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Electroelsa is making a significant effort to expand in the UK and Ireland appointing Direct Hoist Sales as its distributor

MODULARITY AND VERSATILITY THE KEY

Contractors and developers are constantly looking for equipment that can save time and therefore money and improve safety. Both mastclimbers and hoists fit that criteria and appear to be gaining in popularity as companies realise that for certain types of work - particularly multi-storey tower block construction and maintenance and long façades - they offer substantial advantages in terms of speed, safety and aesthetics. In trying to improve and develop the product manufacturers are looking to create products that are more versatile, more modular and incorporate the latest technology.



A Scanclimber mastclimber

This growth in popularity can be seen in just one of the market leaders - Sweden's Alimak - which is seeing a strong upsurge in demand for façade maintenance equipment, including its custom-built Building Maintenance Units as well as its standard mastclimbing equipment both in the Middle East and Asia. Alimak is just one example of changes in the market in terms of company ownership.

ALIMAK EXPANDS

In August Alimak announced that it is to acquire Tractel from its current owner Fifth Cinvén Fund for €500 million in cash on a debt free basis. The French international group Tractel which was founded in 1941 and offers a wide range of suspended platforms, mastclimbers - through its acquisition of Scanclimber in 2018 - work at height safety equipment and lifting tackle with Tifor.

Now registered in Luxembourg Tractel has subsidiaries in 19 countries, 1,100 employees, around 10,000 distributors in 120 countries with

manufacturing facilities in Europe, USA, Canada, China, Singapore and Turkey. Revenues last year were €201 million, meaning the combined business will have revenues of around €580 million.

UPERIO TAKES COMPASS

A smaller deal was struck a few months earlier when French international tower crane group Uperio acquired US based tower crane and hoist rental company Compass Equipment. This is also an indication of larger companies looking to reinforce and expand their product offerings and geographic coverage.

Uperio which was itself acquired by UK/US based private equity firm TowerBrook Capital last June - has a fleet of more than 2,200 tower cranes and employs around 600 at its locations in France, UK, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Sweden and the USA.

Compass is based in Gilbert, Arizona in greater Phoenix with three further locations in Denver, Colorado, the greater Los Angeles area in

California and Las Vegas, Nevada with around 70 employees. It operates a fleet of 45 hoists and 45 tower cranes. The company is a Potain tower crane dealer and has a long-standing partnership with Alimak. It offers sales, rental and service for all types of construction and industrial hoists - both personnel and material - as well as tower cranes.

Uperio chief executive Philippe Cohet said: "Compass is an addition with excellent potential for us in every respect: on the one hand, the four depots in the west of the USA provide important access to regions with good development prospects in residential construction, and on the other hand, it provides a broader overall product offering to our group. While the market in the regions is competitive, we believe that with the support of Uperio group, we will be able to profitably accelerate its growth, especially with their healthy order backlog."

Italian mastclimber and hoist manufacturer Electroelsa is making a significant effort to expand

in the UK and Ireland, attending Vertikal Days in the past year or two and now appointing Direct Hoist Sales as distributor in the UK and Ireland. Based in Kirton in Lindsey, south of Scunthorpe, Direct Hoist currently sells and rents Geda hoists, transport platforms and inclined builders hoists.

Speaking of the deal Direct Hoist said: "This is the start of a fantastic new venture for us, we are very excited for this new adventure and are really confident that our partnership will be positive for our customers by offering an expanded and multi-purpose product range and local stock for quicker deliveries."



(L-R) Said Shabana of Electroelsa, Steve Stopher of Direct Hoist, Giorgio Taliani of Electroelsa, Robert Wilson of Direct Hoist, Christian Orry Palumbo of Electroelsa and Josh Wilson of Direct Hoist

NEW PRODUCT LAUNCHES

The past year has seen a several new product launches, some of them possibly delayed by the Covid pandemic. The UK's Vertikal Days event earlier this year included more new mastclimber and hoist launches than usual and included products from Maber, Geda, RAXTAR, SaeClimber, Torgar and Böcker.

MABER

Maber's UK distributor CLM display three Maber rack and pinion hoists - the MB 500, MB C1000 and MB C2000. The MB 500 is available in a single phase version with a 300kg capacity or 500kg with the three phase version. The MB C1000 has a 1,000kg capacity and lift speeds of 12 and 24 m/min and the MB C2000 has a 1,500kg capacity and a maximum anchored height of 150 metres. Largest hoist capacity is two tonnes.



Maber MB C1000



Maber MB C2000



Mace Bumpa hoist

GEDA

Geda and its UK distributor Mace demonstrated a range of hoists including the portable ladder hoist, a product that in recent years has been more popular in other European markets such as Germany and Austria but seems to be making a bit of a comeback in the UK. Mace also sells a similar product to Geda, in the form of its lightweight Bumpa roof tile hoist. Available with a petrol or 110v electric power the Bumpa is a simple, portable inclined lift for loading tiles, bricks or blocks onto roofs and upper floors of a building.

Looking at more substantial vertical hoists, the Geda heavy-duty Multilift P12 is an enclosed hoist for both goods and personnel and uses a modular design, offering owners greater versatility. The compact, pre-installed base unit consists of the car, enclosure, flat cable bin and drive and as such is delivered as a single assembled unit. The hoist therefore usually requires no foundation. Its footprint occupies only a few square metres, a major advantage of larger passenger hoists.



Geda Multilift

Once the base unit is in position, the hoist can be quickly and efficiently assembled from the car. Operation is controlled conveniently with landing pre-selection in the car and at all landing levels. The P12 transports 1,500kg of materials or up to 12 people at lifting speeds ranging from 12 to 40 metres a minute. Four different platform variants with different load capacities provide flexible adaptation of the passenger and material hoist to the situation on site. At Bauma Geda will launch a new mast concept and a new and completely redesigned version of the Multilift P22 hoist.

RAXTAR

Dutch manufacturer RAXTAR produces a full range of passenger and material hoists, common towers and software solutions for the high and mid-rise



RX SMART Series IAPA Awards Product of the Year

market. At Vertikal Days its display included the latest developments in its RX SMART Series of construction hoists for personnel, with a payload of 2,300kg and lift speed of 36 metres a minute. Announced in 2022 the series derives its name from "using 'smart' and efficient engineering." Features include quiet operation, standard C-gate and programmable landings with hoist calling system and joystick or touch panel controls.

SAECLIMBER

Spanish mastclimber and hoist manufacturer SaeClimber is known not only for its standard products but its custom-built specials, which it has supplied for various high profile projects including work at the NASA facility in Florida. It recently introduced a new three tonne high speed single and twin cage passenger and materials hoist, with the intention to increase the range with a greater focus on energy savings. It has also

launched a twin mast transport platform line - the two tonne PH10 and the four tonne PH20 - and developed a large mastclimber - the P45/S - with a platform length of up to 18 metres in single mast layout.

At Vertikal Days the company demonstrated its heavy duty E30 passenger and materials hoist. Available in single or twin



The SaeClimber 4,000kg PH20 Twin

SAEclimber

mastclimbers
hoists

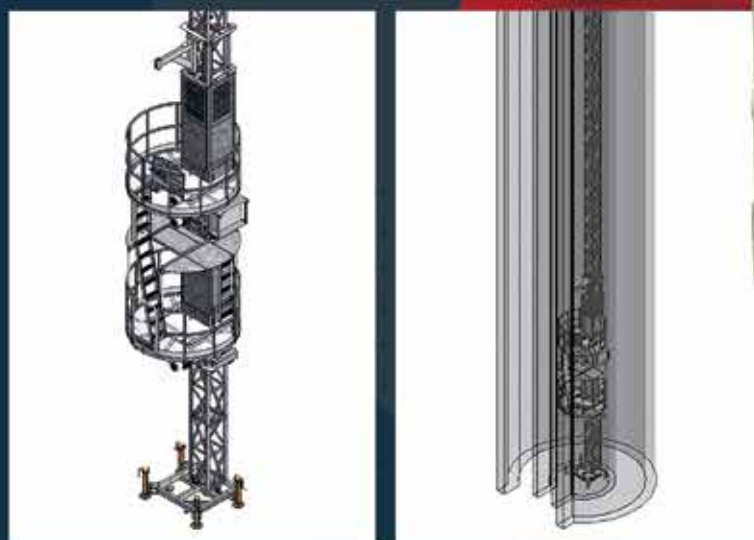


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SaeClimber E30

cage configuration each of which has a 3,000kg payload. Maximum anchored height is 250 metres, maximum elevation speed is 60 m/min and each cabin measures 4.5 x 1.5 x 2.1 metres.

At Bauma the company will display its new P40 S mastclimber which offers 1,600kg on a single mast or 4,000kg on a twin mast with a length of up to 32 metres as well as the potential to build in a triple mast format.

TORGAR

Another Spanish company Torgar celebrated winning IPAF's IAPA innovation product of the year award with its PL-20 EXT 2V Modular Transport Platform. When it came to Vertikal Days it displayed the new T3-25 modular goods hoist and the versatile PL-05 Transport Platform.

BÖCKER

And finally, Böcker showed a new rack & pinion transport platform, the dual mast Super-lift MX 2024. Maximum capacity is 2,000kg with up to seven people. The modular platform concept is said to make it highly versatile. The single mast base unit measures 1.7 x 1.4 metres and can be extended for dual mast lifts. By assembling further platform modules, the MX 2024 can be adapted to cope with a wide range of requirements such as perpendicular to the façade, where the lift can be extended to a maximum length of 5.1 metres. When parallel to the façade it can be expanded up to a width of 4.5 metres. All landing gates use switch cams stopping exactly at the same position. The completely new PLC control monitors all limit switches of the lift. Operators are notified of faults like an open loading gate via the display where all information can be read as text or as an error code. This system ensures fast diagnostics and remedial actions.

At Bauma it will also unveil the new Super-Lift LX PM rack & pinion hoist which can transport up to 25 people to heights of 200 metres.



Bocker Super-lift MX 2024



T3-25 SC Factory

Alimak has teamed up with scaffold and formwork manufacturer Peri to develop the STS 300 rack & pinion scaffold component hoist



The STS 300 features a single mast and a detachable 880mm by 1.23 metre platform with a 300kg capacity

BAUMA LAUNCHES

Other new products making their debut at Bauma include the Maber MBA2000-EU construction hoist, along with a new 2,000kg single and twin hoist. Alba-Macrel's new 3,500kg PMH hoist which can be built to a height of 350 metres. Torgar will show the PL-20 EXT heavy duty hoist alongside a PW-18 mastclimber and PL-05 transport platform. Also sharing the stand is France's XE which has the XE5 Top-Down Hoist for underground access along with several other products from its range and Camac-Minor Hoists from Spain which will launch a new rack & pinion hoist and show its new range of material hoists.

ALIMAK/PERI SCAFFOLD HOIST

Alimak has teamed up with scaffold and formwork manufacturer Peri to develop the STS 300 rack & pinion scaffold component hoist. Designed for use with the Peri Up system scaffold, the STS 300 features a single mast and a detachable 880mm by 1.23 metre platform with a 300kg capacity. It can lift all the Peri Up components including large staircases to lift heights of 12, 24, 36 or 48 metres, with a 2.2kW motor providing hoist speeds of 17 m/min. The platform also features four swivel casters for improved manoeuvrability on the ground and can be stacked for easier transportation and storage.

The company claims just two scaffolders - one at the bottom loading and unloading the boxes and another at the top installing the scaffold - are able to erect up to 300 square metres of scaffolding a day when using the hoist.

The Alimak STS 300 will initially be available in Germany before gradually being rolled out to the rest of the world.

SCANCLIMBER GLIDE RAIL

Scanclimber's Glide Rail is a mastclimber option which helps to move and deliver façade elements such as glass and concrete panels on the platform at any given height. The Glide Rail has a simple

design, is lightweight, easy to install and is compatible with all the middle to high payload range capacity Scanclimber units including the SC5000, SC6000, SC8000 & SC10000 and can be used on both single and twin mast units.

The Glide Rail is mounted onto the lifting frame above the platform and moves up and down with it. The rail can be equipped with a chain or wire rope hoist which can move along the glide rail to lift materials from the platform to the façade reducing the use of more expensive cranes.

The device has an extension system which allows the rail to be moved from the edge of the platform towards the building from 145mm to 1.145 metres. The openable hatch allows it to pass through the wall anchors, making it easy to install and easy to use with anchored masts. It has a payload of between 600kg and 1,000kg depending on the rail length and can be lifted to a desired working height with the platform and locked to the mast. When locked to the mast it does not affect the mastclimber's payload capacity.

The Rail can also be equipped with a lifting device such as a monorail which runs along the glide rail and helps to lift and transport material from the platform to the façade.

Scanclimber's Glide Rail is a mastclimber option which helps to move and deliver façade elements such as glass and concrete panels



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PRODUCTS THROUGH EXPERIENCE

Bavarian manufacturer Geda has been one of the leading players in the hoist market for many years and its products can be found on sites all over the world. Founded in 1929 as a small agricultural machinery repair company it celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2019. This year the company's industrial and construction hoist division is marking its 25th year having set up in 1997 to meet the growing demand from contractors for more efficient, cost effective and versatile lifting of materials and passengers.

Conventional material hoists were already well established, while lifting people was prohibited in many markets. The growth in demand has not slowed in that time and at the end of last year, Geda broke ground on its new manufacturing facility, while work will now begin on a new office building.

In 1997 GEDA pioneered its first transport platform - the 1200 ZP - for the Airport Centre site in Dresden



Geda has a comprehensive product range from 60kg inclined ladder type rope lifts for materials such as bricks and mortar to sophisticated rack & pinion personnel and material hoists, including tower crane operator hoists. In January 2017 the company was purchased by Johann Sailer from brothers Gerhard and Harald Dechentreiter, grandchildren of company founder Georg Dechentreiter.

FIRST TRANSPORT PLATFORM

In 1997 GEDA pioneered its first transport platform - the 1200 ZP - for the Airport Centre site in Dresden. At Bauma the following year two new models - the 500 ZP and 1500 ZP - were added, proving their worth on the high profile Reichstag (Federal Assembly) building in Berlin.

A year later the 500 Z/ZP was introduced with a new product designation which combined a material lift (Z) and a transport platform (ZP) in a single machine. The 500 Z/ZP featured a revised control system for transporting people and materials. When used purely for building materials, the hoist switches to material lift mode with a higher speed.

With the turn of the millennium, Geda acquired the construction hoist division of Austrian company Ebbs & Radinger (ERA) providing access to several new market sectors. The ERA 1200

Z/ZP and 1500 Z/ZP were added, while a transport platform for permanent installation was introduced in 2005. In 2016 the top of the range 3700 Z/ZP was launched with a maximum capacity of 3,700kg was added to meet demand for higher capacity models.



The 1500 Z/ZP was introduced after the acquisition of Ebbs & Radinger

NO ANCHORING SOLUTION

Its most recent model launched last year is the free standing 1500 Z/ZP F transport platform which does not require anchoring. Based on the 1500 Z/ZP it can be operated to free standing



heights of 12 metres eliminating time spent drilling and filling anchor points. It is also handy where it is not possible to use anchors such as on glass façades. The hoist's free standing steel base plate weighs 1,700kg and can fit onto the bed of a regular truck, making it easy to transport to site. It can also be fitted with a lifting lug allowing it to be craned into any difficult to reach locations.

The hoist features a 1.45 x 3.3 metre loading platform with a lift capacity up to 1,300kg or seven people. The transport/passenger platform control has a maximum speed of 12 m/min for personnel, while in 'materials mode' speeds of up to 24 m/min are possible. The hoist uses dual Geda UNI-X-Mast triangular mast sections and can be built to heights of 100 metres when anchored.

Over the years Geda has helped set new standards regarding safety. All its transport platforms are equipped with the usual safety equipment such as speed dependent safety gear, safety stop and overload protection. The lubrication device - fitted as standard - helps reduce wear on gear racks and pinions. The company will also unveil more innovations at Bauma.



GEDA 1500 ZZPF

TALLINN'S HISTORIC CHURCHES

Ramirent has provided a combination of scaffolding and two Geda 1500 Z/ZP transport platforms for the renovation of several historic churches that dominate the skyline in the Estonian capital of Tallinn.

St Mary's Cathedral and St Nicholas Church are located at the Toompea hill. The 69 metre high cathedral with baroque belfry was built in the 18th century. St Nicholas Church is a little higher at 105 metre and dates back to the 17th century.

Both churches are currently hidden behind 65 metre high scaffolds to carry out the roof refurbishment on St Mary's cathedral and a complex façade refurbishment on St Nicholas. Both should be completed by the end of the year. The work on St Nicholas is being carried out by Tarrest in collaboration with Meisel Ehitus, while OMA Katused is working on St Mary's.

The high wind loads in this coastal location required the use of special anchors to secure the masts. The hoists are able to transport both people and materials to full 65 metres, and while loads of up to 3,700kg are possible, the 1.45 x 3.3 metre B platforms provide plenty of space for materials such as steel elements and construction waste, with a capacity of 1,500kg.





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The Alimak Scando 650 range of construction hoists are available in a variety of sizes and speeds to meet the need of every construction project. Offering a vast choice of loading capacities and configurations, the Scando 650 range of products is designed for the efficient transportation of passengers and materials.

The Alimak MC 650 mast climbing work platform boasts up to 41.8m in length and payload capacities of 2,230kg - 7,240kg, offering a high-quality vertical access solution for heavy applications. For additional flexibility, it uses the same mast as Alimak's 650 construction hoists.

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