

Altrex steps up UK partnership

Following last year's announcement of the manufacturing/distribution partnership between Dutch scaffold, ladder and suspended platform manufacturer Altrex and UK-based Pop-Up Products, Ed Darwin met up with both companies at Pop-Up Products' premises in Deeside to learn what the two have been working on...

Pop-Up Products is best known today for its push around low level scissor lifts, however it has been producing aluminium tower products dating back as far as 1981 when former parent company NSG started out as a local scaffold company.

In 2006 Pop-Up Products demerged from NSG to form its own company

selling and marketing Pop-Up push around scissor lifts, along with its Eiger podium platforms, aluminium towers and Eiger Deck aluminium walkways. Since then the company has concentrated most of its efforts updating its Pop-Up range whilst working to develop its aluminium range. In partnership with Altrex, Pop-Up Products has now launched a new range of podiums and access towers under the MiPOD and MiTOWER brands. It has also taken the opportunity to benefit from Altrex's production facility and product features by modernising its existing aluminium products.

MiPOD podiums

Designed by Pop-Up Products and manufactured by Altrex the MiPOD podium range consists of two models - the three metre MiPOD 1000 and the 3.5 metre MiPOD 1500. The company claims the podiums are the first products to be tested as fully compliant with PASMA's new PAS 250 standard.

The MiPOD 1000 has a platform height of 750mm or one metre and an overall length of 1.5 metres and is just 750mm wide in order to fit through standard single doorways. Steel ballast helps prevent side loadings from overturning the platform, this takes its weight up to 57kg. Conversely the larger MiPOD 1500 which is 1.15 metres wide, weighs just 35kg. Designed for use in more open areas, it can be easily folded in order to pass through doorways.

Both models feature a built-in anti-surf mechanism preventing users from pulling themselves along from the platform, saloon style safety gates, a 150kg platform capacity and the option of folding down for storage when not in use.

Pop-Up managing director Nigel Woodger said: "This is the first time there has been a standard for low-level equipment, such as podiums. With an estimated 100,000 units currently in use in the UK we recognise the importance that they play and are hoping a strong product which meets the new regulations will restore the loss in confidence which the market is currently experiencing."

MiTOWER

The self-contained MiTOWER offers working heights of four, five or six



Pop-Up Products' MiPOD 1000



Pop-Up
Products'
MiPOD
1500

Fully assembled
the MiTOWER offers
up to six metres
working height



metres and has been designed for easy transport and erection by a single person. It has an overall width of 730mm, a length of 1.1 metres and weigh between 77 and 110kg depending on the platform height. Platform capacity is 250kg, with a maximum of two platforms. The tower base forms a trolley, in which to store and move all the other components. Retractable hangers on the sides of the tower are used to hold frames so that the erector need not descend the tower in order to get the next component. The company claims a single person can construct the tower by climbing up and down the tower no more than twice. Specific training courses are available in constructing the tower however it is also possible to construct it so long as the user is PASMA trained and self-familiarises themselves with the product.

"There is still work to do on one man installations in the market and training in this area is something that will also develop over time," adds Woodger. "Getting people used to a product that is so small and portable yet built to an EN1004 Class 3 standard will take time. We feel we have spotted an opportunity in the market with the MITOWER as it is a product both lightweight and compact in size which provides excellent capabilities up to six metres."



The retractable hangers installed on the sides of the tower



The MITOWER fully contained within a trolley made up from the tower's parts



UK rental company Vp MEP Hire has ordered the first customised scaffold tower - a new feature Pop-Up Products now offers through Altrex

Altrex's new edge protection and suspended platform for turbines

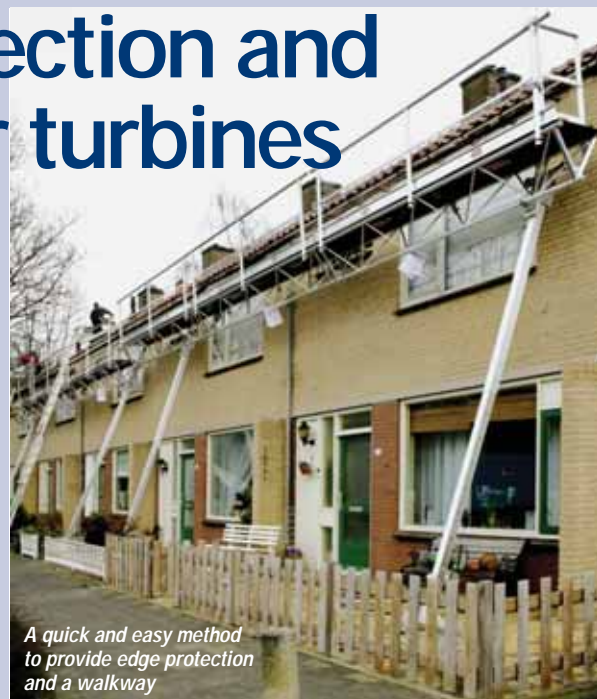
Altrex produces a wide range of products but a new one that we spotted at Bauma is the Modular Triangle Bridge (MTB) which provides a quick and easy façade platform, walkway or roof edge protection. Interlocking trusses are available in two, three or four metre lengths, and can be joined to create a six metres platform between two support stands, with further stands used to form a continuous length. Alternatively it can provide a free span between two scaffold towers of up to 12.5 metres. Assembled at ground level the platform is raised to the ideal height with hand winches. The guardrail frames allow the system to be used as suitable edge protection for flat and sloping roofs up to 60 degrees.

Features include compact transport and storage dimensions, non-slip wood platforms and 250mm increments for platform height adjustment. The company has targeted the new product at painters, roofers and facade renovation companies.

Altrex is also developing a new suspended platform for wind turbine maintenance which can be towed behind a small truck. The platform takes about an hour to assemble and can lift two people plus tools. More details in a later issue.



Scan this QR code to see the MTB being constructed.



A quick and easy method to provide edge protection and a walkway