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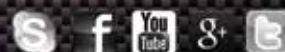
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APF 2016

C&A

APF show

Tree work is dangerous. According to accident statistics, about one in five of all aerial work platform-related fatalities involves tree workers. Falls from height, chainsaws, overhead power lines, falling trees and branches all contribute to making tree work one of the most dangerous of all industry sectors.

The increase in the use of platforms should, and almost certainly has, improved safety but there is still a lack of industry experience, training and guidance. With this in mind, IPAF recently issued a free guide targeting the industry, with safety tips for tree arborists using platforms. It highlights the correct procedures and checks before, during and after carrying out the work and highlights the importance of using mats under outriggers, taking precautions to protect the operator from the chainsaw perhaps using an approved platform divider, the need to cut trees so that the branches fall



The APF showcases the latest machines in the forestry and arboriculture sectors

away and clear of the platform and finally, to always use a harness with a short lanyard clipped onto a designated anchor point inside the platform.

Attitudes are changing

Attitudes towards the use of powered access in the arb sector has changed substantially over the past decade. 10 years ago most young arborists enjoyed the industry's macho outdoor image which did not include making life easier and safer by using a platform. Only the more senior arborists, or those unable to climb accepted powered access equipment. Over the years, the realisation of the dangers, combined with the difficulty of climbing throughout an increasingly long career - particularly with an injury - has



Promax showed this seven tonne Mercedes 6x6 Oberainger chassis with a 14.2m working height Versalift SST40EIH boom

transformed these attitudes. This can be seen by the amount of access equipment displayed at the various forestry shows and ultimately the equipment entering and being used in the sector.

The UK's bi-annual International Forestry Exhibition - APF 2016 - took place last month at Ragley Estate in Alcester, Warwickshire. The exhibition is the largest event of its type in the UK and the third largest in Europe for the forestry, woodland, arboriculture sector. While the APF showcases the latest machines and technology, a sizeable proportion is still given over to traditional woodland crafts and horse logging.

This year there were more than 300 exhibitors with around 18,000 visitors over the three day show. Most popular platforms were clearly spider lifts and 4x4 pick-up based platforms. There were several very interesting exhibits including the new 42 metre Teupen Puma, a Versalift boom on a Mercedes 6x6 Oberainger chassis and the new 4x4 Multitel MJ 226 mounted on the Mitsubishi Fuso 4x4 chassis.

New Multitel

The 23 metre Multitel MJ 226 follows the launch of the MX 250 on the same chassis at Vertikal Days a few months ago. It offers more than 12 metres of outreach with in-board outriggers and has a 250kg platform capacity. The MJ 226 - targeted at tree surgeons and those working around power lines - was fitted with a 1kV fibreglass bucket although a standard aluminium basket is available. It has a four section telescopic boom with telescopic jib and like the smaller Multitel MJ 201 has below ground capability.

Multitel dealer Access Industries believes there is a significant gap in the 4x4 platform market, managing director Melvyn Else said: "There is a whole raft of 4x4 platforms around 13 metres working height, above this however options are limited. Many of the platforms around 25/26 metres are mounted on very heavy - 12 to 14 tonne - 4x4 chassis, which brings with it a whole set of other problems. A 23 or 26 metre unit on a lighter chassis, with good outreach has to be of interest."

Multitel also launched the latest

The UK's leading spider rental company Higher Access has ordered two Teupen Puma 42GTX



The Multitel MJ 226 has a four section telescopic boom with telescopic jib



King sold four trailers at the event, including a specially adapted GTS44/3-17.5 heavy-duty step-frame trailer to site clearance specialist Richard Hall



Versalift 6x6 Oberainger

On the Promax stand was the Versalift SST40EiH boom on a seven tonne Mercedes 6x6 Oberainger chassis, with a working height of 14.2 metres and nine metres of outreach. The go-anywhere platform is based on a 4x4 Mercedes Benz Sprinter with a third axle added by specialist engineering company Oberainger. The unit - insulated to 46kV - is kept busy by UK power generation companies. Promax also showed its new 27 metre Platform Basket 27.14 spider lift.

CPL exhibited a 15 metre Imer IM R15 spider lift and had a lot of interest in its 14 metre 4x4 Isuzu mounted A314 platform, selling four units at the show. SkyKing was well represented with both transport trailers and a 13 metre Palfinger P130A on a 4x4 chassis. The company sold four trailers at the event, including a specially adapted GTS44/3-17.5 heavy-duty step-frame trailer to site clearance specialist Richard Hall.

Leguan dealer CPS Lift sold a 16 metre Leguan 160 with its own custom-built trailer to Mike Hamilton of Alcester-based Roots to Shoots. CPS also showed the 18.5 metre Dino 185XTC 11 spider lift.

APS had various Hinowa spider lifts on the stand, including a used 23.12 and a 17.75 with a generator powered lighting unit which is being evaluated by fire and rescue companies. The latest 15 metre Hinowa 15.70 also attracted a good deal of interest. Versalift highlighted its new 13.3 metre pick-up mounted LAT135-H on Toyota Hilux and Isuzu D Max chassis, with a choice of double A-frame or front radial outriggers with both offer 6.1 metres of outreach and 230kg platform capacity and are available with aluminium baskets or insulated GRP buckets.

The following photos will hopefully give you a taste of the rest of the show.



CPL exhibited a 15 metre Imer IM R15 spider lift

version of its MJ 201 platform known as the MJ 201S. It has the same working height and outreach but has a jib with more articulation, giving limited up and behind capability.

Puma for Higher Access

German spider lift manufacturer Teupen displayed several models destined for leading spider rental company Higher Access. The rental company - now part of Vp - has ordered more than 20 units in the largest Teupen order ever placed in the UK.

On the stand was a Leo 36T and the first of two 42 metre Puma 42GTX to be delivered. Launched at Bauma the Puma combines an aerial lift with the chassis of a walking excavator. Both units will be delivered this year with more units scheduled next year and 2018.



CPL had a lot of interest in its 14 metre 4x4 Isuzu mounted A314 platform, selling four units at the show



CPS Lift sold a 16 metre Leguan 160 with its own custom-built trailer to Mike Hamilton of Alcester-based Roots to Shoots

Part of the Multitel stand



The Hinowa 17.75 with lighting tower was one of many spider lifts on the APS stand



The Versalift stand with 13.3 metre pick-up mounted LAT135-H on an Isuzu D Max chassis



UK rental company A Plant with a Nifty TD120T



Inside the cab of the Teupen Puma 42GTX



One of the many forestry loader cranes

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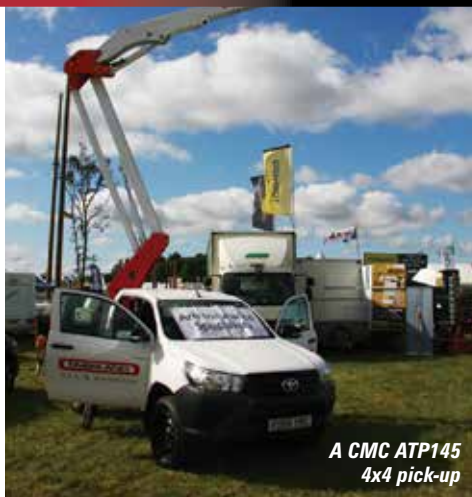


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A CMC ATP145 4x4 pick-up



A view across the upper fields away from the main showground and on the way to the forest trail



A log trailer with cab mounted loader crane



Demonstrating rope skills for rescuing



A used Hinowa 23.12 on the APS stand



The lighting unit mounted on the boom of the Hinowa 17.75



Quickfencer's new wood processor on a Manitou telehandler



The CPS Lift stand



A Multitel MJ206 on Fuso chassis



One of many log loader trailers



Tim Ward of Niftylift showing off the Nifty SD120T



A CMC Hybrid spider owned by MBS Access



A Teupen Leo 36T on its way to UK spider rental company Higher Access



Just one of the many chainsaw woodcarvers



S E Davis was showing several old cranes - how times have changed!



Skyking was showing this 13 metre Palfinger P 130A



The Versalift SST40EiH on Oberainger 6x6 chassis