

Manitowoc acquires Grove

Manitowoc is finalising plans for its takeover of Grove Worldwide, which is due to receive regulatory approval during May. It remains unclear how operations in the UK may be affected. Grove has a large European marketing and support operation based in Sunderland, whilst Manitowoc, which previously had its own company in the UK, is now represented by staff based at Potain's office, which is headed by Steve Barnett.

The \$250 million purchase of Grove was announced at a reception in Las Vegas, on the eve of Conexpo's opening.

Terry Growcock, Manitowoc's president and CEO said that the combination of Grove, Manitowoc and



Potain (which was taken over ten months ago) would produce the world's largest crane product line. "We have essentially become a 'one-stop-

shop' for our customers", he said, adding that all Grove employees would be welcomed into the Manitowoc fold.

Find out more on page 27.

Liebherr restructuring

Following a successful year, with turnover rising by 3.6% and the employment of 1,230 extra personnel, the family-owned Liebherr group of companies has decided to streamline its activities and clearly segregate its various product sectors under divisional controlling companies.

Divisional offices for the construction machinery and refrigeration sectors will be based in Germany, whilst activity in the aerospace division will be in Toulouse, France. Liebherr International AG, Liebherr Holding GmbH and Liebherr Austria Holding GmbH will hand over the relevant production companies to the new divisions. Each Liebherr product sector will then have a dedicated production company manufacturing, for example, only mobile cranes.

Liebherr-International AG will continue to co-ordinate the whole organisation and decisions and control remain with the board of principals. Its supporting subsidiaries will be renamed as Liebherr-International Deutschland GmbH and Liebherr-International Austria GmbH.

Upright will build all models in metric

Upright will build all models in metric, in Madera, California and Dublin.

At Hannover Messe, Upright's Leigh Sparrow explained to *Cranes & Access* that the company had looked for a way to break away from its competition, instead of 'running after' JLG and Genie.

"We will move all our models into metric. In 18 months we will be able to produce all our models in either factory. It gives us more flexibility and if a production line has to move, it's easy to do. We will be able to react faster."

This summer the new painting line will be finished, allowing Upright the means to switch from one colour to another in 20 minutes.

Lavendon reports mixed results

The Lavendon Group, owner of access platform hire companies Zoom and Nationwide, released its annual results in March.

At the end of its 'two year accelerated investment programme', which saw a £168 million spend, the company announced a profit of £9.9 million in 2001, before tax and exceptional costs.

In the UK, investment in Nationwide Access has boosted the number of depots to 50, with 6,014 units for hire compared to 5,188 in 2000.

Lavendon revealed that, despite a slowing demand from market sectors including manufacturing and telecommunications, UK business had gone well during 2001. Revenues were increased by 26%, up to £54.3 million in 2000. Operating margins remained at 23% and the operating profit rose by £2.6 million in the year, to reach £12.5 million. The British customer base was boosted to 13,590.

In Germany, the picture was not so rosy. Lavendon blamed the 'widespread weakness of the German economy' for a reduced operating profit of £2.4 million, compared with £3.7 million in 2000.

However, the prognosis was not all bad. Lavendon expects that Germany will be its main source of European powered access rental for the coming three to five years. The network currently has 44 depots, with 4,250 units, an increase from 2,600 the previous year.

Lavendon also stated that it expected the demand of powered access in Europe to quadruple in the next five to ten years.

Meanwhile, in France, Zoom suffered a loss for the year, badly affecting the Group's overall performance and profits. This was put down as an 'inevitable part of the process of entering a new market'.



Morris Material Handling has recently designed, made and installed an overhead crane for tourist attraction Crich Tramway Village.

The 7.5 tonne double girder electric overhead travelling crane has a 5 metre lift height, to move parts of vintage trams for maintenance and restoration.

Landrover teams up with Versalift

Land Rover is planning to sell a range of Versalift platforms mounted on its Defender series of vehicles. The compact truck mounts will be supplied by Versalift and will ultimately include insulated Versalift booms suitable for working on live electric cables.

Landrover has long had a collaboration with Priestman and supplied vehicles with 10.5 – 30.5 metre telescopic and 12.5 metre insulated booms. It will continue to offer these, but has responded to the demand for 4x4 light-weight access platforms by extending its range with Versalift's products. Landrover will approve, fit and audit this range and give customers a three year Landrover-approved warranty, Rob Poston of Landrover Special Vehicles told *Cranes & Access*.



The first result of the collaboration will be shown at SED, with a Belgian built Skyhigh boom which is sold in the UK by Versalift as the VLR130T. The lightweight 13 metre unit leaves some payload capacity to allow the vehicle to carry tools and some cargo.

Land Rover intends to

launch the new initiative at the beginning of May and will be selling the platforms through its Special Vehicles Division. There are 136 Landrover dealers nationwide and all of them will have access to the Priestman and Versalift products. Poston expects the range to be priced between £36,000-£41,000.

Rentexpo postponed

Plans for a new rental equipment show to be held for the first time in Cologne, Germany in April had to be changed at the last moment.

The organisers have rescheduled the show for October 28th-30th 2003. It was due to start on April 9.

Frans and Jumpin' Jack

April saw the launch of "Jumpin' Jack", the latest addition to the Mammoet fleet of specialist heavy lifting equipment. Speaking to *Cranes & Access*, Frans van Seumeren, president of Mammoet, revealed the new concept in heavy lift which is designed to allow modern wind turbines to be lifted into place offshore as single units.

"Jumpin' Jack is basically a jack up unit fitted with our Manitowoc M-1200 Ringer" said Van Seumeren. The M-1200 has a maximum lift capacity of 1200 tonnes. It will be lifting 90 metre high, 650 tonne wind turbines into place in sea conditions of up to 3.8 metres swell. 'Jumpin' Jack' will be able to transport six of these fully assembled turbines to site at a time. They will be stored upright on deck and then lifted into place.

The new unit is owned by a consortium of Mammoet, Baris Group, Van Oord ACZ and Marine Construction. Total investment is approximately €25 million.

Access and scaffold safety focus

In response to heightened awareness of corporate manslaughter prosecutions in the construction sector (also see feature on page 38) The National Access & Scaffolding Confederation (NASC) is to launch a campaign to convince procurement managers to choose good quality over a cheap price.

Contractors and clients alike are very vulnerable under the corporate manslaughter act and are bound to show due care in carrying out work. The NASC will work with local authority safety officers to make safety a first consideration in the industry.

Hoist installation guidelines

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) and Construction Hoist Interest Group (CHIG) have joined up to produce a new training manual.

The manual 'Hoist Installation Programme', spells out the hazards and precautions to be aware of in hoist installation.

Call the CITB on 01485 577800 for a copy, costing £50.

Basket launch



The newly launched Basket Sel 48 ALJE-D, with a 48 metre working height and 23 metre outreach.

Aichi and Wumag co-operate on truck mounted platforms

Aichi, Japan's leading manufacturer of aerial work platforms, and Wumag, one of Germany's leading manufacturers of truck mounted platforms, have agreed to work together on joint products. The two companies have signed a Letter of Intent which specifies that Wumag will mount Aichi's TZ range on European carriers.

Willenbrock Concept continues to manage the Aichi truck mount sales operation in Europe (through its existing network of dealers) and will now be assisted by Wumag's own sales operation. Aichi will also become responsible for sales of Wumag products in the Asia Pacific area.

The first tangible result

of the new agreement was on show at Germany's Hannover Messe in April. A truck mounted Aichi TZ15 A appeared on Wumag's stand.

The first jointly produced product, a 22 metre platform with 1000 kilogrammes of lift capacity is scheduled for a launch in the third quarter of this year.

Palfinger releases positive results

Palfinger's annual results revealed 2001 as the second best year for volume and revenue in the company's history. Cranes and systems sales rose by 3.5 percent, and revenue by 5.4 percent, from the previous year.

Capital expenditure almost doubled, to E32.2 million, in the expansion of facilities in France, the opening of a new facility in Germany and 'process optimisation' for the Lengau and Maribor regional offices. Brazilian truck crane manufacturer Madal SA was acquired in this period, as well as Tiffin Loader Crane in the USA.

MBD report available

Business to business market research company Marketing and Business Development has produced its 'UK Construction Equipment Market Report'.

The extensive document includes very detailed analysis and information about the market from 1997-2001 and a market forecast from 2002-2006. In this, the MDA fore-

casts that there will be slow real growth to 2006, which will in turn adversely affect the re-investment in new equipment. It also predicts that limited funds could restrict product innovation.

The report, which can be purchased for £495, also contains information about the markets for specific equipment.

Atlas Terex Birmingham debut

At the beginning of May, visitors to the Commercial Vehicle Show at Birmingham NEC saw cranes in the Atlas-Terex livery displayed for the first time. It is the debut appearance for Atlas Terex UK, following Terex's acquisition of Atlas Hydraulic Loaders.

The new 120 metre tonne 120.2E, featuring radio control as standard also made its debut at the show, whilst other products on display included the 330.1 LM plus, a 33 metre tonne crane with a lifting capacity of 2.51 tonnes at 12.4 metres

New construction sector for HSE

A new construction division, to be headed by Chief Inspector of Construction, Kevin Myers, was launched by the Health and Safety Executive on April 8.

The new regional units are London, East and South East, Yorkshire and East Midlands, Scotland and North of England and Wales and South West and West Midlands.

This is another marker indicating that the construction industry is being targeted by the HSE, as it has by far the highest incidence of injury and death - figures quoted include 114 deaths in just 12 months 200-2001.

In the last week of April, the HSE announced that sites across London would be blitzed by inspectors checking work

procedures. In a statement released on April 22, organiser Barry Mullen said "We will deal strongly with poor standards and may take enforcement action, including prosecutions against those who flout health, safety and welfare law."

In its first year, the HSE Construction division will grow to 158 inspectors and managers.

And the winner is...



The winner of our "Win a trip to Las Vegas" competition was Grant Mitchell, operations director of Baldwins Industrial Services, seen here with Roland Schug of Demag Mobile Cranes and Barry Barnes of Demag UK. The contest was sponsored by Demag Mobile Cranes and Haulotte.

Achim Rau of Wagert Arbeitsbühnen-Vermietung in Obertraubling was the winner of our sister publication *Kran & Buhne's* competition.

Runners up in the contest received a Demag model crane or Haulotte model platform. They were: Mark Page of Loadlift Ltd, Trevor Auld of Associated British Ports, RG Davis of CTA centre and Gerard Harly of the School of the Built Environment.

The winners and *Cranes & Access* would like to thank both sponsors for their generous prizes.

Turn to page 27 for a review of Conexpo.

Meynell's £25,000 fine

Following the death of crane operator Adrian Wood in 2000, his employer Meynell Plant Hire has been fined £25,000.

Meynell was found guilty of breach of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER). Wood's truck's stabilisers had not been properly deployed and it toppled as the knuckle boom lifted its load.

Tower closure

Many of you may have had a quiet laugh to yourselves when *Cranes and Access* issue 4.2 landed on your desks. Its front cover was adorned with a picture of the Glasgow Wing Tower, and inside was a feature about the tower's construction and amazing success.

But, to the embarrassment of both Glasgow Science Centre and *Cranes & Access*, the tower was closed that week.

David Grimmer, media manager with the Science Centre, explained that the element of compression within the pivotal bearing at the centre of the tower's base limits the towers degree of vertical movement. This had diminished by about 15 millimetres so that the top of the base cone moved down and caused damage to the turning mechanism.

Although the bearing was designed to be replaced periodically, it was certainly not anticipated that it would need it so soon after construction.

The tower now awaits another bearing for it's base. When this arrives, the structure will be jacked up by about six inches whilst the new component is installed. The Wing Tower should be open again during this summer.

Japanese giants merge

Hitachi and Sumitomo are forming a joint venture which will merge their crawler crane operations. The two Japanese giants have been co-operating on research projects with mobile crane manufacturer Tadano for the last six months and the decision to launch a joint venture has grown out of the co-operation. Tadano is not involved.

Sumitomo and Hitachi will have exactly 50 percent ownership of the new company each. It will have a new name, as yet undisclosed, and will be responsible for sales, R&D, production, servicing and customer support activities.

Hitachi's factory in The Netherlands is expected to continue producing crawler cranes for Europe, but will gradually switch to produce combined Hitachi and Sumitomo models. Sumitomo's Link-Belt operation will continue to be owned by Sumitomo Heavy Industries.

Hewden invests

Hewden Crane Hire is to spend £6 million on new cranes for London and the south of England.

Twenty cranes ranging from 25 – 200 tonnes are being delivered over the next four months. Details of the models have yet to be finalised.

Meanwhile, the company has acquired Maxxiom's fleet

of fork lifts and telehandlers. The £10 million purchase makes Hewden the UK's number one telescopic handler hire outfit. It has taken most of Maxxiom's contracts and plans that none of Maxxiom's customers will be affected.

And Hewden Instant Access has opened seven new depots, in North Wales, Kent, Gloucester, Ipswich, Stoke-on-Trent, Morecambe and Dundee. It plans to invest up to £8 million in the business during this year.

What's On

SED

Site Equipment Demonstration. Featuring the Cranes & Access village is held in association with *"Cranes & Access"* magazine. May 14-16, 2002. Near Milton Keynes, UK. Phone: +44 (0)20 8562 4810. Fax: +44 (0)20 8652 4804.

WORLD CLASS CRANE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

Crane Partner International's event is in Europe for the first time, in association with Wilmington Publishing and sponsored by Liebherr. May 27-29, 2002. Amsterdam, Holland. Phone: +44 20 8269 7810. Fax: +44 20 8269 7874.

UK BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SHOW

June 9-13, 2002. Birmingham, UK. Phone: +44 20 7505 6895. Fax: +44 20 7505 6661.

CITB calls for construction recruits

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) has released figures indicating that the construction industry must

recruit 380,000 new personnel in the next five years.

The jobs will be created by a buoyant number of orders, the organisation said, and people at all levels will be required – from skilled craftspersons to graduates – to keep up the demand for new hands as well as replacing those wishing to retire.

Effer UK announcement

Effer Spa, one of Italy's major manufacturer of knuckle boom cranes, officially agreed in March that Bill Green and Rob Gilbert are to run Effer UK Ltd.

Both men are well known figures in the crane industry, whilst Gilbert has a well established history with Effer, as its most successful distributor of marine cranes.

Effer UK will cover the UK and Ireland from its office in Maidstone, Kent. The Effer range offers more than 50 models and over 200 types of boom configuration, the largest being the Model 220, a 200 metre tonne crane with a height of 53 metres and radius of 48 metres. The company plans to launch 11 more models over the next three years.

Skyjack changes European management

Jim Hacking, president of Skyjack has re-structured Skyjack's European operations. Floris van Dam, previously managing director of Skyjack's European operations, is no longer with the company and much of the day-to-day management is now with Martin Davies in the UK.

Hacking told *Cranes & Access* that future developments would reflect customer demand for senior personnel with direct relevant experience of the powered access industry.

Skyjack's plans to build large numbers of platforms in Europe remain unaltered said Hacking.