

cranes & access

A large green hydrogen-electric boom lift is the central focus of the image. The lift has 'Hydrogen-Electric' and 'H2' branding. A worker in a high-visibility yellow jacket and white hard hat is operating the lift from a platform. The lift is on a muddy construction site with other equipment visible in the background.

February/March 2025 Vol.27 issue 1

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BOOM LIFTS

HEAVY LIFTING

BAUMA PREVIEW

POWER PACKS

WEATHER WARNING

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With Bauma just around the corner, it looks like we shall see more new aerial lift manufacturers than ever as well as the ongoing progression of all electric boom lifts, there are plenty of new products and issues to discuss in our annual feature.

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Next month the world's largest equipment exhibition opens its doors once again in Munich, Germany. We have all the show essentials as well as highlighting a few new products.

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Held at the start of February, we bring you a mainly pictorial roundup of the Las Vegas show.

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ON THE COVER

The all electric Nifty HR15 articulated boom lift can be ordered with the hydrogen fuel cell to recharge its battery pack allowing the platform to run without an external power source.



IN THE NEXT ISSUE Scheduled for publication in mid-May, the next issue of Cranes & Access will include features on Crawler cranes, Van and small truck mounted platforms, Trailers and transport equipment, a review of Bauma as well as the annual Equipment Source Guide. 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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COMMENT

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON

Bauma is the global shop window for the construction related equipment industry. It is the biggest and arguably the best trade fair on the planet with more than 3,500 manufacturers from almost 60 countries touting their wares in front of around 500,000 visitors from more than 100 countries. If you enjoy equipment exhibitions, Bauma is the pinnacle, the peak, the tops, and it is unlikely to ever be rivalled, well certainly not in my lifetime.

This year it promises to be bigger than ever with the organisers having seemingly quelled exhibitors' unrest over the rising cost to exhibit, and the obscene hotel price hikes during show week. Minor moans such as show tickets being valid for only one entry a day is little more than an annoyance.

Companies exhibiting at the show have to do a lot of business during the week to justify the huge investment. And while it is a brave decision to stay away, several major manufacturers in our sector are doing just that, including Genie, JCB and Haulotte along with a few smaller players. Nevertheless, they are relatively few in number and from the pre-show information it promises to be a great event.

However, while product development continues apace, and new more advanced production plants are opened, a shadow looms over international trade, in the form of tariffs and possible moves towards isolationism.

Over the past year or two there have been a few relatively minor spats between the USA and

China and more recently Europe and China, more to do with protectionism based on a fear that the competition would kill domestic production and threaten local manufacturing jobs. However, over the past month or so this has all changed...

We all know that with newly elected leaders and governments there will inevitably be shifts in policies and emphasis, however no-one seems to have been remotely prepared for the Trump onslaught on world trade, with tariffs of up to 250 percent threatened with just a days' notice and then reduced or changed drastically the next. The global market is in a state of panic and wondering WTF is going on, even though this is what he said he would do. Clearly few took him seriously.

The USA seems to be picking a fight with most countries, but particularly China, Europe, Canada and Mexico which together with America cover the majority of crane, access and telehandler manufacturers.

So, while it will be great to visit Bauma and see the latest products or technology and hear the plans of leading manufacturers, some countries may never get to use them, due to punitive tariffs or other trade restrictions. Where products are manufactured is also up in the air, with tariffs forcing shifts in manufacturing bases. This has already occurred with Chinese companies moving 'production' to Europe and Mexico for example.

How the sector will look when the next Bauma comes round in 2028 is anyone's guess. In the meantime, all we can do is 'keep calm and carry on', while it all unfolds...

Mark Darwin

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