cranes & access

October 2026 Vol.28 issue 6
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TOP RENTAL FLEET SURVEY

SPIDER CRANES

SPIDER LIFTS

VERTIKAL DAYS REVIEW

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The Top 30 UK & Ireland Top Rental Fleet Guide has been rebranded and now goes way beyond that, highlighting the leading crane, aerial lift and telehandler rental fleets in the UK and Ireland as well as those that have range topping and specialist machines.

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There is still an exciting buzz around spider cranes at the moment as new products arrive and new applications are discovered. The market is also changing as more diversity in terms of manufacturers and products builds on the traditional Japanese spider crane concept that kicked the whole thing off. We take a look at some of the latest developments.

EQUIPMENT FOR ARBORISTS 39

We profile Northamptonshire, UK, based, award-winning husband and wife team Tom and Renee Watters who formed commercial arb company Rockleigh almost 10 years ago. We also review the 50th anniversary APF show at Ragley Estate in Warwickshire.

SPIDER LIFTS 45

The market for spider lifts has been growing at a steadily increasing pace, which has spurred on a number of acquisitions by new entrants and even private equity players, alongside mergers and partnerships. We review these latest developments together with product launches and new innovations.

VERTIKAL DAYS REVIEW 51

This year's Vertikal Days was the largest and probably one of the best since it started at Haydock Park in 2007. The show returned for a third time to Newark Showground in Nottinghamshire with more than 300 manufacturers/brands represented, making it the largest dedicated lifting equipment event in Europe this year. Nick Johnson reports...

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ON THE COVER

A Jekko SPX532.2 spider crane from HLI Rent installing glass panels for 'The Village' at the Barolana 58 sailing regatta in Trieste, Italy. Find out more on page 36.



IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Scheduled for publication in early December, the next issue of Cranes & Access will include features on Pick & Carry/Industrial cranes, Large Truck mounted lifts, A look at outrigger mats and tracking and a pictorial review of 150 years of American crane manufacturer Link-Belt. If you have any contributions or suggestions to make, or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.

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COMMENT

AI: FROM HYPE TO SITE

For an industry built on steel, hydraulics and mechanical grit, the current obsession with 'Artificial Intelligence' can sound like a load of old rubbish. It is understandable why many smaller rental company owners look at the rapid onslaught of AI and its marketing, then dismiss it as nothing more than buzzwords designed to inflate software subscription fees and overcomplicate their equipment.

But dismissing it entirely is a massive mistake.

If you look past the glitzy jargon-filled promotional material and examine what is actually happening in the internal workings of the latest generation of machines, it becomes clear that AI is no longer a distant threat or gimmick. It is already here and making an impact on job sites - not as a walking robot, but hidden deep inside control boxes, telematics hubs, and safety systems. Companies that ignore it and fail to adapt are sleepwalking into technological obsolescence.

Take fleet management, for instance. For a decade, telematics providers have promised the world while delivering little more than a tidal wave of passive data, flashing amber alerts, and annoying error codes that require endless manual sorting and storing. For all but the largest companies and a few tech-savvy start-up's, it has been a burden, rather than a benefit.

AI is fixing this in a number of ways, including predictive action. Instead of waiting for a machine to break down, intelligent algorithms can cross-reference hydraulic pressure spikes, battery degradation curves, and ambient operating temperatures across thousands of machines and warn a service manager that a boom cylinder seal on a specific 135ft boom lift is likely to fail in the next 40 operating hours.

For any rental company where downtime equals dead margin, ignoring this capability isn't just old-fashioned, it is bad business.

The impact on safety is even more immediate. For years, companies have relied on operators having perfect all-seeing visibility, or ground crews paying absolute attention to everything that goes on around them, a scenario that rarely exists on a construction site or in a warehouse or factory. AI-driven camera systems and LiDAR are now able to step in to help avoid human error and oversight. They don't just display a live video feed, they think and differentiate between a pallet of bricks and a person stepping into a blind spot, calculating trajectories in real time to gently override controls before an incident occurs.

Naturally, the cynics will argue that this is just another layer of costly electronic nanny state intervention that weakens operator skills. But is it? With most countries facing a chronic, systemic skills shortage, less experienced operators are often thrust into increasingly complex environments. AI isn't replacing them, it is acting as a digital co-pilot, constantly calculating complex load charts, compensating for boom deflection, overly enthusiastic controller movements or wind gusts.

The lifting market has always adapted, transitioned from lattice boom cranes to telescopics, from mechanical to hydraulics, and more recently, from diesel to electric power. The digital transition is no different. It is time to cut through the tech-bro hype, stop treating AI like a sci-fi gimmick, and recognise it for what it actually is: the most powerful tool for efficiency and safety we've been handed in a generation. Those who choose to ignore it are likely to see their competitors outperform and outmanoeuvre them.

Mark Darwin

Comment and feedback is most welcome via post, email or phone stating if we may publish them or not: editor@vertikal.net

Kran & Bühne: The Vertikal Press also publishes a German magazine which deals with the same issues as Cranes & Access, but is written for German users and buyers. Details available on request. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information published in Cranes & Access, the Editor and Publisher can accept no responsibility for inaccuracies or omissions. Views expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or Publisher. Material published in Cranes & Access is protected under international copyright law and may not be reproduced without prior permission from the publishers.

TADANO'S NEW 60T AT

Tadano has announced its new 60 tonne, three axle AC 3.060-2 All Terrain crane. Built in Japan it is available to order now in the Americas and Australia, with deliveries expected to begin later this year. Production of the first European units is expected to get underway in the first half of next year, with deliveries coming shortly thereafter.

The new AC 3.060-2 features a 50 metre six section main boom rated at 2.5 metres and can handle 39.5 tonnes at three metres radius. Capacity on the fully extended main boom is 6.7 tonnes at a 12 metre radius. An 8.5 to 16 metre bifold swingaway extension can be added for a maximum tip height of just less than 69 metres. When offset at 40 degrees it has a capacity of up to 2.4 tonnes at a 64 metre tip height and 16 metres radius or 26 metres radius at a 60 metre height.



Maximum counterweight is 13 tonnes but can also be rigged with 9.8, 4.2 or 3.1 tonne counterweights. Maximum single line pull is 6.7 tonnes. Overall width is 2.55 metres, overall height 3.71 metres and overall length 11.69 metres. Outrigger spread is variable between three and 6.5 metres. Tadano's four camera 'Surround View' system is optional, as are winch cameras and the e-Pack battery electric power pack for working indoors.

XCMG'S 14,000T RINGER

Chinese manufacturer XCMG has unveiled the first part of what it claims will be the world's first 14,000 tonne ring mounted crane. A joint development with Sinopec Heavy Lifting & Transportation, it will comprise two 7,000 tonne crane modules that connect to each other and lift in tandem but can also be used on their own as 7,000 tonners.



The first crane 'module' has completed its final assembly stage in Xuzhou and will now go on test, while the other half of the tandem crane is completed. When both units are integrated, the crane will have a maximum load moment of 700,000 tonne/metres.



RENTEASE TO MANUFACTURE

Indian access rental company RentEase announced a new equipment manufacturing and sales brand, RE. The RentEase business will continue to operate as a rental business while RE will handle product development, manufacturing, sales, distribution and after sales support.

Two product ranges have so far been announced - RE-Lift for powered access and work at height equipment and RE-Move for material handling. The first machines will include the RE17AJLi articulated boom lift, the RE30HY spider lift, the RE08ES and RE12ES electric scissor lifts, the RETM36 truck mounted boom lift and a range of vertical mast lifts, including double mast and narrow chassis models with working heights from 11 to 16 metres. RE also has the REPT 20, REPT 25 LI, REPT 1.5 LI and REPT 2.0 LI battery powered pallet trucks.

RentEase said that the machines will be built by manufacturing partners and developed around its rental and customer experience. The company was established in India in 2017 and operates from four locations, with its headquarters in Navi Mumbai. Its rental fleet includes more than 550 aerial lifts, mostly booms, mast booms, scissor lifts, spider lifts and small truck mounts. It also offers servicing, parts and operator training.

NIFTYLIFT'S GLOBAL UNVEILING

Self-propelled boom and trailer lift manufacturer Niftylift has unveiled two ultra lightweight 26ft self-propelled boom lifts, the HR10NE and HR10LE. Both share the same single riser and fixed length boom, providing 10 metres working height, 4.3 metres of outreach and a 1.2 metre by 850mm platform. They both have an overall stowed height of 1.98 metres.





The narrower HR10NE is 1.5 metres wide and weighs 1,950kg, while the lighter HR10LE is 1.8 metres wide and weighs just 1,600kg, light enough for raised floors and other weight sensitive surfaces. They are also light enough to be towed on trailers behind electric or hybrid vehicles. The company said the HR10 is its first machine in the 10 metre class since the original was discontinued in 2015, but that it is a new design rather than a revival.

Managing director John Keely said: "The 10 metre class matters again with more jobs inside occupied buildings, on finished floors and in spaces that were never designed to accommodate machinery. Some of those jobs are limited by how narrow a machine can be, and some by how little weight the floor will take. We have built for both rather than compromising on either. Neither of them are a scaled-down version of something bigger."

POTAIN'S NEW SELF ERECTOR

Potain unveiled the new Evy 28-21 self-erecting tower crane at Batimat in Paris last month. The crane has a maximum capacity of 2.2 tonnes, a maximum jib tip capacity of 970kg at its 28 metre maximum radius and a 21 metre under hook height using its P+ function with 15 tonnes of counterweight. The jib luffs to 10, 20 or 30 degrees above horizontal for a maximum hook height of 32.3 metres.

The crane features Smart Set-Up and remote guidance for automated erection along with Potain's Crane Control System, Drive Control and Power Control, while the integrated telematics includes remote diagnostics and tracking. The crane is aimed at residential builders, carpenters and roofers. The two axle Evy 28-21 has an overall stowed length without towbar of less than 14 metres and can be towed at speeds of up to 80kph.



NEW AXCS TELEHANDLERS

Turkish/American aerial lift and telehandler manufacturer AXCS Equipment has announced a new range of North American telehandlers. The new five model TH Series includes three 13 metre mid range models: the 3,600kg/12.8m TH-842 with 8.7 metres forward reach, the 4,000kg/13.6m TH-944 with 9.4 metres of forward reach, and the 4,500kg/13.6m TH-1044 with a forward reach of 9.4 metres.



The largest of the new models is the 5,400kg/12.88m TH-1256

The two larger 17 metre models include the 4,500kg/17m TH-1056 and the 5,400kg/17m TH-1256. The two units share an identical chassis and four section boom and feature Deutz Tier 4 diesel power without the need for Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) or Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF). They feature a maximum forward reach of 12.88 metres at which point they can handle 1,360kg.

All five models have a high level of parts and component commonality. Options include fully enclosed cabs with heating and air conditioning, backup cameras with integrated proximity sensors, a Load Management System, and premium joysticks with integrated drive and shift control functions.

The AXCS brand was created last January, following the 2023 acquisition of low level scissor lift manufacturer Custom/Hy-Brid by Turkish group Asko Holding, which already owned aerial lift company (ELS) and telehandler manufacturer (MTS). Based in Richfield, Wisconsin it now offers scissor lifts, telehandlers and mast lifts.



GGR'S 40T TRACKED CARRIER...



The Croco40

GGR surprised many at Vertikal Days, when it unveiled the new 40 tonne Croco40 tracked carrier. The unit has an overall deck length of 6.25 metres, an overall width of 2.46 metres, and a platform height of 1.1 metres when lowered and 1.34 metres when raised.

It can also tilt by up to five degrees side to side. We understand that the company based the design on one from its articulated crane supplier, BG Lift, adding its own specification and deck set up.

...AND 50 TONNE LOAD TURNER

GGR also launched the recently introduced Swedish built 50 tonne Ganterud L50, levelling yoke, for levelling or turning/rotating loads weighing up to 50 tonnes.



The Ganterud 50

SOCAGE'S NEW 27M TRUCK MOUNT

Socage launched a new 27 metre straight telescopic 3.5 tonne truck mounted lift - the Forste 27T Speed - at Platformers Days, in Germany this month.



The new model utilises a six section telescopic boom with a pedestal mounted platform, for a 26.8 metre maximum working height and up to 17.3 metres of outreach with 100kg in the platform, or just over 13 metres with the maximum platform capacity of 250kg. The lift also features automatic outrigger set up and levelling, along with a new generation of Socage's 'Speed control technology', with a full display on both control stations. The overall length when stowed is just under eight metres, the overall width 2.13 metres and overall height 2.99 metres.

Also on display at the show was a new 230kg capacity winch for its Raptor spider lifts, turning them into spider cranes. The new winch was demonstrated on a 21 metre Raptor 21S and has been designed for lifting and positioning windows, timber beams or solar panels. Switching between the work platform and crane can be accomplished by a single person.



The new winch option



POTAIN'S NEW RANGE TOPPER

Potain has delivered the first 40 tonne MDT 1609 - the largest flat top tower crane in its range - to German precast concrete manufacturer Karl Bachl Betonwerke, which installed it at its facility in Bavaria.

The crane has an 80 metre jib, with a jib tip capacity of up to 14.1 tonnes. It also features Potain's Crane Control System and the Potain Connect telematics system. An energy storage and recovery system helps reduce power consumption.

The crane has been erected to a height of 40.2 metres to allow it to lift materials in its yard, including precast concrete panels weighing up to 40 tonnes. It was installed on the circular tower from the company's previous tower crane using an adapter designed by Potain dealer Moser Baumaschinen and the Manitowoc Lift Solutions team.

25FT JLG MAST LIFT

JLG has launched the 25ft E25MCL mast lift for the North American market. With a working height of 9.4 metres the E25MCL has a maximum platform capacity of 159kg with 120kg capacity on the 480mm deck extension.

Overall length is 1.45 metres by 805mm wide. Lead acid batteries are standard, with AGM and lithium ion options. Overall weight is 1,243kg.

This is the first mast lift to feature the company's 'progressive elevated drive' which adjusts travel speed as the platform is raised and JLG's 'Variable Tilt Technology'.



The E25MCL when stowed

ELECTROCUTION TOPS IPAF FATALITY DATA



IPAF has published its Global Safety Report for 2025, identifying electrocution and electric shock as the leading cause of fatal and major injuries with powered access. In total 170 reports were logged last year, 15 percent fewer than in 2024, fatalities fell from 100 to 76.

Reports came from 25 countries involving 192 people. Electrocution and electric shock accounted for 28 reports from six countries with 20 deaths - 71 percent of those in the United States. Falls from the platform and overturns were the next most frequent causes.

Construction accounted for 37 percent of incidents, followed by arboriculture and rental at 13 percent each. Self-propelled booms were involved in 26 percent of incidents and self-propelled vertical lifts in 25 percent.

Reports involving mastclimbers and construction hoists tripled, with fatalities rising from one to eight. Deaths attributed to being struck by a vehicle or machine rose 125 percent, while entrapment and overturn reports were halved.

ALL NEW ELECTRIC TELEHANDLER



German manufacturer Mona Motors, has launched an all new, all electric 2,700kg/6.3m telehandler, the 'Mona Nova', aimed at the agricultural market.

Mona says that the Mona Nova has been designed from the ground up as an electric machine and uses a 54kW drive system plus a separate 26kW drive for the hydraulics, with power coming from an 80 volt, 46kWh LiFePO4 battery that can either be charged at a wall-box or via its standard onboard charger.

We have yet to see a final specification, but features include a fully integrated telematics system and 'Mona Connect' app, allowing the farmer to check the battery's charge level and adjust charging to match the farm's energy use and its own power generation. Air conditioning and a heated seat are a couple of nice additions. The company's website quotes a list price of €95,081 including VAT.

The young company believes that the greatest benefits of such machines will be for those farms that generate their own power, gaining the maximum savings over running a diesel equivalent.



SEVEN YEARS AND STILL WAITING

It is seven years since John Mackay of Nationwide Platforms and Tommy Williams died in an explosion while working from a truck mounted aerial work platform at a disused plant in Redcar, England - and yet the Health & Safety Executive has still not completed its investigation and published a report.

Following a letter we ran on Vertikal.net from John Mackay's widow Ann, C&A contacted the HSE and asked why such investigations take so long. This was the reply from a Health and Safety Executive spokesperson:

"The HSE investigation into the tragic accident that took place on 19/09/2019 at Teesworks in Redcar in ongoing. Primacy for the investigation was passed to HSE from Cleveland Police in September 2023.

"We provide regular updates to the families of Tom Williams and John Mackay and HSE is prioritising resources to complete this investigation."

Unfortunately, this incident occurred more than seven years ago - Cleveland Police took four years before passing it onto the HSE which has already taken more than three years - and still no result. Our question remains, why does it take so long?



John Mackay (L) and Tommy Williams

NEW PUSH AROUND LIFT



LGMG launched a new push around low level work platform at Vertikal Days, the 10ft SP0307, with a working height of 4.95 metres and platform capacity of 240kg.

The new model has a generous 1.26 metre by 576mm platform, an overall length of 1.41 metres, overall width of 760mm and stands 1.77 metres high when stowed. The total weight is 400kg.

The LGMG SP0307



Make Model	LGMG SP0307	Axolift P300	JLG Nano 25	JLG Pwr Tower	Snorkel S3010P	Pop Up IQ Pro10	Dingli JCPT0507C
Working height	4.95m	4.95m	4.5m	5.1m	5.0m	4.97m	5.0m
Platform capacity	250kg	240kg	200kg	250kg	240kg	240kg	240kg
Platform Length	1.26m	1.11m	840mm	1.52m	1.1m	1.04m	1.15m
Platform width	576mm	631mm	580mm	750mm	520mm	520mm	660mm
Overall width	760mm	765mm	760mm	780mm	750mm	760mm	750mm
Overall Length	1.41m	1.27m	1.21m	1.62m	1.2m	1.31m	1.31m*
Overall height	1.77m	1.77m	1.59m	1.85m	1.8m	1.75m	1.8m
Total weight	400kg	380kg	324kg	365kg	382kg	394kg	398kg

Looking at the comparison, the SP0307 stacks up well, with a competitive working height, the longest platform (apart from the Power Tower, which is heavier, longer and different) and the highest platform capacity. On the downside, it is longer than most and is the heaviest - but not critically so.

LGMG purposely launched the new lift in the UK, given that it is possibly the largest push around market in Europe, if not worldwide, and where demand has jumped significantly in recent months.

Aron Westby of LGMG UK said: "The UK market is very buoyant at the moment. The first order for 150 machines has just shipped, with a further 100 units on order with other customers."

IPAF/IAPA 2026 AWARD WINNERS

Products of the Year:

Mast Climbers/Hoists
Scando 650a 40-46 S

Scissor Lifts & Vertical Masts
Genie - GS Slab Scissor Lift
Next-Generation

Self Propelled Booms & Atrium Lifts
Platform Basket - Spider 54T

Vehicle/Trailer Mounted
Palfinger Platforms - PT 25 TJ

Other Awards:

Access Rental Company of the Year
Manlift Middle East

The Kevin O'Shea Contribution to Safe Working at Height Award
Vietnam Rental - Safety Ecosystem

The Sustainability Award
Clem Jacob Hire - Sustainability Journey

Digital Development Award
Trackunit and Sunbelt Rentals UK & Ireland

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)
Istanbul Vinc

IAPA Innovative Technology Prize
JLG/Power Towers - LiftPod

IPAF Training Centre of the Year
Standard Arabia Inspection

IPAF Training Instructor of the Year
Debbie Forbes - HSS Training

IPAF Lifetime Achievement Award
Andres Cristian Nacht of Mills, Brazil, who also celebrates 60 years in the business

The full list of nominations is on page 63





LONG BOOM KOBELCO TELECRAWLER



Kobelco has launched a longer boom version of its 75 tonne TKE750G telescopic crawler crane - the TKE750GLB. The LB features a 35 metre full power four section heavy duty boom - 4.9 metres longer than the original - and is aimed at the European market.

The crane has a transport weight of 54.4 tonnes with the 17.2 tonne counterweight removed. Power comes from a Mercedes Stage V diesel and features the Kobelco Crane Remote Observation Satellite System (KCROSS).



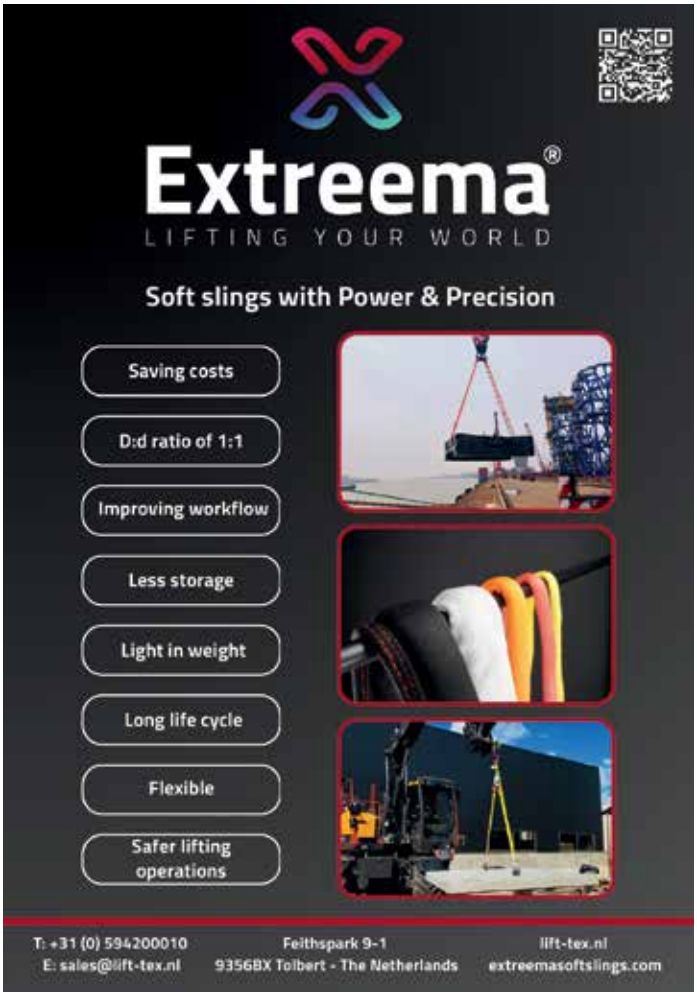
UK APPLIES ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ON CHINESE BOOMS

The UK government is to impose anti-dumping import tariffs/duties on Chinese built aerial work platforms ranging from 16.25% for Dingli, to 28.12% for those that co-operated but were not investigated, 64.25% for LGMG/Lingong and 71.74% for the others. These are likely to change when the final measure is published and implemented within the next six months, and companies can appeal.

The move follows an investigation instigated by a complaint from Niftylift that Chinese manufacturers were selling boom lifts into the UK at uncommercial or unfair pricing levels - in other words, dumping.

The complaint, filed on the 30th of September 2025, applies to all self-propelled and semi self-propelled/self-drive boom lifts, along with trailer and spider lifts with working heights of six metres or more that are made in China.

Trade Remedies Authority



TRUCK CRANE ON A 3.5T CHASSIS



German crane and aerial lift manufacturer Klaas unveiled a prototype truck crane mounted on a 3.5 tonne chassis, the K200, at Platformers Days in Germany.

The K200 has a maximum capacity of 1,000kg at a radius of six to seven metres and can take 500kg to 13 metres. The boom is all aluminium with a riser topped by a three section telescopic boom and a short, fixed extension for a hook height of 22 metres.

On a Mercedes chassis, the crane has a travel length of 6.8 metres, is 2.1 metres wide and 2.8 metres high. It features fully automatic set up and can be ready to work in five minutes from arriving on site. It is said to be simple to operate smoothly, with a soft start-stop function and intelligent remote controls with a full display screen.



Dingli Drilling Robots – Unmanned Tunneling

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FINANCIALS ROUND-UP



SALES BOOST FOR HAULOTTE

Haulotte's first half results show a pickup in new machine sales and a sharp reduction in losses. Revenues to the end of June improved five percent to €276 million, following a 27% crash last year. Sales across Europe improved 19%, offset by a 13% fall in the Asia-Pacific, partly impacted by the conflict in the Middle East, along with a 24% decline in South & Central America. North American sales increased one percent. This year's pre-tax loss of €1.39 million compares to a €7.2 million loss last year.



VP FIRST HALF STATEMENT

UK rental group Vp - owner of **UK Forks, MEP and Brandon Hire Station** - has issued a first half trading statement which said: "The group remains on course to perform in line with market expectations for the year ending 31st March 2027, with the second half expected to outperform the same period last year. Of our end markets, electricity transmission continues to perform well, rail remains stable, and we have seen encouraging momentum in water, while our international business continues to perform well."

KLUBB BOUNCES BACK

At the end of July French international aerial lift manufacturer **Klubb** successfully completed its Judicial Rehabilitation Proceedings that began in February and says that it will exit the Chapter 11/ Administration type process with a "strengthened structure." Chief executive and founder Julien Bourrellis added: "After a challenging 18 months for everyone at Klubb, we emerge leaner, more resilient, and focused on sustainable growth. Our primary focus now is operational excellence and restoring strict delivery reliability for our clients." "This reorganisation has preserved 550 jobs. Regrettably, it also involved parting ways with 90 colleagues and closing one factory - a difficult transition for our teams. Today, our ambitions are to become the global leader in truck mounted aerial work platforms within five years, and European champion in recovery trucks with our Italian team Isoli. "

MOLLO ACQUIRES RUINI

Italian rental group **Mollo** has taken a majority stake in **Ruini Marco group**, a rental and equipment sales company based in Scandiano near Reggio Emilia. The deal strengthens Mollo's presence in the Emilia-Romagna region of northern Italy. Established in 1971, Mollo set out on an acquisition trail in 2022. The group now has 85 locations across Italy, more than 700 employees and a rental fleet of around 20,000 units, with 2025 revenues of more than €180 million.

FALCON ACQUIRES RHT

UK tower crane specialist **Falcon** has acquired lifting **RHT Lifting Equipment** from the Harwood family. Founded in 2006 by Robert Harwood and based in Watton, Norfolk, it is a specialist supplier of lifting equipment, material handling products, height safety gear and more. Most of its sales are made in the UK, but it also trades overseas. Its customer base exceeds 9,000 with a high level of repeat business.

MEDIACO ACQUIRES IN ALSACE

French international crane and access rental group **Mediaco** has acquired crane rental and industrial moving company **Paul Halbwachs** based in Monswiller, northwest of Strasbourg. Established in 1988 the company runs a fleet of All Terrain cranes from 30 to 300 tonnes along with loader cranes, spider cranes, pick & carry cranes and forklifts. The acquisition adds to Mediaco's network of 95 locations and 3,000 employees, with a fleet of 4,000 units, including 950 cranes with capacities from 30 to 800 tonnes all of which generate €435 million of the group's total revenues of €503 million.

ACCÈS INDUSTRIE ACQUIRES GYGER NACELLES

French aerial lift rental company **Accès Industrie** has moved into Switzerland with the acquisition of **Gyger Nacelles**. Founded in 2018, Gyger Nacelles is based in Gempelen west of Bern, with five branches from the Jura to the Valais. The company runs a mixed fleet of more than 1,200 units, including boom and scissor lifts up to the 185ft JLG 1850SJ, truck mounts, spider lifts, spider cranes and telehandlers. Prior to the acquisition, Accès Industrie had 45 locations in France, Spain and Belgium and a fleet of almost 15,000 machines.

SAHA ACQUIRES OMMELIFT ASSETS



Yama Saha, owner of German access equipment dealer Sahalift, has acquired the name, trademark and intellectual property rights of insolvent Danish spider and trailer lift manufacturer **Ommelift**. He says his initial focus will be on establishing a worldwide spare parts supply for existing Ommelift machines through a new German company, Ommelift GmbH, which will operate independently from his distribution businesses. In 2020 Saha acquired Ommelift Deutschland, the manufacturer's German subsidiary in Langenhagen, and renamed it Sahalift. Earlier this year, the Danish manufacturer Omme Lift A/S filed for insolvency. Saha says he stepped in after efforts by other investors had failed.

NEW OWNER FOR POWER LIMIT

Belgian load weighing and overload system and component manufacturer **Power Limit** has a new owner, **Christophe Losange,** who has a long history in the lifting & rigging equipment market. Power Limit is based on the south side of Liege in southern Belgium and was founded in 1985, by **Fernand Humblet** who remains on board for a transition period.

MEGAMAX COMPANIES MERGE

Belgian crane rental companies **Megamax Limburg** and **Megamax Wallonia** are to merge into **Megamax Holding** under the umbrella of tower crane sales and rental company Neremat Holding. Neremat already owns the Wallonia business managed by Leo Jacobs - who becomes group managing director - while Wallonia managing director Koen van Hecke has departed, and the operation rebranded as **Megamax Wallonie Bruxelles.**

NEW BRIDGESTONE CRANE TYRE



Japanese tyre manufacturer Bridgestone has started shipping its new 445/95R25 V-Steel Highway Service 3 tyre for All Terrain and truck cranes.

The VHS3 tyre replaces Bridgestone's VHS2 and has a load/speed index of 174 F, providing a capacity of 6,700kg at speeds of up to 80kph. Tyre life has been extended by around 12 percent compared with its predecessor.

PALFINGER ADDS TO MARINE RANGE

Palfinger has added the PFM 1200 to its marine crane lineup aimed at the latest service vessels and workboats involved with aquatic farming - fish, crustaceans, molluscs and algae.



The PFM 1200 has a 26 metre boom, and can handle up to 1,820kg in winch mode.

STERLING RELAUNCHES ST440 TRAILER

UK truck bed manufacturer Sterling has relaunched its ST440 step frame trailer with a maximum capacity of 25.5 tonnes and an overall length of 13.6 metres. Developed specifically for transporting aerial work platforms, the three axle ST440 was launched in 2018 but production was halted in 2021 due to Covid.

Features include remote controlled 3.2 metre double-flip ramps and winch, 34 pairs of lashing rings along the sides and centre, two, one metre storage boxes and LED lighting all around.

GAME OF CRANES RETURNS



Liebherr will run its second 'Game of Cranes' crane operator competition next year - online nominations will close on the 13th of November - with the final will be held at its Ehingen plant in Germany next June.

The competition is open to employees of all Liebherr crane customers, with the top five operators in each of five regions - North America, South America, Europe, Australia, and Africa, Middle East and Asia - competing in practical tasks at regional events, with the winner of each region qualifying for the final.

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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS


Wayne Carr

- **Wire Cranes** has appointed **Wayne Carr** as commercial & operations director
- **Kieran McGovern** of **McGovern Crane Hire** has raised £9,000 for Prostate Cancer
- **B&T Plant Hire** has taken four 6m/2.5t **Sany** STH625E telehandlers
- **E. Helaakoski** has taken the country's first 150t **Liebherr** LTM 1150-5.4
- **HSS Hire Ireland** has appointed **Alan Hennessy** as senior key account manager
- **HRK** has taken Finland's first 10 **Axolift** Manulift 200/4 push-around platforms
- **Weldex** has taken a 500t **Liebherr** LR 1500
- A new aerial lift/telehandler rental company, **HFI Rentals**, has opened in Houston, USA
- **Herc Rentals** has appointed **Erik Olsson** to its board of directors
- **Wiesecker** has taken 20 **Socage** truck mounts
- **AW Plant Services** has taken the UK's first 150t **Sany** SAC1500E AT crane
- **Kitchen's Crane & Equipment** has taken a 400t **Enerpac** hydraulic gantry
- **Zoomlion** has appointed **Foster Cranes** as UK dealer for mobile cranes
- UK's **Mechanical Movements** has two **Jekko** spider cranes
- **Uperio UK** has appointed **Adrian Hawkins** as managing director
- **Sarens** has appointed **Victor Martinez** as US country manager
- **TVH** has appointed **Andrea Manenti** as regional director UK & Ireland and promoted **Robert Jamison** to general sales manager - Ireland
- **Yunuslar Vinç** has taken a 300t **Liebherr** LTM 1300-6.4
- **Easy Lift** has updated its corporate colours
- **Mateco Czechia** has opened a new depot in Plzeň
- Australia's **Capital Cranes** has closed after 36 years
- **Horizon Platforms** has taken 15, 19ft **Dingli** S0807AC+ scissors
- Australia's **Wanneroo Crane Hire** has taken a 25t **Franna** Mac 25-5
- **CM Labs** has updated its **Intellia** Workforce Training System
- Germany's **Enercon** has taken a 1,000t **Liebherr** LR 11000
- **AXCS** has appointed **Nic Dykman** as SE regional sales manager
- **Palfinger** has opened a new sales & service facility in Madrid, Spain
- **Hire Safe Solutions** has taken a second 232ft **Zoomlion** ZT72J boom
- **Wire Cranes** has taken the UK's first 90t **Liebherr** LTM 1090-4.3
- Netherlands' **Triton Transport Techniek** has taken an all-electric **Klaas** K2350E
- **Paola Palazzani** has left the business
- **WW Builders** has taken a **PM** 38525 SP
- France's **Cantiniau** has taken an 80t **Tadano** AC 4.080-1
- **Manitou** has signed an OEM supply agreement with South Korea's **HD Construction Equipment**
- Ireland's **Lolex** has moved to a new headquarters
- **B&P Hire** has taken Ireland's first 48ft **Sinoboom** AB15ERJN


Alan Hennessy


Erik Olsson


Victor Martinez


Nic Dykman


Simone Gravina

- **Platform Parts** has appointed **Simone Gravina** as account manager Italy
- **Slagelse Lift** has taken a 100m **Ruthmann** T 1000 HF
- **Clearview Services** has taken a second 90m **Ruthmann** T 900 HF
- **EQSS** has appointed **Certek** as distributor for **OverWatch** and **UpWatch** systems in Ireland
- **Tab Battery UK** has promoted **George Fielden** to national sales manager
- **Zoomlion** has moved its UK distribution from **AJ Access** to a UK direct sales team
- **Socage Germany** has appointed **Larissa Vormann** as marketing manager
- Germany's **ESB Kranverleih** has taken a 55t **Liebherr** LTM 1055-3.3
- UK's **TAH Access Platforms** has taken a 30m **Easy Lift** RA31HY hybrid
- Italy's **Gradito Oleodinamica** has taken a 250t **Tadano** AC 5.250L-2
- **Renta Norway** has taken six 16m to 27m **Multitel** truck mounts
- **Rosenbauer** has opened a subsidiary in Pudahuel, Chile
- Singapore's **Hiap Heng** has taken an electric **Liebherr** MK 88-4.1E
- **Wolffkran** has appointed **Mark Evans** as sales director - UK & Ireland
- Germany's **SAL** has taken two 800t electric **Liebherr** LS 800 E ship cranes
- **Fronteq** has appointed **International Platforms** as UK & Ireland distributor
- **Istanbul Vinç** has taken 40 electric **Zoomlion** scissors from 19ft to 44ft
- **NMT Crane Hire** has appointed **Dan Carter** as sales director
- **Centro Oeste** has taken Brazil's first 300t **Liebherr** LTM 1300-6.4
- **GT Lifting Solutions** has taken the first 40m/8t **Manitou** MRT 4080 telehandler
- **Emovr** has appointed **Foster Cranes** as distributor UK, Ireland, Spain & Portugal
- **Essential Access Platforms** has taken a 154ft **Sinoboom** AB46RJ/ AB1530RJ boom
- **Kiloutou** has promoted **Ramón Santamaría Trillo** to MD of **Kiloutou Spain**, **Cyril Brillouet** returns to France
- **Tadano UK** has signed a 10 year lease on a new facility - **Lloyd Gee-Nyland** has left the company
- **Generale Costruzioni Ferroviarie** has taken **Platform Basket** road-rail boom lifts
- Germany's **Jandt Kranvermietung** has taken a 450t **Liebherr** LTM 1400-6.1
- **Mammoet** has set up a new subsidiary, **Mammoet Japan**
- **Sunward** has appointed **Wolfgang Jentsch** as European service manager
- Switzerland's **Streule + Alder** has taken a **Spierings** SK487-AT3 City Boy
- **Miles Hire South Wales** has taken four 19ft **Snorkel** S3219 Plus scissors
- **OTE Lifting** has taken a 6t **Böcker** AK46/6000
- **Sims Crane & Equipment** has appointed **Katie MacGillivary** as CFO


Larissa Vormann


Mark Evans


Dan Carter


Ramón Santamaría Trillo


Wolfgang Jentsch

- **SkyReach** has appointed **Sam Bennett** as business development manager
- **Select Plant Hire** has placed a £5 million order with **JCB**
- **Richard Kölch & Sohn** has taken a 60t **Liebherr** LTM 1060-3.1
- **WA Universal** has taken its third **Franna**, a 40t AT40-2
- **JK Technology Services** has acquired **360 Rigging** of Manassas, Virginia
- **Kunze** has expanded its **Magni** dealership
- **E.J. McGovern** has taken the UK's first 20t **Pewag** levo load balancer
- **Dewsbury & Proud** has taken a 40t **Liebherr** LTM 1040-2.1
- **Skyjack** is to start building its 85ft SJ85 AJ in Orosháza, Hungary
- **Grúas Aguilar** has ordered 15 **Liebherr** cranes, including an 800t LR 1800-1.0
- **W.O. Grubb Crane Rental** has appointed **Ted Redmond** as CEO, **Dustin Fisher** as CFO and **Michael Good** as SVP Ops
- **Multitel** France, Spain and the UK will distribute **Palazzani** spider lifts
- **DP World** has won the right to move crane operators from cabs to a nearby office
- Finland's **Powerlift** has taken 60 **Dingli** booms & scissors
- **Blade Lifting and Logistics** has taken a 6t/48m **Böcker** AK48
- **Engineered Rigging** has taken the USA's first 130t **Officine CLP** LG132-0750
- **KönningKrane** has taken its third **Liebherr** AT, a 150t LTM 1150-5.4
- **AXCS/Hy-Brid** has appointed **Nick Lewis** as regional sales manager Mid-Atlantic
- **Forsyth of Denny** has taken Scotland's first 300t **Liebherr** LTM 1300-6.4
- **County Lifting Services** has taken a 90t **Liebherr** LTM 1090-4.2
- **Platform Parts UK** has moved to a larger facility in Durham
- **Lee Lifting** has taken a 100t **Liebherr** LTM 1100-5.3 AT
- **Skyjack** has appointed **Dave Wanta** as regional sales VP Southeast USA
- US's **Davis Crane** has taken a 450t **Tadano** AC 7.450-1
- **Geda** has raised lift speeds on its transport platforms to up to 40m a minute.
- US's **Patriot Crane & Rigging** has taken its first 250t **Tadano** AC 5.250L-2
- **Kranpunkten** CEO **Fredrik Paulsson** is to hand over to **Micke Rydbeck**
- **Maxa Group** has launched **Maxa Motion**
- **Flott Arbeitsbühnen** has taken a 25m **Ruthmann** TBR 250
- **Henneberger Schwerlast** has taken a 100t **Liebherr** LTM 1100-5.3
- Scotland's **Bernard Hunter** has ordered a **Spierings** SK597-AT4 eLift
- **Malcolm Kitt** has completed a wing walk in aid of Alzheimer's Society
- **Franna Australia** has appointed **Mark Salmon** as regional sales manager


Sam Bennett


Ted Redmond


Dustin Fisher


Michael Good


Nick Lewis


Dave Wanta


Micke Rydbeck


Mark Salmon

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UK & IRELAND TOP RENTAL FLEETS SURVEY

The crane, aerial lift and telehandler rental markets across the UK and Ireland have experienced steady but uneven growth in 2026, coupled with dramatically rising costs. While sectors such as commercial office and residential housing construction faced a range of pressures, the rental market has been buoyed by major infrastructure construction, such as data centres and renewable energy transition projects. At the same time, uncertainty, higher equipment prices and financing rates have pushed many contractors back towards rental to preserve cash flow, all of which has helped keep most rental companies reasonably busy.



CRANES

The crane market has performed reasonably well in the past 12 months, especially among those companies that can work on specialist heavy lift infrastructure projects. Public infrastructure modernisation of rail and road networks, and the renewable energy sector also created demand for All-Terrain and crawler cranes. In Ireland, urban regeneration and data centre footprints dominate.

AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS

The Northern European aerial work platform market has seen a slower, less certain landscape, but the UK seems to have avoided the worst of it so far, and remains one of the three largest markets. Growth has, though, been constrained by slower traditional retail and commercial builds. Mega data centres - heavily concentrated around Dublin and the west of London - new R&D facilities, and massive logistics hubs are primary sectors driving demand for heavy duty electric scissor lifts and some articulated boom lifts. Non-construction facilities management and industrial maintenance apparently now make about a third of total platform rental activity.

Fleet renewal is increasingly focused on all electric and hybrid powertrains to accommodate urban low-emission zones and strict indoor air/noise quality mandates on major contractor sites. However, rental companies have faced flat to downward rate pressure due to increased regional competition.

TELEHANDLERS

Telehandlers remain a versatile 'backbone' of UK and Irish jobsites, although house building, a major market for telehandlers, has been slow. Massive infrastructure developments and rail upgrades have though, created more demand for larger fixed frame and 360 degree models. Smaller, local contractors frequently face availability crunches for 14 to 18 metre units during peak spring to autumn seasons.

Enforcement of Stage V low-emission requirements in regional 'Green Zones' has started to push older diesel units off-site, triggering an influx of contractors renting newer, compliant equipment to avoid regulatory fines.

Given all these factors, it is unsurprising that the fleet numbers show no consistent patterns, with the leading players' fleets remaining fairly consistent, with very few large movers.

METHODOLOGY

Regular readers will know the survey as the Top 30 Rental Companies but we have changed the name to reflect growing participation over the years. It began 25 years or so ago as the Top 10, and later became the Top 20 and then Top 30, which we kept for several years after the main table was more like Top 40 or 50. The original straightforward table also expanded into something broader, hence the Top Rental Fleet Guide.

This year marks the 26th edition, which says something about how the guide is used: contractors, public service providers - Police and Fire etc - financial institutions and market analysts turn to it to track down specific equipment, rental equipment suppliers or to track market trends and evaluate fleets and companies for various reasons.

This year we have continued to use the online questionnaire in a bid to speed up the process and make it easier to enter the data. Once again, this has proved popular with a record number of responses received.

In spite of this, it has been a struggle to obtain data from a few companies. For those that failed to send their data in on time, or even 'refused ', we have used our industry sources, company websites and social media pages to estimate fleet numbers and hope that they are reasonably accurate or at least representative of those fleets.

As always, a very big thank you to all of the companies that have enthusiastically participated in this year's survey. We hope that it will prove to be another useful and insightful report for our readers both in the UK and around the world. Numerous requests from major contractors regarding its publication date indicate that it is becoming an increasingly popular tool for end users.

C&A CRANES UK & IRELAND TOP RENTAL FLEETS SURVEY 2026



Over the past 12 months, the UK crane rental industry has faced a good few challenges, including sporadic demand, while having to absorb soaring operating costs, and acute labour shortages. At times, this has led to friction, leading to crane operator strikes and other issues. While mobile crane rental market leader Ainscough reduced its fleet by 18 cranes - less than five percent - King Lifting and Kavanagh Crane Hire added five and seven cranes respectively to slightly close the gap. This year we have 11 new entrants with fleets ranging from 14 to 22 cranes, possibly indicating that smaller companies have been more active with fleet renewals or expansion, perhaps having started with an older fleet and encouraged by some generous finance deals, especially from those manufacturers trying to gain a foothold in the market?



TOP MOBILE CRANE COMPANIES

Company	Total		All Terrain/ Trucks	Rough Terrain	Mobile Towers	Pick & Carry	Trailer Cranes
Ainscough Crane Hire	359	▼	342	0	8	3	6
King Lifting	140	▲	131	0	2	3	4
Kavanagh Crane Hire	80	▲	72	0	4	0	4
Baldwins	76	▼	75	0	1	0	0
Global Port Services	65	▲	65	0	0	0	0
Bryn Thomas Cranes	65	▼	63	0	2	0	0
Emsley Crane Hire	64	▼	63	0	1	0	0
Sparrow Crane Hire	63	▲	33	0	29	1	0
Forsyth of Denny	61	▲	34	0	1	0	26
City Lifting	61	▲	36	0	17	0	8
Davies Crane Hire	58	–	52	0	3	0	3
Southern Cranes & Access	56	▲	47	0	3	1	5
Emerson Crane Hire	54	▲	52	0	0	0	2
Marsh Plant Hire	45	▼	45	0	0	0	0
Crowland Cranes	45	▼	32	3	1	5	4
Dewsbury and Proud	42	–	40	0	0	0	2
Coussens Cranes	41	▲	34	1	1	0	5
ABA Cranes	41	–	39	0	2	0	0
Macsalvors	35	▼	35	0	0	0	0
East Cork Crane Hire	40	▲	35	1	2	0	2
Bray Cranes	40	▲	19	0	1	20	0
Bronzeshield Lifting	36	▲	33	0	2	0	1
John Sutch Cranes	32	▼	31	0	1	0	0
Cork Crane Hire	31	▼	25	0	6	0	0
Steve Foster Cranes	26	–	20	0	1	2	3
NMT Crane Hire	26	▲	22	0	3	0	1
Tusker Crane Hire	26	▲	25	0	1	0	0
Thanet Crane Hire	24	▲	21	0	0	0	3
Crane Hire	22	NEW	13	2	4	1	2
Lee Lifting Services	22	NEW	20	0	1	0	1
J Hewitt	23	▲	22	1	0	0	0
Bernard Hunter Cranes	21	▲	13	1	3	0	4
Falcon Tower Crane Services	21	NEW	0	0	0	0	21
County Lifting Services	19	–	14	0	0	5	0
DM Cranes	18	NEW	4	0	14	0	0
MGA Group	18	NEW	15	0	2	1	0
Horizon Reinforcing & Cranes	18	NEW	14	0	2	0	2
R W Christopher Crane Hire	18	▲	17	0	0	0	1
RRC Crane Hire	18	▼	17	0	1	0	0
Bob Francis	16	▼	12	0	0	0	4
Marsden Crane Services	17	–	17	0	0	0	0
PP Enginerring	17	▼	17	0	0	0	0
Cadman Cranes	18	▲	18	0	0	0	0
Stoddart Crane Hire	16	NEW	14	0	0	0	2
Wire Cranes and Lifting	16	NEW	15	0	1	0	0
Nationwide Group	15	NEW	12	0	0	1	2
Birmingham Crane Hire	14	NEW	4	0	8	0	2
Cramscene	14	NEW	11	0	0	0	3

LARGEST MOBILE CRANES

Company	Capacity t	Make & Model	# in Fleet
Baldwins	1,000	Terex Demag AC1000	1
Ainscough Crane Hire	800	Liebherr LTM1750-9.1	2
East Cork Crane Hire	800	Liebherr LTM1750-9.1	1
Kavanagh Crane Hire	800	Liebherr LTM1750-9.1	1
King Lifting	800	Liebherr LTM1750-9.1	1
Osprey	800	Liebherr LTM1750-9.1	1
PSG Group	800	Liebherr LTM 1750-9.1	1
Global Port Services	750	Liebherr LTM1750-9.1	1
Forsyth of Denny	700	Liebherr LTM 1650-8.1	2
Crane Hire	700	Liebherr LTM 1650-8.1	1
Bernard Hunter Cranes	700	Liebherr LTM1650-8.1	1
Davies Crane Hire	700	Liebherr LTM1650-8.1	1
Bronzeshield Lifting	500	Liebherr LTM1500.8-1	1
City Lifting	450	Liebherr LTM 1450	2
Emerson Crane Hire	450	Liebherr LTM1450-8.1	2
R W Christopher Crane Hire	450	Liebherr LTM1450-8.1	1
John Sutch Cranes	450	Liebherr LTM1450-8.1	1
DLH Lifting Services	450	Liebherr LTM1450-8.1	1
RRC Crane Hire	450	LiebherrLTM1450-8.1	17
Cramscene	450	Grove GMK7450	1
Cork Crane Hire	350	Liebherr LTM1350-6.1	1
Tusker Crane Hire	350	Terex AC350-6	1
Sparrow Crane Hire	300	Liebherr LTM 1300-6.3	1
Steve Foster Cranes	300	Grove GMK6300L-1	1
Crowland Cranes	300	Liebherr LTM1300.6.2	1
Southern Cranes & Access	300	Liebherr LTM1300-6.3	1
NMT Crane Hire	300	Liebherr LTM 1300-6.2	2
Bryn Thomas Cranes	300	Grove GMK6300L-1	2
Stoddart Crane Hire	300	Liebherr LTM 1300-6.2	1
J&M Crane and Transport	250	Grove GMK5250L	1
J Hewitt	250	Grove GMK5250L	1
E J McGovern Crane Hire	250	Liebherr LTM1250-5.1	1
Lee Lifting Services	250	Grove GMK 5250 XL	1
Walsh Crane Hire	250	Liebherr LTM1250.5.1	1
Horizon Reinforcing & Cranes	250	Grove GMK5250XL-1	1
Wire Cranes and Lifting	250	GMK5250XL	1
Dewsbury and Proud	250	Grove GML5250-XL	2
APH Cranes	230	Liebherr LTM1230-5.1	1
Cadman Cranes	500	Liebherr LTM 1500-8.1	1
BCS Crane Hire	230	Liebherr LTM1230-5.1	1
Coussens Cranes	230	Liebherr LTM1230-5.1	1
24/7 Crane Hire	230	Liebherr LTM1230-5.1	1
Sangwin Plant Hire	230	Liebherr LTM1230-5.1	1
PP Enginerring	220	Tadano ATF220	1
Emsley Crane Hire	220	Liebherr LTM 1220 5.2	1
Central Crane Hire (Hull)	230	Liebherr LTM 1230-5.1	1
Roadcraft	200	Grove GMK 5200	1
Macduff Shipyards	180	Liebherr 1160-5-2	1
ABA Cranes	180	Liebherr LTM1160	1
Marsh Plant Hire	150	Liebherr LTM1150-5.3	1
Marsden Crane Services	150	Liebherr LTM1150-5.3	1
Thanet Crane Hire	150	Grove GMK 5150XL	1
Bray Cranes	150	Liebherr LTM1150-5.3	1

Fleet size in the past 12 months has: ▲ *Increased* ▼ *Decreased* – *Remained the same*

TOP TOWER CRANE COMPANIES

Company	Total		Rope Luffers	Hydraulic Luffers	"Normal" Self Erectors	Hammerhead/ Flat Tops
Falcon Tower Crane Services	417	▼	134	89	89	105
Wolffkran	180	▼	100	0	0	80
Select Plant Hire	176	▲	125	21	0	30
Mantis Cranes	165	▲	0	6	114	45
Bennett's Cranes	141	–	32	78	0	31
Trident Lifting Solutions	141	▲	62	28	28	23
City Lifting	140	▲	58	17	26	39
London Tower Cranes	135	▼	30	50	15	40
Uperio UK	80	▼	50	11	6	13
Ladybird Cranes	80	–	0	0	50	30
Irish Crane & Lifting	64	▼	1	3	5	55
Tower Cranes UK	57	▲	38	12	0	7
Heathrow Cranes	50	▼	29	9	1	11
Radius	36	▼	14	6	0	16
A Abraham	35	▼	8	7	2	18
Sparrow Crane Hire	33	▲	0	0	33	0
Nationwide Group	31	▲	4	15	4	8
Dowse Crane Hire	24	▲	0	0	20	4





TOP CRAWLER CRANE COMPANIES

Company	Total		SpiderCranes	Telescopic	Lattice	Mini (<12t)
Weldex	156	▲	0	51	104	1
Select Plant Hire	76	▼	0	45	30	1
AGD Equipment	71	–	0	58	10	3
Delden Cranes	70	▲	0	25	45	0
NRC Plant	65	▼	0	15	30	20
Q Crane & Plant Hire	50	▲	0	7	41	2
GH Johnson Crane Hire	44	▲	3	8	33	0
BPH Equipment	35	–	0	10	25	0
Hawks Crane Hire	22	▼	0	10	10	2
Jones Crawler Cranes	20	–	0	10	8	2
Sparrow Crane Hire	18	▲	9	1	0	8
City Lifting	13	▲	8	0	1	4
King Lifting	9	–	1	8	0	0
Emerson Crane Hire	8	–	3	3	0	2
Cadman Cranes	7	–	3	0	0	4
Marsden Crane Services	7	NEW	2	2	0	3
Southern Cranes & Access	7	NEW	7	0	0	0
Osprey	6	NEW	0	2	4	0
Stoddart Crane Hire	6	▼	0	2	0	4

LARGEST TOWER CRANE IN FLEET

Company	Capacity t	Make & Model	# in Fleet
Trident Lifting Solutions	200	Yongmao STL4600	2
Select Plant Hire	66	Terex CTL1600-66	12
Falcon Tower Crane Services	64	Jaso J780PA.64	5
City Lifting	50	Comansa 21LC750	1
Bennett's Cranes	45	Wolff 500B	1
Heathrow Cranes	36	Saez SL730	1
Radius	32	Potain MR608	5
London Tower Cranes	24	Jost 416.24	2
Irish Crane & Lifting	24	Raimondi T577	10
Uperio UK	24	Terex CTL260	1
Tower Cranes UK	24	Terex CTL 430	2
Mantis Cranes	20	Saez TLS80	2
A Abraham	16	Terex CTT331	2
Ladybird Cranes	10	MDT219	2
Nationwide Group	10	Terex CTT 231	2







TOP MINI/SPIDER/PICK & CARRY COMPANIES

Company	Total		Mini Crawlers	Spider Cranes	Pick & Carry
GGR Group	262	▲	32	142	88
Hird	179	▼	7	87	85
Lift Minicranes	60	▼	4	50	6
Coppard Plant Hire	56	▼	1	50	5
TCA Lifting	32	▲	9	20	3
NRC Plant	20	NEW	20	0	0
Bray Cranes	20	NEW	0	0	20
Sparrow Crane Hire	18	▲	8	9	1
Nxgen Lifting	12	▲	0	11	1
City Lifting	12	▲	4	8	0
John Taylor Crane Services	10	▼	0	10	0
Crowland Cranes	9	▼	2	2	5
Southern Cranes & Access	8	▲	0	7	1
County Lifting Services	6	–	1	0	5
Marsden Crane Services	5	NEW	3	2	0
Emerson Crane Hire	5	–	2	3	0
Dewsbury and Proud	5	–	2	3	0

CRANE COMPANIES & INVESTMENT

Company	Investment £	# Bought	# Sold	Depots	Staff
24/7 Crane Hire	1,800,000	3	1	1	12
ABA Cranes	1,600,000	1	1	1	60
AGD Equipment	3,000,000	0	0	2	100
Ainscough Crane Hire	6,000,000	6	32	28	800
BCS Crane Hire	1,500,000	0	0	1	9
Bennett's Cranes	1,500,000	0	0		N/D
Berkeley Crane Hire	245,000	0	0	1	5
Bernard Hunter Mobile Cranes	2,500,000	2	0	1	50
Berry Cranes	500,000	0	0	1	14
Birmingham Crane Hire	1,300,000	1	1	1	30
Bray Cranes	2,500,000	0	0	1	35
Bronzeshield Lifting	5,000,000	6	5	2	50
Bryn Thomas Cranes	2,000,000	0	0	6	120
City Lifting	4,500,000	0	0	3	150
Cramscene	1,000,000	2	1	2	15
Davies Crane Hire	4,500,000	5	4	4	120
Delden Cranes	10,000,000	0	0	1	25
Dewsbury and Proud	3,500,000	9	7	5	80
DLH Lifting Services	4,800,000	3	0	1	16
DM Cranes	2,250,000	0	0	4	44
E J McGovern Crane Hire	3,000,750	4	4	1	20
East Cork Crane Hire	3,000,000	1	1	2	55
Emerson Crane Hire	5,100,000	0	0	3	90
Emsley Crane Hire	1,200,000	2	3	2	80
Falcon Tower Crane Services	8,167,920	53	49	5	410
FJ Crane Hire	1,392,000	0	0	1	15
Forsyth of Denny	4,200,000	13	12	4	174
GGR Group	2,600,000	0	0	3	158
GH Johnson Crane Hire	2,000,000	6	3	1	25
Hird	750,000	4	0	3	120
Horizon Reinforcing & Crane Hire	1,750,000	4	4	2	26
John Sutch Cranes	3,000,000	0	0	2	105
John Taylor Crane Services	0	0	0	1	8
Ladybird Cranes	1,000,000	0	0	1	22
Mantis Cranes	2,650,000	0	0	3	N/D
Marsden Crane Services	3,100,000	3	1	1	44
Marsh Plant Hire	812,174	1	6	5	75
MGA Group	2,500,000	4	0	1	40
Nationwide Group	10,000	0	0	1	115
NMT Crane Hire	1,800,000	3	1	2	48
Nxgen Lifting	50,000	0	0	2	12
Osprey	22,000,000	0	0	3	200
PSG Group	1,400,000	0	0	3	30
R W Christopher Crane Hire	4,000,000	2	0	2	35
Roadcraft (Crane & Plant Hire)	1,144,349	2	2	1	18
RRC Crane Hire	3,800,000	2	2	1	34
Sangwin Plant Hire	1,500,000	0	0	1	35
Select Plant Hire	15,400,000	0	0	7	1,071
Southern Cranes & Access	2,200,000	4	4	3	105
Sparrow Crane Hire	2,000,000	3	1	1	N/D
Steve Foster Cranes	150,000	0	0		46
Stoddart Crane Hire	2,500,000	2	0	1	38
Thanet Crane Hire	1,800,000	0	0	5	32
Total Lifting Services	1,000,000	0	0	1	12
Tower Cranes UK	1,000,000	11	1	2	12
Trident Lifting Solutions	24,000,000	8	0	1	N/D
Wire Cranes and Lifting	4,000,000	7	3	1	30

FUEL TYPE

Hybrid	Electric	Diesel
0%	0%	100%
0%	0%	100%
0%	0%	100%
3%	1%	96%
0%	10%	90%
0%	100%	0%
0%	0%	100%
14%	14%	71%
29%	0%	71%
8%	0%	92%
5%	0%	95%
5%	0%	95%
1%	0%	99%
5%	60%	35%
0%	0%	100%
3%	2%	95%
0%	0%	100%
5%	5%	90%
0%	0%	100%
40%	0%	60%
5%	5%	90%
3%	1%	96%
0%	0%	100%
0%	0%	100%
0%	100%	0%
15%	5%	80%
2%	1%	97%
36%	50%	14%
0%	0%	100%
25%	70%	5%
18%	0%	82%
1%	0%	99%
90%	10%	0%
0%	100%	0%
0%	100%	0%
6%	0%	94%
0%	0%	100%
15%	0%	85%
0%	0%	100%
10%	0%	90%
5%	93%	2%
0%	5%	95%
0%	0%	100%
0%	0%	100%
1%	0%	99%
0%	20%	80%
0%	72%	28%
5%	5%	90%
0%	50%	50%
1%	0%	99%
0%	0%	100%
0%	0%	100%
0%	0%	100%
0%	100%	0%
0%	100%	0%
10%	10%	80%







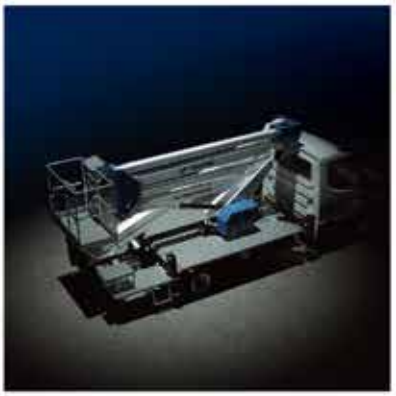
LARGEST CRAWLER CRANES

Company	Capacity	Make & Model	# in Fleet
Weldex	1,350	Liebherr LR11350	N/D
Mammoet UK	1,200	Gottwald AK-912-1	N/D
Global Port Services	750	Liebherr LR 1750	1
Ainscough Crane Hire	700	Liebherr LR1700	1
Osprey	650	Tadano CC3800	2
Delden Cranes	400	Liebherr LR1400SX	1
Hawks Crane Hire	300	Liebherr LR 1300.1	1
Select Plant Hire	300	Liebherr LR1300	6
GH Johnson Crane Hire	275	HSC SCX2800A-3	1
PSG Group	220	Liebherr LTR1220	1
AGD Equipment	130	Sennebogen 6133	2
Falcon Tower Crane Services	110	Kobelco CKE1100	1
Emerson Crane Hire	100	Liebherr LTR1100	3
City Lifting	90	Liebherr LR853	1
Tower Cranes UK	80	Kobelco BME800-HD	1
Heathrow Cranes	80	Kobelco BME800-HD	1
Forsyth of Denny	60	Liebherr LTR1060	1
Kavanagh Crane Hire	60	Liebherr LTR 1060	1
Crowland Cranes	60	Sany SCE600TB	1
Davies Crane Hire	60	TerexTCC60	1
Stoddart Crane Hire	60	Liebher LTR1060	1
Sparrow Crane Hire	40	Hitachi SCX400T	1
Marsden Crane Services	20	Maeda CC1908	1
24/7 Crane Hire	15	Jekko JF545	1
Lift Minicranes	15	Jekko JF545	1
County Lifting Services	12	BG Lift	1
GGR Group	10	Sunward MCC1004	N/D

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c&a → ACCESS UK & IRELAND TOP RENTAL FLEETS SURVEY 2026

Speedy Hire surprisingly jumped from third to second place, adding more than 2,700 machines including 700 slab scissors and almost 2,000 push around platform. Its total fleet is now not far that behind market leader Nationwide Platforms, which reduced its fleet by almost 750 units - swapping out 1,200 diesel RT scissor lifts for 600 new electric/hybrid articulated booms.

Access Hire Nationwide extended its position as market leader in the Vehicle Mounted section, adding more than 100 units, while Nationwide Platforms reduced its fleet by 34. UK Tool Hire group dropped from third to sixth, cutting its fleet by 32 percent - the vast majority being 3.5 tonne truck mounts.



TOP POWERED ACCESS COMPANIES

Company	Units in Fleet	Articulated Booms: Electric Hybrid	Articulated Booms: Diesel	Straight Telescopic Booms: Electric Hybrid	Straight Telescopic Booms: Diesel	Self Propelled Slab Scissors	Mast Lifts	Mast Booms	Spider Lifts	Push Arounds	Rough Terrain Scissor Lifts: Electric Hybrid	Rough Terrain Scissor Lifts: Diesel	Truck Mounts: 3.5t GVW	Truck Mounts: Over 3.5t GVW	Van Mounts	Trailer Lifts
Nationwide Platforms	10,369 ▼	1,574	2,168	32	523	3,710	515	816	113	190	25	240	65	124	274	0
Speedy Hire	9,695 ▲	799	267	0	20	3,231	661	618	0	4,443	2	256	0	0	0	1
MEP Hire	9,394 –	0	0	0	0	1,997	0	0	0	7,397	0	0	0	0	0	0
Summit Platforms	7,296 ▲	669	1,503	8	409	2,261	388	212	0	201	163	1,482	0	0	0	0
Star Platforms	5,318 ▲	350	54	181	0	2,382	413	181	0	1,385	127	245	0	0	0	0
AFI-Uplift	5,116 ▼	428	1,002	6	8	2,149	259	150	53	193	48	567	13	58	178	4
Sunbelt	4,305 ▼	300	1,100	0	25	1,700	280	220	40	300	10	330	0	0	0	0
Advanced Access Platforms	3,347 ▲	412	35	15	45	1,289	171	62	34	1,012	183	87	0	0	0	2
GTAccess Group	2,772 ▼	377	307	5	49	1,323	82	161	45	92	30	251	35	1	0	14
Charles Wilson Engineers	2,672 ▲	309	602	0	118	1,020	47	45	12	170	85	261	0	0	0	3
Hire Safe Solutions	2,572 ▲	60	800	80	600	820	0	44	40	125	0	0	0	3	0	0
JMS	2,503 ▲	138	260	1	44	508	120	58	68	1,080	44	158	17	1	0	6
Essential Access Platforms	2,057 NEW	322	240	0	37	821	66	64	3	158	15	330	0	0	0	1
Access Hire Nationwide	1,998 ▲	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	339	136	1,523	0
Height for Hire	1,835 ▼	200	200	0	250	600	50	40	80	100	15	40	80	60	120	0
X-Hire	1,530 ▲	95	0	0	0	1,140	185	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KDM Hire	1,334 ▲	95	152	8	69	534	109	35	18	154	10	102	6	0	30	12
JPS Platforms	1,182 ▲	91	138	0	8	597	60	48	6	73	1	160	0	0	0	0
Vp CPH	1,153 ▼	47	79	6	59	543	211	40	3	109	7	49	0	0	0	0
1 Up Access	1,112 ▲	227	175	11	14	350	5	60	0	0	70	200	0	0	0	0
Elavation	1,094 ▼	446	36	0	0	322	62	32	46	82	38	18	0	0	0	12
Horizon Platforms	1,069 ▲	128	0	0	0	563	0	181	0	197	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mainline (1982)	972 ▲	124	112	6	20	494	26	41	0	58	51	38	0	0	0	2
Mr Plant Hire	937 ▼	40	20	2	0	280	50	10	5	500	20	10	0	0	0	0
UK Tool Hire Group	905 ▼	63	81	3	6	343	41	30	21	47	0	90	27	3	149	1
Select Plant Hire	889 ▲	46	4	0	0	427	172	32	0	200	4	4	0	0	0	0
Peak Platforms	846 NEW	130	17	0	2	465	16	48	0	135	16	17	0	0	0	0
Smiths Hire	782 ▲	63	50	0	2	385	40	25	6	141	14	54	0	0	0	2
Access Plus - Briggs	740 ▼	50	100	0	15	350	50	5	5	80	15	50	15	5	0	0
Powered Access Services	662 ▲	72	160	0	25	230	0	15	0	5	13	142	0	0	0	0
Hird	600 ▼	209	33	4	1	208	0	18	9	50	2	62	4	0	0	0
Premier Platforms	594 ▼	66	57	0	3	302	21	22	1	23	26	69	2	0	0	2
Gwynedd Forklifts	565 ▼	52	159	0	26	185	17	44	4	8	6	62	2	0	0	0
2 Cousins Powered Accesss	515 ▼	90	90	0	15	180	15	20	15	25	10	50	0	0	0	5
Ashbrook	514 ▲	102	99	0	32	0	0	26	0	0	149	106	0	0	0	0
Ord Industrial	496 ▼	15	150	0	25	185	25	10	5	20	0	60	1	0	0	0
OK Tool Hire & Sales	466 ▲	15	65	0	26	250	23	16	2	40	0	25	2	0	0	2
The Platform Hire Centre	416 ▲	22	42	0	10	202	52	20	0	10	5	53	0	0	0	0
Astley Hire	357 ▲	54	0	0	0	157	54	36	0	52	3	0	0	0	0	1
GTM Powered Access	342 NEW	36	90	0	10	112	14	6	2	16	5	51	0	0	0	0
United Powered Access	338 ▲	26	19	0	15	143	15	15	0	15	0	90	0	0	0	0
Access Platforms Aberdeen	337 ▼	20	60	0	2	90	15	18	3	100	3	25	0	0	0	1
Dromad Hire	278 ▲	14	14	0	0	170	7	12	11	43	2	2	0	0	0	3
Smart Platform Rental	255 ▲	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	210	20	25	0
Premier Plant & Tool Hire	253 NEW	12	28	0	25	136	0	0	0	11	7	33	0	0	0	1
PG Platforms	212 ▲	22	6	0	0	105	4	9	9	0	2	26	12	7	9	1
One Stop Hire	210 ▼	0	0	3	0	100	0	0	3	100	0	0	0	0	1	3
Orion Access	188 ▼	25	10	0	1	30	0	8	37	4	0	10	38	25	0	0
Lift Hire Ireland	174 ▲	5	10	5	4	25	10	4	6	10	0	8	35	10	42	0
APH Cranes & Access	141 NEW	44	45	0	2	28	3	1	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0
React Access	116 NEW	15	5	0	0	72	6	7	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0
Paramount Platforms	94 NEW	17	0	0	16	0	5	4	51	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Fleet size in the past 12 months has: ▲ *Increased* ▼ *Decreased* – *Remained the same*

TOP VEHICLE MOUNTED FLEETS

Company	Total		Truck Mount 3.5t GVW	Truck Mount Over 3.5t GVW	Straight Telescopic Booms Van Mount
Access Hire Nationwide	1,998	▲	339	136	1,523
Nationwide Platforms	463	▼	65	124	274
AFI-Uplift	249	▲	13	58	178
Smart Platform Rental	255	▲	210	20	25
Height for Hire	260	▲	80	60	120
UK Tool Hire Group	179	▼	27	3	149
Blade Access	110	▼	50	50	10
Lift Hire Ireland	87	▲	35	10	42
Orion Access	63	–	38	25	0
Clearview Services	45	–	3	42	0
GTAccess Group	36	–	35	1	0
KDM Hire	36	▲	6	0	30
PG Platforms	28	▲	12	7	9
Maps Platforms	26	▼	10	0	16
Clerkin Elevation	21	–	3	18	0
JMS	18	NEW	17	1	0







LARGEST SCISSOR LIFTS

Company	Model	Working Height m	# in Fleet
JMS	Liftlux 320	34	1
AFI-Uplift	Holland Lift G320	34	3
Mainline (1982)	Holland Lift Megastar	34	4
Essential Access Platforms	Dingli 3225RT	32	1
Elavation	Dingli 3225	32	4
AFI-Uplift	Dingli JCPT3225DC	32	4
Mainline (1982)	Dingli 3225	32	6
GTM Powered Access	Dingli 3225RT	32	2
Essential Access Platforms	Dingli 2812	28	3
KDM Hire	Holland Lift HL-275 D25	28	N/D
Powered Access Services	Dingli 280-24	26	6
Advanced Access Platforms	Dingli 2223	23	15
Ord Industrial	Dingli 2223RT	22	3
Sunbelt	Dingli 2223DC	22	2
JMS	Dingli 2223DC	22	N/D
Charles Wilson Engineers	Dingli 2223RT	22	12
Astley Hire	Dingli 2212	22	2
Vp CPH	Dingli JCPT2212DC	22	3
AFI-Uplift	Dingli JCPT2212DC	22	3
JPS Platforms	Dingli 2212	22	2
GTAccess Group	Dingli JCPT2223RT	22	8
Premier Platforms	Dingli 2212	22	3
Premier Plant & Tool Hire	Dingli	22	7
KDM Hire	Dingli JCPT 2223DC	22	N/D
Star Platforms	Dingli 2223	22	50

LARGEST BOOM LIFTS

Company	Model	Working Height m	# in Fleet
Hire Safe Solutions	Zoomlion ZT82J	82	3
JMS	XCMG XGS58E	59	1
Mainline (1982)	JLG 1850SJ	58	4
Ord Industrial	Genie SX180	57	1
Advanced Access Platforms	Genie SX150	48	1
KDM Hire	Genie SX150	48	N/D
Essential Access Platforms	XCMG XGA 48	48	3
JMS	XCMG XGA 48	48	2
Peak Platforms	Dingli BA44RT	44	2
Gwynedd Forklifts	Dingli BA44RT	44	3
APH Cranes & Access	Genie Z135-70	43	1
Sunbelt	JLG 1350SJP	43	8
Charles Wilson Engineers	Genie ZX135/70	43	7
Vp CPH	Genie Z135	43	1
AFI-Uplift	Genie Z135/70	43	18
GTM Powered Access	JLG1350SJP	43	5
Essential Access Platforms	JLG1350SJP	43	4
GTAccess Group	Genie S-125	40	1
Powered Access Services	ZX135/70	40	4



LARGEST TRUCK MOUNTED LIFTS

Company	Model	Working Height - m	# in Fleet
Clearview Services	Bronto S104HLA	104	1
Blade Access	Palfinger P1000	102	N/D
Elev8	Palfinger P900	90	2
Clerkin Elevation	Bronto S90	90	N/D
Height for Hire	Bronto S90HLA	90	N/D
AFI-Uplift	Palfinger P750	75	1
Orion Access	Socage 75 TJJ	75	1
Smart Platform Rental	Bronto S56XR	56	2
PG Platforms	Ruthmann T510	51	1
Sky Platform Hire	Ruthmann T510HF	51	1
NSS	Palfinger P450	45	N/D
JMS	Ruthmann T330	33	1
GTAccess Group	Ruthmann T330	33	1

PERCENTAGE OF FLEET HYBRID/ELECTRIC/DIESEL/NON-POWERED

Company	Electric	Hybrid	Diesel	Non-Powered
1 Up Access	40	40	20	0
2 Cousins Powered Accesss	60	10	30	0
Access Hire Nationwide	3	2	95	0
Access Platforms Aberdeen	32	3	65	0
Access Plus	40	10	50	0
Advanced Access Platforms	40	46	5	9
AFI-Uplift	51	6	43	0
APH Cranes & Access	39	11	50	0
Ashbrook	24	2	74	0
Astley Hire	86	7	0	7
Blade Access	0	0	100	0
BMS	0	0	100	0
Charles Wilson Engineers	30	30	30	10
Clearview Services	0	15	85	0
Clerkin Elevation	40	0	60	0
Dromad Hire	85	5	10	0
Elavation	70	30	0	0
Elev8	0	0	100	0
Essential Access Platforms	52	6	38	4
GTAccess Group	70	5	25	0
GTM Powered Access	46	9	45	0
Gwynedd Forklifts	40	20	40	0
Height for Hire	0	0	100	0
Hird	45	35	20	0
Hire Safe Solutions	18	13	70	0
Horizon Platforms	59	23	0	18
JMS	35	15	30	20
JPS Platforms	60	8	22	10
KDM Hire	68	5	27	0
Lift Hire Ireland	30	5	65	0
Mainline (1982)	78	4	18	0
Maps Platforms	15	5	80	0
MEP Hire	55	0	0	45
Mr Plant Hire	90	7	3	0
Nationwide Platforms	51	10	39	0
Newmarket Plant Hire	33	50	17	0
NSS	0	0	100	0
OK Tool Hire & Sales	73	2	20	5
One stop hire	100	0	0	0
Ord Industrial	40	10	50	0
Orion Access	30	30	40	0
Paramount Platforms	34	48	18	0
Peak Platforms	74	4	5	17
PG Platforms	55	15	30	0
Powered Access Services	40	15	45	0
Premier Plant & Tool Hire	45	25	30	0
Premier Platforms	63	15	22	0
React Access	70	20	10	0
Select Plant Hire	98	1	1	0
Sky Platform Hire	0	0	100	0
Smart Platform Rental	0	10	90	0
Smiths Hire	45	20	27	8
Speedy Hire	45	7	5	43
Star Platforms	84	6	10	0
Summit Platforms	40	10	50	0
Sunbelt	43	6	51	0
The Platform Hire Centre	50	10	40	0
Tracked access	0	0	100	0
UK Tool Hire Group	49	8	40	3
United Powered Access	50	15	35	0
Vp CPH	77	3	12	8
X-Hire	90	10	0	0







COMPANY DETAILS & INVESTMENT

Company	Investment £	Depots	Staff	# Bought	# Sold
1 Up Access	3,400,000	1	50	0	0
2 Cousins Powered Accesss	N/D	1	18	0	0
Access Hire Nationwide	N/D	6	297	0	0
Access Platforms Aberdeen	N/D	2	15	4	28
Access Plus	N/D	2	50	0	0
Advanced Access Platforms	9,030,100	6	103	622	213
AFI-Uplift	N/D	15	270	0	0
APH Cranes & Access	N/D	1	12	0	0
Ashbrook	N/D	2	N/D	0	0
Astley Hire	495,000	1	24	26	19
Charles Wilson Engineers	9,000,000	29	390	368	232
Clearview Services	N/D	1	65	0	0
Dromad Hire	N/D	1	30	68	40
Elavation	2,000,000	2	46	44	14
Essential Access Platforms	25,000,000	5	100	0	0
GTAccess Group	15,268,876	11	185	528	458
GTM Powered Access	1,500,000	1	19	64	36
Gwynedd Forklifts	2,000,000	2	68	92	76
Hird	1,000,000	3	120	19	0
Hire Safe Solutions	30,575,240	4	165	890	365
Horizon Platforms	N/D	1	80	0	0
JMS	6,000,000	4	90	0	0
JPS Platforms	3,400,000	2	56	161	0
KDM Hire	N/D	7	248	0	0
Lift Hire Ireland	N/D	1	35	0	0
Mainline (1982)	N/D	2	45	0	0
Maps Platforms	200,000	1	6	3	5
Mr Plant Hire	N/D	3	67	0	0
Nationwide Platforms	27,000,000	32	709	0	0
Newmarket Plant Hire	N/D	6	55	0	0
OK Tool Hire & Sales	N/D	2	20	42	21
One stop hire	400,000	18	250	50	0
Ord Industrial	N/D	2	83	0	0
Orion Access	150,000	2	45	0	0
Paramount Platforms	750,000	1	26	3	9
Peak Platforms	4,000,000	2	46	250	0
PG Platforms	1,200,000	2	40	20	14
Powered Access Services	N/D	3	39	26	18
Premier Plant & Tool Hire	5,000,000	3	28	204	0
Premier Platforms	2,000	3	32	0	0
React Access	250,000	1	8	0	0
Select Plant Hire	2,058,000	7	871	345	0
Sky Platform Hire	900,000	2	5	6	2
Smart Platform Rental	N/D	7	78	0	0
Smiths Hire	N/D	19	N/D	0	0
Star Platforms	3,900,000	7	180	425	0
Summit Platforms	22,000,961	11	356	0	0
The Platform Hire Centre	N/D	1	20	0	0
UK Tool Hire Group	1,500,000	8	89	0	0
United Powered Access	N/D	2	19	0	0
Vp CPH	N/D	1	37	0	0
X-Hire	1,000,000	2	50	0	0











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BUILT AROUND YOU

C&A → TELEHANDLERS UK & IRELAND TOP RENTAL FLEETS SURVEY 2026



The top five telehandler players shrunk their combined fleets by 660 machines, with Morris Leslie the only company to expand adding 61 more units. As in last year's survey, much of the reduction appears to have occurred in the number of compact telehandlers, possibly due to a previous over-expansion along with more demand for mid range and larger fixed frame models.









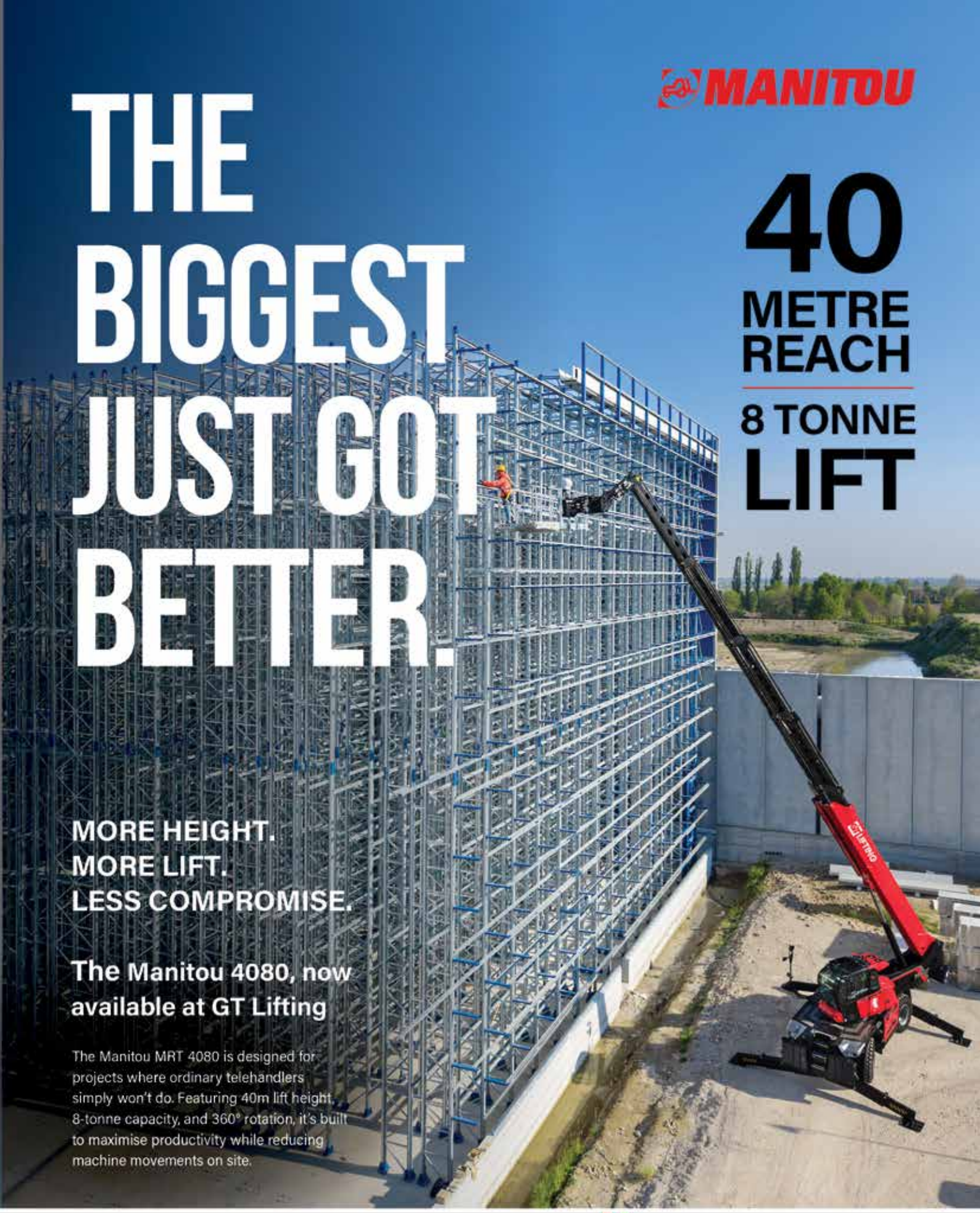




TOP TELESCOPIC HANDLER COMPANIES

Company	Total		Fixed incl Compact and HD	360°	Compact	Full Size	Heavy Duty	Electric	Largest Fixed m	Largest 360° m	Depots	Employees
Ardent Hire Solutions	2,923	▼	2,803	120	500	2,300	3	0	20	35	6	150
Morris Leslie Plant Hire	1,995	▲	1,995	0	227	1,766	2	0	20	0	13	225
Sunbelt Rentals	1,669	▼	1,660	9	271	1,389	0	18	20	26	200	4,200
UK Forks	1,440	▼	1,400	40	125	1,265	10	25	0	0	0	0
Charles Wilson Engineers	1,237	▼	1,208	29	349	851	8	17	20	35	29	390
GT Lifting Solutions	900	▲	515	385	40	265	210	1	17	51	5	54
Hessle Plant	812	▼	760	52	56	663	41	0	18	40	4	58
H. E. Services	721	▲	721	0	147	326	248	2	20	0	11	145
Jarvie Plant	655	▼	620	35	120	500	0	5	20	30	10	200
Plantforce	650	–	650	0	30	600	0	0	17	0	11	250
Flannery Plant Hire	600	▲	600	0	50	550	0	20	20	0	10	2,150
Boles Hire	563	▲	458	105	122	324	12	2	20	51	1	45
Summit Platforms	517	▲	517	0	0	517	0	0	0	0	11	0
Ashbrook	459	▲	459	0	88	371	0	0	0	0	2	0
Greenwood Hire	450	▲	175	275	25	150	0	0	17	35	9	15
Plant Hire UK	400	–	400	0	20	380	0	0	20	0	1	0
B&T Plant Hire	390	▲	390	0	100	290	0	0	20	0	2	30
Fairfax Plant Hire	350	▲	350	0	122	228	0	0	20	0	4	140
L Lynch Plant Hire	340	▼	340	0	50	290	0	10	20	0	9	0
Chippindale Plant	340	▲	340	0	40	300	0	0	18	0	8	111
Thomas Plant	300	–	300	0	50	250	0	0	20	0	12	150
Mervyn Lambert Plant	250	–	250	0	30	220	0	0	18	0	1	200
KDM Hire	167	▲	154	13	51	98	5	1	0	0	7	248
Gwynedd Forklifts	161	▲	161	0	31	124	6	7	20	0	2	68
Hubbway Hire	160	–	160	0	30	115	15	0	18	0	1	15
PJP (UK)	145	NEW	145	0	67	78	0	0	20	0	2	30
Vp CPH	79	NEW	77	2	22	55	0	0	20	26	1	37
ABBA Plant Hire	57	NEW	57	0	11	46	0	0	20	0	1	12
Smiths Hire	52	NEW	52	0	18	34	0	1	0	0	19	0
GGR Group	22	NEW	22	0	14	8	0	16	17	0	3	158

Fleet size in the past 12 months has: ▲ *Increased* ▼ *Decreased* – *Remained the same* N/D *Not disclosed*



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STILL AN EXCITING BUZZ...



There is still an exciting buzz around spider cranes as the market develops and new applications are discovered. This has been helped by the many new products that are adding new dimensions to the traditional Japanese spider cranes that kicked the whole thing off, such as the larger articulated models that don't even have the outriggers style that gave the market its name. At the other end of the scale are the minis, small telescopic or articulated demountable loader type cranes on tracked carriers that are becoming more common. We look as some of the latest developments.

The rental market for spider cranes is now mainstream with both crane and aerial lift rental companies offering them, but it has taken almost 40 years to reach this level of international market awareness and acceptance.

Originating in the 1970s Japan, they were a local delicacy for almost 15 years before the concept was introduced into Europe and North America in the 1990s by Swedish distributor Kranlyft with the Maeda cranes. Back then it was an oddball product and very expensive, largely due to the minimal volumes/demand. Crane companies typically turned their noses up at what they considered to be a toy which none of their customers ever called and asked about.

It began to change at the turn of the millennium, when UK rental company GGR, spotted the product's potential and began adding Meada cranes to its fleet. Not happy with Kranlyft's high prices, it began looking for an alternative and discovered the Unic range in Japan. However, Unic was not interested in the European market and refused to have its models CE tested and approved. GGR said it would carry out the CE approval, if Unic would agree to GGR being the exclusive master distributor for all of Europe, and possibly the Middle East. Unic said yes, the approvals were done and finally there was competition, an essential requirement if a market is to develop.

Since then, new entrants have arrived as the market grew, starting with Italian company Imai, which went mainstream and became Jekko and more recently Hoeflon from the Netherlands. There have been others over the years with manufacturers such as Italmec/Heila, R&B, Kegiom and Reedyk, while more recently we have seen SPT Cranes from China and Xtreme in the US, but more of that later.

GETTING BIGGER

The market has continued to develop with the arrival of the higher capacity articulated cranes combining the versatility and capacity of a large articulated loader crane with the manoeuvrability and rough terrain ability of a compact tracked chassis. Manufacturers in the sector include Jekko which is part owned by Fassi, BG Lift and Palfinger.

Jekko launched its JF545 in 2017 after Fassi acquired its stake in company in 2016. The JF545 had a maximum capacity of 15.5 tonnes, a tip height of almost 30 metres and could handle one tonne at 25 metres. Over the years Jekko has expanded its range to include five models, from the smallest JF235 with a 6.15 tonne capacity and maximum height of just over 25 metres,



The 22 tonne, 34.5 metre Jekko JF1050

through the JF365, the updated JF545.2 with 32.5 metre maximum tip height to the 21.5 tonne capacity JF990 which is able to reach 41.5 metres with jib.

The newest and largest addition in May this year was the 22 tonne, 34.5 metre JF1050, which includes some major upgrades and improvements over existing models, which will probably be incorporated into the smaller units over time. As with all Jekko JF articulated models, the JF1050 uses a Fassi loader crane.


Unfolding with 4.9m square outrigger footprint



The new crane fully stowed - note the two counterweights

On its nine section decagonal main boom the JF1050 has a maximum tip height of 23 metres, at which point it can lift 5,500kg. Maximum radius is 20 metres with a capacity of 3,085kg. An optional seven section jib takes the tip height to 34.5 metres with a capacity of 950kg at a radius of almost 11 metres.

The jib can luff down to horizontal with the main boom at 70 degrees where it can handle 850kg at a height of 22.5 metres and a radius of 18 metres. With the boom and jib fully extended and horizontal or up to 10 degrees above horizontal, the capacity is 860kg at up to 32 metres radius. A range of work platforms offers working height of just over 36 metres.

The JF1050 is 2.2 metres wide, has an overall length of 6.75 metres and an overall height of 3.47 metres. The self-installed five tonne counterweight is made up of two parts - two and three tonnes - and there are load charts for no counterweight, two tonnes, three tonnes or five tonnes. Overall weight is 27.7 tonnes which can be reduced by removing one or both of the counterweights and the outrigger beams.

The winch has a maximum line pull of two tonnes with 60 metres of wire rope storage giving a below ground reach of up to 51 metres. The outrigger spread is variable, from a simple square footprint of between 4.91 and 8.5 metres, or inboard to an overall length of 11.35 metres. Intermediate outrigger spread options and one side set-ups are also possible with the actual configuration fed into the crane's operating system and displayed on the seven inch fully waterproof touch screen.

Power options include bi-energy - diesel with an integrated electric motor providing full autonomy outdoors and clean, quiet operation indoors - pure diesel or a full electric plug in system.

A new Variable Speed Engine Management system is said to provide smoother, more precise operation and lower fuel consumption allowing the operator to choose between three working modes - Eco, Normal and Power. All engine data and details are available on the crane's main display screen.

XTREME SPIDER CRANE

At Conexpo earlier this year, US based Xtreme Manufacturing which builds heavy duty American style telehandlers, surprised many when it launched a spider crane, the 3.2 tonne XMC3530, one of the very few to be produced outside of Japan, Italy and more recently China.

The XMC3530 which looks very Jekko, has a five section 10.3 metre main boom, with a 4.42 metre hydraulic luffing jib which stows within the superstructure/turret when not in use. Maximum tip height is 16.33 metres, at which point it can handle 490kg, it can also take it out to a six metre radius at a height of 12 metres. Maximum capacity on the jib is just under a tonne, while the fully extended main boom can handle 1,450kg. The overall stowed width is 762mm, although it is fraction over two metres high - an issue with some single doorways.


XMC3530 jib storage

Xtreme's owner and rental supremo Don Ahern, who also owns Snorkel, has previously purchased Jekko cranes and many have commented that the XMC3530 resembles the Jekko SPX532.2 so we have compared them in the chart below.

XTREME XMC3530 VS JEKKO SPX532.2

The Xtreme XMC3530 certainly looks similar to the Jekko SPX 532 but is not identical and owes more to the original Jekko SPX 532, while Jekko has moved on to a second generation model which improves on the original design. However comparing the specifications, there is little to separate them. Jekko said that it is flattered by the Xtreme, which it says includes some of the errors and issues that it has removed in its new SPX 532.2.

HOEFLON CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Dutch spider crane, tracked carrier and pick & carry crane manufacturer Hoeflon celebrated its 20th anniversary in June, hosting around 4,500 visitors at the opening of its new facility

Xtreme XMC3530 Vs Jekko SPX532.2

	Xtreme	Jekko
	XMC3530	SPX 532.2
Max capacity	3.17 tonnes	3.2 tonnes
Boom length	10.31m	10.3m
Max tip height main boom	11.9m	11.9m
Jib length	4.42m	5.1m
Max jib capacity	998kg	1,000kg
Jib luffing range	80°	80°
Max tip height	16.33m	17m
OAW retracted	762mm	770mm
OAW tracks extended	1.07m	1.06m
OAL	3.76m	3.14m
OAH	2.01m	1.99m
Outrigger footprint 45°	4.4m x 4.5m *	4.53m x 4.57m
Power	Lithium battery	Lithium battery
Power options	N/A	Diesel
Capacities at reach		
On full boom	1,450kg	1,450kg
At max radius main boom	499kg @ 9.5m	490kg @ 9.5m
At max tip height	490kg-16.3/1.1m	300kg -17m /2m
At max radius on jib	130kg 0 13.96m	100kg @ 14.8m
Slew	360°	360°
Max single line pull	998kg	1,050kg


Conexpo saw the launch of 3.2t Xtreme XMC3530

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The new Hoeflon C10e Gen 3

in Barneveld, which is located alongside its existing plant.

The company launched its new C10e Gen 3 spider crane - the updated version of the C10e - at the event, which features a maximum tip height of 22 metres and can handle 209kg at its maximum radius of 18.5 metres. The crane is 3.97 metres long, 810mm wide, two metres high and weighs 5,075kg. The specification is broadly similar to the previous model, but adds a revised jib with a 1,500kg capacity, 95 degrees main boom elevation, automatic track tensioning, an updated software platform, stepless adjustable outrigger settings, auto folding and stowage, an attachment recognition system with Rated Capacity Limiter and a new remote control.

Its other new model is the C30eL - the long boom version of its nine tonne C30e - with a much greater lift height, 30.5 metres compared to 22 metres. However there are many other differences as can be seen in the table below.

The higher capacity, fully electric C30e, is fully remote controlled and can pick & carry a load. What the C30eL loses in maximum capacity - seven rather than nine tonnes - it makes up for with significantly more reach - 30.5 metres vs 20 metres - giving it more ability for jobs such as installing glass or lifting materials onto or over buildings. Features such as remote control, negative boom and pick & carry ability remain the same.

MAEDA UPDATES

The two stalwarts of international spider crane market, Maeda and Unic, have struggled to keep pace with the product launches of European producers. When new products do come out, they are typically 'bullet proof' in terms of reliability and simplicity to operate.

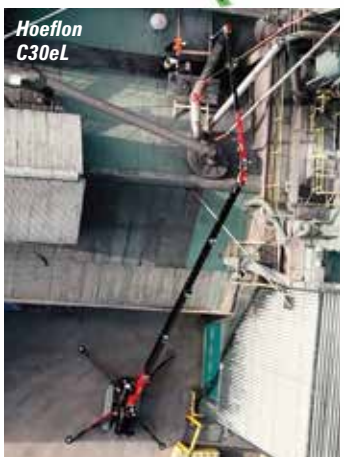
Maeda recently unveiled its all electric 2.82 tonne capacity



Maeda MC285CB-3 all electric spider crane

	Hoeflon C30e	Hoeflon C30eL
Capacity	9,000kg	7,000kg
Capacity at max reach	380kg	70kg
Winch capacity	6,400kg	6,400kg
Lift height incl jib	22.0m	30.5m
Max reach incl jib	20.0m	29.5m
Jib length	7.5m	7.7m
Max reach no jib	12.0m	21.5m
Boom angle	95 degrees	99 degrees
Incline angle	20 degrees	20 degrees
Slew	360 continuous	360 continuous
Dimensions	3.85 x 1.17 x 2.0m	5.08 x 1.2 x 2.02m
Total weight with options	8,700kg	8,895kg
Total weight without options	5,600kg	6,400kg









MC285CB-3 Eco



Maeda MC285CB-3 all electric crane



The 4t UM445

MC285CB-3 Eco spider crane which matches the diesel model in terms of speed, capacity and dimensions but with zero emissions and low noise.

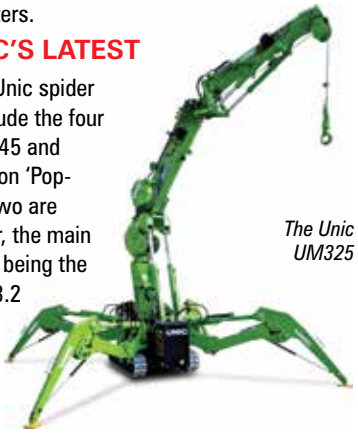
Its maximum capacity is achieved at a 1.4 metre radius, and maximum lift height is 8.7 metres, below ground reach is 10.1 metres with standard four fall hook block setup. It has an overall length of 2.8 metres, is 750mm wide and 1.47 metres high.

The crane features and advanced long-life lithium Titanate battery pack, and energy-saving modes designed for continuous work in demanding applications, coupled with a battery lifespan of more than 15 years. It can charge to 80 percent in 2.3 hours or 100 percent in 3.5 hours using a regular AC supply. The crane can be operated whilst plugged in, allowing intermittent top-ups. There are three selectable power modes - Standard: For normal multi-function operation. ECO Mode 1: For single functions at standard speed, reducing energy consumption 11 percent and ECO Mode 2: for slower speeds and a 27 percent energy saving.

Features include remote control, a seven inch LMI display, an optional 850kg searcher hook, a programmable Moment Limiter with multi position outrigger setting to and safety control lift parameters.

UNIC'S LATEST

The latest Unic spider cranes include the four tonne UM445 and UM325 Li-ion 'Pop-Up's. The two are very similar, the main differences being the capacity - 3.2 tonnes at 2.2 metres for the UM325 and four tonnes at 1.8 metres for the UM445, or 1,000kg and 1,500kg on the jib respectively. Both models are all electric, lithium powered eco cranes featuring a 'pop-up' turret design that minimises rear overhang when operating.



The Unic UM325

The UM445 has a five section 11 metre main boom at which point it can handle 1,840kg or take 880kg to 16.4 metres lift height on the jib. Maximum radius is 9.8 metres at which point it can lift 490kg or 100kg at 15.7 metres with the jib, while pick & carry capacity is 500kg. Overall stowed length is 3.1 metres by 750mm wide with an overall height of 1.95 metres. Total weight is 3,830kg.

The 3.2 tonne capacity UM325 Pop-Up has a 10 metre main boom with maximum lift height about





The Unic UM325 Pop-Up

10.9 metres or 17.8 metres with the hydraulic jib. Dimensions are very similar to the UM445.

SPT CRANES

SPT is a Chinese spider crane manufacturer that was founded in 2015 and is based in Henan Province. It has a range of five spider cranes and one 800kg SG80 tracked pick & carry crane.



SPT's largest spider crane the 10t 1009



The SPT S7 spider crane

The spider cranes range from the 2.95 tonne SPT299 with a maximum 11.5 metres radius, a battery powered SPT299 with similar capacity but 8.83 metre radius, a four tonne SPT399, five tonne/20.5 metre SPT499 and the 10 tonne SPT1009 all of which can be equipped with hydraulic jib.

In September 2022 SPT appointed German vacuum lifter company and former Kranlyft/Maeda dealer Uplifter as its first European distributor. The move came just a month after Uplifter parted company with Kranlyft. The company also set up Uplifter UPC spider cranes in the UK as a sort of SPT sub dealer. Uplifter was established in 2001 and had subsidiaries in Poland and the Czech Republic, working with partners in several other countries including Portugal, Spain, France and Australia, through which it sold its range of vacuum/glass handling equipment which Kranlyft handled in the UK.

In 2024 SPT and Uplifter launched a European version of its new 2.98 tonne/8.7 metre radius S7 Sky Series crane. However, last November Uplifter became insolvent and went into administration because of the "difficult economic environment and the general market situation."

Three months later, German rental company Luibl acquired the operational and business assets of Uplifter while the company - Uplifter GmbH - was liquidated.

At the time Luibl's owner Karl Bauer said: 'A new company has been established operating under the name Uplifter group and includes a number of subsidiaries to handle the various divisions - Uplifter Rental, Uplifter Trading, Uplifter Service and Machine Operators.'

However, the extensive Luibl spider crane rental fleet is largely made up of Maeda cranes, and there is little sign of any sales activity. ■



The SPT S7 spider crane





BUILDING THE VILLAGE ON TRIESTE'S WATERFRONT

Every year in October, Barcolana transforms Trieste into one of the world's leading international sailing stages, drawing crews, enthusiasts and visitors from all over the world. It is not only the world's largest sailing regatta, this year's event - Barcolana 58 - attracted 1,900 boats and around 550,000 spectators, but involves the entire city for several days, bringing together sailing, tourism, business and entertainment along Trieste's waterfront.

Its popularity stems from its fascinating formula with professional sailors and amateurs competing side by side on a massive single starting line in the Gulf of Trieste. The 'Barcolana Village' sets up on the seafront next to Piazza Unità d'Italia, with exhibition stands, hospitality areas and public spaces, forming the heart of the event.

This year an Jekko SPX532.2 from rental company HLI Rent was involved in assembling the Village and its temporary structures, lifting glass panels, railings and metal pergolas, as well as equipment for the interior spaces and booths. The working environment featured limited space, uneven ground, teams operating simultaneously, tight installation schedules and a worksite alongside the sea.

Simone Ravalico, HLI Rent Technical Sales Specialist, said: "The SPX532.2 was used both with the hook for steel structures and with a vacuum lifter for the installation of more than 30 glass panels."



"This is the first time a mini crane has been used, normally it is carried out by truck cranes. In such a congested area the mini crane proved to be the most practical and efficient solution. Its compact dimensions, allowed us to work close to the structures and in the tightest spaces, while also enabling several teams to operate simultaneously without interfering with one another."

SPIDER CRANE CONVERT

As mentioned earlier it was many years before crane rental companies accepted the spider crane as a useful tool. One company that has recently entered the spider crane market is UK based rental company Ken Harrop Crane Hire, starting with a new 2.98 tonne Maeda MK3053-C.

The move was spurred on by Kranlyft's 'Try Before You Buy' offer. Barely two weeks in, it decided that it would be a perfect addition to the fleet. Jack Harrop, Ken's son said: "What we liked about this crane is that it can be transported on a trailer behind a 4x4 and is very simple to use. We were so impressed with it that we decided to buy it, rather than return it to Kranlyft."



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ROCKLEIGH – EASY COMPANY

When husband and wife team Tom and Renee Watters formed Rockleigh almost 10 years ago, little did they know how it would develop. Although classed as a 'medium sized' commercial arb company with 35 staff, the Oundle, Northamptonshire, based business has punched well above its weight, with a Kings Award for Enterprise and the Princess Royal Training Award while making it to the finals of the 2025 Pro Landscaper Awards.



Renee Watters chatting with King Charles at the Kings Award for Enterprise

The King's Award for Enterprise for Promoting Opportunity through social mobility is the highest official UK accolade recognising businesses that actively help people from disadvantaged backgrounds. It celebrates organisations that help these individuals build the skills, confidence and experience required to secure employment and advance their careers.

For Rockleigh this has meant providing training and career development for young school leavers suffering from ADHD and Dyslexia amongst other issues. As well as this, the company continues to expand and has recently taken delivery of two 21 metre Easy Lift RA21 spider lifts, having been an active advocate of powered access in the tree care market.

The company was founded in 2016 by Tom Watters, who already had 20 years' experience in arboriculture. A few years after qualifying from arb college, he entered a partnership but after 15 years the two co-owners decided to separate, Watters wanting to concentrate on commercial work while his partner preferred domestic jobs.

As a result, he founded Rockleigh, initially operating from his garage/shed in Thrapston with two vans, a Timberwolf chipper and a team who joined him from the partnership. As he was the commercial 'face' of the partnership, he already had a good few commercial contracts. The company grew slowly and steadily, and after a year moved into a small farm unit nearby.



Tom Watters receiving the Princess Royal Training Award

Today the company covers an area that is very much dependent on his customers and includes a significant amount of work for national facility management companies which pass on good subcontractors to different regions. From Oundle, Rockleigh can be asked to carry out work from London up to Yorkshire.

"The work grows particularly if you do a good job as different parts of these companies recommend you to other areas," says Watters. "We have worked from as far south as Brighton, and up the Pennines in the north. We have a permanent contract with local Councils for tree safety work, offer site safety surveys, and carry out a lot of housing association work in the Vale of Aylesbury and Bedfordshire as well as having long term contracts in Northamptonshire such as Boughton House, Rockingham Castle and Uppingham School."



The company also has staff qualified in Cobra tree bracing - a specialist non-invasive crown

stabilisation system using high strength polypropylene that supports weak limbs or overhanging tree branches without drilling, bolting, or damaging the tree's bark.

"We have grown steadily over the years," says Renee Watters, who runs the day to day operations from the office. "Our strategy for the first seven or so years was not to over promote ourselves in any way and we have only just sign written the vans because of the Royal award. We subcontract for several national companies which would rather not tell everyone they subcontract their work. Plain vans open the doors to so many more customers."

BUT WHY CONCENTRATE ON COMMERCIAL WORK?

"Domestic work is okay when you are involved as a business owner because you can directly control what goes on onsite. However, when you bring in other teams, the attention to detail is perhaps not quite as good as it should be," explains Tom. "We get less stress and phone calls from commercial jobs such as when the guys are taking down trees at a sewage works rather than knocking over a flowerpot when taking down a tree in Mrs Jones' garden and having to spend all night on eBay looking for a replacement."

CONTINUALLY EXPANDING

The company is moving more into environmental work such as seed drilling on new build estates, vegetation management and environmental contracts such as pond building and site safety surveys.

"We are always pushing ourselves to do more - the limiting factor is finding and training staff. The current premises - which we moved into in 2024 - are our third so far and were a good size but as we grow we may need more space for offices and equipment."

ARB EQUIPMENT

The main equipment for all arb companies are the vans and chippers and more recently aerial work platforms. Originally Rockleigh used Timberwolf woodchippers and Toyota HiLux trucks but more recently has a mix of Timberwolf and Först chippers. Först was established seven years ago and claims to be the largest producer of commercial woodchippers in Europe. The company is the product of Redwood which was founded in 2006 as an importer of woodchippers from Germany. As time moved on Redwood became known as the best supplier of woodchippers in the industry but wanting a better



product Redwood moved into designing and building its own products which are designed and built in Andover, UK.

Rockleigh currently has 11, 150mm to 230mm Först machines. For larger 300mm to 600mm work the company uses American made Bandit chippers. It also added an EcoTech Italia F27 Hornet mulcher to its fleet making light work of site clearances.

"Teams do not want to work with cheap equipment and if you have something decent that they like, they want to stay. So, over the years we have invested heavily into quality tools and equipment."

"I started hiring aerial work platforms around 2008 when I was with the previous company. They were mostly Genie articulated booms delivered on a massive truck," says Watters. "We would book them for a day's hire at 8am but they would turn up at 11am and the driver would say he was picking it up again at 3.30pm. They were huge and bulky but could be driven when elevated. We also used the old 4x4 Land Rover mounted lifts - ex Electricity Board - to clear trees around the old low voltage cables and street lights etc."

"In 2008 the use of aerial work platforms was the exception, rather than the rule, whereas today almost every contract uses a work platform. We have one client whose policy is 'Use a platform rather than climb'. Whether the money is there for the platform is debatable… When we first used spider lifts we would get £600 a day for the guys plus £400 for the platform and you might make £150 on the platform. Now it is a day rate for the guys, and the lift is assumed to be included."

"Around 2012, a few years before I started Rockleigh, a friend had a Hinowa spider lift which he towed behind a Land Rover. I couldn't believe he was towing his own machine, and he did it because he was fed up of waiting for the hire companies to deliver the lifts on time."

Rockleigh initially hired platforms as and when required but as their use became more regular it decided it would be more cost effective to buy its own.

"I met Malcolm Kitt and Richard Martin of Independent Access Sales - the Easy Lift dealer - at the APF show about six years ago. We got on well and I am one of those who buys from people I like. Richard is very personable and sorts out any problems."

Rockleigh purchased its first aerial work platform



One of the larger Bandit chippers



Tom Watters (L) with Richard Martin of Independent Access Sales and the two new Easy Lift RA21s





A Volvo 8x4 chassis with Fassi F820RA2.27 loader crane with jib giving almost 30 metres of reach

- an 18 metre Easy Lift RA18 spider lift - around five years ago. "At the time it was more than big enough for the work but now having purchased two 21 metre RA21 Easy Lifts, it is amazing how much difference the additional three metres can make by allowing the machine to stand further away from the tree and avoiding being under the work area."

"We got on well with the 18 metre spider and we towed it behind a Toyota HiLux. It would be used on the most essential job of the day such as dealing with Ash Dieback because the trees are so unpredictable and brittle to climb."

"When we bought the spider lift we thought that if it was used a couple of days a week it would pay for itself. When it was out six or seven days a week we thought we need another one. And it is not only tree work - we were also asked to clean gutters on a factory, rescue drones from roofs and fix TV aerials!"

"With so much demand we added an Easy Lift 21 metre and now have just taken delivery of two new 21 metre RA21s which replace the older machines. If demand continues to grow we will purchase another, but only one that we can tow behind the HiLux trucks. There is a new 3.5 tonne Ford Ranger Super Duty truck from America that has a 4.5 tonnes capacity on a swan neck. This might be an option going forward as they have stopped manufacturing the HiLux. If so we will go for a larger spider lift for the next purchase. We do not want to go down the route of 7.5 tonners and additional licences etc."



The recently launched 14.2 metre pickup mounted CPL KA14 with 6.5m outreach and 250kg platform capacity

"At the recent APF show we liked the look of CPL's new 14 metre pickup mounted lift. It is mounted on an Isuzu chassis - we would rather have HiLux, but it would be perfect for the permanent contracts in the parks, clearing around street lights, crown lifting trees to five or six metres, lifting up over roads, car parks etc. It would also be more fuel efficient to drive a pickup mounted unit than tow one. When towing daily with the HiLux we have had to upgrade the shocks and springs."

HOW HAS THE INDUSTRY CHANGED?

"The habits of the gangs has changed totally. We have two Euro waste bins outside the offices and every week they are full of rubbish - cans, fast food wrappers etc. When I first started everyone had a flask and lunchbox and there was no waste - in the summer someone would bring a bottle of water. How have we gone from having no waste to filling two bins… it is ridiculous?. We would never stop at a shop for something, we worked hard and survived on a flask of tea."

"The industry is getting harder - and that is not just because we have grown. I don't think rates are anywhere near where they should be, it seems to be a race to the bottom in the domestic market. The whole industry is also constantly changing with new products and equipment such as the new Stihl FKA 160 battery-powered mechanical felling wedge unveiled at the APF.

It has a18 tonnes of lifting force with a 55mm lift allowing arb workers to fell trees from a safe distance using a remote control. Or a Volvo 8x4 chassis with Fassi F820RA2.27 loader crane with jib giving almost 30 metres of reach. With the winch fitted it can lift trees over houses and coupled with a grapple saw we hired in for removing a tree that had fallen onto a roof on a block of apartments. It is all amazing equipment and is changing the industry so much."

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

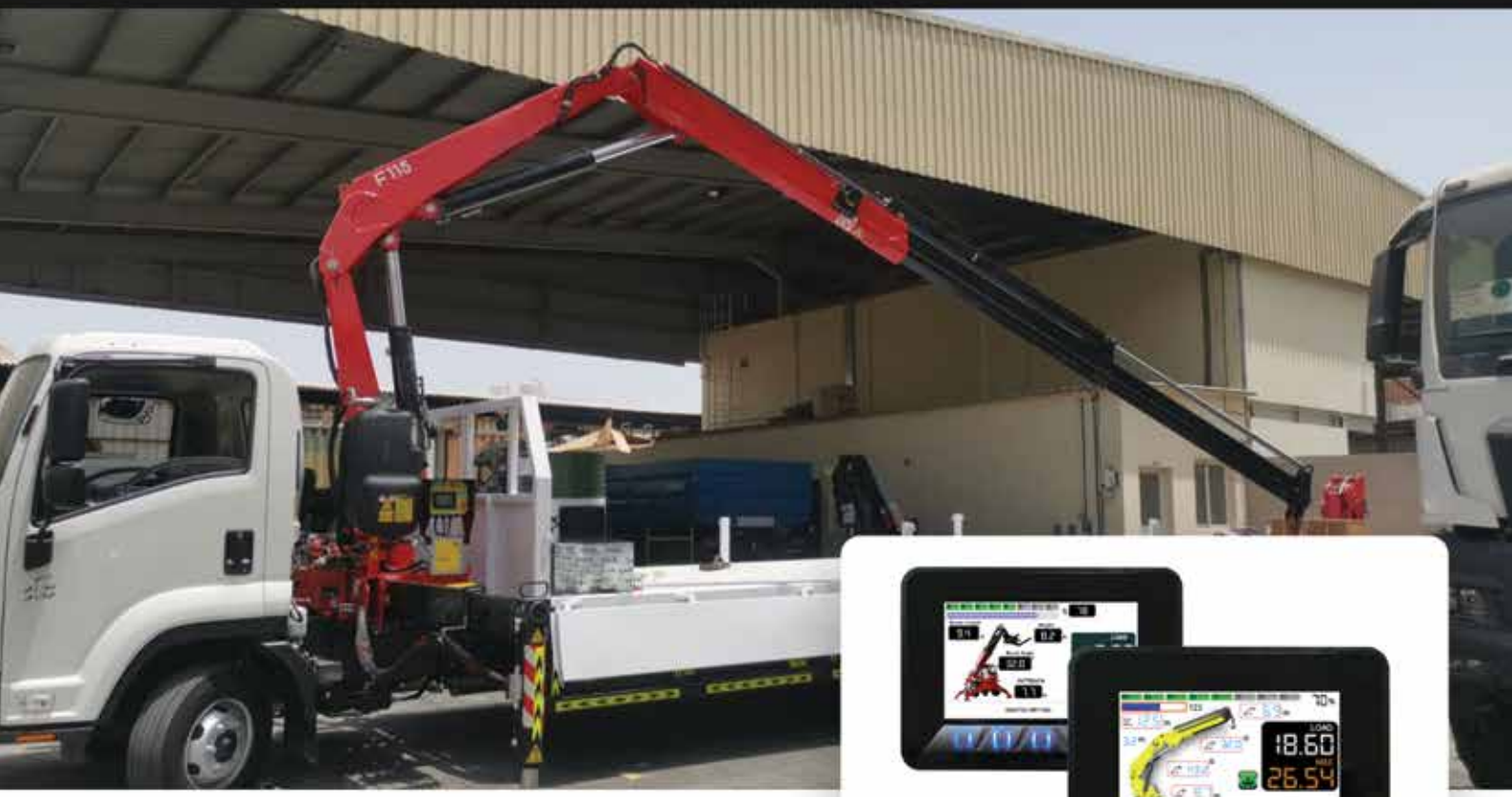
"Ideally we will be in larger premises and able to offer more services," said Renee. "Perhaps not offer full nationwide coverage but wider than we can at the moment. We will continue to offer training places to all staff and developing our awareness of neurodivergence, keep customer confidence and have an enjoyable workplace. By making small positive changes every day it will continue to build the company." ■





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APF 2026 – CELEBRATING 50 GOLDEN YEARS

The APF Exhibition tree care show was once again held at Ragley Estate in Warwickshire, UK, and marked 50 years since the first APF Demo event was held at Longleat Estate in Wiltshire. This year's show enjoyed three days of good weather and attracted record crowds with a reported 20,000 visitors attending. The only downside of this success was the morning traffic congestion as visitors attempted to access the showground.

The event has seen a growing number of spider lifts, small truck mounts and telehandlers on display, and this year was no different, with most of the big brands represented. Forestry and arborist attachments for telehandlers and excavators were also a major feature of the show this year.

In addition to forestry and tree care equipment there were plenty of associated events including the European Chainsaw Carving Competition, the British Speed Fencing Championships, the World 25 metre Pole Climbing Championships, Axe throwing and, for the first time, a winch racing competition providing entertainment for those not interested in the equipment.

The APF Exhibition is not a show for lifting equipment product launches, with manufacturers tending to use the international or specialist events for that. However, dealers able to supply and maintain the equipment were busy as visitors took a closer look at machines already identified on their purchasing short lists.

Exhibition Secretary, Ian Millward said: "The show was a fitting celebration of our 50th anniversary. It has been a fantastic showcase for the Forest & Arb industries and the 700 school children who came along on guided tours now know a lot more about woodlands and trees than they did before." ■


AlmaCrawler B2190-A


Promax three tonne capacity CR30-HD tracked carrier with trailer to cope with longer items


Magni telehandler with Woodcracker CS750 smart grapple saw


The new 20m Versalift VA-200 F with 10.4 metre outreach and 250kg platform capacity


Alpha Access sold the last Teupen Leo23GT - it is being superseded by the Leo24GT


Various Woodcracker attachments

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MATURING NICELY...

The market for spider lifts has been developing, maturing and growing and a steadily increasing pace. As a bi-product of this we have seen a good number of acquisitions by new entrants or even private equity, alongside mergers and partnerships. Interestingly the percentage of end users who chose to buy their own machines rather than rent is far higher than for most other forms of powered access. One particular industry that has taken the spider lift to heart is tree care, both in Europe and North America. Given the highly fragmented nature of this market the preference is for lifts that can be towed behind a pickup - in Europe this limits overall weight of the machine to around three tonnes. Therefore, for most arborists the largest lift that works for them has a working height of around 20 to 22 metres. ***See the arborist feature on page 39.*** **But here we will take a look at the latest product launches and developments.**

From a design point of view, the standard spider lift has changed little over the past 25 or so years. Back then Alfons Thihatmer, the then managing director of German spider lift manufacturer Teupen would say, "a spider lift should be as small and as light as possible but with the biggest reach." Teupen was one of the leading spider lift manufacturers along with Oil & Steel, Falck Schmidt, Italmec and Hinowa. Even then the Italian manufacturers were beginning to dominate the industry.

Teupen began making spider lifts around 1987, introducing more compact and lighter models that pushed the working envelope. The largest machine it ever produced was the 50 metre Leo 50GT in 2006, and Leo 50GTX with slightly higher platform capacity a year or two later. At the time, it seemed huge, far too big to be manoeuvrable in restricted spaces.

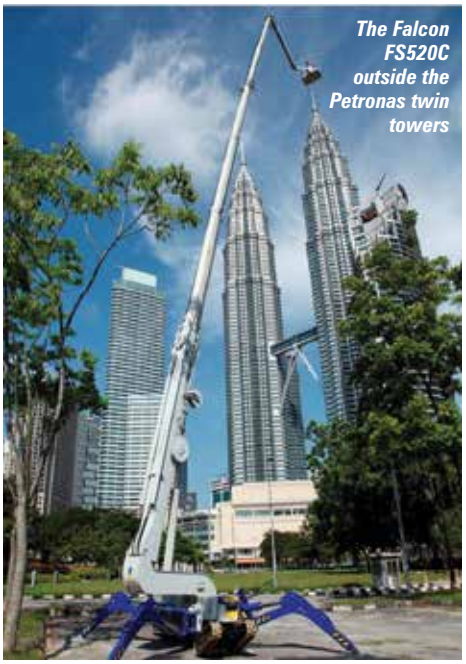


Teupen Leo50GT

The first units was delivered to the UK in 2007, however, it was never a popular machine, only selling in small numbers. The main problem was its size - it weighed 13.5 tonnes, was almost 9.5 metres long with an outrigger spread of 7.6 metres. Outreach was 17.1 metres with 200kg in the platform or 20 metres with 80kg. And while its 50 metre working height was impressive, not many everyday tasks required such a height. Work on electricity pylons was one of the few areas where it was at home. The Leo 50GT was dropped from the model range seven years ago but is still available as a special build if required.

Another manufacturer making big spider lifts at the time was Danish company Worldlift/ Falck Schmidt - the spider lift inventor. In 2010 it launched the 52 metre Falcon FS520C, taking the world's largest spider lift title from Teupen. The lift was developed in co-operation with lead customer, Irish/international rental company Height for Hire/Easi UpLifts.

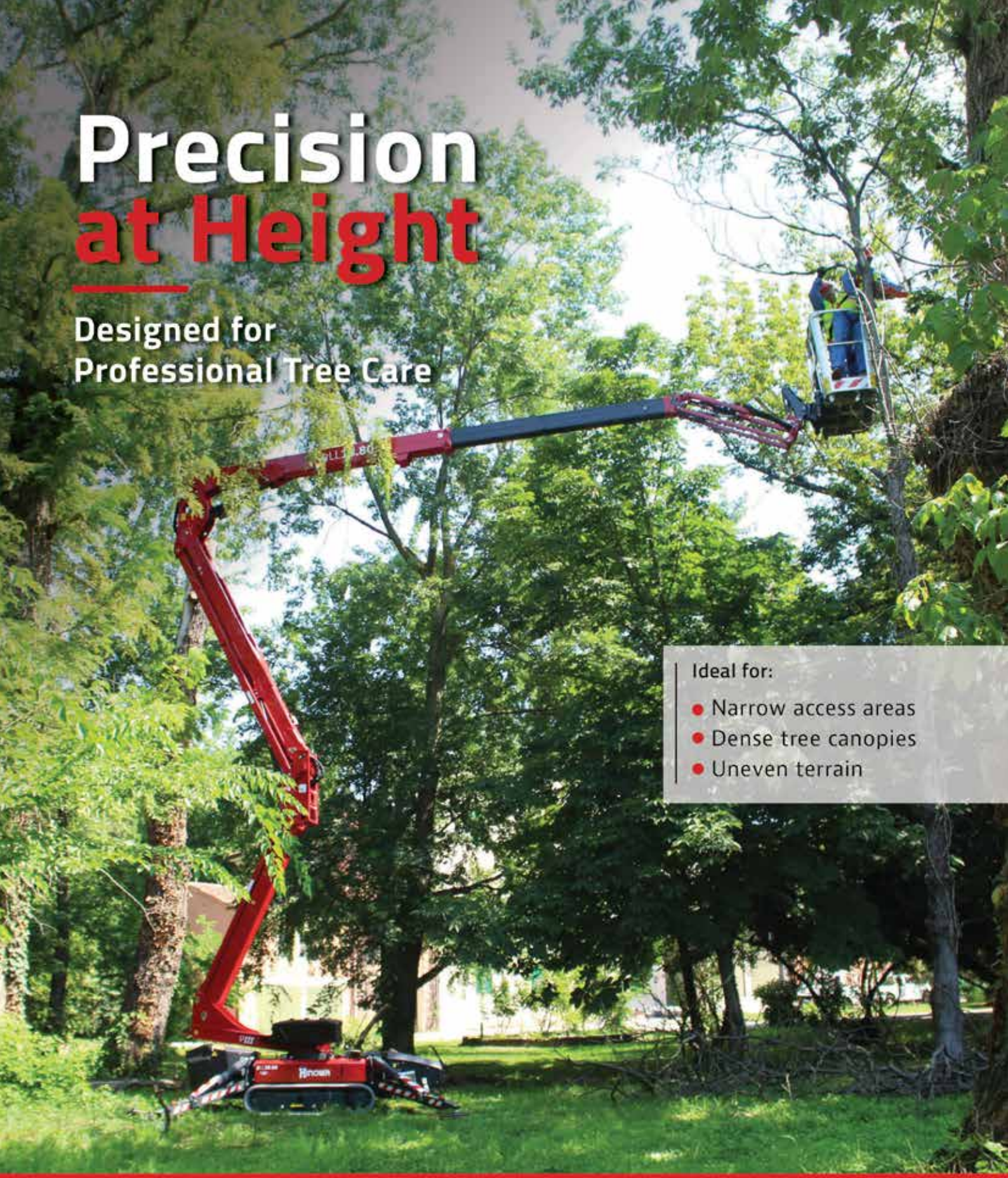
One of the first FS520Cs was purchased for the maintenance at 379 metre high Petronas twin towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The big Falcons - available in wheeled or tracked versions - were primarily aimed at high atrium cleaning and maintenance work in airports, shopping malls and luxury hotels, often because the architect had not provided a solution to change, clean or maintain high level lighting or glazing. The Petronas tower lift's main purpose was to clean the inside of its glass dome. The FS520C was based on the company's 42 metre model and included its dual trunnion mounted tracked undercarriage and tri-power pack - AC Electric, DC battery and diesel.



The Falcon FS520C outside the Petronas twin towers

Falck Schmidt followed a slightly different design philosophy than Teupen, based on its experience in atrium applications. Its models were designed to pass through standard single or double doorways for indoor applications and were available on wheels or tracks.

In the following years family owned Falck Schmidt



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Hinowa



The 52m Falcon followed the same design philosophy as this 37 metre Falcon

was passed on to a number of new owners, and rebranded as Worldlift, Skako and after a 2011 MBO, TCA Lift - Tall Compact Aerial Lift. In 2018 it changed to Falcon Lifts, matching the name of the spider lift's brand which has remained a constant throughout. In late 2024 Falcon Lifts ran into financial problems filing for protection from its creditors having struggled to service its debt load. However, a quick financial restructure meant that the company re-opened its doors in February 2025.

LARGER PALAZZANIS

Palazzani launched its first spider lift in 1986, a machine that looked suspiciously like a Falck-Schmidt. But it was quite a surprise when it launched the 52 metre Ragno XTJ52 at Bauma 2013 joining the Falcon FS520 as the largest spider lift in the world. Palazzani updated the lift to the XTJ 52+ in 2014 and also introduced the fully electric Eco version at last year's Bauma.

The XTJ 52+ has a working height of 52 metres, a maximum outreach of 19.5 metres with 120kg in the platform, the overall length is 8.9 metres when stowed and it weighs 14.98 tonnes. It is available on tracks or wheels with diesel or electric power. The main features of the 52 metre lift are its compact dimensions and relatively light weight.



Palazzani updated the lift to the XTJ 52+ in 2014

Palazzani had shown the prototype 58 metre TTZJ 58 at Bauma 2022 with 20 metres outreach and overall weight of 17 tonnes, but so far only a few have been delivered and because of some design issues the model is currently going through a complete revamp.

For more than a decade no other manufacturer entered the large spider lift market until Platform Basket launched its 54 metre Spider 54T in 2023. The lift has a 54.1 metre working height and a 20 metre outreach with 136kg in the platform. The overall length is 9.55 metres with seven metres working footprint, however it weighs a massive 23 tonnes!

It would seem from the comparison that we must have become used to bigger machines, because while it appeared very physically large at the time, the Teupen Leo 50GT - admittedly having a slightly lower working height - has a very competitive specification even today. At 13,500kg it is still the lightest of the four as well as being the shortest and lowest. Its outrigger footprint is slightly larger but not massively so.

The standout specification is the 23,000kg weight of the Platform Basket 54T - 10 tonnes heavier than the others. It does have the highest working height, best outreach/capacity combination and equal best maximum capacity, but physically it is the largest of the four.

TEUPEN CHANGES

Teupen as a company has also gone through various changes over the years and since April 2024 has been part of the American truck crane and bucket truck manufacturer Altec. Today its spider lift range is topped by the 38.6 metre Leo39GTplus which has up to 23.3 metres of outreach, is 7.85 metres long with platform, 1.99 metres wide and weighs 8,750kg.

With a view to being able to be towed - i.e. maximum lift and trailer combination of 3.5 tonnes - the largest models in its range weighing less than 3,000kg are the 24 metre Leo24T and Leo24GT. The GT has 12.8 metres outreach and is 6.45 metres long, 890mm wide and weighs 2,990kg. Power is either diesel or 230V electric motor.



The Teupen Leo24GT replaces the Leo23GT

The Leo24GT has replaced the Leo23GT - the very last of which was exhibited and then sold at the APF Forestry event at the end of September. The 24GT is probably the biggest spider lift that can be towed within the 3.5 tonne weight limit - other manufacturers such as Hinowa, CMC, Platform Basket, Leguan etc have lifts around the 20 to 23 metres.

How the newer Palazzani and Platform Basket compare with the older Teupen and Falcon FS520

	Teupen Leo 50GT	Palazzani XTJ52+	Falcon FS520	Platform Basket 54T
Working height	50m	52m	52m	54.1m
Outreach	20m	19.5m	17.5m	20m
Cap a max outreach	80kg	120kg	100kg	136kg
Max capacity	200kg/17.1m (400kg - GTX)	400kg	200kg/16.5m	400kg
Weight	13,500kg	13,800kg	13,500kg	23,000kg
Length	8.45m	8.9m	9.25m	9.55m
Width	1.58m	1.45m	1.2m	1.75m
Height	1.98m	2.54m	2.1m	2.45m
Outrigger footprint	7.6 x 5.65m	6.46 x 5.17m	5.5 x 4.75m	6.93 x 5.43m

54T IN SCOTLAND

Large spider lifts initially found a niche with transmission line work, a good example occurred this summer in Scotland, when SP Energy Networks Transmission Operations rented a new 54 metre Platform Basket 54T from Paramount Platforms to repair a damaged transmission line in Lockerbie.

The job involved the repair of a broken aluminium strand on a transmission tower. According to the contractor, reaching the cable was the main challenge because the site was located well away from access roads and across ground that would have been problematic for conventional equipment.

The 54T was able to reach the remote site without the need for trackway or temporary roadway. Once in position, the repair team were able to elevate the platform to the perfect height for the repair.

The operation was completed within a few hours, reducing site disruption and the duration of network restrictions. The lift's eight section main boom is topped by a four section articulating jib giving a maximum outreach of 15 metres at an up & over height of 44 metres.



ACQUISITIONS, NEW MANUFACTURERS AND MODELS

As the spider lift market has matured there has been a flurry of activity from new companies looking to benefit from the expanding market. The vast majority of spider lift manufacturers are based in Italy - Hinowa, Palazzani, Platform Basket, Oil&Steel, Bluelift, CMC, CTE, Cela, Easy Lift, Imer and Multitel to name a few. But with a lot of private equity buyers in Italy several acquisitions have occurred this year.

Activity started in May when Italian truck mounted and spider lift manufacturer Multitel Pagliero acquired a majority stake in Palazzani which will continue to operate independently under its own name. The deal was formally completed in September with former chief



Multitel acquired a majority stake in Palazzani - (L-R) Anna Pagliero, Paola Palazzani, Renzo Pagliero, Fabio Pagliero, Francesco Zola and Fabio Pagliero



executive Paola Palazzani also announcing her departure from the business her grandfather founded and her father made famous for its large spider lifts.


A Hinowa 20.10

The two companies have worked together since 2008, leading to the launch in 2009 of the 17 metre Multitel SMX 170/Palazzani TZX 170 spider lift, which combined a Multitel superstructure with a Palazzani undercarriage. The move was a success, and the range expanded over the years, making Multitel a significant player in the spider lift market, while providing Palazzani with a line of smaller articulated models. In many respects this deal mirrors what happened with Hinowa, which was acquired by JLG in late 2022 following a 12 year partnership.

ALMAC ACQUIRES EASY LIFT

In July tracked aerial lift and spider crane manufacturer Almac acquired spider lift manufacturer Easy Lift in an all-share purchase deal supported by its owner, private equity firm Wise Equity, which acquired a majority stake in Almac in 2022. Wise Equity had made no secret about wanting to expand Almac through acquisitions as well as organically.

Easy Lift founders and senior managers Michele and Emanuele Sorianini remain with the company in their current roles and join the Almac board of directors. The company continues to operate as a separate business within the new 'group' and retains its own sales and distribution network.


The four new Almac models

Barely a month after the acquisition Almac unveiled its own line of spider lifts, almost certainly based on the Easy Lift products. The BA Line includes four models with working heights of 15, 18, 21, and 24 metres, which apart from the B1890 - which has a long single riser - include dual risers, two or three section telescopic booms and articulating jibs.

Automatic outrigger set up and levelling is standard and power options include diesel, petrol, bi-energy/hybrid and battery electric. The smallest in the range is the 15 metre B1570-A which has an outreach of 6.8


The top of the line - the 23.5m Almac B2490-A

metres with its maximum platform capacity of 230kg, at an up & over height of 6.2 metres. Overall width is 830mm and it weighs 2,000kg.

The 17.6 metre B1890-A has up to 8.5 metres outreach at an up & over height of 5.3 metres with 120kg of its 200kg maximum capacity in the basket. Overall width is 855mm and total weight 2,330kg.

The B2190-A has a maximum working height of 20.4 metres and 9.8 metres of outreach at an up & over height of 8.8 metres with its

maximum platform capacity of 220kg. Overall width is 855mm and total weight 2,890kg.

Finally, the largest unit is the B2490-A, with a maximum working height of 23.5 metres and 11.5 metres of outreach with its maximum platform capacity of 230kg at an up & over height of 11 metres. Overall weight is 3,250kg, while the overall stowed width is 990mm.

NEW LOOK FOR EASY LIFT

Eas Lift - celebrating its 20th anniversary this year - also revealed new corporate colours of orange, white and black to create what the company describes as "a more modern, distinctive and



The R180 in the new Easy Lift livery

dynamic look". The new livery will be introduced gradually from November.

IMER'S NEW 30M SPIDER

In June Italian manufacturer Imer showed a pre-production version of the 30 metre IM R 30 DT articulated spider lift, having displayed a prototype in 2025. It features a four section telescopic riser/lower boom and a three section upper boom, topped by an articulating jib for a maximum working height of 29.8 metres. Outreach is 15.5 metres with 140kg in the platform reducing to 12.5 metres with its 300kg maximum capacity. It also has a below ground reach of six metres and weighs 4,995kg. Overall width is 890mm or 1.4 metres with tracks extended, and it is 6.2 metres long with a stowed height of just under two metres. Standard outrigger footprint is 5.1 x 4.5 metres.

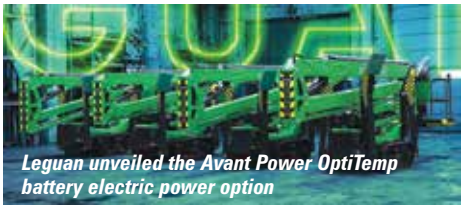
Imer is also set to launch an updated and upgraded version of its 23 metre spider lift with up to 12 metres of outreach with 140kg, or 10.6 metres with the maximum platform capacity of 230 kg.



The 30m Imer IM R 30 DT

LEGUAN'S ELECTRIC SPIDERS

After launching its largest spider lift - the 26.5 metre 265 - last year, Finnish manufacturer Leguan Lifts unveiled the Avant Power OptiTemp battery electric power option for all of its models, including the 17 metre 170, 20 metre 195, 22.5 metre 225 and 26.5 metre 265. Designed and built in Finland it uses liquid-immersion cooling to keep the battery pack at the correct temperature with the electric system developed as a complete,



Leguan unveiled the Avant Power OptiTemp battery electric power option

integrated package. The company says it can work a full day on one charge, with performance comparable to diesel versions with the same user interface.

The company adds: "Many hybrid options combine a combustion engine with a small battery pack, offering only limited battery capacity and compromising performance compared with diesel powered spider lifts. The OptiTemp-powered lifts, by contrast, are fully electric delivering a full day of operation on a single charge and, in many applications several days without recharging, all the while maintaining the same speeds and power as the diesel models."

TEREX SPIDER LIFTS

At the end of last year Terex Utilities launched its first spider lift, the 21 metre SL5 under its Green-Tec brand which covers tree care and related products. The new SL5 has a single riser, three section telescopic boom and jib with 90 degrees of articulation. Maximum outreach is 9.9 metres, with the unrestricted maximum platform capacity of 230kg at an up & over height of 6.5 metres. Overall weight is 2,850kg, overall stowed width 830mm, extending to 1.1 metres on site, while the overall length is five metres with an overall height of just under two metres. Power comes from a Kubota diesel. The new machine will be the first in a range of spider lifts with working heights of up to 30 metres and will also include the SL6 and SL7, all with overall widths of 890mm or less, plus rubber tracks, variable outrigger settings and auto levelling.



The Terex Green-Tec SL5

THE BADGING ROUTE

This move by Terex Utilties is logical in that spider lifts in the tree care sector and work around power line routings are big business in North America. We understand the platform is a version of the Easy Lift R210, but with a reduced outreach and higher platform capacities.

Badging products is always an interesting move, and it will be fascinating to see how this develops. Will Terex develop its own products, or if sales pick up will it follow Altec - which took over Teupen - and attempt to acquire another manufacturer?

SINOBOOM

Chinese manufacturer Sinoboom originally 'dipped its toe' in the spider lift market with its own manufactured machines. However, the company quickly realised that spider lifts is a highly specialised market and required a different approach, deciding that a partnership with Falcon Lift was a better way to go. It confirmee the partnership at Bauma 2022 following a trial period, with Falcon supplying the Chinese company with some of its larger lifts with Sinoboom branding for sale outside of Denmark and North America. The partnership came to an end when Falcon Lifts entered administration at the end of 2024 due cash flow issues related to economic slowdowns and payment terms on its Sinoboom deal.

Sinoboom then launched its own 27 metre SPA27J and battery powered SPA27EJ last summer. Features include a three section telescopic riser/lower boom which elevates almost to the vertical, topped by a three section upper boom and an articulating jib. The maximum outreach of 14.5 metres is available at an up & over height of 13.5 metres with 120kg in the basket, or just over 12 metres with the maximum platform capacity of 230kg, both with the wider outrigger width of 4.7 metres. Outreach with the 2.97 metre 'narrow footprint' is 11 and nine metres respectively. The unit can level on slopes of up to 10 degrees with up to 500mm of outrigger lift. Power comes from a Kubota diesel with a plug-in AC motor when working indoors. A lithium battery powered SPA27EJ is also available.



The battery powered Sinoboom SPA27EJ

The overall width is 900mm, extending out and down to 1.14 metres, overall length 5.8 metres, or 4.95 metres with platform removed and overall height 1.99 metres, rising to 2.11 metres when the tracks are extended. Total weight is 3.9 tonnes for the diesel and 4.5 tonnes for the SPA27EJ. The units can be ordered for delivery anywhere outside of the USA, mainland Europe and Australia.

OTHER CHINESE ENTRANTS

Chinese manufacturers are now beginning to manufacture spider lifts as volumes grow. Dingli does it through strategic partnerships and distribution channels, while Zoomlion, Goman, Inslift Technology and Lemax all produce their own spider lifts.

Visitors to Vertikal Days will have seen both spider and trailer lifts from Lemax. The company

produces five spider lifts - the LT8S to the LT16S - with working heights from 10 to 17.7 metres as well as a range of boom and scissor lifts. The spider lifts have outreaches from five to 8.1 metres and weigh between 1,720kg and 2,200kg. Machine widths are 750mm and 850mm for the two largest. All have a 200kg platform capacity. Power options include diesel, battery electric and hybrid systems.



Lemax LT14S at Vertikal Days

Inslift spiders - manufactured by Jiangsu Inslift Technology - has a five ES series model line-up using dual telescopic booms. The ES range includes the 19 metre ES190, 22 metre ES220, 24.5 metre ES250 weighing 3,380kg and the 28 metre ES280 with 350kg capacity. The most recent addition is the ES300 - a 30 metre spider with a 14.8 metre maximum outreach and 230kg maximum capacity.

Zoomlion produced its first spider lift, the 27 metre twin telescopic boom ZX27AE with lithium ion battery power in 2023. It features a three section lower telescopic boom, with an over centre linkage to a three section top boom and articulating jib. Maximum outreach is 14.2 metres at an up & over height of 12.7 metres with 120kg



The 30m Inslift ES300 hybrid tops out its five model spider lift line up



The 27 metre Zoomlion ZX27AE



The recently launched 30 metre RE-Lift RE30HY

in the platform, while the unrestricted platform capacity is 230kg.

Overall stowed width is 890mm, with an overall length of 5.7 metres with the platform removed and an overall height of just over two metres, the widest outrigger spread configuration is 4.48 metres, while auto level is standard. Total weight is 4,650kg.

And finally, Indian access rental company **RentEase** has just launched equipment manufacturing and sales brand, RE, taking it beyond its existing rental, service and training activities into equipment design, manufacturing, sales, parts supply and distribution. Two ranges have been announced so far, RE-Lift for powered access and work at height equipment and RE-Move for material handling, with more to follow. Details on machines is scarce but one of the first machines to be showcased was the new 30 metre working height RE30HY spider lift with 15 metres of reach. ■







VERTIKAL DAYS 2026 – THE BIGGEST AND BEST YET?

This year's Vertikal Days was the largest and probably the best since it started at Haydock Park in 2007. The show returned for a third time to Newark Showground in Nottinghamshire and once again featured a slightly rejigged layout to accommodate the growing number of exhibitors and brands which included 30 new exhibitors, many in the enlarged Marketplace Pavilion. All in, more than 300 brands and manufacturers were represented making it the largest dedicated lifting equipment event in Europe this year.

The good weather helped bolster the record number of visitors which almost reached 3,000 with a particularly busy first day on the Wednesday. Comments from exhibitors and visitors were very positive both of the show and the equipment which included many new product launches.

Nick Johnson spent the two show days covering many of the new and interesting products. Here is his review…

BIG OSPREY WELCOME

Visitors entering this year's Vertikal Days had a big welcome as they passed the largest crane at the show parked outside the main entrance. The Osprey Heavy Lift team had brought along an 800 tonne, nine axle Liebherr LTM1750-9.1 All Terrain which joined the Osprey fleet at the beginning of this year. On its stand inside the showground, it exhibited one of its six axle Scheuerle M93 SMPTs (self-propelled modular transporters) together with a Scheuerle 2390 power pack. The company used the Liebherr LTM1750-9.1 together with SMPTs and heavy duty jacking system just prior to Vertikal Days at London Stansted Airport to remove a skybridge.



Osprey's big Liebherr LTM1750-9.1 greeted visitors to Vertikal Days 2026



The new Niftylift HR10NE electric boomlift inside the special enclosed 'reveal area'

NIFTYLIFT WORLD DEBUT

Niftylift staged three world debuts at the show, the new all electric HR10 self-propelled boom lift in both low weight HR10LE and narrow width HR10NE versions displayed in a special enclosed viewing area. Both HR10 units feature a 10 metre

working height, 4.3 metres of outreach with a 1.2 metre by 850mm platform. Overall stowed height is 1.98 metres. The 1.8 metre wide HR10LE weighs 1,600kg with the narrower - 1.5 metre - HR10NE weighing 1,950kg.

The other Niftylift launches included a Hydrogen-Electric option for the HR21E - the HR21 H2E - and a diesel-electric option for the HR22SE - designated the HR22SDE. Both options are available as retrofits.

HYBRID TADANO AT

A highlight on the Tadano stand was the company's new 70 tonne AC 4.070HL-1 Hybrid four axle All Terrain. Whilst the carrier has a Mercedes diesel, the superstructure is powered by a Danfoss electric motor supplied by an 800 volt/70kWh battery pack. The carrier engine includes a 50kW generator to top up the battery pack when travelling. The AC 4.070HL-1 is built at Tadano's plant in Lauf and the first unit in the UK has been purchased by Bronzeshield Crane Hire.



Bronzeshield's name was on the first Tadano AC 4.070HL-1 Hybrid in the UK

BIG TRACKED CARRIER

On its new products stand near to the entrance, GGR launched the new 40 tonne capacity tracked carrier for moving heavy loads across constrained or uneven job sites. The Croco40 carries up to four times its own weight and is equipped with a Deutz Stage V engine and a hydrostatic transmission. The Scanreco radio remote controlled carrier is 6.25 metres long with an overall width of 2.46 metres. The platform height adjusts from 1.1 to 1.34 metres whilst providing longitudinal levelling of up to eight degrees and lateral levelling of up to five degrees. The company also launched the new 50 tonne Ganterud L50 HD Levelling Yoke, which can turn, balance and positioning large, awkward or uneven loads.



Prominent on the GGR stand was this large 40 tonne capacity tracked carrier



FULLY ELECTRIC KLASS

Kranlyft used Vertikal Days to launch the new nine tonne fully electric Klass K2500E aluminium truck crane. Mounted on a Volvo FMX 6x2 rear steer truck, the K2500E is powered by lithium iron phosphate (LFB) batteries. When using its folding telescopic extension, the K2350E can lift a tonne at a 35 metre radius. A clever feature of the crane is that its easily deployed two fall hook (for lifting loads up to nine tonnes) is kept fully reeved under the main boom nose.

The first two K2350Es in the UK have been purchased by Lee Lifting and MEB Crane Hire, on a four axle Volvo Trident and a three axle Volvo FMX trucks.



MEB Crane Hire's Klass K2350E truck crane

SMART ANCHOR DEVICE

Visitors to the JCB stand discovered a functioning prototype of the company's new Smart Anchor system for its boom lifts. The clever arrangement was shown fitted to the platform of a 60ft A60EH boom lift. The Smart Anchor latch mechanism detects whether the operator's harness lanyard has been properly connected to a special anchor point. The machine is isolated until a proper connection is made and an LED indication light is illuminated.



The JCB Smart Anchor system shows whether an operator's harness lanyard is properly secured

Adjacent exhibitor Xenith Heights provided one of its Aresta Harnesses to help display the Smart Anchor system in action. JCB also revealed that it will add two other options - a Tool Caddy and a Mesh Guard.

IMPRESSIVE LIEBHERR LINE-UP

Liebherr exhibited the UK's first 90 tonne four axle LTM1090-4.3 complete with a 60 metre main boom and the LICCON3 control system. It was handed over to Wire Cranes & Lifting of Warrington.

The largest All Terrain on the Liebherr stand was a 450 tonne eight axle LTM1450-8.1 for RRC Crane



Largest crane in the Liebherr line-up was the 450 tonne LTM1450-8.1

Hire. It was flanked by a 120 tonne LTM1120-4.2 for Bob Francis Crane Hire, a 110 tonne LTM1110-5.2 for Ainscough (named Brendan), a 55 tonne LTM1055-3.3 for Marsden Crane Services, a 50 tonne LTC1050-3.1 for McGovern Crane Hire and a 40 tonne LTM1040-2.1 for Dewsbury & Proud.

The Marsden LTM1055-3.3 is the first of this model to be delivered in the UK and will run with 14 tonne axle loads. The first LTM1055-3.3 in Scotland has gone to Stoddard Crane Hire which will take advantage of its nine tonne per axle configuration when moving the crane by ferry for work on the islands.

PERCHED ON PORTAL

The most prominent exhibit on the Wolffkran stand was a Wolff 235B luffing jib tower crane installed on the Wolff City Portal CP690 which provides a clearance of up to 4.5 metres below to allow vehicles to pass under the crane on sites with restricted space and access.

The blue coloured Wolff 235B on display is part of a six crane order from Mayo Civils of Manchester. The other cranes included two 166Bs, another 235B, one 275B and a 355B.



The 235B luffer on the City Portal CP690

PRODUCTION GROVE HYBRID

Having shown a prototype at Vertikal Days last year, Manitowoc exhibited a production version of the new 150 tonne Grove GMK5150XLe Plug-In Hybrid. Its 160kWh battery system reduces emissions and noise, while its integrated 170kW generator provides on-the-move recharging. The crane on the stand, the first of its type in the UK, has been sold to Bryn Thomas Cranes. A more conventional four axle 90 tonne Grove GMK4090-1 All Terrain was also on display in the colours of Leach Structural Steelwork.



The new Grove GMK5150XLe Plug-In Hybrid in Bryn Thomas Cranes livery

ZOOMLION 360

Chinese manufacturer Zoomlion indicated plans to expand its product range in the UK with scale models of its tower cranes, passenger/material hoists as well as crawler and All Terrain cranes. In China, Zoomlion has produced mega sized tower cranes for bridge building, and it plans to introduce more conventional sized flat top and luffing jib models here in the not too distant future.

Zoomlion is already busy promoting its telehandler range with four models on display at Vertikal Days. These included the fixed frame ZTH2606, ZTH3513 and ZTH4014 together with the 360 degree ZTH4525R, making its UK debut. Powered by a Cummins diesel, the ZTH4525R has a maximum lift height of 24.8 metres and a maximum capacity of 4,500kg.



This 24.8m ZTH4525R is the larger of Zoomlion's two rotary telehandlers

THREE NEW HOEFLONS

Hoeflon introduced two new spider cranes, and a battery powered four tonne tracked carrier - the TC4 - with extendable tracks. Overall weight is 1,000kg and it can be fitted with a rotating platform. The new Hoeflon C30eL spider crane has a maximum capacity of seven tonnes and features a five section main boom with an articulating three section telescopic extension. Pick & carry capability is three tonnes. The smaller C10e Gen 3 spider crane has a maximum capacity of four tonnes and maximum lift height of 22 metres. It can pick & carry 750kg.



Hoeflon showed this new TC4 tracked carrier and new spider cranes

NEW XCMG ALL TERRAIN

XCMG used Vertikal Days for the UK launch of its 60 tonne XCA60G6-1E All Terrain. This follows the appearance of a hybrid version at last year's show. Powered by a Mercedes diesel the three axle XCA60G6-1E has a 50 metre six section main boom topped by a 16 metre extension with up to 30 degrees of offset.

XCMG also exhibited two telehandlers - the 4.000kg/13.57 metre XT4014KH powered by a Deutz diesel, and the new battery powered compact 2,500kg/5.85 metre XT2506E.



XCMG's diesel engined 60 tonne capacity XCA60G6-1E All Terrain crane

LONGER BOOM KOBELCO

A new long boom version of Kobelco's 75 tonne TKE750G telescopic crawler crane was launched at Vertikal Days. Fitted with a 35 metre boom the newcomer is designated the TKE750GLB. The display unit is one of two sold to BPH Equipment. The established TKE750G with its 30.1 metre boom will continue to be available.



The new Kobelco TKE750LB was sold to BPH Equipment

XCA80G7-1E

ALL TERRAIN CRANE

80 t
MAX LIFTING CAPACITY

60 m
MAIN BOOM

75 m
MAX LIFTING HEIGHT



XGA17ACN

ARTICULATED BOOM LIFT
ELECTRIC

17.1 m
WORKING HEIGHT

1.5 m
WIDE

230 kg
PLATFORM CAPACITY

48 V / 400 Ah
BATTERY ON BOARD



XCMG | SOLID TO SUCCEED

DISCOVER MORE AT XCMG UK



World launch for the new LGMG SP03007 push around scissor lift

LGMG NEWCOMERS

On a larger stand opposite the entrance, LGMG hosted the global launch of the SP03007 push around scissor lift. Weighing around 400kg it offers a maximum working height of 4.95 metres. First UK customer is Omnia Access.

Also on the stand was the new 33ft S1008E-2 narrow electric scissor lift with a 12 metre working height indoors and nine metres outdoors, as well as the H933 and H625E telescopic handlers. LGMG also exhibited its new 4x4 2.5 tonne F25 Rough Terrain forklift with Kubota power and a maximum lift height of 3.4 metres.

LATEST NAVIGATOR LIFT

UK based Navigator exhibited its brand new Ranger vertical lift platform. Slotting in between the existing Scout and Explorer models, the Ranger weighs 320kg, is 780mm wide, has 150kg platform capacity and maximum working height of 4.2 metres. The company will launch a new self-propelled mast lift in January, called the Pioneer.



The new Navigator Ranger slots in between the Scout and Explorer models

NEW CTE COLOURS

CTE unveiled its striking new silver and black corporate livery, the shift from the previous blue and white branding was highlighted by a 'Dark Tour' Batman logo on the company's brand new VJ15 van mounted platform on an Iveco Daily 3.5 tonne high roof panel van. The VJ15 provides a maximum working height of 14.4 metres and an outreach of up to 8.5 metres. Platform capacity is 225kg.


The new Bravi Residential 170

BRAVI RESIDENTIAL

Making its UK debut was Bravi's new Residential 170 self-propelled vertical mast lift. With a maximum working height of 3.7 metres and a platform capacity of 180kg, this model weighs in at 360kg. Stowed height is 1.75 metres and overall width 667mm. Powered by AGM batteries, a lever enables the drive to be disconnected so it can be pushed around.

UK DEBUT FOR MAKSAN LIFT

Turkish company Maksan Lift displayed examples of its mastclimbing work platforms and passenger/materials hoist. The company is an IPAF member and has an IPAF training centre.

The mastclimber on the stand was the twin mast MKS Spider 30 with a 3,000kg platform capacity and a maximum height of 350 metres. Also on show was the 2,000kg capacity MKS Acrobat 2000 transport platforms. The company makes passenger/materials hoists with capacities up to 5,000kg.


The Maksan Lift MKS Spider 30 (left) and the MKS Acrobat 2000 hoist cage


CTE revealed its new silver and black livery on its Dark Tour VJ15 van mount

ELECTRIC MARCHETTI CRAWLER

AGD Equipment exhibited the new 25 tonne Marchetti CW 25.35HY fully electric telescopic crawler crane. Now in production in Italy, it features a 25.5 metre main boom and an offsetable 3.6 to 8.1 metre extension. The crane has a 110kW electric motor and is powered by lithium batteries with an onboard charger.

Marchetti is developing a second electric crane - the 15 tonne Trio 0E compact City type All Terrain.


Marchetti CW 25.35HY

NEW SKYJACK QUARTET

Prominent on the Skyjack stand were four new products. The 45ft SJ45AJN electric articulated boom lift has a 227kg platform capacity and a maximum working height of 15.72 metres. The new scissors included the SJ6940RTE 4x4 Rough Terrain and two new electric slab scissors - the SJ3219E and the SJ3232E - with maximum working heights of 7.65 and 11.63 metres respectively. The SJ6940RTE is an electric Rough Terrain machine providing a maximum working height of 14.19 metres.


Skyjack exhibited its new electric SJ45AJN boom lift


The first Elma CR30-HD tracked carriers in the UK have been sold to Clearview

ELMA TRACKED CARRIER

Promax Access introduced the new CR30-HD tracked carrier from Elma in Italy. This radio controlled, lithium battery powered machine weighs 690kg and has a maximum capacity of 3,000kg. It can be fitted with a fixed or rotating platform and can negotiate maximum gradients of 40 degrees longitudinally and 30 degrees laterally.

SHOWCASING LEMAX LIFTS

Chinese manufacturer Lemax was looking for dealers. Its latest product is the 46ft LA14 articulated boom lift with maximum working height of 16 metres, up to 7.5 metres outreach and 230kg platform capacity. Also, on the stand was a 16 metre LT14 trailer mounted lift, the LT14S tracked spider lift, a 20ft LMO.1-6S mast lift and the company's battery powered glass handling robot.


Amongst the array of Lemax platforms on show was this LT14S tracked spider lift

LATEST DINGLI SCISSOR

Amongst all the bright orange Dingli platforms on show was the new 26ft 4x4 JCPT1015HRT scissor lift. Its blue doors indicated hybrid power that combines a Kubota diesel with 48V battery pack. Maximum working height is 9.9 metres, with 300kg platform capacity.


New on the Dingli stand was this 4WD JCPT1015HRT hybrid scissor lift

NEW V-RANGE VERSALIFTS

Versalift showcased the new VA-200-F vehicle mounted platform - the first articulated model in its V-Range. Mounted on a 3.5 tonne Mercedes Sprinter, the VA-200-F offers a 20 metre working height, up 10.4 metres outreach and platform capacity of 250kg. The show unit was destined for PG Platforms.


Versalift's new VA-200-F truck mounted platform sold to PG Platforms

TWO NEW NOBLELIFTS

Two Noblelift micro electric scissors made their UK premiere - the 12ft SC06E and 15ft SC07E with working heights of 5.7 and 6.7 metres respectively and maximum platform capacities of 240kg. Overall weights are 990kg and 1,040kg.



Noblelift unveiled two new micro scissor lifts

ALDERCOTE ALTEC

An interesting exhibit on the Aldercote stand was an Altec AT37M insulated platform mounted on a short wheelbase Volvo FL250 4x4 chassis. The AT37M has a maximum working height of around 13 metres. Aldercote also showed its recently launched 14.1 metre VZ140 jackless van-mounted lift installed on a Ford Transit with a 500kg cargo payload.


The Altec AT37M platform on a short wheelbase 4x4 Volvo truck

NEW TRACKED OMEGA SCISSOR

Alfa Access, the dealer for the Dutch platform manufacturer Omega Solutions, showed a 28ft 405TSE tracked scissor lift. Overall width is 1.6 metres, maximum platform capacity 500kg and maximum working height 10.5 metres. The machine weighs 4,820kg and can level five degrees side-to-side and three degrees front to back. This machine is battery powered but can be supplied with an optional hybrid power system with Yanmar diesel driving an integrated generator.


The 405TSE tracked scissor from Omega Solutions

LATEST LEGUAN

Finnish spider lift maker Leguan Lifts displayed its new OptiTemp battery powered Leguan 195 model. Providing a 19.5 metre working height with nine metres outreach with 250kg and 9.9 metres with 120kg in the platform. Total weight is 2,750kg. The battery pack utilises lithium ion batteries made by Avant Power and will be available in the first quarter of next year. Leguan also plans to introduce full electric options for its 170 to 265 models.


Leguan showed its electric 195 platform on a Fly 600 Spider trailer

INTERMEDIATE MULTITEL

Brand new on the Multitel stand was the 30 metre MZ300 truck mounted platform with 15.8 metres of outreach and 280kg platform capacity, mounted on a 7.2 tonne Iveco Daily 70-180 chassis. It fills a gap in the Multitel range between the MZ250 on a 3.5 tonne chassis and MZ350 on a 12 tonne chassis.


The new MZ300 was shown mounted on a 7.2 tonne Iveco Daily 70-180 chassis

Multitel is now distributing Palazzani spider lifts in the UK. As a result, an 18 metre TZJ 18 diesel spider was also on display.

DOUBLE SANY PRESENCE

On its own stand, Sany exhibited a 60 tonne SCE600TB telescopic crawler crane and a selection of its new telehandlers. The company's mobile cranes were displayed on the Crowland Cranes stand.

The biggest Sany All Terrain at the show was a 150 tonne, five axle SAC1500E supplied to AW Plant & Crane Hire. Alongside was a 60 tonne three axle SAC600E sold to Horizon Cranes.

Visitors could also check the all-new 13.6 tonne SCD150 industrial carry deck crane with a 16.6 metre main boom, sold to ExxonMobil's Fawley petrochemical complex. Also on show was a 45 tonne SRE450N Rough Terrain crane sold to National Gas Services.


All Terrain Sanys on the Crowland Cranes stand included this SAC600E sold to Horizon Cranes



A busy Marketplace

SMALLER JLG LIFT POD

The smallest platform on the JLG stand was the company's new Lift Pod 1.2. Designed for indoor work, this clever quick fold vertical lift platform is designed and made in Leicester. With a 120kg platform capacity and overall width of 770mm it weighs 180kg and provides a working height of 3.2 metres. It folds to a closed height of 1.6 metres (on castors). There is also a larger Lift Pod 1.5.


The JLG Lift Pod features a clever folding design and manual lift mechanism

HYRAX TRACKS IN

Dutch company Hyrax displayed the smallest of its four model self-levelling tracked boom lifts which have maximum working heights up to 16.1 metres. The smallest 35ft 27.12 Rebel has a maximum working height of 12.6 metres and 270kg platform capacity. Total weight is 2,750kg and power comes from a Kubota diesel with plug-in electric drive motor or a fully lithium battery powered electric option.



The Hyrax 27.12 Rebel tracked platform shows off its climbing ability



BIG MANITOU ORDER

The centre piece of the Manitou stand was the company's new 8,000kg/40 metre MRT4080 360 degree telehandler. Distinguished by a distinctive cab shape, the machine on show was one of a 10 unit order for specialist rental company GT Lifting Solutions.



One of the ten Manitou MRT4080 360 degree telehandlers bought by GT Lifting

TRAILER FOR ACCESS PLATFORMS

Andover Trailers launched its new SFMC44 heavy duty, tri-axle step frame trailer. Designed specifically for transporting aerial work platforms, the show unit was exhibited with two Sunbelt Sinoboom AB340J boom lifts on board. The SFMC44 sports BPW axles with rear lift, Powertoe rear ramps, a fully galvanised steel rib floor and a lifting neck ramp. The trailer can carry a 26 tonne payload and is rated at 44 tonnes gross.



Andover's new SFMC44 trailer was shown carrying two Sunbelt boom lifts



CM Labs Advantage simulator



Maxa Group in the Marketplace



Bronto Skylift's S38XDT truck mounted lift



JLG Power Towers with glass or material handling attachment



Sinoboom mast lift



A Montarent mobile self erector on the Ladybird Cranes stand



The Lemax stand



The largest boom at the show - the 265ft Zoomlion ZT82J with a 82m working height



On the Certex stand in the Marketplace



GGR showed the MC100 pick & carry crane



Keith Rhodes Machinery Installations showed two Landoll PT40's



Ladybird Cranes showed this remote controlled concrete pouring skip

ACCESS WITH ZOOMLION GREEN

bauma CHINA 2026

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ZOOMLION

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E-mail: aep@zoomlion.com Tel: +86 0731-88220971


The new Sany SCE600 TB telescopic crawler crane


XCMG XT2506E telehandler


An Ausa mini telehandler on a trailer


Part of the XCMG stand


The Lemax LT14S spider lift


The Universal Mats stand


Fall arrest equipment on Aresta stand


The Emovr tracked carriers are now distributed by Jekko UK


LGMG tracked scissor lift


The new Sany SCD 150 carry deck crane


JMG pick & carry crane

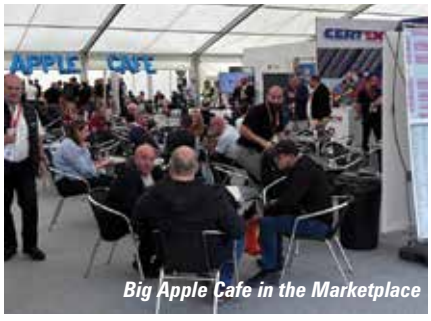

Stirling GP's stand featured two new trailers


The Axolift Pop-Up team L-R Phil McFadden, Wiktoria Bogdan, Eleonora Bernadi and Massimo Grossele


Vertikal Days cleaners



Alimats mats and pads



Big Apple Cafe in the Marketplace


The TVH stand

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- Spierings

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- Global Crane Services
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- DM Cranes Ltd.
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- Kavanagh Crane Hire Ltd.
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Liebherr LTM 1150-5.4E


Liebherr LTM 1150-5.4E


Liebherr LTM 1150-5.4


Liebherr LTM 1070-4.2


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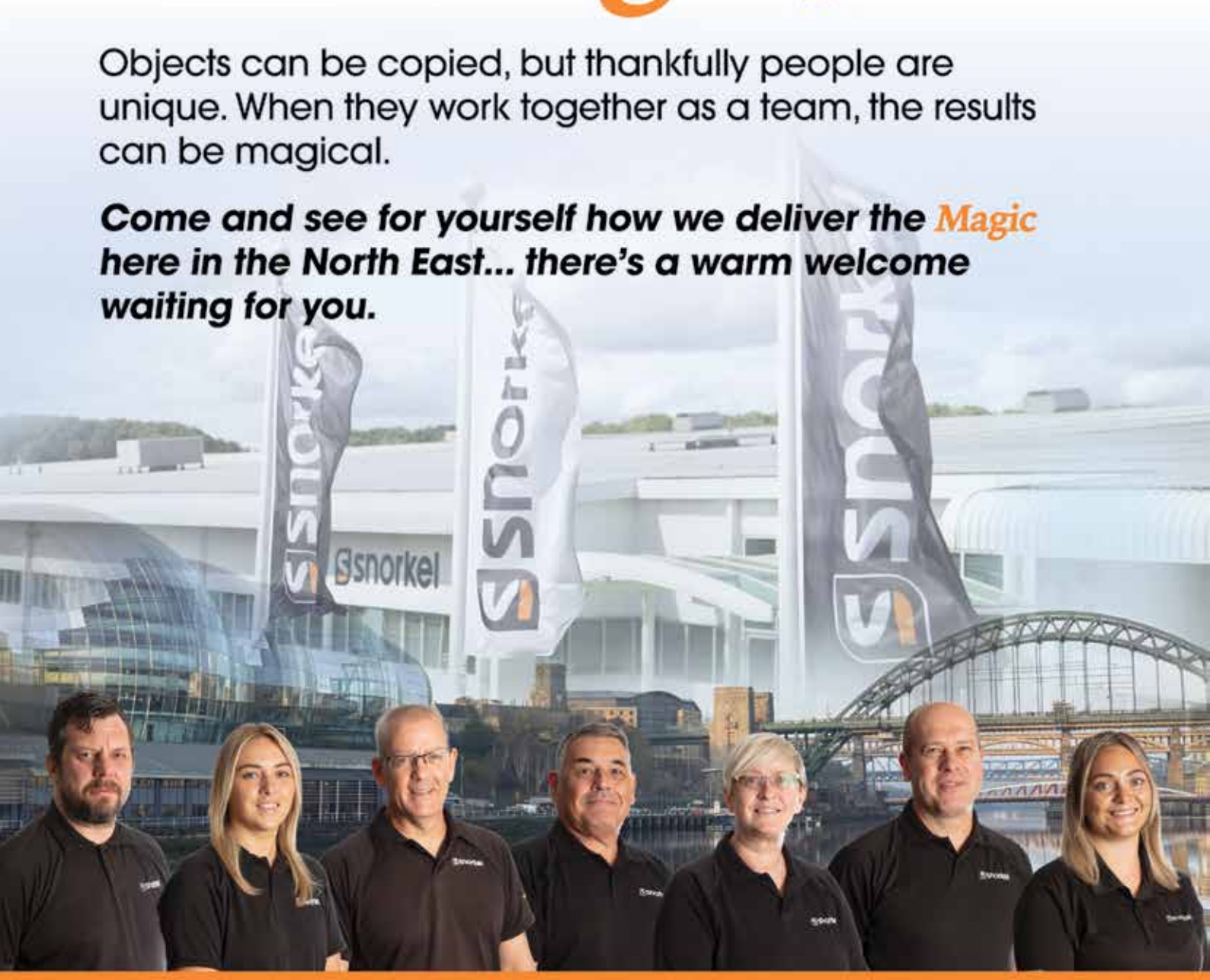
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ELECTROCUTION TOPS IPAF FATALITY DATA

IPAF has published its Global Safety Report 2026, which identifies electrocution and electric shock as the leading cause of fatal and major injury incidents involving aerial work platforms in 2025.

The federation logged 170 reports of fatal or major incidents last year, down 15 percent on the 201 received in 2024, with 76 fatalities, down 24 percent from 100. Reports came from 25 countries and involved 192 people, nine percent fewer than the previous year.

Electrocution and electric shock accounted for 28 of these reports from six countries, involving 20 deaths, with 71 percent of those reports coming from the United States. Falls from a work platform and overturns were the next most frequent causes.

The construction industry accounted for 37 percent of the reported incidents, followed by tree care and rental activity on 13 percent each. Self-propelled boom lifts - IPAF category 3b - were involved in 26 percent of incidents and self-propelled scissors/vertical lifts - category 3a - in 25 percent.

Reports involving mast climbing work platforms and construction hoists tripled, with fatalities in that category rising from one to eight. Deaths attributed to being struck by a vehicle or machine rose 125 percent, while entrapment and overturn reports both fell by more than half.

Brian Parker, head of safety and technical said: "Every reported incident provides valuable learning, and the data highlights where our attention must remain firmly fixed - particularly around electrocutions, falls from the platform, overturns, and the emerging increase in incidents involving mast climbers and construction hoists."

The report draws on incidents submitted voluntarily to IPAF's global accident reporting portal between 2016 and 2025, so the figures reflect reported incidents rather than the total worldwide. It is available at http://www.ipaf.org/accident

PAINT SCHEME REACHES £10,000

IPAF's cancer charity, The Powered Access Industry Trust - PAINT - has raised more than £10,000 for cancer research since its launch last year.



The handover of the giant cheque during Vertikal Days - (L-R) Martin Wraith of IPAF, Bekah Anstey of Weston Park Cancer Charity and Giles Councell of IPAF

The initiative was set up in partnership with Weston Park Cancer Charity to raise money to fund research at the Weston Park Cancer Clinical Trials Centre in Sheffield, which gives patients access to new cancer treatments as part of its trials.

IPAF members can take part by nominating a machine in their fleet as a 'PAINT machine' and donating a proportion of its rental income. Companies can also contribute from other revenue, such as training income, or make a direct donation.

To learn more or get involved go to: http://ipafpaint.raiselysite.com

WORKING AT HEIGHT AWARDS SHORTLIST

IPAF has released the shortlist for its annual Working at Height Awards 2026, which will be presented on the 29th October in Orlando, Florida, following the Working at Height Conference earlier that day. Entries across six categories have been assessed by a panel of judges comprising Tom Smith of National Lift Truck, Matthew Eckstine of Eckstine, Cory Rohs of 3-E Safety Services, and Peter Douglas of IPAF.

The categories are:

Safety Innovation - Original Equipment Manufacturers/Suppliers

- DICA - LevelRight Adjustable Outrigger Pads
- Skyjack - LanyardGO
- The Franklin Safety Group - The Franklin Stabilizer Safety System
- Trackunit - IrisX platform

Safety and Culture Leadership Excellence - Rental

- National Lift Truck
- Sunbelt Rentals

Technology Innovation

- JLG - Visual Remote Assistant
- Kask America - Zenith X2 full brim
- Skyjack - Skyprotect & Skyprotect+
- Tracked Lifts (in collaboration with Platform Basket) - Platform Basket Spider 30.14
- United Rentals - United Rentals' Equipment Agent

New Product Award - Scissor Lifts

- Haulotte - 63ft Haulotte HS6395 E Pro
- JLG - JLG's micro scissor lifts
- MEC - 19ft Micro 19-XD+
- Skyjack - 32ft SJ3232 E electric drive scissor lift

New Product Award - Boom Lifts

- JLG - 60ft 600AJ+ and 86ft 860SJ+ boom lifts
- Manitou - 40m/8000kg MRT 4080 360 degree telehandler with man basket attachment
- Niftylift - 33ft SP34N self-propelled boom
- Skyjack - 45ft SJ45 AJN and SJ45 ARJN electric booms
- SOS Equipment (in collaboration with Multitel) - 27m MTE270EX truck mounted platform

New Product Award - Atrium/Compact Crawlers

- CMC North America - 27m CMC 90i
- Palazzani - 52m XTJ 170+ ECO
- Tracked Lifts - 30m Platform Basket Spider 30.14



Awards for last year's winners



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MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS REMINDER



ALLMI has issued a reminder that it will hold its annual meetings for all members of the association including manufacturers, importers, service companies, fleet owners, ancillary equipment suppliers and site operators, on the 10th of November at the British Motor Museum in Gaydon, Warwickshire.

The event will provide a networking opportunity for companies from across the lorry loader industry, facilitating discussions and debates on a range of key topics, while also providing updates on the numerous projects and initiatives being undertaken by the association throughout the past year as well as plans for the year ahead.

Speakers at the meetings will include business futurist and behavioural strategist, William Higham, whose clients include companies such as Amazon, HSBC, Vodafone and Walt Disney. He also appeared in the Netflix series 'The Future Of'. William has spent more than 20 years helping companies understand how changing attitudes, practices and expectations shape the future of business. His engaging and thought provoking talks explore emerging trends and, importantly, what they mean for organisations and their customers.

ALLMI chief executive, Tom Wakefield said: "Drawing on topical issues, William will provide delegates with valuable data driven insights into the future of buying behaviour, as well as the tools needed to navigate and adapt to a changing business landscape. We look forward to welcoming William, and his presentation promises to be a compelling addition to the day."

Delegates will also have access to the British Motor Museum, which celebrates the past, present and future of British motoring, as well as boasting the world's largest collection of historic British cars, with over 400 on display. They will also have the option of attending a guided tour which aims to bring the museum's extensive collection to life, revealing the stories, innovation and people behind Britain's motoring heritage, and providing fascinating details that might otherwise be missed.

Should you be interested in learning more about the forthcoming meetings, or for information on membership, please contact ALLMI.





William Higham

NEW 'SAFETY & COMPLIANCE AWARENESS' COURSE

ALLMI has launched its new 'Safety & Compliance Awareness' course. Designed for those receiving lorry loaders on site - as well as other personnel who have contact with lorry loader operations - the one day online course is purely attendance based (i.e. no assessments) and provides an overview of key safety and compliance requirements.

It is ideal for gatehouse staff, site and depot managers as well as health and safety professionals and many others. The training provides delegates with an appreciation of the standards, procedures and documentation that underpin good practice.

Ewan Robertson, operations director-accommodation at Sunbelt Rentals said: "We put several of our staff through this training during its trial phase. Whilst they had slightly different roles, they all needed an awareness of lorry loader operations, so this course was the perfect fit. It gave them a broad understanding of the pertinent issues regarding safety and compliance, ranging from contractual responsibilities, lift planning and thorough examinations, through to site procedures, pre-operational checks and audit trail, as well as many more."

Topics covered include:

- Contractual Basis of Lifts
- Lift Complexity
- Lift Plans
- Lifting Teams
- ALLMI ID Cards
- Reports of Thorough Examination
- Pre-Operational Checks
- Arrival on Site
- Briefings and Inductions
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Lift Plan Briefing
- Overhead Power Lines
- Slopes
- Stabiliser Forces
- Swing-up Stabilisers
- Stability Monitoring
- Safety Systems
- Wind Speed
- Safe Use of Remote Controls
- Security
- Further Safety Considerations



Opportunities for questions and discussion are provided throughout, allowing delegates to explore the topics covered in relation to their own roles and working environments.

Please note that this course is not designed for people undertaking lifting team roles.

To make a booking or for further information, please contact ALLMI.

For details of ALLMI standards, guidance documents and training, visit: **www.allmi.com**

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LEARNING AT VERTIKAL DAYS



Students from Lincoln Technical College attended Vertikal Days last month to explore lifting equipment and technology as part of the My Future My Choice initiative. With support from Liebherr apprentices, the students worked in teams to build their own working model cranes, learning how hydraulics play a part in their operation. To successfully complete the task, each team then had to use its crane to lift a small red ball into a bucket.

The students also received presentations from Liebherr representatives about the industry, followed by a guided tour of the show with stand personnel explaining the equipment on display and how it is used. They also had the opportunity to operate a real crane under close observation.



The students testing their own miniature cranes

PRISON SENTENCE FOR TELEHANDLER OPERATOR

A self-employed telehandler operator has received a suspended prison sentence after reversing over and killing a colleague in Cheshire, England.

Michael Nixon, 46, was operating a telehandler on a large construction site in Ince, Ellesmere Port, when he reversed into James Connolly, 49, who was working as a lift supervisor on the site and died from the injuries he sustained.

An investigation by the HSE found that the principal contractor had taken steps to reduce the need for reversing on site, including creating a turning circle that was clear at the time of the incident. Despite this, Nixon - a fully qualified operator - chose to reverse without a banksman. He had also been using his mobile phone while carrying out the manoeuvre.



James Connolly

Nixon pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 12 weeks in prison, suspended for 12 months, fined £800, and ordered to pay £2,000 in costs.

HSE inspector Laura Royales said: "Workplace transport incidents remain one of the biggest causes of workplace deaths, drivers must follow site rules rather than cut corners."

RISKY ROOF WORK COSTS £17K

UK contractor B&O Developers and its director Sanjay Swaminarayan were prosecuted after the HSE was alerted by members of the public to unsafe roof work during a refurbishment job on a hotel construction in Kings Cross, London, UK in 2024. Photos showed no fall protection or safe access, while some of those on the roof were using a makeshift platform balanced on a stepladder.

The HSE found no controls were in place to stop those working on the roof from falling on at least two dates, despite scaffolding and other measures being identified as necessary in the subcontractor's own risk assessment.

The HSE had previously responded to several public alerts between 2021 and late 2023 taking enforcement action, while also meeting Swaminarayan to discuss improving management, and yet nothing changed. B&O Developers was fined £5,628, while Swaminarayan was fined £3,408 and ordered to pay £8,000 in costs.



WHO TRAINED HIM THEN?

Sent in by a reader in central Brighton, UK - a man perched on the edge of an upper shop window ledge carrying out work on a second floor window (third floor in the USA) at a height of seven to eight metres.

The ledge is little more than a decorative feature meant for a shop sign, but that's not the worst of it. He's squatting right on its edge, some seven metres above the pavement, with nothing to stop a serious fall should he lose his balance or should the thin edge bearing most of his weight give way.

If he had fallen, he might have landed on a pedestrian passing below.



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VertiKal days

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NEW TRAINING SUPPORT ROLE

The CPA has appointed Mel Edwards as training and skills support manager, in a newly established member facing role. In her new position, Edwards will work with CPA members to understand their training needs, and help find suitable courses and funding to develop their workforces. She will also build partnerships with training providers, colleges, awarding organisations and other industry bodies on members' behalf, and support the association's careers and apprenticeship teams in promoting the lifting industry as a career to people of all ages.



Mel Edwards

Edwards began her career in 1989 at the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), where she worked as a records administrator, supporting its equipment operator card and certification schemes, including the Certificate of Training Achievement (CTA) and the Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS). She later advised on equipment training grants and funding, set up the CPCS Logbook Monitoring Programme and, from 2011, worked on developing and delivering the CPCS scheme.

In 2018 she joined Falcon Tower Cranes as training manager, where she has set up and run the company's training centre.

Speaking of her new role at the CPA she said: "I am very much looking forward to working with CPA members, listening to what they need and helping them navigate training, skills, recruitment and funding opportunities and making the process as straightforward as possible. With the overall aim of supporting personal development."

PUPILS TAKE THE LEAD



Trying out the tower crane simulator

Giving instructions to a crane operator proved a memorable introduction to lifting careers for school pupils attending Lincolnshire Construction and Engineering Week held on the 22nd to the 24th of September.

The three day event, organised by Lincoln Group Training Association, introduced young people to the industry through practical activities and direct contact with industry professionals. The CPA joined member company FJ Crane Hire to support its 'Big Lift Challenge', putting lifting operations at the centre of the pupils' experience.

Rather than simply watching a crane demonstration, pupils instructed the operator as a load was manoeuvred through an obstacle course. The challenge gave them a practical insight into the communication and teamwork involved, showing how the person directing a movement contributes to the operation alongside the operator.



It was also a conversation starter about the different responsibilities within a lifting team. Moving a load involves more than simply operating the controls: planning, awareness of the surroundings and clear coordination are essential.



Pupils also tried the CPA tower crane simulator and completed a crane activity sheet while waiting their turn. The sheet encouraged discussions about the main parts of a tower crane, matching loads to lifting applications and working through load calculations.



30 YEARS OF CHIG

Three decades of shared experience and technical collaboration were celebrated last month as the CPA's Construction Hoist Interest Group (CHIG) marked its 30th anniversary.

Colleagues gathered at the Heart of England Conference Centre in Coventry, for the group's 41st Steering Committee meeting and 37th open meeting, with delegates joining in person and online. The open meeting was chaired by CPA council vice chairman Kirsty Archbold-Laming, who has led the CHIG since 2013 and is a director of Southern Hoist Services, one of the group's founding members.

Gordon Gedling of Hoist-it gave a talk on CHIG's history, from its beginnings to the people who have contributed over the years. He also acknowledged the long term work behind the group's industry guidance, which draws on experience from different organisations to find practical solutions to shared problems.

Alongside an anniversary cake and souvenirs, the meetings covered technical topics including landing gates, maintenance and thorough examination, transport platforms, working at height, hoist ties and rescue from height. There was also an update on BS 7212, which was published in June.



For CPA, the anniversary recognised the ongoing contributions of its members and 30 years on, the CHIG remains a forum for the construction hoist sector to share knowledge, examine technical questions and contribute to guidance for those working with the equipment.



Kirsty and Gordon

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF C&A

Place your products in front of more than 31,300 crane, telehandler and aerial work platform buyers & users who will read the November/December issue of **Cranes & Access**...



THIS ISSUE WILL INCLUDE FEATURES ON:

PICK & CARRY/INDUSTRIAL CRANES

The mobile pick & carry/industrial crane has made something of a revival, with growing interest from end users and in some cases, specialist rental companies leading to new and interesting product launches. We will take a look at the latest products and developments.





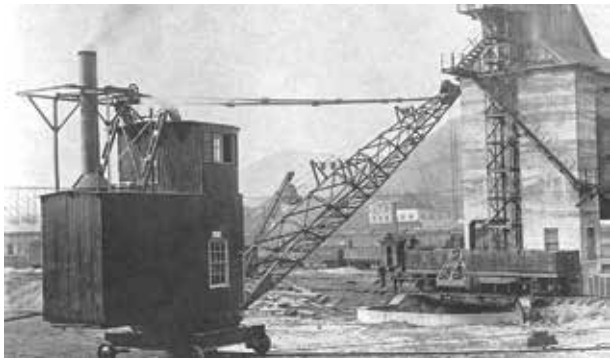
LARGE TRUCK MOUNTED LIFTS

Are sales of the larger truck mounted lifts starting to pick up? We take a look at the market and some interesting applications as well as a new product roundup.

OUTRIGGER MATS AND TRACKING

The increasing acceptance and use of outrigger mats and pads appear to have significantly reduced the number of serious overturing incidents involving cranes and aerial work platforms, especially over the 20 years that we have been covering and campaigning on this issue. The growth means a full and busy market with plenty of new products. We take a look at some of the latest developments.





150 YEARS OF LINK BELT

American crane manufacturer Link-Belt is celebrating 150 years this year. We have an extended pictorial review covering its century and a half history.

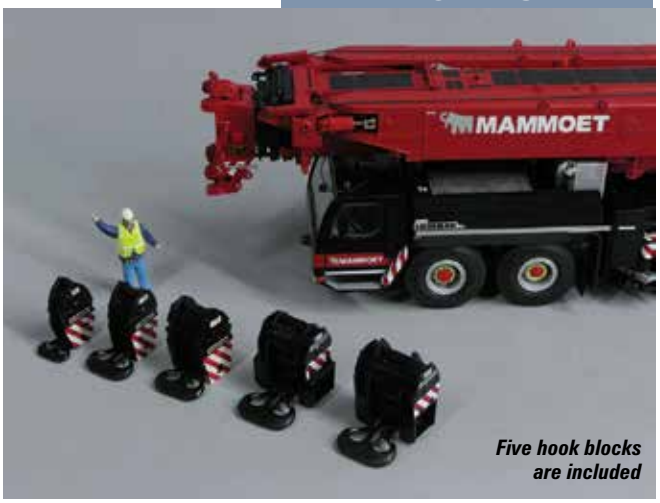
Send any information, news, photographs or ideas on these subjects to editor@vertikal.net

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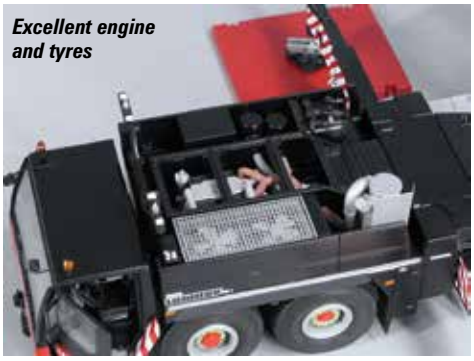


On the road



Five hook blocks are included


Carrier engine


Excellent engine and tyres


A superb replica

LIEBHERR LTM 1400-7.1

YCC Models has an excellent reputation for producing scale models of cranes of the past. This 1:50 scale model is the Liebherr LTM 1400-7.1 which was produced between 2005 and 2022. It is in Mammoet colours and replicates a real crane built in 2015. The packaging is very good and includes a high quality manual with detailed instructions, photos, tools and a Mammoet Collector Card.

The detailing is exceptional. The carrier has steering cylinders, the wheels have yellow nut indicators and air inflation valves, and the tyres set a new standard with the detailed branding in the sidewalls.

Behind the carrier cab cooling fans are visible under the grilles and opening hatches reveal a detailed engine. The exhaust pipe even has a rain cap. At the rear small metal folding wheel chocks fit into special holders and options are either a spare wheel or a toolbox.

The crane superstructure has opening panels revealing a detailed engine and other components, including hoses and the model has first class detailing of the hydraulics throughout.

The telescopic boom has a great profile with the locking pin positions in the base boom section having separate covers. Many tiny details on the boom are a revelation and the Y-Guy arrangement is also finely modelled to the same high standards.

Five different metal hook blocks are supplied, and they all have rotating hooks and working spring loaded safety latches. A lifting appliance for the counterweight blocks is included, as are a pair of lifting chains. An excellent load plate has the unique production number for the model on one side and a copy of the Liebherr machine plate on the other.

There are numerous working features in addition to those usually expected on a crane model. All the cab doors open and on each side there is a tiny opening flap for the outrigger beam controls. There are opening cupboards and opening panels for the crane engine. The counterweight tray can be fully stripped down, and it has an adjustable radius.

In summary YCC has achieved a new high standard for a mobile crane model, and it looks great in Mammoet colours. Superb detailing and excellent functionality set a new benchmark. It has been made in a run of 500 units and costs €899 from the Mammoet Store.

CRANES ETC MODEL RATING

Packaging (max 10)	10
Detail (max 30)	30
Features (max 20)	20
Quality (max 25)	24
Price (max 15)	13
Overall (max 100)	97%

To read the full review of this model visit ***www.cranesetc.co.uk***

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READERS LETTERS

SIMON D40 CLASSIC





Dear Sir,

I am writing from the Czech Republic. We are selling a historic aerial work platform made by Simon Engineering in Dudley - a Simon D40 hydraulic platform with an insulated cage, mounted in 1966 on a Czechoslovak Praga S5T-3 truck.

The basic details are as follows: - Platform: Simon Engineering, Dudley - model D40. - Truck: Praga S5T-3, built 1966, 6-cylinder air-cooled diesel engine, 110 hp - Dimensions: length 8.15 m, width 2.40 m, height 3.35 m - Original Czechoslovak vehicle registration document available - Condition: the engine and the hydraulic platform are fully working - Price: negotiable

Because the platform was built in Dudley, we believe it could be of interest to a museum. Photos are attached.

Please let us know if this is of interest. We are happy to send more photos or a video of the platform in operation.

Kind regards, František Karda

GEORGE DAVIS 1948 - 2026


George Davis

UK crane industry veteran George Davis passed away in hospital on Friday 25th September, at the age of 77. He leaves behind three children, Gareth, Gavin and Deborah along with several grandchildren.

George Davis began his crane career in or around 1973 with BCHC - British Crane Hire Corporation/ previously Richards & Wallington - one of the UK's leading crane companies of the time. His first job with the company saw him on the hire desk, taking calls and bookings and helping with the daily schedule for the local fleet.

Over the next decade or two, he worked with Baldwins Crane Hire where he was appointed regional heavy cranes director. He also had a couple of spells with Ainscough Crane hire, the first time round he was national heavy crane sales manager.

Then in mid-2002 he set up his own business, Crane Advisory Services, which he described as "a one stop advisory service to contractors and crane hirers covering all aspects of lift operations, including site surveys, method statements, risk assessment, lifting tackle arrangements, CAD drawings and the supply of crane supervisors and slingers."


Sound Advice

The following year Cranes & Access magazine interviewed him about his new venture. The article is still online and can be viewed by https://vertikal.net/en/pdf/740/62c1cc52/ca_2003_3_p34.pdf

Towards the end of 2010, he returned to Ainscough as sales & technical manager for several of its divisions. In late 2015, as his 67th birthday approached, he retired.

A few years later, he came back to the industry he loved, working part-time in a sales role with DM Cranes and in 2023 he started working with crane mats supplier GJ Bogmats, also part time.

Funeral arrangements

His funeral will be held on Friday the 23rd of October at 13:15 at Dewsbury Crematorium, Heckmondwike Road Dewsbury, WF133PL, and afterwards at Batley Nash WF17 5DL.



George Davis at the wheel of one of his Jags, one of which had the registration JI8B UP

Notes from Vertikal readers

Fond Memories

I was very sad to hear this news regarding George, I have fond memories of spending time with George at various crane shows in the 1980s.
RIP George, I'm drinking a toast to you this evening
Paul Richards

George gave me my start

George gave me my first ever job in the crane hire game back in 1976 on a 6t Iron Fairy Onyx at the ripe old age of 17 for a company called P&H crane hire, of which Peter Ellis was a partner. Then we moved onto Cumbria Crane Hire, a spin-off of Martin Ainscough, Martin probably being one of Georges closest friends outside of his family.

We once again joined each other at Griffiths Crane Hire (Barrow Depot), Griffiths were part of Hewden Stuart when they all kept their own name. George was depot manager answering to Joe Murray and Bob Clues. Then finally we were together again at Ainscough Crane Hire, in the good days when the brothers ran things. Right up to George leaving and going his own way.

We had a fantastic 50 year friendship, sharing many mutual friends in the industry, probably mainly Andrew Winter, These guys were true Crane Brain's !!! I used to call in to see George at his lovely apartment in Dewsbury we would get a takeaway and a few bottles and, most of the time, stay up half the night reminiscing. On one occasion I had to be in Hull for 07:00am and were still sat there chatting at 05:15am (no sleep that night).

I have been truly saddened since receiving the sad news on Friday evening, and although the funeral of George will be a sad day for many, I am sure he will be watching over us all on the day and making sure we will give him a great send off, I think Hard Hats should be compulsory for the wake, coz by gum there will be some bloody hook blocks swinging.

RIP my mate all my love from Gary Charnley.

A well-known character

George, a well-known character in the crane hire industry, had a wealth of knowledge, knew his cranes inside out and was a natural salesman. A great colleague, a good friend and a character who will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by many.
RIP George



5th year running

Christmas Gift Appeal 2026

Give a child near Ukraine's front line a gift this Christmas

For the fifth year running, we're sending Christmas gifts to displaced Ukrainian children living close to the front line. Rotary International collects every gift from eastern Slovakia and delivers it directly to communities, schools, hospices and homes living in the shadow of the war - and we're inviting your organisation to help fill the trucks.

How you can help

Option 1

Donate a gift

Buy a Christmas gift, wrap it, and attach a label stating:

- What the gift is
- Whether it's for a boy or girl
- The appropriate age range

Option 2

Make a donation

Prefer to give financially? We'll use it to buy gifts - and it helps cover the cost of getting our trucks to Ukraine.

- Funds gifts for children we can't reach otherwise
- Supports transport costs to the border

Send gifts to:
Plant and Hire Aid Alliance, 289-297 Felixstowe Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9BS - or we can arrange collection.

Nov 30
gifts must arrive by







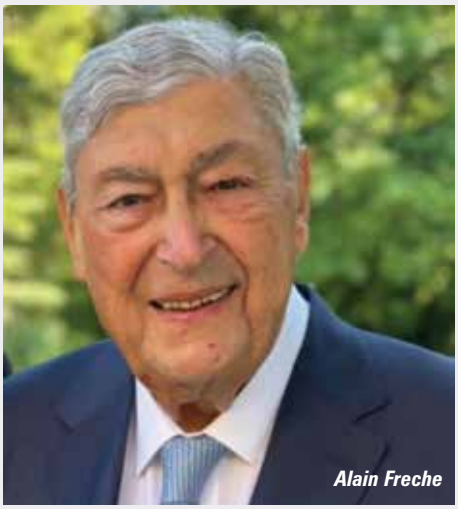
Every gift is handed directly to a child - and at the end of the campaign, we'll share a full report and photos so you can see **exactly** what your generosity made possible.

Get your organisation involved today

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ALAIN HENRI FRECHE 1937 - 2026

Alain Freche, co-founder of French equipment rental company FLS passed away on September 20th just a few weeks shy of his 89th birthday.


Alain Freche

Alain Freche started the company that he has dedicated his life to in 1966 in partnership with his father, Alexis. The business started out as Freche Père & Fils renting forklifts to local industrial users in the town of Vitrolles, next to Marseille airport north west of the city.

Alexis and Alain had previously worked in Algeria where they ran a construction equipment rental business, largely outside of the urban areas. After independence in 1962 they returned to France and considered their options. They initially traded in new and used equipment, mostly American and distributed Mills Scaffold products.

The company entered the aerial lift rental market in 1980, starting out with truck mounts, before expanding into self-propelled booms and scissor lifts. At around the same time it began building its depot network, and in 2015 acquired FBL with locations in Fos-sur-mer and Martigues which focused on the petrochemical industry.

The FLS brand came in 2023 by which time the company operated from 25 locations in France. Last year it acquired a number of locations from Locomod, taking its network 33 locations, while extending its area of operation. Revenues now exceed €50 million, with a 6,000 unit fleet, which includes all types of aerial lifts and telehandlers, with more than 300 employees. Today the company is managed by Laurence and Eric Freche, with two members of the fourth generation, Thomas Ichai and Justine Freche, now working in the company.



The company posted the following tribute:

"It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Mr. Alain Frecche. Deeply attached to the company he developed, he was just as attached to the men and women who accompanied him and helped it grow over the years. A committed entrepreneur, he was guided by strong human values and has profoundly marked the history and identity of the group."

"We will remember him as a passionate man, close to his teams and deeply invested in this human and entrepreneurial adventure."



The original business Freche Père & Fils - 1966


Employees celebrate 60 years of FLS earlier this year


Stephanie Lacombe

STEPHANIE RAE LACOMBE 1972 - 2026



Stephanie Lacombe, co-founder and 'matriarch' of Lacombe Crane & Rigging in Houston, Texas, passed away on Sunday, August 23rd, at the age of 54, in the company of her family, having battled breast cancer for more than 15 years. She leaves behind her husband Justin and children Carter, Emma, Noah and Jules.

Stephanie was born and bred in Butler, Pennsylvania, with the family moving to League City, Texas - southeast of Houston - in the mid-1980s and then attending The University of Texas in Austin. She married Justin Lacombe around 20 years ago, having helped establish the crane company that bears their name in south Houston.

In the words of her family: "Being a mother was one of the greatest joys of her life. She never hesitated to open her heart and home to her children's friends or to mother any young person who needed a little extra love. She also had a special place in her heart for every furry friend who came into her life."

"There was very little Stephanie wouldn't take on. No project was too big, no job too difficult, and no challenge too daunting, she was endlessly talented and creative, cared deeply about people and was passionate about the causes she believed in. When someone was in need, she didn't simply offer help - she went the extra mile. Her generosity, compassion, and willingness to serve others touched countless lives."

The family has said that it would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who surrounded them with love, prayers, kindness, generosity, and care over the past few weeks. Stating: "every act of support has meant more than words can express."


A Lacombe crane on a tricky rigging job

LESLIE JAMES BROWN 1946 - 2026

We have received the sad news that crane and heavy lift veteran Les Brown has died. He passed away a couple of months ago in Perth, Western Australia, following his 80th birthday. Sadly, we do have any details or were able to find an obituary, although several of his former colleagues have provided comments regarding their memories and appreciation of a man who made such a significant contribution to the industry he loved.

Having trained as a mechanical engineer he began his crane career in 1977 as a project engineer with PSC Heavy Lift in London, when it developed the strand jack and tower systems that are now quite common place. In 1986 he was appointed as commercial manager at Fagioli PSC. He moved up through the Fagioli business based in the UK, as operations director, and in 1998 group managing director.

In 2006, at the age of 65 he decided to go part time and took on the role of chairman, still based in London, but advising the company globally.

Around that time, he moved to Australia and in 2009 he was appointed vice president of Fagioli for Korea and Western Australia, with the aim of establishing two joint ventures, one with Chum Jo in South Korea and the other with Tutt Bryant in Australia.

In 2012 he joined Enerpac on a consulting basis to assist and advise it on the sales of its strand jacking systems in the Oceania region, with a particular focus on South Korea. As his 70th birthday loomed in late 2014 he sort of retired, but as a consultant with Business Niche in the greater Perth area.

We received the following letter which prompted us to start looking:

Dear Leigh,

I lost a dear friend a few months ago. His name was Les Brown. I first met Les in 1997. I was 34 or 35, bubbling with energy, eager to try new things and bring new technologies to India. Les was extremely sharp, experienced, willing to take risks and willing to place his faith in people. He placed his faith in me at a stage when I was still finding my way.

We worked together for many years and eventually formed a JV, which in its last form and style was known as Fagioli India Private Limited. Through those years, I watched the way Les dealt with people. He expected you to deliver, gave you room to make mistakes, told you clearly when you had gone wrong and gave you the confidence to move ahead. He had a wonderful ability to see what someone could become and give them the opportunity to get there.

I learnt a great deal from him about taking chances on people. You can carry experience and judgement with you and still remain open to someone younger, hungry and asking for an opportunity. I was one of those people once.

As the years went by, our relationship became deeply personal. Even after Les retired and moved to Australia to be with his children, we remained



Leslie Brown

in regular touch, and I even visited him once in Perth. I enjoyed our conversations, valued his advice and simply enjoyed what I used to call the comfort of being in the halo of Les Brown.

When someone influences you for close to three decades, some of their qualities become part of how you approach your own life. I see Les in the chances I have taken on people and in my instinct to give them room to prove themselves.

I feel fortunate that Les came into my life when he did.

I will miss him dearly.

Rajiv

Another comment we received on Les added:

Les was a mentor in Enerpac Heavy Lifting Technology in my HLT leadership role for APAC. He was the godfather of the strand jack and was godsend when discussing applications in customer meetings.

A true legend in the industry. Les worked with for three years in Korea among other APAC countries. He was always willing to teach and mentor me during his time as a consultant to our team. I will miss you my friend.

To all who knew them both, you know our loss and to those that did not, remember our angels that looked after us during our careers. I am truly thankful.

BELATED COMMENT

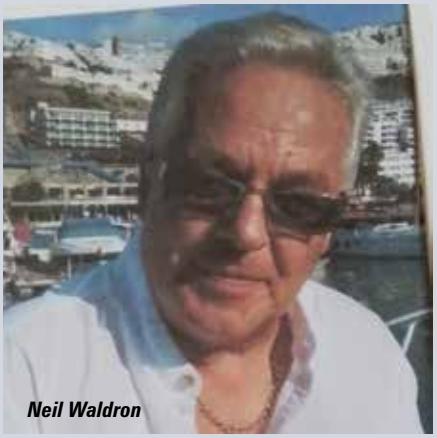
I have only just seen the news of the passing of Neil Waldron last May - C&A 27.3 June 2025 page 69.

I have very fond memories of Neil when we both worked for Access Equipment. He was the depot manager at their Loughborough depot and I at Stoke-on-Trent. Due to my lack of selling experience, he mentored me and helped in so many ways.

My lasting memory of him was playing drums in a band we had formed for our firm's Christmas Party. He was a lovely man who readily put a smile on people's faces, and I was so sorry to hear of his passing.

Thanks for the memories Neil.

Geoff Avison



Neil Waldron

2026

Glasstec 2026
October 20-23, 2026
The largest event for glass lifting and installation Düsseldorf, Germany
Tel: +49 211 456001
www.glasstec-online.com/

Working at Height Conference & Awards
October 28-29, 2026
Powered access event to share updates on the safe use of aerial work platforms.
Orlando, Florida
www.workingatheightevent.com

CICA Conference 2026
October 28-30, 2026
The annual conference of the Crane Industry Council of Australia Hunter Valley, Lovedale, NSW, Australia
Tel: +61 03 9501 0078
https://cica.com.au/cica-conference-2026-eoi/

CPA Gala Dinner
November 5th 2026
St George's Hall in Liverpool
Tel: +44 (0)2077963366
www.cpa.uk.net
lisa@lisacollinscommunications.co.uk

Elevation India
November 26, 2026
The first IPAF Elevation India is dedicated to promoting safe working at height practices using powered access. Mumbai, India
Tel: +44 (0)15395 66703
www.ipaf.org/elevation-india

Crane Safety 2026
November 11, 2026 Crane safety conference organised by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Manchester, UK
Tel: +44 (0)207 973 1251
www.eventsportal.imeche.org/event/sessions?id=Crane_Safety_2026_New

Nuclear Lifting 2026 *
November 11, 2026 This biannual event covers engineering solutions to the challenges facing those conducting high-risk lifting at Nuclear power sites, Manchester, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7304 690
www.eventsportal.imeche.org/event/sessions?id=Nuclear_Lifting_2026_New

IPAF Elevando Mexico 2026
November 20, 2026
Hosted by IPAF conferences and discussions covering the safe use and good practice of aerial work platforms
Hotel Hacienda Jurica, Querétaro, Mexico
Tel: +52 446 120 6111
www.ipaf.org/elevando

Liftex 2026
November 24-25, 2026
Annual conference and exhibition of LEEA the Lifting Equipment Engineers Association
Liverpool, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 203 488 2865
www.events.leeaint.com/liftex-2026

Bauma China 2026
November 24-27 2026
Tel:+49(0)89 9 4920251
www.bcindia.com

2027

Baumag
January 21-24, 2027 Swiss construction equipment show Lucerne, Switzerland
Tel: +41 56 204 20 20
www.baumaschinen-messe.ch

Foro ASEAMAC 2027
January 26-27, 2027 Spanish Rental Forum organised by ASEMAC
Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 602 250 896
www.aseamac.org/actividades/foro-aseamac-2027

Executive Hire Show
February 10-11, 2027
UK tool and small rental equipment show
Coventry, UK
Tel: 44 (0)207 973 4630
www.executivehireshow.co.uk/

The ARA Show 2027
February 15-17, 2027
The American Rental Association's annual trade show and convention
New Orleans, USA
Tel: +1800 334 2177
www.arashow.org

SC&RA Annual Conference 2027
April 19-23, 2027 Annual Conference of the US cranes and heavy transport association/ Jobs of the Year awards
Omni La Costa, Carlsbad, California, USA
Tel: +1(703) 698-0291
www.scranet.org/SCRA/Events/

Intermat 2027
April 21-24, 2027
The French international construction equipment show
Paris, France
Tel: +33 0221 13 05 09-02
www.intermatconstruction.com/en

Hanover Messe 2027
May 5-8, 2027
World's largest industrial exhibition Hanover, Germany
Tel: +49 511 89-1
www.hannovermesse.de

Bauma Saudi Arabia
May 08-11, 2027
Bauma - but in Saudi Arabia.
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Tel: +971 4 438 0355
www.bauma-saudiarabia.com/

HCEA Annual Spring Show
May 22-23rd 2027
The Historical Construction Equipment Association's annual show
Bowling Green, Ohio, USA
Tel: +1 419-352-5616
https://hcea.net/

CCRA Conference 2027
June 8-10 2027
The annual Canadian crane rental association conference
Dakota Dunes Saskatoon
www.ccra-aclg.ca/en

Hire27
9-10 June 2027.
The annual convention and exhibition of the Hire and Rental Association of Australia and Elevating Work Platform Association
Gold Coast, Queensland
+61 (0) 299982255
www.hriaconvention.com.au

Apex-IRE
June 22-24, 2027
Aerial platform exhibition and International Rental conference
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Tel: +31 (0)547 271 566
www.apexireshow.com/

Maxpo
September 2-4, 2027
Finland's largest special exhibition for earthmoving and environmental maintenance machinery
Hyvinkää, Finland
Tel: 040 450 3250
www.maxpo.messukeskus.com/en/

Matexpo 2027
September 8-12, 2027
Belgian construction equipment exhibition
Kortrijk, Belgium Tel: +32 56 98 07 60
www.matexpo.com/en/

Internationale Schwerlasttage
September 10-11, 2027
German conference on heavy lifting, transport, rigging, and installation
Hohenrhoda, Germany
Tel: +49 (0) 6181 9060 705
www.schwerlasttage.de

Vertikal Days 2027
September 15-16, 2027 Venue TBA, UK/Ireland Crane, access and telehandler event.
Tel: +44 (0) 1295 768340
www.vertikaldays.net

SC&RA Crane & Rigging Workshop
September 28-30, 2027
Central Bank Center, Lexington, Kentucky
Tel:+1(703) 698-0291
www.scranet.org/SCRA/Events

GIS 2027
October 7-9, 2027 Italian crane, access and heavy transport exhibition
Parma, Italy
Tel: +39 010/5704948
www.gisexpo.it

The Utility Expo
October 5-7, 2027
The US utility industry's largest equipment show Louisville, Kentucky, USA
Tel: +1 414-274-0644
www.theutilityexpo.com

IPAF Summit 2027
Dates and venue TBA
Networking opportunity for the access
Tel: +44 (0)15395 66703
https://iapa-summit.info

M&T Expo
November 16-19, 2027
Brazil's construction and mining equipment exhibition
São Paulo Expo, Brazil
Tel: +49 89 949 20252
www.mtexpo.com.br/en

2028

The ARA Show 2028
February 14-16, 2028
ARA convention and rental show
Anaheim, California, USA
Tel: +1-800 334 2177
www.arashow.org

Bauma 2028
April 3-9, 2028
World's largest construction equipment show Munich, Germany
Tel: +49 (0)89 51070
www.bauma.de

SC&RA Annual Conference 2028
April 17-21, 2028
Annual Conference of the US cranes and heavy transport association including the Jobs of the Year awards
Venue to be confirmed, USA
Tel: +1(703) 698-0291
www.scranet.org/SCRA/SCRA/Content/events

Scotplant
April 2028 dates to be confirmed
Edinburgh, Scotland Scotland's largest construction equipment exhibition
www.scotplant.com

Nordbygg
April 25-28, 2028 Swedish construction exhibition Stockholm, Sweden
Tel: +46 8 749 41 00
www://nordbygg.se/en/

Dansk Liftmesse 2028
May 17-18 2028
Danish aerial lift and spider crane exhibition, Odense, Denmark
Tel: +45 4024 1090
www.liftmesse.dk

IAA Transportation
September 19-24, 2028
The logistics, commercial vehicles, and transport show Hanover, Germany
Tel: +49 30 897842-202
www.iaa-transportation.com/en

Bauma Conexpo India
September/October 2028
Exhibition in India Noida, Delhi, India
Tel: +49 89 949-20255
www.bcindia.com/en/

Platformers Days 2028
October 12-13, 2028
German Access and lifting exhibition
Karlsruhe, Germany
Tel: +49 721 3720 5096
www.platformers-days.de/

2029

The ARA Show 2029
February 11 - March 14, 2029
The American Rental Association's annual trade show and convention Orlando, USA
Tel: +1800 334 2177
www.arashow.org

Conexpo-Con/Agg 2029
March 13-17, 2029 The leading US construction show Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
Tel: +1 414-298-4133
www.conexpoconagg.com

SC&RA Annual Conference 2028
April 16-20, 2029 Annual Conference of the US cranes and heavy transport association including the Jobs of the Year awards
Arizona Biltmore Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona, USA
Tel: +1(703) 698-0291
www.scranet.org/SCRA/SCRA/Content/events

Samoter
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International earthmoving and building equipment show Verona, Italy
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www.samoter.it/it

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CRANES

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Crane Hire Ltd – Ireland	www.armorum.ie
Crowland Cranes w	ww.crowlandcranes.co.uk
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TVH:	www.tvh.com
Vertimac:	www.vertimac.com

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ASR – UK:	www.access-platforms.com
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Dragon Access:	www.dragon-access.co.uk
Drammen Liftutleie:	www.drammenlift.no
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Galmon – Singapore:	https://galmon.com
Hird- UK -	www.hird.co.uk
Hire Safe Solutions:	www.hiresafesolutions.com
HWS – Netherlands:	https://hws.nl
JMS Powered Access:	https://jms.co.uk
Manlift Hire – Ireland:	https://manlift.ie
Mateco – Germany:	www.mateco.de/en
Monitor Lifts - Oz	www.monitor.net.au
Nationwide Platforms	www.nationwideplatforms.co.uk
Omec – Italy:	https://omec.it
Paramount Platforms	www.paramountplatforms.com
Platform Sales & Hire	www.platformsales.co.uk
Power Platform Services	www.pps.co.uk
Roggermaier – Germany:	https://roggermaier.de
Smart Platforms:	www.smartplatforms.co.uk
Statech – CZ –	www.statech.cz
Sunstate Equipment USA:	www.sunstateequip.com
Traknus – Indonesia:	www.traknus.co.id
Viking Access	www.vikingaccess.co.uk
Warren Access	www.warrenaccess.co.uk

CRANE RENTALS

Ainscough Crane Hire:	www.ainscough.co.uk
BJW Crane Hire - UK	www.bjwcranehire.co.uk
Cadman Cranes - UK	www.cadmancranes.com
Cork Crane Hire - UK	www.corkcranehire.com
Delden Cranes	www.deldencranes.co.uk
Grúas Aguado – Spain-	www.gruasaguado.com
HighSparks	www.highsparks.co.uk
Hovago	www.hovago.com
John Sutch Cranes	www.johnsutchcranes.co.uk
Ladybird Tower Crane Hire	www.ladybirdcranehire.co.uk
Lift Ltd	www.liftminicranehire.co.uk
Sangwin	www.sangwin.co.uk
Schaften Leasing- NL	www.schaftenleasing.nl
Wolffkran	www.wolffkran.com
GGR	www.unic-cranes.co.uk
JT Mini Crane Hire	www.jtminicranes.co.uk
Lift Limited	www.liftminicranehire.co.uk
Hird	www.hird.co.uk

TELEHANDLER RENTALS

Ardent Hire- UK:	www.ardenthire.com
GT Lifting Solutions – UK:	www.gtlift.co.uk
JMS Powered Access- UK:	https://jms.co.uk
Sunbelt Rentals:	www.sunbeltrentals.co.uk

SPECIALIST SUPPLIERS AND SERVICES

SPECIAL/BESPOKE ACCESS & LIFTING SOLUTIONS

Access Platform Sales (APS):	www.accessplatforms.co.uk
GGR	www.ggrgroup.com
GT Lifting Solutions:	www.gtlift.co.uk
JMS Powered Access:	https://jms.co.uk
Platform Sales & Hire:	www.platformsales.co.uk
Warren Access:	www.warrenaccess.co.uk/hire
Working At Height	www.workingatheightltd.com

SPECIAL & NICHE ACCESS

CPL	www.cpl-ltd.com
Denka Narrow	www.rothlehner.com
JMS Powered Access	https://jms.co.uk
Smart Platform Rentals	www.smartplatforms.co.uk

HEAVY TRANSPORT/ABNORMAL LOADS

Collett A Sons, UK	www.collett.co.uk

SITE SAFETY AUDITS

Alfa Access Services	www.alfa-access-services.com

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

ALLMI	www.allmi.com
CICA	www.cica.com.au/
CISRS	www.cisrs.org.uk
CPA	www.cpa.uk.net
EWPA	www.ewpa.com.au
IPAF	www.ipaf.org
NASC	www.nasc.org.uk
OSHA	www.osha.gov
PASMA	www.pasma.co.uk

HEAVY LIFT MANAGEMENT

DWLS	www.dwls.co.uk
Ellevo Group	www.ellevogroup.com

HEAVY LIFT PLANNING & RISK ANALYSIS

DWLS	www.dwls.com
Ellevo Group	www.ellevogroup.com

AUCTION HOUSES

Ritchie Brothers	www.rbauction.com

BATTERY SUPPLIERS & MANUFACTURERS

BBL Batteries	www.bblbatteries.co.uk
BSLBATT	www.bslbatt.com
C&D Technologies	https://www.cdtrojan.com
Ecobat	www.ecobat.com
Equip Global Supplies	www.equipglobalsupplies.com
Leoch Battery-UK:	www.leochbattery.co.uk
TAB Battery -UK:	www.tabbatteryuk.com

LOAD MONITORING SYSTEMS

PCE Instruments UK	www.pce-instruments.com

CONTROL SYSTEMS

MOBA Automation	www.moba.de
Potentum Technologies	https://www.potentum.com

OUTRIGGER PADS, MATS & ROADWAYS

Brilliant Ideas /	https://brilliantideasltd.co.uk/alimats/
Timber Services	www.sarumhardwood.co.uk
Nolim	www.nolim.co.uk
Outriggerpads	www.outriggerpads.co.uk
Power-Pad	www.crowlandcranes.co.uk
Timbermat	www.timbermat.co.uk
Universal Crane Mats	www.universal-crane-mats.com
Welex Group	www.welexgroup.com

COMPONENTS

PCE Instruments UK	www.pce-instruments.com
Tele Radio	www.tele-radio.com

WIRE ROPE

Rope and Sling	www.ropeandsling.co.uk

LIFTING GEAR MANUFACTURERS

Britlift	www.britlift.com

PARTS & SERVICE SUPPLIERS

APSR	www.apsr.co.uk
Gouweleeuw	www.gouweleeuw.com
Haulotte	www.haulotte.com
IPS	www.ipspartsonline.com
JLG	www.jlg.com
Lift-Manager	www.lift-manager.com
OTR Wheel Engineering Europe	www.otrwheel.co.uk
PCE Instruments UK	www.pce-instruments.com
TVH	www.tvh.com
Vertimac	www.vertimac.com

RECRUITMENT

Vertikal.Net	www.vertikal.net/en/recruitment

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Load Systems UK	www.loadsystems.co.uk
Petzl	www.petzl.com

RENTAL MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Dynamics Connect	https://www.dynamics-connect.co.uk/apps/dcx-assetquay/
HireHop Equipment Rental Software	www.hirehop.co.uk
Infosystem	www.levaplus.ch
inspHire	www.insphire.com
Matusch	www.matusch.de
MCS Rental Software	www.mcsrentalsoftware.com
Point of Rental Software.	www.point-of-rental.com
vWork	www.vworkapp.com

STRUCTURAL REPAIRS

Crowland Cranes	www.crowlandcranes.co.uk
John Taylor Crane Services	www.jtcranes.co.uk

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Atlas Traffic Management:	www.atlastm.co.uk

TECHNICAL & SAFETY CONSULTANCY

Access Safety Management	www.accesssafety.co.uk

TRAINING ASSOCIATIONS & NETWORKS

ALLMI	www.allmi.com
AWPT	www.awpt.org
IPAF	www.ipaf.org
NASC	www.nasc.org.uk
Pasma	www.pasma.co.uk

TRAINING CENTRES & TRAINERS

Access Platform Sales (APS)	www.accessplatforms.co.uk
Astra Access	www.astratraining.co.uk
Ainscough	www.ainscoughtraining.co.uk
AJ Access	www.accessplatforms.com
Boss Training	www.bosstraining.co.uk
Certora Training	certoratraining.co.uk
Cornerbrook	www.cornerbrooklifting.co.uk
Haulotte	www.haulotte.com
IAPS	www.iapsgroup.com
JLG Training	www.jlg.com
Liebherr Training (UK)	www.liebherr.co.uk
Lift-Manager	www.lift-manager.com
Smart Platform Rentals	www.smartplatforms.com
UTN	www.utntraining.co.uk
Versalift Training Direct	www.versalift.co.uk/training
Warren	www.warrenaccesstraining.co.uk/courses/
Lifting Equipment Training	www.letltd.co.uk
TH White	www.thwhite.co.uk
TVH	www.tvh.com

LOGISTICS

Big Apple Logistics	www.bigapplelogistics.com



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