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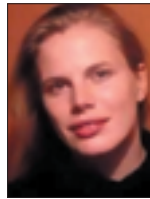
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COMMENT



For the crane industry, 2002 began with a shake up.

The news that Kato Cranes UK Ltd was to be sold or liquidated by its new parent company came as a shock to many.

Terex continued to fuel its reputation as the hungriest crane manufacturer, by gobbling up yet more investment opportunities in the shape of Atlas Weyhausen, which was expected and Schaeff, which was not.

And Demag sees a new management structure, after the retirement of its spearhead president and CEO, Eberhard Kuhn, under whom the company has built up an annual turnover of €240 million.

In access too there have been significant changes. At the beginning of January, Upright's parent company, WR Carpenter, announced that it would join Upright in Chapter 11. The two were to merge with a new reorganisation 'Plan'. This followed the news that Upright had sold its telehandler manufacture and design rights to Volvo.

Volvo is a name that has not cropped up much in *Cranes & Access* before – but watch out for an announcement of its major new rental initiative – which could have a huge impact on worldwide lifting equipment distribution.

Speaking of rental – will we see prices continue to slide this year? We asked crane and access hire companies what they thought of rates, the industry and what customers can look forward to in 2002. Find out their views in our annual survey on page 15.

And, to mark a new year, three new regular features make their debut in this issue.

On page 28 find a case study of a real accident and important, expert advice on how you can prevent tragedy on site.

On a lighter note, the UK's skyline is changing every week – *Cranes & Access* will be taking a regular look at some of the more unusual challenges for contractors. Turn to page 12 for the unique relocation of the St Pancras water tower.

Finally, Fairview crane hire is the first small business to talk to *Cranes & Access* for a regular 'snapshot' interview, on page 24.

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Rosie Gordon
Editor

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