

cranes & access

December/January 2025 Vol.26 issue 8

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**TRUCK
MOUNTED
CRANES**

**ANNUAL RENTAL
RATE GUIDE**

**LOOK BACK
AT 2024**

MAST BOOMS

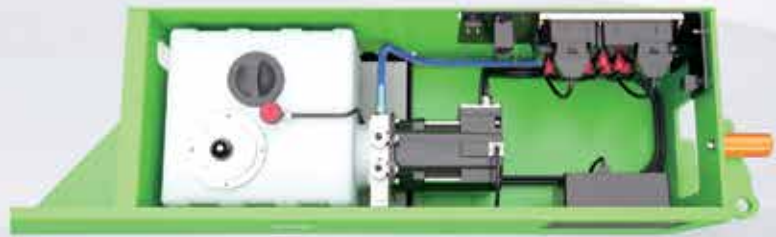
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ADD:188 Qihang Road, Leidian Town, Deqing, Zhejiang, P.R.C

TEL:+86-572-8681688

Phone:+86-13806523131 Susan Huang

E-Mail:export@cndingli.com

Https://en.cndingli.com





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United to acquire H&E Equipment Services, Bigger flat top from Wolffkran, Jekko's Electric JF235, Falcon appoints administrator, Liebherr introduces upgraded LTM 1120-4.2, Bronto announces new XT range, New electric telehandler from LGMG, XCMG unveils 80t Euro All Terrain, Hong Kong mandates secondary guarding, Sinoboom's 'Tank Turn' steering, Fassi launches 'strongest' crane to date, First Ruthmann T1000 HF delivered, 700 Dinglis for Mandt as well as financials round-up and News Highlights.

TRUCK MOUNTED CRANES 17

The European truck mounted crane market is relatively small but is definitely growing. It includes the 40 to 70 tonne models from Liebherr, Tadano, Marchetti and Locatelli, as well as several Chinese manufacturers including Sany and Zoomlion along with the 'aluminium' truck cranes from German manufacturers Böcker and Klaas. We take a look at the latest developments.

UK & IRELAND RENTAL RATE GUIDE 25

Last year promised so much with a spate of elections and renewed optimism. However, with the continued shortage of labour, rising equipment and running costs combined with growing global economic uncertainty, how have the crane, access and telehandler rental companies' rates fared? Find out in this year's comprehensive Rental Rate Guide.

MAST BOOMS AND LIFTS 41

There is often confusion between a self-propelled mast lift and a mast boom. We hope to clarify this as well as update on what is available along with a look at the latest new product introductions and developments.

LOOK BACK AT 2024 49

2024 has been a transformative period marked by many significant events across the globe from political upheavals, continual conflicts and climatic extremes. Here are a few of the highlights that shaped last year both within the lifting sector and the world at large.

COVERS OF THE YEAR 59

Last year we received so many comments about our front covers, we thought we would let you - our readers - have the chance to comment and vote on which one you liked best.

A TRIP TO INDIA 61

Vicki Allen, managing director of UK based International Platforms, visited the Conexpo India trade fair for the first time. Here she reports on her experiences and what to look out for when visiting a major trade show for the first time.

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ON THE COVER

Telehandlers such as this Manitou MRT are often the first machines on site and therefore provide a good indication of the upcoming workload and demand for other rental machines. See how all the rental sectors performed in the Rental Rate Guide on page 25.



IN THE NEXT ISSUE Scheduled for publication in mid-March, the next issue of Cranes & Access will include features on Heavy/Alternative lifting, Boom lifts, Wind speed monitors, Battery/powerpack/energy developments, Reviews of the ARA show in Las Vegas and the UK's Executive Hire Show as well as a preview to Bauma 2025. If you have any contributions or suggestions to make or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.



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Editorial

Mark Darwin - Editor
Imogen Campion - Assistant Editor
Leigh Sparrow
editor@vertikal.net

Associate Editors

Rüdiger Kopf (Freiburg)
Alexander Ochs (Freiburg)

Feature Editors

Nick Johnson
Saul Chernos

Sales & Customer Support

Clare Engelke
Pam Penny
Karlheinz Kopp

Production/Administration

Nicole Engesser

Editorial Data Specialist

Poppy Horne ph@vertikal.net

Subscriptions

Lee Sparrow

Publisher

Leigh Sparrow

Advertising Sales

UK based

Clare Engelke ce@vertikal.net
Tel: +44 (0)7989 970862
Pam Penny pp@vertikal.net
Tel: +44 (0)7917 155657

Germany based

Karlheinz Kopp khk@vertikal.net
Tel: +49 (0)761 89786615

The Vertikal Press

PO box 6998 Brackley NN13 5WY, UK
Tel: +44(0)8448 155900
Fax: +44(0)1295 768223
email: info@vertikal.net
web: www.vertikal.net

Vertikal Verlag

Hofackerstr. 95
D-79110 Freiburg
Germany
Tel: +49 (0)761 897 8660
Fax: +49 (0)761 897 86614
E-mail: info@vertikal.net



COMMENT

TELL YOUR STORY...

Last month in the mastclimber feature I asked the question 'Are we learning anything from failures?' This followed seven deaths from just two incidents and highlighted how different authorities deal with such events.

All countries and investigative bodies - apart, perhaps, from the aviation sector - are not the same and some - the UK for example - can take years to 'investigate' and divulge relevant information that would help make our industry safer.

However, an increasing number of people are calling for change.

In November, Ben Hirst, the founder of Horizon Access in the UK, gave a talk at the IPAF elevation event which he entitled 'Tell Your Story' about a 'near miss' incident that occurred in his yard, in the hope that by sharing, others might learn and prevent a similar or more serious event.

However, not all companies are willing to talk about incidents and near misses, having a misguided fear of being judged negatively. Anyone who has worked on a construction site has a tale to tell of a near miss, an injury or, heaven forbid, an actual fatality. And yet has anything significant been done to stop them reoccurring? Were they reported, and if so, were procedures changed? Probably not, as there is a tendency to hide and cover up, even among those companies that bask in the glory of safety awards received at glittering awards events.

Ben Hirst's candid retelling of the incident - which involved six people loading push around lifts onto

a Beavertail truck - is not dissimilar to loading/unloading incidents that have occurred in other yards numerous times before and since, sometimes fatally. But if more people were made aware, it might just help reduce the likelihood of it happening in the future.

Another such 'near miss' occurred in 2016 with crane company Forsyth of Denny when an All Terrain crane overturned rearwards a second or two after one of the team had walked beneath the counterweight. Owner Cathal McNally shared the full details including CCTV footage - something he found easier because of an earlier incident in which a larger crane overturned whilst travelling on site. Back then McNally was reluctant to provide details but was persuaded. However telling his story that time was met with such positive comments from customers and potential customers that he did not hesitate to reveal the facts when the more recent incident occurred.

A great many of the daily tasks carried out in our sector carry a risk that could result in injury or death. The more openly we highlight and discuss them when they occur, the safer the industry will be. Too many companies still react by covering up and pretending it didn't happen, even though very little can be hidden these days in the world of camera phones and social media. And if you 'clam up and deny', you simply allow the social media trolls to tell an often highly distorted story, rather than you sharing the actual facts with others, so that they might learn!

Go on... Tell your story.

Mark Darwin

Comment and feedback is most welcome via post, email or phone stating if we may publish them or not:
editor@vertikal.net