

All change!



Suddenly it's all change in the mast climbing world. **Tim Whiteman** looks at developments in the world and UK scenes

Scanclimbers latest additions (see photos left and right)

the Hek/Alimak tie-up brilliantly brings together two global players who will work together at developing the total market and finding new ways to use the equipment".

Intervect belongs to Swedish Investment Group Atle AB and its job is to find a way of harnessing the strengths of the two companies. Intervect's president is Anders Nordwall who says "it is imperative that the existing global mar-



kets for Alimak and Hek products are maintained and supported in whatever way is necessary to enable appropriate growth". Working with Nordwall are Krister Kempainen, who remains as president of Alimak, and Ernst van Hek who continues as president of Hek. Nordwall plans to grow Intervect rapidly

Alimak and Hek, Malmqvist and Haki, Mastclimbers and SGB! What is happening to mast climbers? In case you missed the recent spate of news announcements, (see www.vertikal.net for more information), Alimak of Sweden's parent company Atle has bought Hek of Holland and put them both into a new company called Intervect, while Malmqvist of Sweden has been bought by fellow Swede, Haki. In the UK a new giant hire fleet has been created by the merger of Glasgow based Mastclimbers with SGB's fleet of mast climbers.

What does it mean for the customer? Mike Pitt, who runs Mast Climbing Platform Sales, believes the outcome can only be good for the customer: "It's an exciting time -

Mastclimbers + SGB = 500

SGB and Mastclimbers have agreed to merge their mast climbing business. The new joint venture will create a company with a fleet of about 500 units which will be jointly owned by SGB's parent company, Andrew Reid (managing director of Mastclimbers) and the Mastclimbers management team. SGB's parent company Harsco will own 51 per cent.

The new company will operate under the Mastclimbers name, colour scheme and logos. It will have three depots, the two existing Mastclimbers depots at Glasgow and Leighton Buzzard and the SGB depot in Haydock. The Mastclimbers fleet is predominantly Alimak but with some Safi and Malmqvist units. SGB's 215 units are predominantly from Hek. Sales revenue at Mastclimbers, which is now five years old, is approximately £2 million.

with a public listing planned within a few years. Growth will come from "either natural growth within the company or through acquisition of companies".

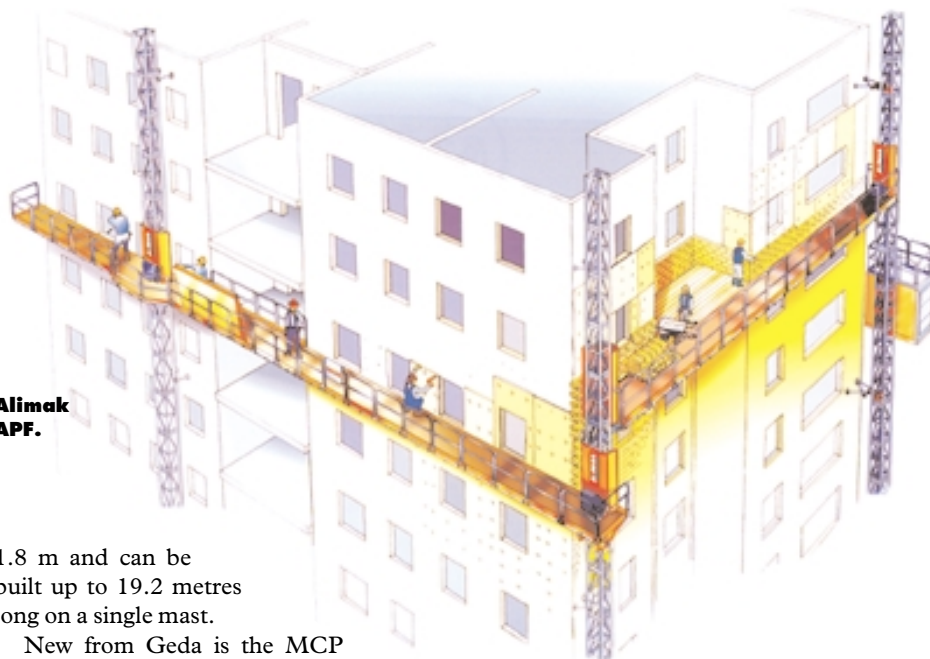
Sweden is also the home of Malmqvist which has now been bought by Haki AB. The announcement was made just before bauma and company executives contacted by C&A were still unclear about exactly how the new set up would work. Haki has, however, stated that Malmqvist will be a fully ▶

owned subsidiary and that the product is a natural extension to its existing range of scaffolding systems.

“Our goal is to deliver complete and safe work places” says Bengt Olsson, managing director of Haki. “Our well known scaffolding systems are already complemented by a full range of lifts and elevators. By the acquisition of Malmqvist we can now offer yet another safe method to make construction work easier and more efficient”.

There are currently about 1500 Malmqvist platforms working in more than 50 countries including the UK where Haki currently represents Geda which could now overlap with Malmqvist.

New from Malmqvist is the MA 2000 series of modular work platforms. These feature extending beams which allow the platforms to be adapted to the shape of the façade. Maximum lifting capacity is just over two tonnes. Platforms are 1.8m x



Alimak APF.

1.8 m and can be built up to 19.2 metres long on a single mast.

New from Geda is the MCP 750/1500 which is compatible with existing systems. The company has also just launched the 2PK crane hoist. This is based on the 200Z and is designed for

at up to 12 metres). The SC1000 mast climbing work platform can work at heights of up to 100 metres and has a load capacity of up to 2700 kilogrammes on a single mast and 5000 kilogrammes with twin masts.

There is also a UK manufacturer of mast climbing work platforms – Satellite Mast Climber which is based in Consett, but belongs to US-based Safeworker. It builds about 8 units a month and has its own hire fleet of about 50 machines. A recent success for the company was the supply of a twin mast hoist system to Gibraltar where it is working on the east side of a water catchment system and covering a total height of 450 metres over an incline of 35 degrees. A feature of Satellite’s product range is the ability to tailor-make units to meet the particular requirements of an individual customer. ■



HEK has no problems with sharp corners and curves (seen here in Austria)

use with tower cranes. The company was also one of the pioneers of combined goods/personnel hoists. The 1500ZZP is the latest version and is a twin mast, twin speed 2.9 metre platform. In Goods mode the platform can carry 2 tonnes and travel at 25 metres per minute. In Transport mode (personnel and goods) maximum payload is 1.5 tonnes and speed is 12 metres per minutes. Also active in the combined platform market is Imer which sells the Maber range of hoists – it is showing a 1400kg goods/passenger hoist at SED.

New from Scanclimber is the PM1200 material/personnel hoist. This has a load capacity of 2 tonnes and can work at heights of up to 150 metres (freestanding

Mastclimbers used to install new roofs on tower block in Greenock

