



Kinshofer takes hold

THE UK arm of Kinshofer group recently claimed the European iF Design Award for its new HPX Drive hydraulic grab design for use with knuckle boom cranes. The maintenance-free HPX drive replaces traditional hydraulic cylinders with a helix gear system incorporated into a compact, totally enclosed hub. The range of grabs incorporating the HPX Drive include the company's top-of-the-range KM604 clamshell with capacities ranging from 200 to 450 litres and the KM626 with capacities ranging from 95 to 150 litres. The KM605U, a multi-purpose unit for handling all types of material, completes the line-up.

Unlike conventional clamshells where the closing force peaks and troughs, the HPX Drive generates a constant, optimised closing force throughout the digging process. According to Kinshofer this results in better digging characteristics and superior loading. Additional grabs available with the HPX system include the KM rock grapple for loading boulders and curb stones; the KM632 logging grapple for loading short logs, shrubbery and branches; and the KM641 multi-purpose grapple for agricultural applications. ■

Clamp down

CAMLOK LIFTING CLAMPS has designed a range of lifting clamps that can be used in place of traditional chain slings and hooks for lifting steel beams. The clamps operate by gripping the load via jaws and a series of links to prevent the load slipping and can be supplied for lifting beams in either a vertical or horizontal position.

For lifting beams in the latter position, a clamp with a hook ring near the centre of gravity can be used which is attached on opposite beam flanges for a near horizontal lift. For vertical lifts vertical girder clamps are available in pairs supported from a two-leg chain sling with a split bottom toe enabling the clamp to be attached to the ends of the beam. Vertical girder clamps are also available for vertical lifts where the beam needs to be lifted from the side with the flanges in the horizontal position. The clamps can be positioned on opposite beam flanges for a safe and stable lift. ■



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Easy release

PALFINGER HAS added this new time-saving uncoupling system to its product portfolio which is aimed at minimising the potential hazards to riggers often incurred when releasing a crane's load. Once the load is in position, the TÜV-tested Fix-de-fix system, developed by German forestry equipment company Zopf, can be detached by the rigger using remote control independent of the crane remote control. Safety systems have also been incorporated into the design to ensure that the load cannot be unintentionally loosened. Once detached from the load the Fix-de-fix system is threaded out by means of a "return chain system", which remains freely suspended from the crane ready for the next job.

The system is initially being supplied for lift capacities ranging from 2 to 3.15 tonnes and for single line operation, but multiple line operation is also possible. The Fix-de-fix system is available from Palfinger at a cost of around €4000. ■



From a distance

STRAINSTALL HAS introduced a new range of telemetry load shackles which it says tackles the problem of exposed signal cables when using load cells and electronic equipment to monitor a crane's load. Traditionally, in order to get the most accurate measurement from a load cell it needs to be positioned as close as possible to the load. Taking this into account, positioning the load cell at the hook means that the signal cable will be left exposed, whether connected to a cable reeling drum or connected to a hand held display. The cable can become easily snagged and is prone to damage.

Strainstall says that its telemetry load shackles solve this problem by enabling the user to stand further away from the load and out of harms way. Systems range from a simple hand-held display to data converters that can be connected directly to a computer so complete records can be maintained. The hand-held display can store up to 20 different transducer parameters which enables one display to accommodate several load shackle signals, while using a receiver/data converter that gives RS485 output can increase the number of monitored transducers to as many as 32. The shackles load range starts at 3 tonnes, with the top load limited only by the availability of the shackle forging, currently about 1000 tonnes. Normal operating distance is around 300 metres subject to operating conditions. ■

