

All set for SED

SED organisers have announced record bookings ahead of this year's show to be held between 29 April and 1 May at its usual Fen Farm, Milton Keynes location. A total of 109,000m² of exhibition space has already been sold, while it is estimated that 22,430 visitors, 3000 more than last year's figure, will be dividing their attention among an expected 400 exhibitors. This year will also see the UK's premier exhibition for the hire industry, Hirex, being run along side the SED event.

Despite this year's absence of most of the lifting industry's manufacturers - cranes are only present every two years - the Cranes & Access Village will be bursting at the seams

with the likes of PM Cranes, LGH, Cormach, UpRight, Vanson Cranes, Manitou, Genie and Kobelco. Non-powered access will be particularly well represented by leading companies, such as Layher, SGB Group, Imer



Direct, Lobo Systems, Euro Towers and Haki, which will all be setting up shop in the Hirex@SED pavilion.

CRANES & access

New to the Cranes & Access village will be Oil & Steel, which will be making a debut appearance in

the UK with a range of its tracked mobile elevating work platforms and truck mounted access platforms. Partek Cargotek will be displaying a new range of knuckle booms, including one of its latest cranes from its 'mid range' XS HI-PRO series, which will be used in the Hiab/Vertikal Press Knuckle Boom Challenge (see page 24).

The Vertikal Press, publisher of *Cranes & Access*, the official SED Cranes & Access magazine, will be present at stand number O10C in the Cranes & Access Village, where it will be releasing its SED show guide on the first day of the show.

For more information and to pre-register visit www.SED.co.uk and www.Vertikal.net



HSE warns on climbing frames for towers

THE HSE has warned that the use of climbing frames on tower cranes can be very dangerous and called for manufacturers to review designs and operating procedures.

The comments come in a discussion paper which questions the safe use of 'external' climbing frames on tower cranes. The paper was written by the same team that investigated the collapse of an MAN Wolffkran 320 BF luffing tower crane belonging to Hewden Stuart in Canary Wharf on 21st May 2000. The accident killed crane erection supervisor Michael Whittard, crane operator Peter Clark and erector Martin Burgess. Their deaths are still the subject of a coroner's investigation.

The HSE states that the paper's purpose is to 'try and identify issues for discussion that are

relevant to the design, manufacturer, assembly, use of maintenance of external climbing frames'. Its comments have already created controversy in Germany, France and Italy, where most tower cranes are built and manufacturers are expected to respond formally to the request for comment.

The HSE stopped short of banning the use of climbing frames but raised serious concerns about their design and use.



Visit www.Vertikal.net for our full report which details how to obtain and comment on the complete Discussion Paper.

Delta Tower Cranes Selected

SELECT PLANT HIRE, part of the Laing O'Rourke Group, has acquired Delta Tower Cranes - the last remaining division of Baldwins Industrial Services - from official receivers Price Waterhouse Coopers.

Speaking to C&A, Select's director Mike Studd declined to reveal the purchase price for the sale but said that the acquisition included 126 tower cranes, which now gives the company a total fleet size of approximately 300 units. According to Studd, this moves Select up in to the top three tower crane hire companies in the world. Studd also confirmed that Delta's 141-strong workforce will be retained but the Delta name will be dropped.

As part of the sale agreement, Select will be completing all ongoing customer hire contracts. Select represents Terex Comedil in the UK, while Delta has until now been the sole agent for Terex-Peiner.

News highlights

THE HSE, major manufacturers and the European Standing Committee (Working Group) on the Machinery Directive, have agreed that all new lorry loader cranes need to be fitted with further developed interlock systems. Manufacturers have agreed to produce the devices, or an equivalent alternative, ready for commercial application by 2006.

More on www.Vertikal.net

RICHARD BALDWIN, founder and chairman of the recently dispersed Baldwins Industrial Services, is back in the crane hire business with a new company, Baldwins Crane Hire Ltd. The company is based near Slough and will offer cranes ranging from 7 to 1000 tonnes capacity for contract lifting services and mechanical & electric handling services said Richard Baldwin.

TEREX DEMAG has boosted the maximum capacity of its AC 650 mobile crane and renamed it the AC 700. As the name suggests, the capacity has been increased from 650 tonnes to 700 tonnes, making it the biggest wheeled mobile crane in the Terex Demag portfolio.

LIEBHERR EHINGEN has increased the capacity of its LR 1600/1 crawler crane by 25 per cent. The development of a new heavy duty boom head means that the capacities of the boom/derrick combination with suspended ballast or ballast trailer has been boosted from 600 tonnes to 750 tonnes. The unit has been renamed the LR 1750.

SPIERINGS KRANEN will be introducing the world's biggest truck-mounted tower crane at this month's Building fair in Utrecht, The Netherlands. The new 6 tonne capacity 'folding' mobile crane has been dubbed the SK 1266-AT6 'Mighty Tiny', as a tribute to Spierings' late wife and co-founder of the company, Tiny Spierings, who died on 27 October 2001.

SPAIN-BASED radio remote control systems manufacturer Itowa has named Technical Cranes as its exclusive UK distributor. Technical Cranes will stock spare parts and provide full service support to customers.

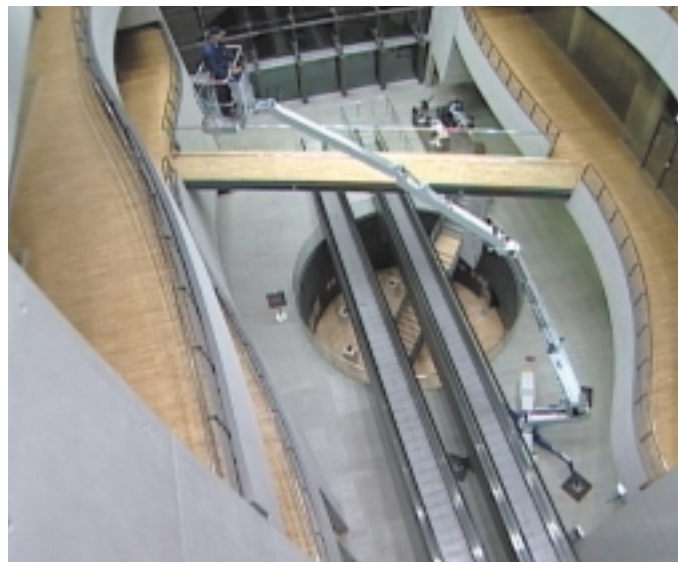
JLG to close Benford facility

JLG HAS announced that its Bedford, Pennsylvania facility in the US will be "temporarily idled" by the end of the fiscal year. The move comes as part of the latest phase of the company's capacity rationalisation plan, introduced back in 2001, and will see production of selected JLG scissor lifts - currently being produced at the Bedford plant - integrated into its Shippensburg, Pennsylvania facility. Nearly 100 production jobs will also be transferred to Shippensburg.

"These actions will result in US\$3.5 million of restructuring costs, \$4.4 million of restructuring-related costs, and \$1.6 million of capital expenditures," said Jim Woodward, executive vice-president and chief financial officer of JLG.

The company expects that the Bedford closure, along with additional reductions in selling, administrative and product development costs from changes in its 'global organisational and process consolidations', will generate annual savings of up to \$20 million.

Rapid takes UK's third Falcon FS290



RAPID PLATFORMS has taken delivery of what is now only the third Falck Schmidt Falcon Spider FS290 available for rent in the UK.

The platform has a maximum outreach of 14 metres and can work to a height of up to 29 metres, while with a total weight of 3.7 tonnes the unit can pass through a single doorway.

Rapid says that the Falcon 29 is faster than any comparable platform, with flexible operational capabilities and automatic self-levelling. Optional extras on Rapid's machine include full cradle rotation, a Honda silent pack engine and chassis control from inside the basket. The FS290 joins Rapid's existing fleet, which includes a 12 metre Falk Schmidt TS24, a 14 metre TS 29 and an 18 metre Basket RQG18.

Genie launches telehandlers

GENIE EUROPE has added telehandlers to its access product line. The machines are built by Terexlift in Italy and are "targeted at [our] rental customer base" said a statement from Genie.

The smallest telehandler is the GTH-2306. It has a width of 1.80 metres and a height of 1.92 metres. The unit has a 5.75 metre lifting height and a capacity of 2.3 tonnes. Hydrostatic drive and three steering modes are standard for the unit which has a side-mounted Perkins 63 hp engine.

The second unit is the GTH-3013T. This has a lifting height of 12.64 metres and a forward reach of 8.74 metres. Lift capacity is 3 tonnes. Oscillating axles and chassis levelling on the front axles are standard as is hydrostatic drive and three steering modes. Power is provided by a turbocharged Perkins engine with a power rating of 114 hp.

Genie's telehandler range will be represented on stand 12C, avenue O at the upcoming SED exhibition, along with the company's new 12.6 metre TZ-34/20 articulating trailer mounted platform.



News highlights

CRANE OPERATORS and HTC Plant have concluded a two-month battle over wages and working conditions. Under an agreement between HTC Plant and officials at electric and engineering union Amicus, operators' overtime, travel and lodging allowances will all be increased. The operators' hourly wage will also be increased by 4.3 percent to £7.72.

THE PLATFORM COMPANY has been appointed as a fully authorised distributor in the UK for Oil & Steel. A full range of Oil & Steel products will be on offer, including truck mounts from the Snake, Scorpion and Eagle ranges and Octopus track mounted platforms. The Platform Company will also provide rental and training with full technical service and backup.

PM 28 under review

GUIDELINES GOVERNING the use of working platforms harnessed to forklift trucks (FLT) are being reviewed by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) which is expected to issue a consultation document later this year. "PM28, Working platforms on Fork-lift trucks, is under review" an HSE spokesperson told C&A adding that "it is still in the early stages, and has to undergo internal HSE consultation before being put out for public consultation".

The inappropriate use of FLTs to lift personnel has been strongly criticised by the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) which has presented its own code of practice to the HSE. At a recent meeting to discuss the concerns IPAF warned that the information contained in Guidance Note PM28 is too vague and ineffective in dealing with the dangers of platforms on fork lift trucks.

"The premature announcement of the 'New' GN PM 28 in the last issue of *Cranes & Access*, might turn out to be beneficial," said IPAF's Paul Adorian. "I understand

it created a good deal of interest and I'm hopeful that this will encourage the HSE to circulate the promised draft of the new version as soon as possible. We shall be very interested in its coverage and will be delighted to have the opportunity to discuss this important issue further with the HSE."

** Cranes & Access apologises for confusion caused by the article that appeared in our last issue under the headline "HSE revises platform Guidance Note". This quoted comments from George Williams, technical manager at B&B Attachments about "new PM28 guidelines". The guidelines referred to were those introduced in 2000. B&B commented: "Whilst we are sorry that the use of the word "new" has caused some confusion amongst your readers it was certainly not our intention to mislead. The word was used in the context of "latest" or "recent" and at the time the article was written these were, and as far as we are aware, still are, the new regulations."*

LEEA warns on eyebolts

THE LIFTING Equipment Engineers Association (LEEA) has drawn attention to a report that highlights weaknesses in some Chinese-made steel eyebolts imported into the UK.

Analysis of certain eyebolts carried out by the School of Metallurgy and Materials at a Midlands University, commissioned by Haris Walton Lifting Gear, showed that the carbon content of the eyebolts was far in excess of that specified by the relevant BS 4278 British Standard.

The report concluded that the eyebolts, typically used to connect a load to other lifting accessories,

are much more likely to fracture under shock loading, which could be made worse if used in cold conditions.

Derrick Bailes, chief executive of the LEEA said: "The report confirms some of our fears regarding the safety of cut-price lifting products". He advised that, wherever possible, buyers of such equipment should specify and seek assurance that the product in question complies fully with the harmonised CEN standard. If no standard exists an established national standard, such as BS 4278 for eyebolts, should be specified. More info: Derrick Bailes, Tel no: 01279 816504, e-mail: mail@leea.co.uk.

Top men move at top hire co's

RAY LEDGER, managing director of Ainscough Crane Hire, and Alex Lowe, managing director of Hewden Crane Hire both left their jobs at the end of February. Between them the two former colleagues controlled almost 1000 cranes, approximately a quarter of the UK's active crane hire fleet.

Alex Lowe has moved to HTC Plant. Ray Ledger's future is less clear and mystery surrounded the reason for his sudden departure from Ainscough Crane Hire. Ledger moved to Ainscough in May 2001 and implemented some radical rationalisation. His period as managing director co-incided with Ainscough's purchase of GWS and, late last year, the purchase of Baldwins' mobile crane fleet.

Before moving to Ainscough, Ledger was a director at Hewden Stuart, a position that Alex Lowe then filled. Lowe announced last month that he was moving to HTC Plant, which is in effect the former Hewden Stuart tower crane division, now part of PC Harrington. Lowe's position at Hewden is temporarily being filled by finance director Allan Bowie who has been appointed interim managing director of Rental Services Special while Hewden recruits a replacement for Lowe.

Sparrow leaves UpRight

LEIGH SPARROW has announced that he is leaving UpRight and will not seek further work in the powered access or crane business. Citing personal reasons as the basis of his decision, Sparrow said in an open letter to colleagues:

"As you may know 2002 was a challenging year for me on a personal and family basis. It caused me to take a serious look at my life and led me to the conclusion that the time is right for a change of pace and focus. As a result I will be leaving the company and the industry this summer".

Ian Menzies, president of UpRight announced the news and said: "Whilst he [Sparrow] will most certainly be missed we must wish him the very best of success for the future and with any ventures or directions he will take".

Steve Couling has been appointed to take over the European sales and distribution part of Sparrow's role. **More info at www.Vertikal.net**

PAT sells UK and Ireland business

LOAD MOMENT indicator producer PAT has sold the UK and Ireland arm of its retrofit and service business to Samuel Walker & Sons. Under the agreement, Samuel Walker & Sons – also UK service agent for Grove – has acquired the exclusive rights to the replacement parts, retrofit sales and service activities as well as existing PAT stock.

PAT's reasons for the sale included declining UK and Ireland LMI retrofit markets, which are expected to cease around 2008 due to the reduction of machines in need of retrofitting. Commenting on the sale, PAT chief executive Laurie Burns said that because of the downturn in the OEM market, the company was concentrating its efforts on the retrofit market and that the best route to this market is through distributors.

"We couldn't see how we could grow the business in the UK any more on our own," said Burns.



Army salutes JCB

JCB has been awarded a £1.3 million contract to supply telehandlers to the British Armed Forces. The order comprises 37 JCB 525-50 Loadalls, which are being modified to increase the handling of pallets in and out of containers.

A JCB spokesperson said: "A lot of the Army's provisions are moved around in containers and they were in need of new equipment with rough terrain capability that can be deployed in any environment". All 37 machines will be painted in NATO green and will join the Army's current fleet of rough terrain forklift trucks.



open to visitors

VISITORS TO Germany's Platformers' Days 2003 will have the opportunity to see equipment put through its paces by a team of independent experts. *The Vertikal Check* is now a firmly established part of the annual Platformers' Days event and the organisers have decided to throw it open to all visitors – until now it was a private event held on the day after the show.

The Vertikal Check features the testing of a selected group of platforms and will now take place on the final afternoon of the Platformers' Days event. "Opening the Vertikal Check to event visitors will encourage them to stay longer on the Saturday," said Tim Whiteman, publisher at *The Vertikal Press*. "We are extremely pleased to be part of this important, independent event and look forward to welcoming as many spectators as possible in 2003".

Platformers' Days takes place on 29 and 30 August, 2003 and will be held at the usual location in Hohenroda, Germany.

Liebherr goes bigger

LIEBHERR HAS added the 280EC-B12 Litronic model to its range of 'topless' tower cranes. The new unit features a divided slewing platform comprising components weighing no more than 7.5 tonnes each allowing it to be assembled using a relatively small mobile crane. The Litronic management system also enables the operator to call on up to a 20 per cent increase in lift capacity at the touch of a button, which provides an extra 600 kilograms on a 70 metre jib for example. Jib lengths of 25 to 70 metres are available in increments of 5 metres with hook heights up to 86 metres. The unit is compatible with Liebherr's modular-element system.

Meanwhile, Kier Plant has taken delivery of the UK's first Liebherr 160HC-L luffing jib crane. The unit features a 55 metre jib and gives a maximum capacity of 16 tonnes. Jib lengths of 30 to 55 metres are available in 5 metre increments with tower heights reaching 75 metres. The first unit is currently being used at the Kings Cross Station Redevelopment project in London.



Snorkel bought

TEXTRON INC has sold the Snorkel product line of its OmniQuip business unit as well as the OmniQuip Textron Inc. holding company to Elwood Holdings LLC. Terms were not disclosed.

Under the deal all Snorkel inventory and equipment in the US, Australia and New Zealand, including the factories, passes to the new owner. Susan Bishop, a spokesperson for Textron, also confirmed to C&A that all Australian and New Zealand employees would be retained by the new owner. The Snorkel product line had revenues of approximately US\$37 million (UK£23,03 million) during 2002 said a statement issued by Textron.

The group buying Snorkel is headed by Allen Havlin, president of FluidTech, a Snorkel supplier also based in Kansas. He told C&A that production has now recommenced at the Kansas factory.

A full interview with Snorkel International's new president and CEO, Allen Havlin, can be found at www.Vertikal.net



DESERT ISLAND STICKS: SGB recently supplied 400 tonnes of its traditional tube and fitting Cuplock system scaffolding to assist in the development of a new power station on the Isle of Man. The contract to provide, design and erect the access equipment was awarded by contractor, PGT Limited, owned by Manx Electricity Authority.

McEllin takes first Pantel platform

Noell McEllin in County Mayo, Ireland has taken delivery of the first 19 metre GSR Pantel E190P access platform to be sold by SkyKing in the UK or Ireland. The unit is mounted on a four-wheel drive Mercedes Unimog and offers a maximum outreach of 10.2 metres. McEllin said that the unit will be active across the northwest of Ireland on contracts for the national Irish electricity supply board.