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Genie expands production in Perugia

Genie's new Z-33/18 is the first boom lift the company has designed outside of the USA, and specifically targeted at the European market. Launched earlier this year, the lift will be manufactured at the Terex Umbertide plant in Perugia, Italy, which the company is developing in order to produce more platforms and telehandlers. Cranes & Access travelled to the plant to discover more.

The Umbertide facility was first opened in 1973 by local company Italmacchine to build construction equipment. It started manufacturing telehandlers in 1986 and in 1998 the company and its 50,000 square metre plant was acquired by Terex to form the company's telehandler range for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

In April 2007, a new production line began assembling the Genie Z-45/25 - the first Genie booms built outside of its Redmond, Washington facility. In November that year, after shipping its 500th boom lift, the company also added production of the Z-51/25.

Today the plant assembles nine telehandler products, including Compact, Hi-Reach and 360 degree models, as well as four Genie Z-boom models - including the new Z-33. The 33ft battery/electric Z-33/18 offers a working height of 12 metres and an outreach of 5.6 metres at an up and over height of 4.28 metres,

with a 200kg maximum platform capacity. Certified for both indoor and outdoor use the direct electric AC drive motors provides a 30 percent gradeability, while a larger turf tyre can be ordered as an option to the solid non-marking standard tyres.

With a total weight of 3,665kg it fits between the Nifty HR12 range and the typical 34ft industrial machines, or regular 45ft booms both of which weigh in at six tonnes or more. The lighter weight, combined with a modern 48 volt electrical system with AC drive, provides a long battery life between recharges - certainly more than enough to handle a full day's work, and possibly sufficient for two shifts. The unit has a new simplified platform design, with no jib or platform rotation, while an LCD display at the controls notifies operators of battery level and default messages etc... When we put it through its paces on the company's new demonstration area the machine performed very well.

The demonstration area forms part of a new testing and training area, which officially opened in October. Located a short distance from the main production facility, it has been designed to simulate a real job site, and features a 2,000 metre test track as well as a specifically designated, 600 square metre demo/training area.

The track has been developed for the extensive testing and verification programme that both telehandlers and aerial work platforms built in Perugia are subjected to. The track has varying sections which tests different aspects of each machine, for example, the telehandler course



Genie's impressive production assembly facilities

includes bumps, rough road and pot-hole simulation to check the life-cycle performance of the chassis, boom, transmissions and wheel etc and a lateral slope and speed/gear test to check transmission components. There is also a section that can be used to check the telehandler for defects/problems. Similar to the telehandler course, aerial work platforms are subjected to steering, gravel ground, ramp and rough terrain tests. Back at its production facility it also has an area with tilt, kerb/depression and cycle test rigs.

The new training area currently provides a four-day telehandler course and the company has said



Genie is currently working on a quick swap over system for the battery packs for multi-shift applications.

it is planning on adding access training next year as well as becoming an IPAF-approved training centre.

The other new product to be built at the Umertide facility is the latest version of the compact GTH-2506 telehandler with Stage IIIB compliant Deutz engine. The smallest model in the company's range it weighs just over 4.5 tonnes, has a maximum lift height of 5.79 metres and can lift up to 2.5 tonnes. Maximum forward reach is 3.35 metres and it can take two tonnes to full height.



The Z-33/18 performed well when put through its paces



Genie's telehandlers and aerial work platforms are subjected to 300 hours of endurance testing.