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Manitowoc descends on Europe

MANITOWOC HAS announced that a new 250 tonne capacity crawler crane will be rolling off its Wilhelmshaven production line by the end of 2003.

The new crawler, dubbed model 15000, will be produced solely at the company's German facility and targeted mainly for the European market. Senior vice president worldwide marketing and product support at Manitowoc Crane Group, Larry Weyers, told *C&A* that the decision to produce the machine in Europe was a huge step for the company and is a strong message of commitment by Manitowoc to its European customers. One of the main features of the 15000 will be the dimensions of its main boom. For transportation purposes in a standard European truck trailer, the boom's width and height while lying flat will be kept to a maximum of 3 metres, while it will also be able to house the luffing jib inside due to a low profile counterweight design.

Vice president sales EMEA at Manitowoc Crane Group, Willem Hilderink, also announced the acquisition of the former Mammoet facility in Breda, The Netherlands, to provide a base for sales, service and parts operations for Manitowoc and Grove cranes.

Jean-Yves Bouffault, executive vice president for the Manitowoc Crane Group's EMEA region said: "The Netherlands is a key country for the lifting industry and has many international players and big professional companies. This is an important step in plans for the consolidated distribution of Grove and Manitowoc products in Europe, and will give additional support to both dealers and our

company stores as we introduce new and larger models, and further our market presence in Europe." The group has set itself a market share target of 33 per cent in The Netherlands alone.

Making the trip over to the recent Breda open day from the US was Glen Tellock, president of Manitowoc Crane Group, who said: "With declining markets worldwide, the opening of the facility shows that we are fully committed to our customers and continued investment in our business and in the future of the company. We now have an opportunity to become a major force in the mobile and crawler crane markets and get closer to some of the biggest rental companies in the world."

"Holland is a key market for the three brands (Manitowoc, Grove and Potain)," said Willem Hilderink, vice president sales EMEA of Manitowoc Crane Group. "The 10 biggest customers own 70 per cent of crawler cranes in the EMEA region, and all are within a 250 kilometre radius of the Breda facility, mainly in the UK, The Netherlands and Belgium."

The group said that from now on it will only operate directly through Manitowoc Crane Group representatives throughout EMEA, and announced the recent termination of the long-standing relationship with the original Netherlands-based GMK dealer, HDW.

When *C&A* asked Weyers if Manitowoc has any other plans for the near future, an interesting reply from Weyers suggested that plans are already being made to produce something bigger at the Wilhelmshaven facility. "The doors have recently been enlarged," said Weyers, "but not for production of the model 15000." ■

IPAF appoints new MD



THE INTERNATIONAL Powered Access Federation (IPAF) has announced the appointment of Tim Whiteman as its managing director designate from August 4, 2003. Whiteman will work alongside IPAF's current managing director, Paul Adorian, until his retirement at the end of the year, at which time the reigns will be passed over to Whiteman.

Commenting on his new role, Whiteman said: "I've been long impressed by IPAF's approach and what it has already achieved. I'm looking forward to making a real contribution to building on its sound financial position, strong management and support teams and active involvement of its membership. My aim is to extend the comprehensive support that IPAF offers the industry and its customers to an even wider international base."

Whiteman founded The Vertikal Press, which publishes *Cranes & Access*, *Kran & Bühne*, *Vertikal bauma* and *Vertikal.net*. He stressed that "the strong editorial team on these magazines remains unaltered and will continue to bring you the news as it happens from wherever it happens". ■

For full story visit www.Vertikal.net

Industry pays respects to John L Grove

JOHN L GROVE has died at the age of 82. The man who gave his name to Grove Worldwide and his initials to JLG passed away at his home in Greencastle on June 16th after a lengthy illness. Grove founded Grove Manufacturing in 1946 together with his two brothers. He went on to start JLG in 1969.

Grove was one of the pioneers of both the hydraulic crane industry and the powered access business and never lost his interest in the business - right to the end his "garage" was littered with "projects" and ideas. "He was a visionary - not your typical businessman," said Joseph Shull, who was president of Grove in the mid-1990s and knew Grove personally. ■

For full story visit www.Vertikal.net

HSE stops work on UK job sites

Work was stopped at almost a quarter of the construction sites visited by Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspectors during a national campaign against falls from height during the first two weeks of June. Another 5 per cent of the sites visited were issued with improvement notices and a number of dutyholders are still being considered for possible prosecution. There were also many instances of work voluntarily stopping until easily solved fall from height risks were reduced.

Inspectors visited 1446 construction sites across Great Britain to make sure that where work at height was taking place or planned, the risk of falling was being properly managed.

Kevin Myers, HSE chief inspector for construction said: "It was good to see during the inspection blitz that many people were aware of the campaign and many people had also taken action to improve work at height practices. Yet despite the industry knowing that HSE inspectors were out in force specifically looking at falls from height, the standards on 30 per cent of the sites visited were so poor they required enforcement action.

"This evidence suggests that there is still a large number of people working in the construction industry that are either not aware or do not fully understand their duties to manage fall from height risks," continued Myers. "This situation must change if we are to reduce the rate of falls from height, which remains the biggest cause of death or injury in construction."

Although sites were predominately found to be relying on traditional scaffold, harnesses or mobile towers there was evidence of increased use of mobile elevated work platforms (MEWPs), nets and airbags. However some problems were identified with the installation of nets that were not being secured to suitable anchorage points.

The HSE national inspection blitz was part of 'Don't Fall For It', a European Union campaign on falls from height in construction. The next inspection initiative will take place later in the year. All member states will be participating in the campaign. ■



Tadano/Mitsubishi's last stand

MARSH PLANT has taken delivery of what it says is probably the last six 25 tonne capacity Tadano TL250E truck mounted cranes mounted on Mitsubishi carriers. The cranes were shipped directly from Japan to Southampton Docks, already painted in Marsh Plant's livery, and prepared at the company's Havant depot by Tadano's UK distributor, Cranes UK.

Marsh Plant's operations director, Andy Honeywell said that there had been a certain amount of doubt as to whether the cranes would be delivered at all. Since placing the order over a year ago, Mitsubishi announced that it would no longer be supplying carriers for Tadano cranes, leading Marsh Plant to believe that its latest delivery are the last units to be produced under the Mitsubishi/Tadano agreement.

"This type of crane is becoming more and more scarce," said Honeywell, "but we still see a future with truck mounted cranes and these six units have helped modernise the age profile of our fleet."

Select to enter UK mobile market

The UK's leading tower crane rental company, Select Plant Hire, has kick-started its recently announced move into the mobile crane rental market with an order for nine Demag mobile cranes. The first batch, comprising seven Terex Demag all terrain cranes, is scheduled for delivery next month and will include a 200 tonne capacity AC 200-1, two 100 tonne capacity AC100s and four 50 tonne capacity AC 50-1s which will be put straight to work on a UK job site. The next phase of the order will take place in September with the delivery of a

second AC 200-1, while a 250 tonne AC 250, scheduled for delivery in Spring 2004, will complete the package.

Speaking to C&A, Select Plant Hire's Mike Studd said that the new mobile cranes will be available to the general rental market as and when they are not being used internally by Select for its own tower crane requirements. Select's investment in the new Terex Demags will not, however, see an end to all of its mobile crane hire requirements, which, according to the company, generates an annual expenditure of approximately £8 million. ■

Interlock Clarification

THE ASSOCIATION of Lorry-Loader Manufacturers and Importers (ALLMI) has responded to various statements from the Health & Safety Executive to clarify the present situation with regard to the incorporation of stabiliser leg interlocks on loader cranes.

ALLMI believes that it is not always possible to fit lorry loader cranes with suitable interlock systems and has issued a statement to clarify its position.

The Association said that the current situation is that whilst being aware of the desire for stabiliser interlocks to be incorporated, no manufacturer is able to offer a suitable system that can be applied to all available lorry loader models in their respective ranges. "At present, manufacturers may meet the specific requirements of some individual customers, using bespoke systems after discussion to consider the problems involved. Any modification to a CE marked machine should only be undertaken with the written approval of the

manufacturer and the details recorded in the crane's technical file."

ALLMI also said that it believes the safe operation of lorry loaders to be paramount, while its members should be committed to this principal. "With regard to stabiliser leg interlocks, the technical problems have not yet been overcome but work continues with a view to introduction and incorporation by 2006.

"The Supply of the Machinery (Safety) Regulations 1992, Statutory Instrument No. 3073, is the implementation of the European Machinery Directive into UK Law," ALLMI continued. "EN12999 is the European Standard for Loader Cranes and as a harmonised standard Presumption of Conformity with the European Machinery Directive. There is no requirement in EN12999 for stabiliser locks to be fitted to loader cranes. It therefore follows that there is no requirement in the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations for stabiliser interlocks to be fitted." ■

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King launches road/rail division

KING VEHICLE Engineering has launched a specialised division for road/rail infrastructure maintenance, King Rail Systems. The new division will be lead by its recently appointed sales manager Brian Lang, previously of Two Way Technology – a company involved in fitting road vehicles with rail guidance systems and rail maintenance equipment, including access platforms.

The launch of King Rail Systems falls neatly in line with the recent agreement signed between King and Germany-based specialist supplier of road/rail technology, Zweihoff. King said that its

new partner is able to convert almost any vehicle for use on rail, from Unimogs, to vans to tractor units, and tailor them by installing equipment such as aerial access platforms and knuckle boom cranes.

A King Trailers spokesperson said: "By integrating the Zweihoff product range with King Trailers' extensive expertise in vehicle engineering and aerial access platforms, King Rail Systems will now be in an excellent position to supply UK rail maintenance contractors with its specialist road/rail infrastructure vehicle needs. ■

EN280 controversy

CONTROVERSY SURROUNDS the implementation of the harmonised standard EN280 for Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPS), which was published one year ago in the Official Journal of the European Union. The standard requires the fitting of a full working envelope overload protections system and some observers had suggested this should be applied to all existing designs.

However, clarification expected from the European Commission's standing committee for directive 98/37/EC, Committee TC6.2, indicates that existing CE approvals are not affected by the standard. This means that you can still legally buy new, CE approved, platforms that are not fitted with overload protection devices. However, all newly designed platforms will need full working envelope overload protection to obtain CE certification, on many machines this will require a micro processor based system!

In a report published by Vertikal.net, Leigh Sparrow, former senior vice president of UpRight, analyses the latest developments surrounding this complex issue and offers insight into the implications for access platform manufacturers and owners. ■

For full story visit www.Vertikal.net

Tower Crane Interest Group

PAUL PHILIPS, HTC business development director, will chair a new tower crane interest group under the UK's Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA). The group, which held its first meeting in April and attracted 27 company members from manufacturers, hirers and users of tower cranes, will focus on, among others, purchase, operation safety and legislation issues directly related to the tower crane industry. The Group has also selected a ten member Steering Committee, which includes two consultants Tim Watson and Peter Oram and David Butterworth of the HSE.

Philips commented: "Already on the group's agenda is to analyse the legitimacy and suitability of the CPA's current crane hire terms and conditions in direct relation to tower cranes and the commercial terms under rental."

The group will be co-ordinating and co-operating with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) in the development of a CITB NVQ national certification for tower crane erectors, while the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) is also in the process of compiling a Best Practise Guidance for "Tower Crane Stability". The CPA said that it has given its full support to the project. ■

UK scaffolding firm fined £75,000

WILLIAM HARE, one of the UK's largest steel erection companies, has been fined a total of £75,000, following a fatal incident in which two workers fell from height, resulting in the death of one. The Health & Safety Executive's (HSE) prosecution followed the accident, which occurred on April 2, 1998, during the construction of an extension to the Imperial War Museum at Lambeth Road, London.

William Hare employee, Brian Knights, fell to his death from the structure and was killed, while work colleague, Richard Bartram, also fell but escaped serious injury. The two workers had been standing on a wooden staging board that was resting on two horizontal steel beams, at a height of 13 metres above the ground. They were retrieving a ladder that was footed on the staging board, giving access to the top of a column, where steel channels had been bolted into position a few days earlier. The board became unbalanced and tipped both men off.

William Hare pleaded guilty to a breach of Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, for failing to ensure the safety of its employees at the City of London Magistrates Court, on Wednesday 12 March, and subsequently fined a total of £75,000.

HSE inspector Alec Ferguson said: "This dreadful accident has highlighted the need for the most detailed planning and preparation for all high-risk activities such as steel erection. It could have been avoided if the company had specified a safe system of work undertaken with suitable supervision." ■



News highlights

IAN JAMES and **Andy Northwood** of **Blue Line Access** have founded a new truck mounted platform manufacturing company in the UK. Named **Ascendant Access**, the new company is already building a 22 metre working height platform in the 7.5 tonne chassis class, while plans for the future include the production of two 18 metre units and a 26 metre working height model.

NEARLY 200 mobile and tower crane industry experts descended on the **Thistle Tower Hotel**, London recently for the **Crane Safety 2003** conference. Among the global platform of speakers were **Tom Broderick**, director of the **US Construction Safety Council**, **Graham Brent** from the **National Commission for Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO)** and **Peter Oram**, chairman of the **BS 7121** and **CEN TC 147** British and European crane standards commissions. Full story on www.Vertikal.net

PALFINGER HAS announced the appointment of **Wolfgang Anzengruber** as the new chairman of its management board from **September 1, 2003**. Anzengruber will be primarily responsible for the company's manufacturing processes, including technology, production, assembly development and innovations.

SGB YOUNGMAN has signed an exclusive partnership deal with Swedish manufacturer **Wibe Stegar**, which will see the Youngman range of alloy scaffold towers marketed throughout Scandinavia. The **SGB Youngman** products will be marketed through a new division set up within **Wibe Stegar** specifically for the purpose.

FRENCH-BELGUIM company **Dufour** has taken delivery of its largest ever crawler crane. The crane is a new 180 tonne capacity **Kobelco CKE 1800** rigged with 85 metres of main boom and a 55 + 52 metre full luffing tower jib. The unit joins **Dufour's** existing fleet of mainly wheeled cranes with capacities stretching up to 650 tonnes.

AFI RECENTLY supplied **Axima Building Services** with 15 booms and scissor lifts for mechanical and electrical installation work on a new **Dixons Mastercare** facility at **Newark**. A **Skyjack** double extending deck scissor was among the machines supplied, along with a series of diesel powered scissors with platform heights, ranging from 9 to 16 metres, and 4-wheel drive boom lifts.

MATERIAL HANDLING specialist **Crane Care** has launched 'OneCall', a one-stop shop service for all lifting and handling accessories. **Crane Care's**, **Andy Palmer** commented: "We want our customers to know that we offer more than our overhead cranes and radio control services. We now offer a full range of high-quality factored goods, ranging from webbing and winches to modular fences and rail brushes, direct to the customer."

FRANK SCARBOROUGH has been appointed executive vice president and chief operating officer **Snorkel International**. He is based at company headquarters in **Elwood, Kansas**.

MIKE LAMB is leaving **Grove** at the end of August after more than 25 years with the company.

UK deal for Arcomet self erectors

BELGIUM-BASED tower crane manufacturer **Arcomet** has launched into a joint venture with long-standing partner **Airtek Safety** to form **Airtek Cranes** in the UK. The fifty-fifty joint venture will create the sole distributorship for the UK market for **Arcomet self-erecting cranes**. The new company already has a total of 40 self-erecting cranes leased to various builders in the UK, mainly in the house building sector, and expects this number to rise to 53 cranes in the very near future.

Airtek Cranes said that it also expects to have at least 80 self-erecting cranes leased to builders throughout the UK by the end of the year, and as many as 200 units operating on the UK's sites over the next five years.

"The UK market has been a majority for us for some time," said **Leo and Dirk Theyskens**, joint managing directors of **Arcomet**. "Through our joint venture with **Airtek**, we now have the infrastructure to seriously develop the market for our self-erecting cranes in the UK by delivering the same technical service support that has enabled us to become the world's leading crane rental company. We have the best equipment in Europe and service support for the self-erecting crane rental market of any one in Europe. We also have a large stock and spares that can be delivered to a site anywhere in the UK within 24 hours."

Arcomet also operates a fleet of 34 tower cranes in the UK through its already established joint-venture with the **Kier Group**. ■

Fair Guide Warning!!

THE UK'S Construction Equipment Association has warned members to watch out for letters that appear to offer free entry in exhibition guides, but actually commit companies to three years of costly web advertising.

Sharna Gollogly of the UK's Construction Equipment Association told *C&A*: "We receive the letters periodically relating to different exhibitions. They encourage companies to complete and return a form saying it is for entry into the "Exhibitors Fair Guide".

The letters are headlined "Fair Guide" and come from a company in Austria. That company has no official connection with official fair catalogues of any of the major exhibitions.

"We strongly advise companies to read the small print and be aware that you can easily be tied into a minimum of three years advertising with costs of

around €971 per year. It has no relation to any major exhibition's official show catalogue" said Gollogly

Tim Whiteman, publisher of *Vertikal.net* commented: "We have also received these letters which appear to come from the organisers of exhibitions like *bauma*, *SED* and *Intermat*. They seem to offer a free listing but actually tie you into a three year contract – do not sign



New owner for Starlifter mini crawlers

THE STARLIFTER range of mini crawler cranes has been bought from UK-based Sandhurst Manufacturing and will be re-launched by a new company based in Bristol, UK. The new company, to be known as Starlifter Cranes Ltd, is owned by Tim Sparrow and his father Gordon.

The cranes are available in two capacities with a third to be made available shortly. The CX 3 has a 3 tonne capacity while the CX 8 offers 8 tonnes. Coming soon is the 10 tonne CX 10.

"I expect these cranes to be attractive to companies around the world and we are aiming to sell 30 in the first year of operation" said Tim Sparrow. After sales service and spares will be provided worldwide through sister company Alatas, said Sparrow, who added that he is investigating the possibility of assembling Starlifters at Alatas' facility in Houston, Texas.

All Starlifters are fitted with rated capacity indicators and are CE approved. They are available with fly jibs, on rubber or steel tracks, and as diesel or electric powered versions.

"We are still discovering new uses for the cranes," said Sparrow who himself owns seven.

Typical applications include subways, high density situations, re-furbishment work, and on top of buildings. ■

Grove trio for Quigley

Quigley Crane Hire of Londonderry, Ireland is celebrating its tenth year in business with a £1 million investment in three new Grove all terrain cranes. The order includes a 35 tonne GMK2035, a 50 tonne GMK3050 and a five-axle, 200 tonne GMK5200, bringing the total number of mobile cranes in Quigley's fleet to 25 units.

"A particular speciality [of Quigley] is intricate tandem lifts in tight quarters, as often required in congested industrial situations, and for which the new Grove GMKs with their manoeuvrability, precise controls and easy set up are ideally suited," said Quigley.

One of the first jobs for the new cranes was the removal of a chimney stack at an industrial complex in Coleraine, where access was very tight and a closely-controlled tandem lift and lay-down, using both the GMK2035 and the GMK5200 was required because of the closeness of other buildings. ■

Sumitomo and Hitachi join forces

A DIMINISHING global crane market has led two of the world's most prominent lifting and duty crane manufacturers to join forces. The merger between the crane divisions of Hitachi Construction Machinery and Sumitomo Heavy Industries has created Hitachi Sumitomo and sees the integration of both company's global dealer networks.

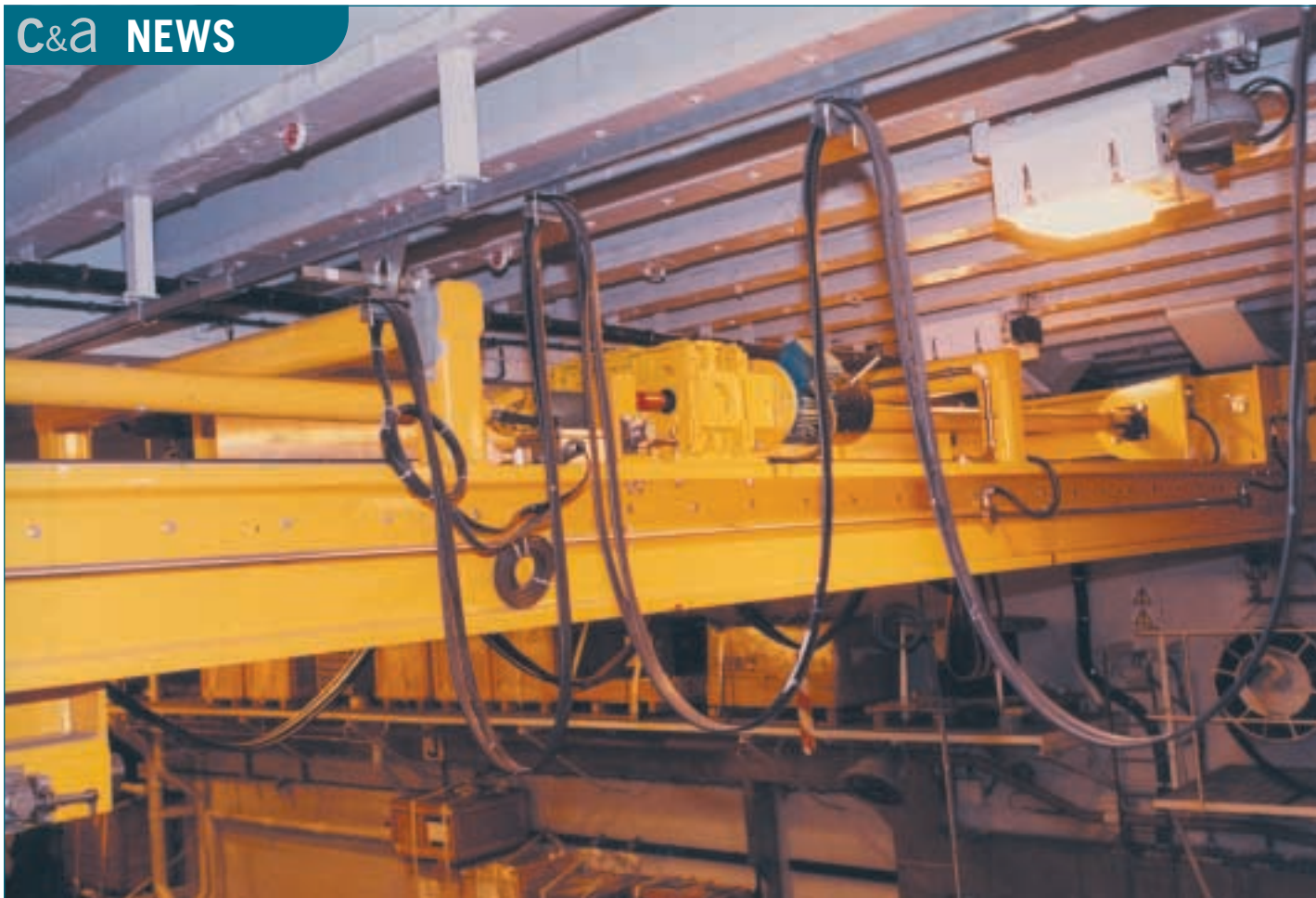
A new research and development centre at the crane division of Hitachi's existing facility at Science City Tsuchiura, near Tokyo, Japan, will continue to be used for the production of the group's crawler cranes from 30 to 100 tonnes lifting capacity. Sumitomo's Obu heavy crane manufacturing plant near Nagoya will take care of the production of crawler cranes from 100 to 800



tonnes capacity, while also being used as a crane modification facility.

Today, the group's current models are being sold under the SCX series brand name and new models are already being developed in time for a *bauma* 2004 launch. There are currently 17 crawler crane models in the Hitachi Sumitomo line up, ranging from the 33 tonne capacity SCX300, to the biggest unit in the range, the 615 tonne capacity SCX800.

Hitachi Construction Machinery Europe will distribute cranes under the Hitachi Sumitomo brand in Europe, Russian Federation and Africa and Near-East, while the UK and Ireland markets will be covered by HM Plant and NRC Plant. Other areas will be served by the Hitachi dealer network in co-operation with The Netherlands-based Doornbos BV. ■



Houlder completes £3 million gantry contract

MARINE SERVICE engineering specialist, Houlder, recently delivered the third and final ship set of gantry cranes for the Warship Support Agency, completing a £3 million design and supply contract. The project started in 1999 with four cranes for HMS Ark Royal. The company has now designed and built nine 3 tonne safe working load cranes for use inside hangars to maintain and service aircraft on HMS Ark Royal, HMS Invincible and HMS Illustrious. The Lloyds-approved cranes were manufactured

under subcontract to Houlder and fully comply with the requirements of the Royal Navy, as well as all rules and regulations for shipboard lifting equipment. In support of the crane supply contract, Houlder has also developed and supplied an extensive safety case and detailed operations and maintenance manuals. All guidance on the installation and commissioning of the cranes was provided by Houlder engineers, as well as on site training for operators and maintenance personnel. ■



ukforks £1.7 million fleet investment

THE UK'S leading telehandler hire company, ukforks, has invested a further £1.7 million in a new fleet of telehandlers, which are already in operation on house building and construction sites throughout the UK. The new fleet comprises Manitou MT1740s, Bobcat T40170s and JCB 540-170 Loadalls. All units are 4 tonne capacity, 17 metre machines, which have been supplied with heavy-duty stabilisers, chassis levelling and all-round visibility convex mirrors as standard in line with the latest Health & Safety Executive recommendations.

A ukforks spokesperson said: "The investment is designed to meet the very latest needs of the construction industry where telehandlers are starting to replace cranes on UK construction sites. Pressure to develop brown field urban land is leading to taller buildings being built in more confined spaces and telehandlers are more versatile and manoeuvrable on site."

One of the first new JCB machines is being used by Eric Wright Construction for the refurbishment of an 1837-built Rochdale Canal Company grain store for Country and Metropolitan Homes in Piccadilly, Manchester. The new fleet of 17 metre machines join ukforks existing telehandler fleet of around 1000 units. ■