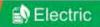




MODULAR DESIGN

85% of components are common















Working Height

Modular Boom Series

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With their origins in monument lifting and more recent success in glass handling applications, spider cranes have demonstrated how a compact, go anywhere machine can get close to a load to match the performance of a far bigger crane working from a distance. New jib and stabiliser configurations together with sophisticated control systems allow these cranes to take on heavier and more complex work. Will North reports.

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The introduction of stringent manual handling regulations combined with heavier glass panels has resulted in a vast array of specialist glass handling equipment. We take a look at the very latest products on the market.

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Contractors and developers are constantly looking for equipment that can save time and improve safety. Both mastclimbers and hoists fit that criteria and appear to be gaining in popularity as companies realise they can offer substantial advantages in terms of speed, safety and aesthetics. We review the latest product developments as well as highlighting German manufacturer Geda, celebrating 25 years in the industrial and construction hoist sector.

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The move away from fossil fuels to battery powered equipment means additional demand and strain is being put onto the electrical power supply infrastructure. We talk to Brian Stead about how Nationwide Platforms in the UK is preparing for the inevitable increase in electricity demand. We also look at a game-changing flywheel technology from Punch Flybrid that contractor Bowmer + Kirkland is using to reduce costs and emissions with its tower cranes and mastclimbers.

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ON THE COVER

Geda's largest transport platform - the 3,700kg capacity 3700 Z/ZP - working on the new 120m high Budapest headquarters of global oil and gas company MOL Group, being built by Hungarian construction company Market Építö Zrt.



IN THE NEXT ISSUE Scheduled for publication in late November/early December, the next issue of Cranes & Access will include features on Truck mounted lifts, Outrigger mats and pads, Pick & Carry/Industrial cranes and an extensive Bauma show review. If you have any contributions or suggestions to make or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.



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COMMENT

ARE WE IN FOR A SHOCK?

Walking around the Bauma show last week, I could not help but notice that almost every equipment manufacturer across all sectors cranes, mining, access, quarries and general construction - were focused on the introduction of electric powered machines.

This is, of course, in response to the need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels to stem the rise in global temperatures and resultant climate change which is now having a material impact on all of our lives.

At the upcoming Cop27 Climate Change Conference in Egypt, 190 countries will try to agree further measures to accelerate the move towards carbon neutrality. The USA and China contribute the most greenhouse gas emissions, so it is good to see that most of their new products are powered by zero emission electricity.

This all sounds like we are heading in the right direction. However, the problem with the rapidly growing demand for electricity - exacerbated by power hungry machines such as telehandlers, large booms and scissor lifts, vans, trucks and cars - is that the power supply infrastructure will struggle to cope... unless something radical

In this issue of C&A we look at two sides of this story: a rental company which is having to overcome substantial cost and time issues upgrading its facilities to cope with charging growing numbers of electric machines, and a design/manufacturing company that has developed new technology that substantially reduces the peak power demand of large equipment, allowing a smaller electrical input, saving tonnes of CO2. The two articles highlight both the problems and one of many new solutions that are emerging.

Going 'green' is not a cheap or a quick fix. But unless something changes soon it seems unavoidable that we will face issues with an inadequate electrical supply. Unless there is a rapid major overhaul in most country's supply systems, there will not be enough power to charge these new, amazing, zero emission machines as national generating and network capacities are maxed out.

For it all to make sense the electricity must be generated sustainably from renewable sources, or the benefits of electrification will be lost.

Hydrogen may prove to be a long term answer, or another solution may well appear. But unless we invest in more wind, wave and solar solutions and the infrastructure to distribute it now - all of which will benefit the lifting equipment sector the electric revolution will fail to achieve its main purpose.

Mark Darwin

Comment and feedback is most welcome via post, email, fax or phone stating if we may publish them or not: editor@vertikal.net