Genie global product launch

Last month Genie unveiled several new scissor lifts along with new 'High Float' and TraX booms and user accessories at its facility in Redmond, Washington as well as providing some insight into its future plans. Mark Darwin was there.

The first global scissor to be launched is the 19ft GS-1932

Genie has come a long way since founder Bud Bushnell started making the lift device powered by compressed air in 1966. Today the company is one of the largest aerial lift manufacturers in the world, with production facilities in the US, Italy and China producing a wide range of scissors, booms and telehandlers.

The company has been a disciple of the Japanese lean manufacturing system since the mid 1990s and says that it has drastically changed the way its machines are produced. The system has four main elements - Development of people, Just in time, Quality built-in and Continuous improvement - and has resulted in one of the most efficient and quality consistent production plants in the industry, capable of turning out a scissor lift every nine minutes! The system has to be able to change to keep up with product development which is moving fast.

"I have been in the industry 25 years and the pace of change is faster than I have ever seen," says Genie president Matt Fearon. "The new technology - in particular telematics and electric/hybrid drive - is ready to go."


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New GS slab scissors

Its new GS slab electric scissor lifts are more a product of meeting global standards driven by the impending changes to the North American ANSI A92 and CSA B354 standards which come into effect in December. The new scissors are equipped with a 'Dual Zone Control' allowing operators to switch between indoor and outdoor use, with the Load Sense system adjusting the performance parameters for the environment selected. Also new for North America is the overload cut out system.

Product manager Mike Flanagan introducing the new global scissors

The machines feature the same platform capacities when working indoors or outdoors but the maximum working height is adjusted downwards by between 50 and 75 percent when outdoor use is selected, taking into account the new factors such as machine stability and wind forces up to 12.5 metres a second. The lift and lower speeds will also be reduced on some models.

The first global scissor to be launched is the 19ft GS-1932. The current European CE rated GS-1932 can work at full height both indoors and outdoors but according to Genie is 'too heavy' at 1,503kg. The new Global version is 143kg lighter at 1,360kg however when used outdoors the working height is reduced from the maximum of 7.79 metres to 6.3 metres - essentially converting it to a 14ft machine. The overall width remains 810mm. The narrower 760mm wide GS-1930 will also be available globally but the working height is reduced to 5.2 metres when working outside making it a 10.5ft lift for outdoor use.

The new Dual Zone control panel features two new buttons - indoor or outdoor - with the operator choosing the one required. If a selection is not made, the machine will set the default outdoors position on start up. The operator can however change between the two settings at any time from the platform controls. The Global models will go into production in Redmond, Washington and Changzhou, China in November and


The lift device made by founder Bud Bushnell powered by compressed air that started it all in 1966

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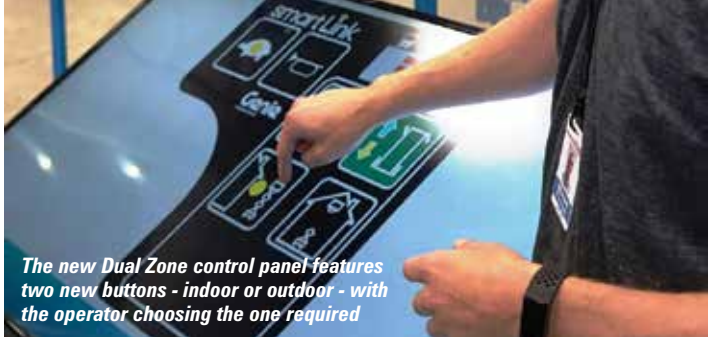

The new Dual Zone control panel features two new buttons - indoor or outdoor - with the operator choosing the one required

be available immediately in North America and China with the rest of the world coming on stream early next year.

Product manager Mike Flanagan said: "Changes to the North American standards will have an impact on all of the aerial work platforms we manufacture. The updated ANSI A92 and CSA B354 standards are based on the ISO standard, driving global standards commonality with European (EN 280) and other international standards."

"We have taken advantage of change in the ANSI standards, to harmonise the GS scissor lift family worldwide, offering a more consistent machine that's simple to use and intuitive to operate, as well as having the versatility to be used in indoor and outdoor applications."

The new Genie GS dual zone scissors can be distinguished either by the platform control - PCON - which includes the dual zone buttons, or the new Genie Smart Link decal on the platform. They can also be identified by the use of black and yellow tape around the deck - a requirement of the new ANSI/CSA standard.

The standard also requires continuous checking of the weight in the platform with a cut out if the actual load exceeds the maximum capacity. On the new scissor lifts, the Load Sense relies on a pressure sensor in the lift circuit, coupled with scissor arm angle sensors, alerting the operator if the machine is overloaded via a graphic on the Smart Link platform controller. It will also sound an alarm and stop further machine movement until the weight in the platform is reduced.

The new standards also adopt the European 1.1 metre guardrail height, obliging all machines to have folding guardrails apart from the 13ft GS-1330m which already complies.

New Genie High Float boom lifts

The new 'High Float' 'HF' and TraX booms are available in S-40, S-45, S-60 and S-65 straight boom models, while the HF line also includes a 45ft Z-45 articulated boom model - the Z45 HF. All nine new models are based on the company's Xtra Capacity XC booms and comply with the new ANSI A92 and CSA B354 standards in North America, as well as European EN280 and Australian AS 1418.10 standards.

The S-60 HF and S-65 HF booms are fitted with air filled - rather than foam filled - tyres to allow them to 'float' better over soft ground, this is possible as these models maintain the minimum stability requirements even when a tyre is punctured and subjected to the resulting dynamic load.

The new booms are already available in North America and will be offered in some European markets early next year. The new Trax machines along with the S-60 HF and 65 HF offer an unrestricted platform capacity of 272kg, or 454kg with a slightly reduced working envelope. Some of the new XC booms also feature an increased maximum working slope angle of seven degrees.

Genie Lift Tools

Genie also unveiled three new Lift Tool accessories - the Tools Work Tray, Pipe Cradle and Panel Carrier - which will be available shortly on the updated GS scissor lifts. They will be available in North America towards the end of this year and globally in 2019 pending local approvals.

The S-60 HF and S-65 HF booms are fitted with air filled - rather than foam filled - tyres to allow them to 'float' better over soft ground

The Genie Lift Tools Pipe Cradle.

The Genie Lift Tools Work Tray is easily fitted and designed to help eliminate clutter and potential tripping hazards in the platform by providing a convenient place to store tools, fixings and small materials. It can be used on the main platform or the deck extension on most Genie GS slab scissor lift models excluding the new 13ft GS-1330m. The Pipe Cradle is available for all Genie GS scissors can be installed in under 10 minutes and can be used with the deck extended or retracted.

The Panel Carrier allows items such as sheet materials, windows and plasterboard/drywall panels to be secured on the outside of the platform, simplifying loading, unloading and placement of the items on the jobsite.

Future developments

"Our product development road map for the next five years is stuffed - we have lots of projects on the go," says Fearon. "We are fully committed to driving innovation in the industry. Telematics will help solve the number one problem in the industry - the lack of service technicians - while information gained can change the way product development and training is carried out by seeing actual machines usage. For example we found that most boom lifts were regularly and significantly overloaded. This cannot happen with the new machines."

"As a manufacturer we decided to design out the overloading problem by increasing the capacity of the booms and then through training making the users realise the actual load that is going into the platform. With more machines fitted with telematics it won't be long before rental companies and manufacturers start sharing information such as repair records. This would highlight problems that could be designed out to make machines more reliable. This may stretch the life from around eight years to 10 or 12 years with fewer repairs and extended service intervals."

A screen shot of the Genie Lift Connect telematics system launched in April showing machine positions in areas.

"I think these future developments are exciting. We are not early adopters and we are cautious as an industry. But we want to make things easier and faster with machines that last longer."


Part of the AWP Foundations lab which helps in the training