

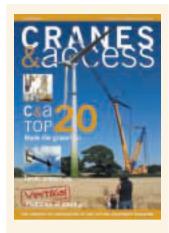
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ON THE COVER:

Ainscough Crane Hire once again appears in each crane category in the all-new *C&A* TOP 20 starting on page 17. The company recently supplied its flagship 1000 tonne capacity Liebherr LTM 11000D to wind turbine builder Ecotricity to assist in the erection of the UK's tallest wind turbine. Full story in News, page 12.

For the full story see:



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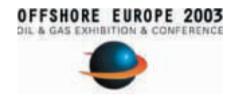
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17 C&A TOP 20 C&a 20

Previously dubbed the *C&A* TOP 10, the 2003 listing has been extended to include the UK & Ireland's TOP 20 crane and access rental companies. Turn to page 17 to find out who has, or hasn't, made the grade.

22 THE VERTIKAL CHECK





The Vertikal Press' annual Vertikal Check event attracted over 100 spectators at the recent Platformers'

Days exhibition in Hohenroda, Germany. This year, rough terrain telescopic straight booms battled it out in front of the crowds.

28 TOWER CRANES

In the first part of a two-part feature, *C&A* asked a number of the tower crane industry's players to explain the current popularity of self-erecting tower cranes in the UK & Ireland, while starting on page 31, Alain Voyatzis of crane safety system specialist SMIE highlights the benefits of ant-collision technology for tower cranes.

34 SAIE GUIDE



With just a couple of weeks to go until Italy's premiere construction equipment exhibition, *C&A* looks ahead to SAIE 2003 and rounds-up

some of the new equipment that visitors can expect to find on display in Bologna.

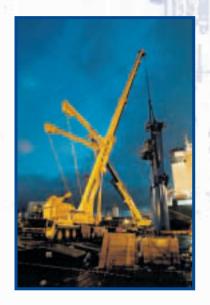


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AS A WORLD FAMOUS ex-motor racing commentator used to say, 'a lot can happen in Formula One, and it usually does.' Well the same can be said for the lifting and access industries. And a lot has happened during the past 12 months as is evident from *C&A's* annual listing of the UK & Ireland's largest crane and access rental companies which starts on page 17 of this issue. Previously a TOP 10 listing, this year the feature has

been injected with a further 10 positions for each category making it the first ever *C&A* TOP 20.

There are no prizes for guessing which company weighs in with the biggest mobile crane fleet this year, adding around 250 units at the beginning of the year to an existing fleet that topped the 2002 Top 10, just about falling short of 450 units. Whatever it was that was used to pay for those cranes also put the company at the top of the investment chart this year with a sum more than four times the amount of the number two-spot investor. Incidentally, a company with a very similar sounding name to that from which the cranes were purchased almost made it into this year's Top 20 and would have made interesting reading. "Definitely next year," we have been told.

We also make the trip over to Hohenroda, Germany this month to the annual Platformers' Days exhibition where a number of access equipment manufacturers fought head-to-head in the unique Vertikal Check event. Credit has to be given to all of this year's competitors, their equipment and their operators. All performed well-ahead of expectations on the day, taking into account the particularly rough terrain conditions set down by the German climate. The full report starts on page 22.

The Vertikal Press would like thank all those companies who contributed both information and equipment for this issue by way of both the TOP 20 and the Vertikal Check. It has been *C&A*'s aim to ensure that all companies have been fairly represented and I hope this comes across in both reports.





Letters, emails & faxes and phone calls are welcome and should be sent to:

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