



Vertikal days

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& EVERYTHING
IN BETWEEN

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APEX RETURNS TO MAASTRICHT

APEX - the tri-annual access equipment exhibition - was held last month after a six year absence due to the 2020 event being a Covid casualty. It also marked the return to Maastricht, 12 years after it was moved to Amsterdam.

While the show had an excellent number of exhibitors - most having spent a significant sum on visually impressive stands - visitors were fewer than had been expected, although according to the organisers, APEX and the International Rental Exhibition which runs alongside attracted 6,130 visitors between them. That seemed high given the dearth of visitors on two of the three days...we wonder if the count was simply the number of badge scans conducted with exhibitor staff and visitors leaving and returning to the hall every time they went to eat, visit the facilities or the outside area? A packed calendar of exhibitions before and after APEX along with a public holiday in Germany didn't help.

The major stand-out feature of the show was the large number of 'new' manufacturers - mostly from China - completely unknown to most of those attending, with the vast majority displayed 'me too' slab scissor lifts. Our guess is that most will not be seen in Europe again.

The event also coincided with the European Rental Association's (ERA) annual convention, held at the same venue on day two and three. With more than 350 delegates attending, it was a great success and was followed by an evening awards dinner.

The second morning of the show started bright

and early with IPAF president Karin Nars hosting the first IPAF Women in Powered Access networking event. Launched at Vertikal Days, the Women in Powered Access initiative aims to recognise and celebrate the contributions of women in powered access, while outlining career paths for women already working in the industry and those looking to enter it.

The well attended breakfast meeting was a highly positive forum for networking over coffee and croissants, while speakers included Tjiske Van Hellemond of JLG who spoke of how valuable mentors and mentoring had been for her career.

NEW PRODUCTS

Half a dozen exhibitions held in the six months prior to APEX starved it of brand new product launches. But Platform Basket surprised everyone with its entry into the mast boom market with the 10 metre Heron tracked model, complete with inboard leveling jacks. Ruthmann announced a new 100 metre truck mounted lift the T1000 HF - the first of which will go to Joly Location in France - but not before the end of next year. AlmaCrawler also showed its new 1.5 tonne ML1.5 FX tracked carrier.

Chinese manufacturers making their European debut included Heli, Hered, Jovoo, Quiyn or King and CFMG and there were also two new Italian manufacturing companies - a startup



Platform Basket surprised with a new 10m Heron tracked mast boom with inboard levelling jacks



(L-R) Uwe Strotmann and Remy Doyen of Ruthmann with Marcel Joly of Joly Location and Stefan Linnemann of Ruthmann confirm the first order for the new 100m Ruthmann T1000 HF



Almac's new 1,500kg 1.5FX all electric transporter



New spider lift manufacturer I-Lift

manufacturer I-Lift with an 18 metre spider lift and a 21 metre model to follow. The company was set up late last year by former employees of CMC. The other was Italtift which had a single scissor lift on the stand, but which is marketing a full range of slab and RT scissors, mast booms and articulated booms, most of which appear to be badged products rather than its own. Another new name for most visitors was Turkish company Onderlift with a range of scissor lifts.



Another new name, this time from Italy - Italtift which offers badged scissors, booms and mast



Another new name, this time Onder lift from Turkey



Genie had a substantial and very well manned stand



Liftroller showed its mobile Wall lifting platform and truck and electric EI Wagon

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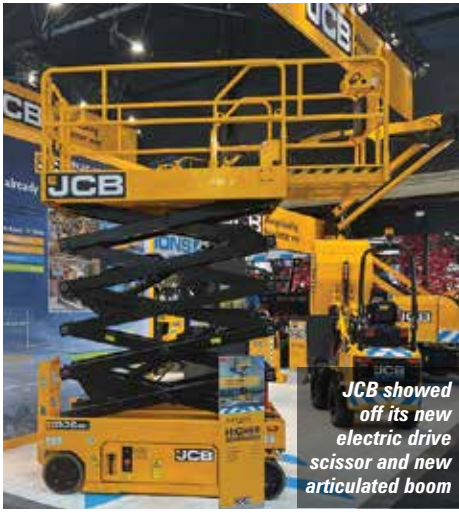
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JCB showed off its new electric drive scissor and new articulated boom



Multitel's compact 17 metre MXE 170 on a Piaggio Porter chassis



JLG focused on its low level products

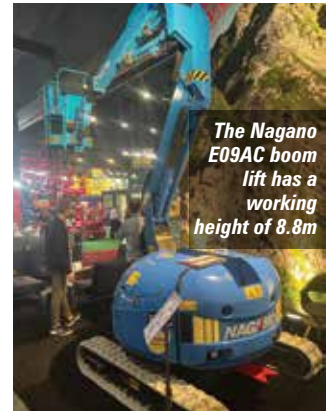
JCB displayed its new articulated boom and direct electric drive scissor lifts unveiled at Vertikal Days, while LiuGong showed two of its new articulated booms and some scissors. Multitel showed its compact 17 metre MXE 170 on a Piaggio Porter chassis.

Comet launched a new insulated pick-up, while Sany showed a new European style telehandler - the 14m/4,000kg STH1440 - and Sinoboom unveiled its new VM04E 12ft mast lift with an order for the first 200 units placed at the show. Finally Chinese manufacturer Zoomlion revealed plans to launch a new range of fixed and 360 degree telehandlers.

The following is a brief pictorial review - more images can be found on www.vertikal.net - APEX's return to Maastricht.



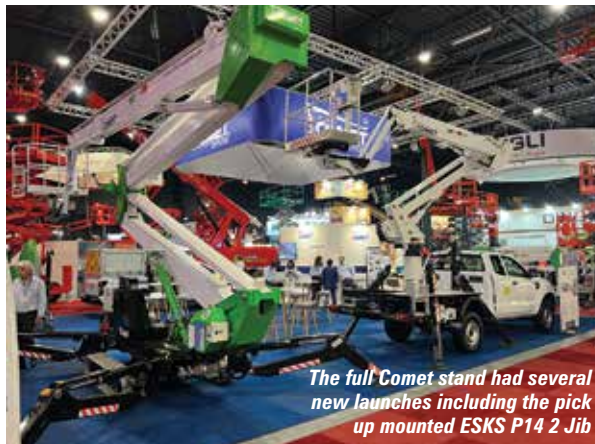
LiuGong with new booms and scissors



The Nagano E09AC boom lift has a working height of 8.8m



Discussing the new Sinoboom VM04E 12ft mast type lift



The full Comet stand had several new launches including the pick up mounted ESKS P14 2 Jib



Top Turkish manufacturer ELS



The Snorkel stand



A new Sany STH1440 14m/4,000kg European style telehandler



Magni showed both telehandlers and aerial lifts



Holland Lift's heavy duty industrial battery pack



The Omme lift 1500 trailer lift



Spider lift and tracked boom lift manufacturer Goman



Merlo's all-electric eWorker compact telehandler