

Mitie management buyout

Mitie Powered Access will now be known as The Platform Company.

Previously owned by the Mitie Group, which has an annual turnover of £0.5 billion, The Platform Company is the result of a management buyout. It is now co-owned by six members of the management team: Grant Woodward, Martin Wright, Lee Perry, Sean Wilde, Sean Vincent and Andy Gilbert.

The Mitie Group was service based up until three years ago, when it ventured into capital intensive businesses. Grant Woodward of The Platform Company explained that it has now decided to return to its roots and refocus upon service.



“This is a very exciting opportunity”, he went on. “The powered access industry has huge potential for growth and this management buy out gives us

opportunity to capitalise in the future.”

Service will carry on as before with the hire and sale of access platforms and training facilities.

Terex sells Holland Lift

Terex has sold Holland Lift. The deal was officially sealed on January 25, between Terex and Holland Lift's new owner, Stoneham Equipment Inc of Chicago.

Holland Lift's sales director, Menno J Koel, told *Cranes & Access* that the change of ownership was decided as from January 1st. “We have been very much involved in the whole process of the sales and it has come as no shock at all” he said. The company is to continue operating from Hoorn and there will be no changes in either staff numbers or management structure as a result of the sale. PMJ Boogert still presides over operations as managing director.

“There will be very few changes as far as customers are concerned”, said Koel, “but we will be placing a lot more emphasis on innovation. This is the way that both Stoneham and Holland Lift want to proceed.”

Stoneham is active worldwide as a producer of agricultural and construction equipment.

Holland Lift's most recent launch was in November, with its Q-135D124-T crawler scissor lift. It hopes to unveil a new model at the forthcoming Apex show.

Baldwins warns of substantial reorganisation and lower profits

The London Stock Exchange reacted unfavourably to news from Baldwins that results for this financial year will be materially lower than expected. The company also warned that some cranes would be sold at a loss as part of a restructuring programme.

The full text of the statement from Baldwins Industrial Services can be found at www.Vertikal.net

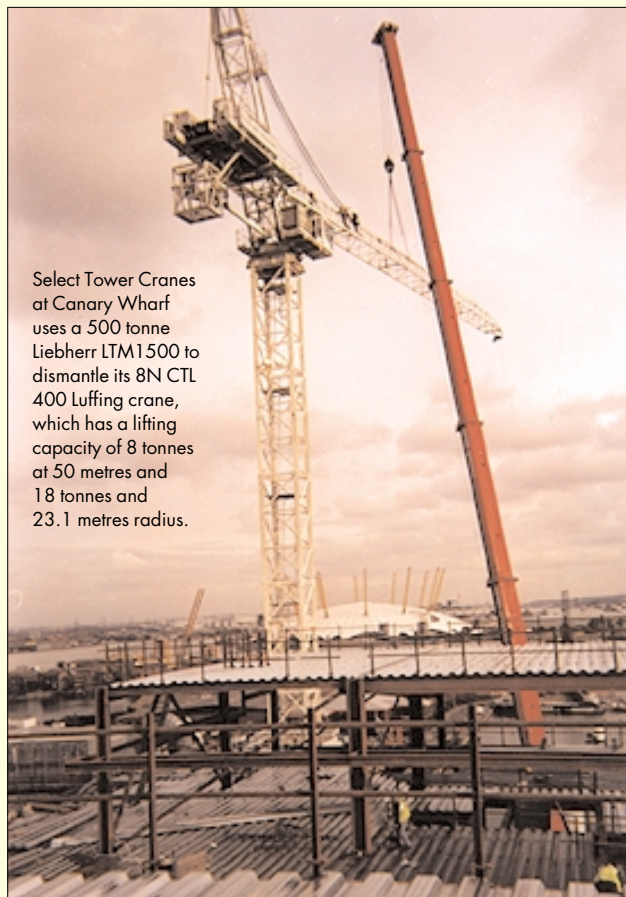
UpRight launches new scissor

UpRight is to unveil the enhanced MX19 as an important new addition to its range during Hirex 2002.

The compact scissor lift has a 7.8 metre working height, 1.95 metre stowed height, 5.8 metre maximum drive height. Its turning radius is 0.025 metres and the width only 0.75 metres. Already popular as a rental model, UpRight hopes that the improved gradeability and additional features such as side fork lift pockets and ultra reliable battery charger, will make it an even more popular choice in the future.

Also new, but not to be presented at Hirex, are the X26 Ultra-N, an 0.82 metre wide scissor lift with 10 metres working height, and the AB38 Lite, with a low weight boom under 3 tonnes, but with a working height of 13.5 metres.

Tower dismantled



Select Tower Cranes at Canary Wharf uses a 500 tonne Liebherr LTM1500 to dismantle its 8N CTL 400 Luffing crane, which has a lifting capacity of 8 tonnes at 50 metres and 18 tonnes and 23.1 metres radius.

Radio 4 on Cranes

What is a crane? How do they get up there? How much does an operator earn? The answers to these and many more questions will be aired in a new BBC Radio 4 series of five programmes to be broadcast in March.

"The Life of Cranes" will be presented by Dylan Winter at 15.45 each day from Monday March 18 to Friday March 22. Research for the programmes included interviews with such luminaries as the man who designed the massive Kroll tower cranes now working on the Three Gorges Dam in China, Bill Green (ex-Grove and now M-D of Previously Loved Cranes Ltd), and our own Tim Whiteman, Publisher of *Cranes & Access* and Co-Author of *The History of Cranes*.

● The Life of Cranes is a series of 15 minute programmes that will be broadcast daily on BBC Radio 4 at 15.45 from March 18 to 22.

New CITB Chairman

Sir Michael Latham is to take over as chair of the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) as from April 1.

Sir Michael's appointment was announced by Adult Skills minister John Healey, who said "This appointment reflects the importance the Government attaches to top level employers playing a leading role in training matters for the construction industry, supported by educationalists, trade unions and others with a high level of knowledge of the skills requirements of the industry."

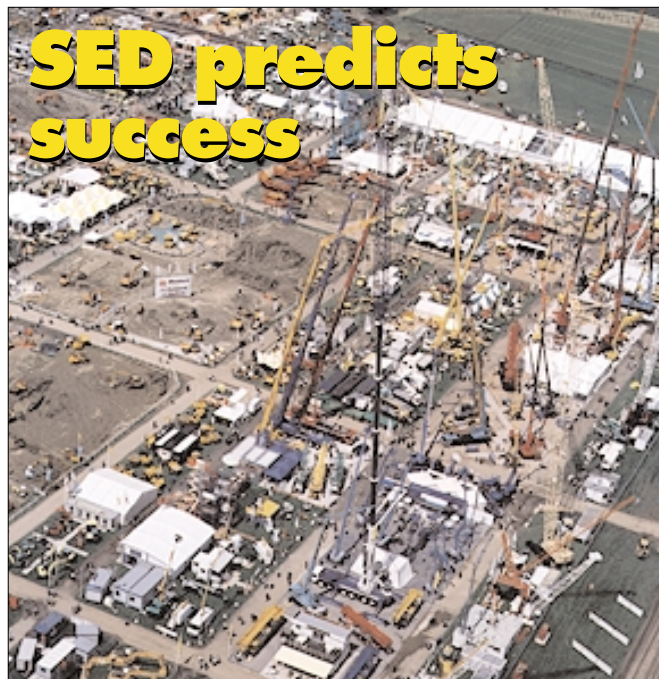
SMIE purchases Cranesafe



French company SMIE has purchased the total shareholding in Cranesafe, the UK and Ireland agent for its tower crane anti-collision and zoning systems.

"We have been developing the SMIE range for the past 12 years", explained

Cranesafe's managing director Tim Rowley "Becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of SMIE allows us to invest in training and other facilities, to accommodate the growing demand for both installations and customer service back up."



SED (Site Equipment Demonstration) predicts that its 2002 show (May 14-16) will showcase an impressive array of cranes and access equipment.

Liebherr Great Britain, Kobelco, PM Cranes, Terex are just a few of the big crane manufacturers who have

confirmed that they will be there.

Genie, Facelift, Haulotte UK and Versalift are among the access companies represented.

C&A will of course be at the show and is an official sponsor of the Cranes & Access Village.

Hek and Alimak join forces



Hek and Alimak have integrated their sales operations.

Intervekt AB has announced that it will bring together Alimak AB and The Hek International Group BV into a single force within each country. Its president, Anders Nordwall, said "For many years, Alimak and Hek have worked in parallel as competitors. Bringing (them) together under one holding company makes it possible to create new entities to better focus on meeting existing customer demands, market development, sales and after-sales support service."

Four new sales companies will be formed in the USA, UK, France and Germany. British and Irish customers will see the UK regional office of HEK Manufacturing BV combine with Intervekt UK under Russell Bates, who continues as president of Alimak Ltd.

Alimak is to take full responsibility for hoists and permanent lifts. Hek will be dealing with mast climbing platforms, transport and work platforms, and hoists up to one tonne in capacity.

NEWS

New chairman for LEEA



The Lifting Equipment Engineers Association (LEEAA) has announced that Paul Fulcher, operations director of LGH Group plc, has taken over as its chairman.

“Over the next two years as chairman of the LEEAA, I plan to continue my efforts to improve safety consciousness throughout the industry and to

encourage others to think of the safety implications of continual price cuts and market devaluation”, said Fulcher. “I feel that where lifting is concerned, quality and safety must never suffer, particularly as a result of cost cutting measures.”

Kier Plant acquires Taylor Woodrow's crane hire

Kier Plant has bought Taylor Woodrow's tower crane hire business. The £2.4 million deal includes 28 modern tower cranes and equipment, increasing Kier's fleet to 85 tower cranes, most of which are Liebherr.

The expanded fleet, operating from six UK depots with eighteen extra employees from Taylor Woodrow, will be

presided over by newly appointed special director Ian Gordon.

Gordon's appointment and the Taylor Woodrow deal are both part of the Kier Group's strategy to make significant developments in its plant hire sector.



Tadano to supply Link Belt

Tadano Ltd and Link-Belt Construction Co. have announced an agreement that Link-Belt will purchase AT mobile cranes from Faun GmbH for sale to American customers.

First production shipment starts in May, although the first crane purchased will be on display at Conexpo in March. It is the five-axle 110 tonne Tadano

Faun ATF 100-5, re-christened as the ATC-3130 by Link-Belt in reference to its 130 US ton capacity. All the cranes will be sold under the Link-Belt brand name.

On the same stand, visitors to Conexpo will be able to see Link-Belt's new HTT truck cranes, with improved off-road capability.

Konecranes delivers Goliath



Konecranes UK has delivered and installed a new 90 tonne Goliath crane to Nordic Terminal in Immingham.

The Intermodel Goliath has a 20 metre span and carries two 60 tonne Konecranes LV open winches on a common trolley frame, designed to lift cassettes with steel coils up to 90 tonnes.

NEWS

Fassi on the highroad



Carillion Highway Maintenance Ltd has taken over a new fleet of Volvo trucks, many of which are equipped with Fassi truck loaders and hydraulic grabs.

Carillion is the first company in the UK to use

the forward mounted Fassi F80 AXS crane, which is fitted with large hydraulic clamshell grabs for cleaning debris from carriageways. It has a high speed function to halve the time of clean up operations.

Volvo announces rental network

Volvo Construction Equipment Rents will be the name of Volvo's new construction equipment rental network throughout North America and Europe.

Company spokesman Tony Helsham explained the move. "The Volvo CE rental programme will cover all realms of an operating rental business model. Programme features will include use of the Volvo brand, financial assistance, a fleet purchasing programme for non-Volvo products, an integrated software programme, business management and training programmes in all facets of the business, facility design and marketing campaigns."

Where countries, such as the UK and France, have strong rental networks in operation,

Volvo will develop partnerships with the larger hire companies. In the USA, Volvo dealers will be given the opportunity to open outlets in their territories. The company hopes that its independent rental business will encourage entrepreneurial ownership and offer strong support from the manufacturer.

Volvo's range of construction equipment presently consists of compact excavators, wheel loaders, skidsteer loaders and telehandlers. It is also just introducing a backhoe line, which will showcase at Conexpo in Las Vegas this month. Volvo has no plans to offer access platforms or cranes, but will of course be offering the telescopic handler range purchased from Upright.

HM Plant sponsors Superbike hope

HM Plant is to be the sponsor of Britain's Ducati Superbike team for 2002-2004.

The British round of the Superbike World Championship series, opens at Silverstone on May 26.

EPL management buyout



EPL Access Ltd has been bought out by management team John Jennings, Graeme Hill and Karl Cerski.

EPL is the powered access hire business of John Laing plc and has been established in St Neots, Cambridgeshire, for 40 years. Under its new ownership it will continue to offer a range of access solutions, specialising in vehicle mounted platforms, and operate out of eight national depots.

Jennings stressed that the business would now see significant investment and a 're-energised' service. Hill said "Our customers have been very patient as we have sometimes struggled to meet their demands over recent years. Now we will once more be able to move the business forward, reacting more quickly to the opportunities and changes in the market."

America still target for UK makers

The Construction Equipment Association has announced that 65 British companies will be exhibiting at Conexpo, the highest number yet.

Rob Oliver, the CEA's chief executive, said "North America remains a key market for many of our members. Sooner or later present

uncertainties are likely to give way to an upswing in business. UK based manufacturers and suppliers continue to have a strong product offering in the international marketplace."

The British Pavillion and British Company Information Centre will be located in Conexpo's South Hall.

Offshore Cranes Conference

Anyone interested in attending The 7th North Sea Offshore Cranes Conference must book their place by April 3.

Aberdeen is to be the host city this year, and the discussion will encompass offshore crane design, operation, legislation, safety issues and train-

ing. Two regulatory regimes will be in focus; 'goal setting and 'prescriptive'.

The conference dinner will be a true Scottish affair, with bagpipes and haggis and all attendees in highland dress. Please visit www.Vertikal.net/en/events

JLG combines telehandler and aerial work platform manufacture

USA manufacturer JLG Industries has announced that it will close down its Orrville facility.

The facility, which had produced the Gradallo telescopic handler, is to be integrated into the McCConnellsburg site where JLG's aerial work platforms are made.

Chief executive Bill Lasky explained that this was a response to the 'slow economic period'. "Integrating the production of telehandlers with aerial work platforms will further leverage out competencies in manufacturing excellence" he went on. "The combination. will better position JLG for the eventual upturn in the economy."

Ninety JLG jobs are likely to be lost in the next eight months.

What's On

VERTIKAL.NET/EN/EVENTS

CONEXPO-CON/AGG

The leading US construction show.
March 19-23, 2002
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
Tel: +1 414-298-4133

CEMAT

Messe für Materialflusstechnik,
Automation, Transportsysteme
und Logistik
April 15-20, 2002
Hannover, Deutschland
Tel: +49 511 89 0
Fax: +49 511 89 32626

SC&RA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Conference organised by the
Specialized Carriers & Rigging
Association.
April 25-29, 2002
Tucson, Arizona, USA
Tel: +1 703 698 0291
Fax: +1 703 698 0297

SED

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

Gottwald's 750th harbour mobile



Gottwald is shipping out its 750th harbour mobile crane this month. The 100 tonne HMK 300 E is on its way to Salerno Container Terminal in Southern Italy to join two others of the same specification.