

# cranes & access

April/May 2023 Vol.25 issue 2

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**CRAWLER  
CRANES**

**VEHICLE  
MOUNTED LIFTS**

**CONEXPO REVIEW**

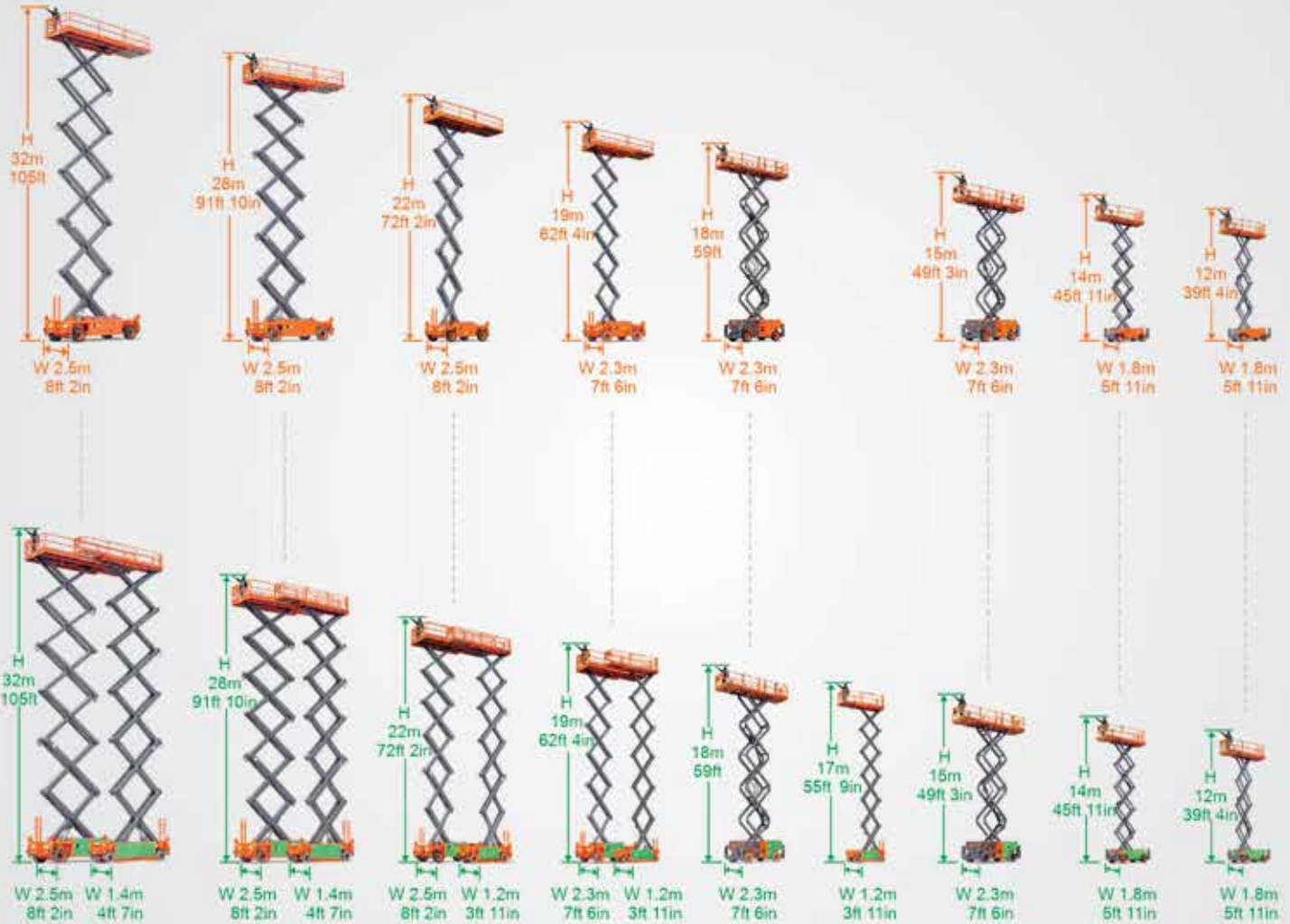
**VERTIKAL DAYS SHOWGUIDE**







**Heavy Loading**  
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## Large Scissor Lifts Series

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### Global TOP3

2021 Industry Global Manufacturers Sales Ranking  
 \*Data source: (Access International)



6



17



25



37



89

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Chinese construction equipment manufacturers have been producing lattice crawler cranes in significant volumes for many years. However the Ukraine-Russia conflict has opened the door to Chinese exports with the western crane manufacturers affected by sanctions. We take a look at the markets and latest developments.

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We review the real dangers of working with truck and van mounted platforms near overhead power cables and lines. We also examine a market that is moving ever closer to all-electric powered lifts.

## VERTIKAL DAYS SHOW GUIDE 37

The biggest ever Vertical Days returns to the Peterborough Show Ground with a record number exhibitors and products. Our comprehensive guide contains everything you need to know about the show, the exhibitors and the products they plan to showcase.

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This year Conexpo was back and bigger than ever and more importantly it had a positive 'vibe' throughout. Here we try to convey the atmosphere with an extended pictorial review.

## APEX PREVIEW 97

The Dutch access exhibition APEX returns after an absence of six years following the cancellation of the 2020 event. It also goes back to Maastricht for the first time in 12 years having moved to Amsterdam following the 2011 show. Here we have a flavour of what to expect at the show.

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## ON THE COVER

Don Ahern, owner of Snorkel and Xtreme Manufacturing, with the winning ticket for the raffle of the specially painted Jekko Mini-Picker crane at Conexpo. The event raised more than \$60,000 with all the money going to the Kennedy Krieger Institute which funds research and care treatments for Autism.



**IN THE NEXT ISSUE** Scheduled for publication in mid June, the next issue of Cranes & Access will include the Vertical Days 2023 show review and features on Low level access, Telehandlers, All Terrain cranes and Recruiting for the lifting industry. 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

## WALK THE TALK...

There can be few people who have not heard of Jeremy Clarkson. Love him or hate him he has presented some of TV's biggest shows in terms of international viewers, such as Top Gear and Amazon's The Grand Tour. However, he is also famous or infamous in the UK for his newspaper columns which frequently generate complaints and controversy.

His latest TV programme is 'Clarkson's Farm' - a type of documentary series about managing his farm on the edge of the Cotswolds. The series not only has Clarkson up to his usual, hair-brained but entertaining ideas, but also highlights the challenges facing farmers including dealing with bureaucracy.

What has all this got to do with Cranes & Access? Well in the latest series which covers his second year running the farm, farm shop and trying to start a restaurant, he is having to diversify to maintain income at risk from Brexit.

Having read, watched - and enjoyed - his outspoken, un-PC personality for many years I found myself staring at the TV in mild disbelief during one episode in which he was trying to fix a fence, standing between the forks of a telehandler as it held the fence before trying to push in a fencing post. A while later he was working at height from the telehandler's bucket and in another scene was using an indoors only slab scissor lift outside on a slope, trying to work out why it would not operate, seemingly ignorant of the built-in safety systems. At least there was no attempt to edit out the 'bad and the ugly' from the episode.

For many years we have published examples of bad practice and reported on accidents and near

misses - no matter where they are or who is responsible - in order help others avoid the same fate, while stating the facts often distorted by the rumour mill.

We have often been on the receiving end of companies trying to stop publication or supply information for 'witch hunts' to find whistle blowers, as they seek to suppress information on a near miss or incident to keep it out of the public domain or being seen by the safety authorities. It tends to be the same larger companies that also pontificate on how important safety, employee care and inclusion is.

Thankfully the vast majority understand that it is far better to state the facts and share such information for the benefit of everyone. Only this week a large plant in Texas had a serious crane incident. The company's initial reaction was to suppress the whole affair...even though it had suffered a major incident two years ago and has spent serious money assuring the public that it had learnt from the incident and how it now believed in 'motherhood and apple pie'.

The attitude is, in a way, a bi-product of the box ticking mentality we have created, where companies claim to believe in diversity, employee safety and the environment but conveniently forget it all when it comes to implementation. Annual reports now include pages of the stuff, specialist directors sit on boards, asses are well and truly covered but few truly 'walk the talk'.

At least that is one accusation that cannot be levelled at Jeremy Clarkson, he is WYSIWYG - What You See Is - most definitely - What You Get.

#### 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](mailto:editor@vertikal.net)*