

## MKL ceases Tadano sales Mega rope



Marubeni-Komatsu Limited is no longer the UK dealer for Tadano Faun crane sales. MKL said its decision followed “the gradual reduction in the UK crane market” and that it was part of an overall review of the company’s operations. This is likely to lead to about 15 redundancies throughout the group. The company’s Tadano-Faun sales and service staff have not yet been affected, although

some staff have already left. MKL said it is “fully committed to our many customers and will be maintaining a complete parts and service operation at Caxton”.

Tadano Faun in Germany told C&A that it had no intention of ceasing crane sales in the UK but called the decision a “mutual agreement between Tadano Faun and Marubeni Komatsu”. Minoru Sakuta, president, said that a

new dealer would be appointed very shortly and stressed that the UK “is one of the main important markets for Tadano Faun”.

Keven Bell, managing director of Tadano Faun in the UK, confirmed that MKL has “a few cranes left to sell” and that he would be willing to discuss these with interested customers. There are currently about 600 Tadano Faun cranes working in the UK.



Bridon International has landed a contract to supply what is believed to be one of the biggest crane ropes ever made.

The order is for 1,413 m of 80 mm diameter steel wire rope for an offshore crane being built in the Netherlands by Kenz Cranes.

Weighing in at 50 tonnes, the rope will be spooled onto the main hoist of the 300 tN capacity crane which is mounted on a subsea construction/pipelaying vessel.

Wayne Branton, European sales executive with Bridon’s Retford division, said: “Bridon has been developing a relationship with Kenz Cranes for some time and we are delighted that this order has finally come to fruition.”

## Tele demand

Growing concern over site safety is boosting demand for the latest generation of multi-purpose telescopic handlers, says a leading supplier.

Paul Bidwell, marketing manager with Dorset-based Manitou (Site Lift), says that tighter safety regulations and the recent rise in fatal accidents on UK sites has focused attention on the need for safe methods of working at heights.

“We are starting to pioneer the use of dedicated telehandler work platforms in response to requirements for safer methods on site”, said Mr Bidwell. He said that Manitou is seeing a growing demand for its top of the range MT ORH machines

which are fitted with a single joystick for all hydraulic movements. “When the aerial platform has been raised, all movements are controlled from the platform. The precise movement of the platform greatly contributes to safe operation on site”, said Mr Bidwell.

The most recent customer to take delivery of an MT ORH is R G Carter of Norwich, which now owns a Maniscopic MT1337SL Turbo ORH. This machine has gone straight to work on a new supermarket development in Norwich, erecting steel beams, handling cladding and fixing roofing and lighting equipment.



Bath based builders merchant W T Burden has taken delivery of its 100th Palfinger truck loader, making it the UK’s largest private fleet of trucks equipped with the Austrian loader cranes.

The new model – a 13.3 tm capacity PK 14080 – is rear mounted on a Volvo FM7 6x4 rigid truck.

## Bridge work



Sarens UK's Demag TC3200 lattice boom truck crane has been hard at work in Scotland, undertaking a series of challenging lifts on the Creagan Bridge refurbishment project.

Main contractor Fairfield Mabey of Chepstow, Gwent, appointed heavy lift and transport specialist Sarens to provide all the necessary lift planning and consultancy for the project.

The project involved the removal and decommissioning of the original bridge, fol-

lowed by the installation of the new bridge girders weighing up to 80 tonnes each. These were lifted into position by the TC3200 at a maximum radius of 54 m.

Fast-growing access equipment hirer Panther Work Platforms has taken delivery of a new Height Rider 12 Narrow Bi-Energy access platform from UK manufacturer Niftylift.

The HR12 is one of Niftylift's most popular machines. Panther Platforms spokesman Richard Miller said the company had chosen the HR12 for its proven reliability and for its specification. "The physical dimensions allow it to work in very restricted areas, while the diesel/battery power option means that it can work internally or externally", said Mr Miller. He added: "The HR12 is very versatile and helps to keep utilisation rates for our fleet high".

Panther has depots in Luton and Southampton.



Norwegian company DDB recently supplied its 900 tonne capacity floating crane Samson to lift this 250 tonne steel linkspan bridge into position at the Port of Hull. The load is one of two passenger and vehicle linkspans which will connect the terminal building to the new P&O super-cruise ferries which come into service later this month. The bridge is part of a major £10 million upgrade undertaken by Kier Northern for Associated British Ports. The project was completed in mid-April.

## News highlights

- Rick Barnett is the new UK managing director at **Baldwins**. He was previously managing director of GE Tip Europe Ltd. Ray Stidwell has meanwhile decided to resign as financial director but continues in his position until a replacement can be found.
- Ray Ledger has been appointed managing director of **Ainscough Group**. He was previously a member of the main board of directors at Hewden Stuart.
- Leigh Sparrow, formerly head of **UpRight's** European sales, has been appointed senior vice president of global sales and distribution; Rick Lobst, who was **Madera** plant manager, is now senior vice president of global operations; Teri Shjandemaar, formerly demand manager, is senior vice president of global commercial management and David White has been appointed as senior vice president of global engineering.
- **Sparrows Offshore** has appointed Graham Thomson to the new post of director of strategic business development. Mr Thomson will now lead the firm's development into key markets including Norway, West Africa and the former Soviet Union. Mr Thomson's appointment to the Board follows the £10 million institutional buyout of the company from **Rentokil** last year.
- Ron Smith has joined **Atlas Hydraulic Loaders (AHL)** as managing director. He said: "Loader cranes have always been the core business of AHL in the UK and now, with a single market focus, we have a wonderful opportunity to invest all our resources in the loader crane market".
- Dealer Guide addition (see last issue): TH White are the distributor for **Palfinger Lorry Loading Cranes and Hook Loaders** in England and Wales. Outreach distributes the same products in Scotland and is the UK distributor for **Palfinger Marine Cranes**.
- **Demag** Successes: We regret that our story about the seventeen new Demags featured in last issue's news pages omitted to mention that they were all supplied to **Hewden's**.



## Safety first

The British Industrial Truck Association (BITA) has published guidance aimed at improving the safe use of rough terrain telescopic handlers.

The document was produced in response to concern among manufacturers over a number of recent accidents involving telehandlers. Merlo, JCB, Caterpillar, New Holland, John Deere and Manitou joined forces with the Agricultural Engineers Association and BITA to draft

definitive guidance for the safe use of these versatile machines on construction sites.

Guidance Note GN61 – Planning and Management of Construction Sites for the Safe Use of Rough Terrain Telescopic Handlers is aimed at contractors, site managers and all those who plan and manager sites and are responsible for safety.

● Guidance Note GN61 is available from BITA, Scammel House, 9 High Street, Ascot, Berks SL5 7JF. Tel: 01344 628800, Fax: 01344 291197.

# NEWS

## First Millennium

Millennium Lifting, the Kent-based crane hirer set up less than a year ago by husband-and-wife team Andrew and Jo-Anne Campbell, has taken delivery of its first Liebherr mobile crane, an LTM 1060/2.

The company currently operates 25 – 60 tonne capacity machines throughout southern England. The four-axle LTM 1060/2 comes in right at the top of the range. The 60 tonne capacity machine has a 42m oviform boom with a 17 m swing-away fly jib.



“The crane hasn’t stopped working since it arrived”, commented Mr Campbell,

who added that he intends adding a second Liebherr later this year.



## Compact flyboom

MHS Highway Hire has taken the first Versalift 180 degree action flyboom option to be fitted to a Eurotel van mounted work platform. The option was fitted to an ET38NF mounted on an Iveco Daily 50C11 van delivered to client organisation Carillion in Bradford, West Yorkshire.

The enhanced ET38NF has a working height of 14 m and 7.3 m of outreach yet retains 1,250 kg of spare carrying capacity on the compact 5.2 tonne vehicle. Carillion will use the combination for street lighting maintenance, where the flyboom will allow easy access to either side of the street lamp.

## Liflux expands

Liflux has just completed an expansion programme to double the size of its factory. This allows it to double the number of units it builds this year. The figures were revealed by Jean-Yves Bouffault, president of Potain, the company that bought Liflux last year and is itself now in the process of being bought by US crawler crane manufacturer Manitowoc.

Speaking to C&A at the bauma exhibition in Munich, Bouffault said that Liflux would build about 1200 units this year. He added that the company is recruiting 4 new engineers, a variety of other employees and is re-designing and upgrading many models.

“Potain’s access operations need to become a significant part of our turnover” said Bouffault adding that for him something around 25 per cent would be significant. Asked if there was any possibility that Manitowoc or Potain would consider selling Liflux, Bouffault replied: “No, absolutely not”.

## Guardian control

Snorkel claims that its new zero tailswing ATB 38 articulating telescopic boom platform sets new standards of safety and control. The secret of the new machine is the “Guardian” system which provides instant error detection, smoother operation and seamless transition between functions.

Snorkel says that the state-of-the-art electronics and on-board monitoring system also contributes to reduced maintenance and cost



effective operation.

With a working height of 13.4 m, the ATB 38 keeps its weight down by utilising an aluminium telescoping boom

section.

The battery-powered ATB 38 has a 2.43 m turning circle and 100 mm ground clearance.



Tractel is unveiling a range of new height safety equipment at the forthcoming Safety & Health Expo 2001. These include Blocfor fall arrestors the Derope automatic descent rescue device, the Travsafe continuous horizontal lifeline system and a range of all-inclusive safety kits.

## Doing it best

Bristol based Meek Group is to sell its general plant operation in order to focus on powered access.

The company, which was the subject of a management buy-in some 18 months ago, will retain, and build upon, its existing 1,000-strong powered access fleet into which it plans to invest the proceeds from the sale of its general plant business.

General plant currently comprises about 15 per cent of the £8 million-turnover business and will be auctioned off at the end of this month.

Carl Huntingdon, product and marketing manager for Meek Group, commented: "We've done a great deal of restructuring since the takeover, and this is the final piece of the jigsaw. We're not a plant company, we're an access company and we're going to build on what we do best."

Meek Group has developed a successful sideline in attachments and ancillary equipment for its access machines and Mr Huntingdon said that the company intends to develop this side of the business.



Cranesafe has supplied the SMIE AC30 anti-collision system to four Comedil CTL250 luffing tower cranes on the Mid-City Place development site in London.

The SMIE system is ensuring that the cranes work to their optimum efficiency without the risk of encroaching on each other's working envelope. The system also prevents the cranes from lifting loads over the crowded street adjacent to the site.

## Sky welding

JLG has developed what it calls the "SkyWelder" package for its 400S and 460SJ boom lifts.

The SkyWelder is an integrated self-contained welding system with leads factory-routed through the boom power-track. It has been developed specifically to meet the needs of steel erectors and other workers doing overhead welding.

Using boom lifts equipped with the SkyWelder package, welders can work more efficiently and safely because they no longer need to worry about electric leads being draped over the edge of the platform. Moreover, the package means that it is no longer necessary to hire separate welding equipment.

The SkyWelder package consists of a 225 A welder and a 4,200 W ac generator powered by the machine's hydraulic system.

## Ferreting out the work

Access hire specialist Facelift has taken delivery of the first Avant Tecno Ferret machine in the UK. The machine is currently on hire to Gleeson Homes in Reading where its nimble rough-terrain performance allows it to get into places where larger machines cannot venture.

Gleeson site manager Dave Smith said: "This machine is versatile and extremely easy to set up quickly".

The Ferret is just 0.96 m wide, weighs only 1,300 kg but will reach a working height of 12.5 m and an out-reach of 6.3 m.

● Facelift recently supplied



two Spider access platforms – a TS26 and a TS29 – to help clear up the mess left by a fire at Coventry Cathedral. The fire, in late February nearly

## What's On

### UK

#### SED 2001 SITE EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION

UK's largest construction exhibition  
May 16-19, 2001  
Milton Keynes, UK  
Tel: 0208 652 4659  
Fax: 0208 652 4804

#### HILLHEAD 2001

June 26-28, 2001  
Tarmac's Hillhead Quarry, Buxton,  
Nr Manchester.  
Tel: 0115 941 1315  
Fax: 0115 948 4035

#### HIREX 2002

Tools, small plant and site equipment.  
February 26-28, 2002  
NEC, Birmingham.  
Tel: 020 8277 5122  
Fax: 020 8277 5200

### INTERNATIONAL

#### SAIE

Italy's leading construction equipment exhibition and the ideal place to catch up on the latest loader crane and powered access technology. October 17-22, 2001  
Bologna, Italy  
Tel: 0039 51 282 111  
Fax: 0039 51 282 3322

#### CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2002

The US's largest construction equipment exhibition is held in Las Vegas every three years. A heady combination of construction and gambling in one of the world's most extraordinary cities. March 19-23 2002. Las Vegas, USA.  
Tel: 001 414 272 0943.  
Fax: 001 414 272 2672.