the corresponding SAIE exhibition.

Arguably the most significant introduction was what is now Manitou's largest telehandler, the MRT 2540 Turbo. The machine provides a 25 metre lift height, a 4 tonne lift capacity and falls into what Manitou has dubbed its 'three-in-one' range due to each machine's capacity to be used as either a telehandler, rough terrain crane or access platform.

Also introduced were the MVT 665T and 675T hydraulic transmission, heavy duty industrial Maniscopics. Both machines have 6 metre maximum lift heights, but vary by a 6.5 tonne lift capacity and a 7.5 tonne lift capacity as suggested by the allocated names. Both models feature 4-wheel drive and steer, are powered by a Perkins 1004.40 Turbo (106 horsepower) diesel engine and boast reinforced chassis' to allow for a heavier boom. ■

Full story on [www.Vertikal.net](http://www.Vertikal.net)

# Roots



Fassi impressed with its usual display of its complete product line-up of knuckle booms.

with its usual display of its complete product line, which this year included the new eight-section hydraulic boom versions of its F800AXP and F1500AXP combined with the L506 and L516 jibs respectively.

Most of the new access equipment at the show was reserved for the smaller Italian producers, such as Palazzani with its new 23 metre track mounted Ragno TSJ 23 prototype platform, and Tuepen which introduced its new 10 metre Moskito trailer mounted unit. Barin was present with its new 44 metre AP44/28 truck mount designed for mounting on 25 tonne chassis, while OP Pagliero has targeted the 3.5 tonne and 7.5 tonne chassis sectors with its 22 metre height 220 ALU AZ and 25 metre working height MJ 250 AF respectively. It has to be

said that the majority of displays from the full-line access manufacturers were set up for a second time this year, following the Intermat exhibition in Paris earlier in the year. Something that could also be said for most of the major crane manufacturers.

Liebherr for one failed to show a single crane due to what the company put down to a lack of stand space. Italy's Autogru Rigo on the other hand managed the launch of a 65 tonne capacity all terrain taxi crane. The four-axle RTT 654 features a five-section telescopic boom which telescopes from 10.2 to 40 metres and has been designed to give customers fast, productive set-up times. Lattice extensions of 10 and 17 metres are also available.

The first 60 tonne ATF 60-3 to be sold into Italy was the sole crane on Tadano's stand, decorated in the livery of its owner, Udine-based rental company, Triventa. Fellow Italy-based rental company Runco of Consenza also officially received another first for Italy, this time, Grove's flagship 450 tonne capacity GMK7450. The German-built machine was also launched in Europe at Intermat and sold through Grove's Italian distributor Fimi of Porto d'Ascoli.

Whether the Italian construction equipment market retains its number one position in Europe this year, as is expected, is still yet to be seen. It remains at present, however, Europe's largest and Italy's own smaller manufacturers certainly seemed to take SAIE by the horns this year to make up for the lack of new product launches from the bigger international lifting equipment players, the majority of which have bigger plans for bauma taking place in Munich, Germany in March and April next year.