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THERE ARE two major industry exhibitions taking place over the next three weeks. One is being held in a place that has been described by some as the romantic capital Europe, where passion runs through the city's veins like a fast flowing river. The other one of course is in Paris. But if attending both is out of the question, then either one promises to be a killer of a show. Starting in Milton Keynes, with what will be the largest congregation of construction equipment the UK will see this year,

SED 2003 is the biggest yet in its more than 20 year history.

Both the access and lifting industries will be out in force, despite the biennial absence of most mobile crane manufacturers this year, and visitors can expect a number of brand new product launches and UK equipment debuts from the likes of Tadano, Kobelco, Genie, Basket, Oil & Steel, UpRight and Partek Cargotec. Speaking of which, don't forget to drop in on the The Vertikal Press, which has teamed up with Partek for the Hiab/Vertikal Knuckle Boom Challenge that will take place next door to The Vertikal Press' own stand O10C in the Cranes & Access village (more on page 22).

Even bigger than SED, however, will be Intermat, which follows just a few days after the UK show. And those readers planning to make the trip over to Paris will not be disappointed. For one, Intermat is not a show that the industry's major crane manufacturers are prepared to miss out on this year. Liebherr, Terex-Demag, Manitowoc, Potain and Grove, to name but a few, will all be showing off brand new crane models. A full, comprehensive listing of all the lifting equipment worth seeing at Intermat can be found in The Vertikal Press' specialist guide to the show, Vertikal Intermat, which will be available from our stand E5 H84 throughout the show's duration and online before hand at www.Vertikal.net. And let's not forget that Paris is not a bad place to be in the Springtime either as lucky Clive Elsbury, the winner of Vertikal Press' Intermat competition, will be finding out.

So, whichever event you choose to attend, the industry will not let you down and *Cranes & Access* will be welcoming all its readers onto its stand at either show. So have a good one and Bon Voyage as they say in Milton Keynes.

Warren Wadsworth

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