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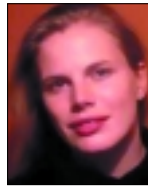
**Vertikal
Press**

The Vertikal Press Limited

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COMMENT



Welcome to the special SED edition. The show is all set to be a great success again this year, with plenty of big names and product launches. Although some previous exhibitors are conspicuous by their absence, there's an abundance of new interest. The rain is tipping down at Hannover Messe in Germany as I write this – lets hope that the sun shines for SED!

This magazine is officially affiliated with the Cranes and Access Village – we hope to see you at our stand there between May 14-16. Please use the show guide and map on pages 15-21 to find your way around.

News is bound to spring up from the SED show ground, but undoubtedly the biggest crane industry story for months broke at Conexpo in March. Manitowoc is buying Grove Worldwide for just £190 million in cash and shares. The deal, which should be finalised within the next month or so, means that Manitowoc will have an £850 million annual turnover and become the world's largest crane manufacturer.

It's no surprise that conjecture is rife. Will any Grove staff be made redundant? Can a company which sells crawler and tower cranes successfully add mobile cranes to its sales structure? And what will happen to Grove Manlift – many thought that the access side of Grove was likely to close down before this news – will it now become an enhancement of the Liftflux Potain range owned by Manitowoc? It will be intriguing to watch how this combination of French, American, British and German companies rub along together.

Conexpo provided plenty more interest for crane and access professionals alike – find our review on page 27.

Back in the UK, the recent IPAF Health and Safety forum at Old Trafford was exceptionally well attended and discussed some vital safety issues surrounding the use of telehandlers as work platforms. The day is reviewed on page 43, whilst telehandlers go under the microscope on page 23.

Over in Wigan, Ainscough has just held a seminar to discuss the corporate manslaughter legislation. If you only read one article in this edition, this should be it. Speakers at the event stressed that the construction industry will be particularly hard hit when the new legislation is enforced. Turn to page 38.

Finally, a request. I hope that, six or seven months since Sophie and I started work at this magazine, you will have noticed some positive changes. But we still need your feedback. Please feel free to write, email or call us with any ideas you have. And don't forget – your company news is not going to broadcast itself!

See you in sunny Milton Keynes...

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.net

Rosie Gordon
Editor

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