High Performance
Low Impact

Class leading performance from every model in the range from 9m to 28m.

With award-winning Hybrid technology and SiOPS® secondary guarding, our machines are the safe and efficient choice.

For more information on the Nifty range, or to arrange a free on-site demonstration, please call 01908 223456, or visit our website.
If 2017 was described as the year of natural disasters, terrorism and political chaos, 2018 was more of the same, possibly even more extreme as Brazil’s new president added to the wave of popularism sweeping the world with more than the UK’s summer heatwave getting everyone hot under the collar.

Summer in the UK was the joint hottest on record with the heat wave throughout June and July raising temperatures to more than 35°C/95°F. This heat was also being felt by the UK government trying to stay calm over a Brexit shambles which turned into a farce by the end of the year with eight ministers resigning.

Donald Trump, Russia and Korea were never far from the headlines along with regular mass shootings and refugee issues. The EU wide General Data Protection Regulation came into effect causing an extreme overreaction in some countries as along with regular mass shootings were never far from the headlines.

Raising temperatures to more than 35º C/95º F. This heat was also being felt in Greece and California, killing almost 200 and destroying more than 19,000 homes.

On a brighter note a global audience of 1.9 billion people watched the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at St George’s Chapel in Windsor and the Winter Olympics held in South Korea saw a combined North/South Korea team march together at the opening ceremony.

The cranes, access and telehandler markets were again generally busy although the continued economic uncertainty in some areas restricted major capital investment.

Here are some of the industry and world news highlights.

Kobelco merges its European crane and excavator companies.

Kevin Reilly - the crane operator involved in the fatal crawler crane overturn in New York in 2016 - launches a $2.5 million defamation lawsuit against the investigators that found him guilty of causing the incident.

Dingli acquires a 25 percent stake in aerial lift manufacturer MEC in a deal worth $20 million.

Manitowoc wins another stage in its legal battle with Sany for theft of trade secrets.

Tadano acquires Benelux distributor Waterland Trading.

Kobelco announces a new 300/350 tonne crawler crane - the CK/E/C/KS series.

UK rental company Elavation places a £2 million order for Niftylift hybrid boom lifts ‘to meet growing demand for cleaner, quieter equipment’.

Dinolift and its North American distributor Reachmaster end their exclusive distribution agreement.

Raimondi launches the 18 tonne LR330 luffing jib tower crane with new triangular jib design.

Ruthmann appoints Snorkel UK as the Bluelift spider lift distributor for the UK.

Hinowa announces a new 32.5 metre spider - the Lightlift 33.17 Performance IIIIS - its largest machine to date.

Potain launches the MCH 125 hydraulic topless luffing jib crane, first spotted as a prototype at Bauma China 2016.

Aluminium crane manufacturer Klaas launches three new truck cranes and a new hybrid power concept.

Kobe Steel launches the LR330 luffing jib tower crane with new triangular jib design.

Ruthmann announces details of a new 31 metre Bluelift spider lift, the SA31.
Boels Rental orders 3,000 Skyjack scissor lifts equipped with Skyjack’s Elevate telematics solution.

Haulotte announces its Blue Orientation strategy with plans to drop all diesel machines as it launches its new Puleos range starting with the 60ft HL20 LE Pro, all electric machine with built-in diesel recharging generator and five year warranty.

French manufacturer Klubb acquires CPL, its UK dealer for van mounted platforms.

Terex Cranes becomes the first crane manufacturer to implement steel surcharges following Donald Trump’s 25 percent steel import tariffs.

Niftylift launches a lighter weight, electric version of its 33ft HR12 articulated boom lift - the HR12L available with Lithium ion or AGM batteries.

Kato announces its new 13 and 20 tonne City cranes - the CR-130rf and CR-200rf.

JCB introduces a lithium ion battery option for five of its slab electric scissor lifts.

Amdyte launches updated versions of its 46ft 160 ATJ and 52ft 180 ATJ RT articulated boom lifts.

Arnold Grootveld and Jan Vriesinga set up Hoogwerkt - a new rental company in the Netherlands offering lithium powered booms, scissors, trailer lifts and spider lifts that can be towed on a two axle trailer.

Mammoet sets a record lift height of 217 metres for its PTC 200 DS heavy lift crane at Lette Chemical’s Mono-Ethylene Glycol project in Louisiana, USA.

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Canadian manufacturer Microcranes launches the compact M1 Global lightweight modular mini crane with a 905kg lift capacity and a 6.7 metre tip height.

Boutch & Meier announces the new 100 180 ATJ RT articulated boom lifts.

UK-based Hawks Crane Hire orders Europe’s first 300 tonne Kobelco CKE3000G crawler crane.

UK-based High Access Hire orders Europe’s first 600 series straight telescopic boom lifts - the 60ft 600SC and 66ft 660SC.

Sennebogen launches a new heavy-duty telehandler with elevating cab - the 355 E - the first of a new range.

Colin Wood - the retired chief executive of the UK’s CPA - receives the European Rental Association’s Lifetime achievement award.

Finland’s RIM Wizard appoints Crowland Cranes as its UK distributor.

UK-based High Access Maintenance merges with Nationwide Window Cleaning to form the NSS group.

JLG announces crawler versions of its redesigned 600 series straight telescopic boom lifts - the 60ft 600SC and 66ft 660SC.

UK rental company Crane Hire Solutions purchases a five tonne Kaas K900 RSX aluminium truck crane.

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Outreach Truck - receives the first of a new range.

TH White - the Pallfinger crane distributor for England and Wales - acquires the Pallfinger dealer in Scotland - Outreach Truck - to form Pallfinger UK.

Vertikal Days 2018 - held at Donington Park near East Midlands airport - is the largest so far in terms of exhibitors and visitor numbers.

AA Access - part of the High Access Maintenance group - acquires Scotland’s Outreach Access expanding operations north of the border.

Kato acquires Scottish CKE3000G crawler crane.

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Manitou launches updated versions of its 46ft 160 ATJ and 52ft 180 ATJ RT articulated boom lifts.

160 Hybrid truck mounted platform.

Cela starts shipping its second generation, six tonne SPK60.2 mini crawler crane with the first units going to customers in Hong Kong, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, the UK and the US.

Danish spider lift manufacturer TCA Lift changes its corporate name to Falcon Lifts.

Danish loader crane manufacturer HMF unveils the new HMF 1310R grab crane.

JLG launches the updated six axle 300 tonne GMK6300L -1.

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Liebherr launches two new cranes at its customer Days event in Germany - the 230 tonne, long boomed LTM 1230-5.1 All Terrain and the 800 tonne LR 1800-1.0 lattice crawler crane.

Kobelco restructures in China, ending its joint ventures and moving from seven jointly held operations to three wholly owned subsidiaries.

Potain splits the manufacturing and product management of its European Self-erecting and top slewing crane operations.

Spanish tower crane manufacturer Comansa drops the Linden Comansa brand name focusing its marketing efforts on its original name of Comansa.

Ruthmann launches two new 25 HV truck mounted platform on a 3.5 tonne chassis.

Kobelco launches the 25m articulated Zed 25 HV truck mounted platform on a 3.5 tonne chassis.

Ruthmann opens a sales office in North America - Ruthmann North America.

Magni telehandlers delivers its 2,000th 360 degree telehandler to German rental company Gruma Nutzfahrzeuge.

Irish rental company Charleville Hire & Platform orders the first two 2,600kg/5.79 metre Snorkel SR626 compact telehandlers in Europe.

Dutch Sales and rental group Riwal sells the world’s first 135ft battery electric self-propelled boom lift to Steiness Liftcenter in Denmark.

Aichi takes on the distribution of large Socage truck mounted platforms in Japan including Socage’s TJJ double jib truck mounted models from 39 to 54m.

CTE launches the 25m articulated Zed 25 HV truck mounted platform on a 3.5 tonne chassis.

The first 90 tonne Grove GRT8100 Rough Terrain crane manufactured outside of the USA rolls off the production line at the company’s Niella Tanaro plant in Italy.

Haulotte sells its Italian access rental company no.Ve. to Loxam.

Palfinger unveils the three model PCC range of heavy duty tracked articulated spider cranes from 18.2 to 30 tonnes.

Link-Belt upgrades its TCC-1100 telescopic crawler increasing its capacity to become the 120 ton/110 tonne TCC-1200.

Japanese aerial lift manufacturer Nagano appoints three new European dealers - Arbeitsbühnen Becker in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, Pfeifer in the Netherlands and Vertimac in Belgium.

Bronto Skylift unveils an all-new, 35 metre truck mounted lift - the S35EM.

HSS agrees the sale of UK Platforms to Nationwide Platforms/Loxam for £60.5 million.

Fassi acquires French aerial lift manufacturer ATN rescuing it from the insolvency process which it entered in February.

Klubb acquires French platform manufacturer Egi which produces fully insulated, live line and firefighting platforms up to 65m.

United Rentals acquires BlueLine Rental for $2.1 billion in cash from private equity firm Platinum Equity.

Tracked scissor lift manufacturer Almac enters the self-propelled tracked boom lift market with the dynamic self-leveling 33ft Jibbi 1250 Evo.

Hiab acquires the Effer loader cranes business - valued at €50 million - from the CTE group.

Tadano and Indian equipment manufacturer Escorts form a joint venture to manufacture 20 to 80t Rough Terrain and truck cranes in India.

Boels Rental acquires two more companies in the UK - Artisan Hire Centre and sister company SAS.

Multitel Pagliero, Ruthmann and Palfinger unveil new hybrid truck mounted platforms at Platforms Days in Germany.

Tadano launches a new 20t GR-200EX Rough Terrain crane designed for the Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific island markets.
Terex Cranes launches a completely redesigned luffing jib tower crane - the 18 tonne, 270 tonne/metre CTL 272-18 - with a 61 metre jib and a 10 percent increase in lift capacities.

Sinoboom opens a new European operation - in cooperation with Liftstore in Jawczyce, Poland - with another location to be opened in the Netherlands.

Terex Cranes appoints Arcomet as distributor for flat top and luffing jib tower cranes in Germany.

JLG launches an external bolt-on fall arrest system allowing users to exit the platform at height while remaining tied off to a lanyard anchor point on the platform.

Chinese construction equipment manufacturer Lingong Group opens its European aerial work platform headquarters and distribution centre in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Comansa Spanish tower crane manufacturer

Mammoet upgrades its 3,200 tonne, 200,000 tonne/metre PTC 200DS modular ring crane to the 210,000 tonne/metre PTC 210 DS.

Sinoboom opens a new European operation - in cooperation with Liftstore in Jawczyce, Poland - with another location to be opened in the Netherlands.

Comansi and Hoogweker Centrum/Powerslift unveil the 31m 3117 Jib Compact truck mounted lift that can be driven on a 3.5t chassis B+E driving licence.

Klubb launches a full electric version of the 11.8 metre K26 mounted on a Renault Master ZE chassis with rear cutaway.

JLG

US-based crane manufacturer Iowa Mold Tooling (IMT) launches the new 42684 loader crane with a load moment of 42 tonne/metres.

The UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) launches an inquiry into the planned acquisition of UK Platforms by Loxam/Nationwide Platforms.

Manitou sells a 26 percent stake in its wholly-owned subsidiary Manitou Southern Africa to the South African charity Columba Leadership Trust.

US rental company Skyworks takes delivery of a 66ft 660SJ - the 250,000th JLG boom lift to come off the production line.

Norwegian Genie distributor Hybeko launches the 33ft Hybeko Tunnel 3390 RT scissor lift based on the Genie GS-3390 RT Rough Terrain scissor lift.

Spanish tower crane manufacturer Comansa upgrades its 21LC660 and 21LC750 flat top tower cranes and launches two new luffing jib cranes the CML280 and CML310 aimed at the growing demand for 18 and 24 tonne capacity cranes particularly in Asia and the Middle East.

Engine producer Deutz wins an injunction against a long-term component supplier of crankcases and cylinder heads which was threatening its supplies while demanding a major price increase.

Sarens launches the largest land-based crane in the world - the 5,000 tonne, 250,000 tonne/metre SGC-250 - capable of lifting 2,000 tonnes at 100 metres.

National Crane launches a tractor mounted version of its 27.2 tonne NBT30H-2 with a maximum tip height of 23.7 metres.

Link-Belt launches a new 90t Rough Terrain crane - the 100 RT - with a 47.2 metre full power boom and unveils the 175AT, a new European-style 150 tonne five axle All Terrain crane with a 60 metre pinned boom.

Manitou teams up with Deutz to develop all-electric and hybrid telehandler prototypes.

Spierings upgrades its UK service and support appointing Crowland Cranes as its UK service partner.

Versalift launches a hybrid version of its new 14.6 metre/230kg telescopic VTI-145-F van mounted platform mounted on a 3.5 tonne Mercedes Sprinter.

Maeda's third generation 2.82 tonne/9.7 metre MC285C-3 spider cranes arrive in Europe.

Terex Cranes

Terex Cranes launches its largest loader crane to date - the 15 tonne capacity, 18.5 metre boom TM-ZX150 - aimed at the Middle East and south east Asia markets.

3,200th Skyworks JLG boom lift to come off the production line.

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Celebrity deaths 2018

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Isao Takahata - Japanese film director/producer co-founder of Studio Ghibli - 82

Kofi Annan - former secretary general of the UN - 78

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Billy Graham - engineer with Boom and Platform Hire. Industry veteran and co-owner of Ireland’s Vertikal Grove/Manitowoc - b1943 - ex executive vice president. Grove

Steve Jobs - b1956 - access industry veteran and co-owner of Ireland’s Vertikal Grove/Manitowoc. The USA announces its withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council. Saudi Arabia allows women to drive. July

Seven members of Aum Shinrikyo - which carried out the 1995 sarin attack on the Tokyo subway - are hanged. China accuses the USA of starting the ‘largest trade war in economic history’ and announces immediate retaliatory tariffs. Entire and Ethiopia end their 20 year conflict.

12 boys and their football coach are rescued from a flooded cave in Thailand. November

The 2018 Winter Olympics are held in Pyeongchang, South Korea - North and South Korea join forces with combined team. Germany re-focuses as President of South Africa after nine years in power.

A school shooting at a High School in Parkland, Florida, kills 17 people and injures 17.

March

Sergei Skripal and daughter Yulia are poisoned with Novichok nerve agent in Salisbury, England. China grants Xi Jinping the status of ‘President for Life’. Thousands of high school students in the USA participate in the National School Walkout over gun violence.

Vladimir Putin is elected as president of Russia for a fourth time.

Qantas launches the first non-stop service between Australia and the USA. More than 100 Russian diplomats are expelled by more than 20 countries following the Skripal poisoning.

April

The 2018 Commonwealth Games are held in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. Cinemas open in Saudi Arabia for the first time since 1983. Miguel Díaz-Canel is sworn in as the first non-Castro president of Cuba since 1959.

A vehicle attack kills 10 and injures 16 in Toronto.

May

Spanish separatist group ETA announces its final dissolution after 40 years of conflict. The Eurovision Song Contest is won by Israel’s Netta Barzilai with the song Toy. The wedding of prince Harry and Meghan Markle. North Korea destroys nuclear test sites in a move to reduce regional tensions. The EU wide General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) starts to take force. Irish citizens vote to end the Country’s ban on abortion by 68.4% to 31.6%.

The USA extends its import tariffs - 25% on steel and 10% on aluminum.

Donald Trump promises for Russia to be readmitted at the G7 summit in Canada.

North Korea’s Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump hold a summit meeting in Singapore.

June

The 2018 FIFA World Cup is held in Russia won by France who beat Croatia 4-2 in the final. FIFA awards the 2026 World Cup to a joint bid from Canada, Mexico and the United States.

July

The Supreme Court of India decries homosexuality. The MV Nyerere capsizes on Lake Victoria, killing at least 228 passengers.

September

The United States reimposes sanctions on Iran. Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkmenistan end a 20 year dispute over the Caspian Sea’s legal status. The Morandi Bridge collapses in Genoa, Italy resulting in 43 deaths.

October

Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi is murdered inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Canada legalises cannabis for recreational use. More than 750,000 people march in central London demanding a second referendum on Brexit.

Donald Trump says he will ‘terminate’ the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia. China opens the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge - world’s longest sea bridge. Michael Higgins is voted president of Ireland.

November

California’s deadliest wildfires result in 83 deaths and 18,804 buildings destroyed. Centenary celebrations of the ending of World War I.

December

Thousands of high school students are held in prison in Spain. Scottish separatist group ETA announces its final dissolution after 40 years of conflict. The US military begins to withdraw from Syria.

December/January 2019: cranes & access

Those no longer with us

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