

cranes & access



September 2023 Vol.25 issue 5

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**SPIDER
LIFTS**

LOADER CRANES

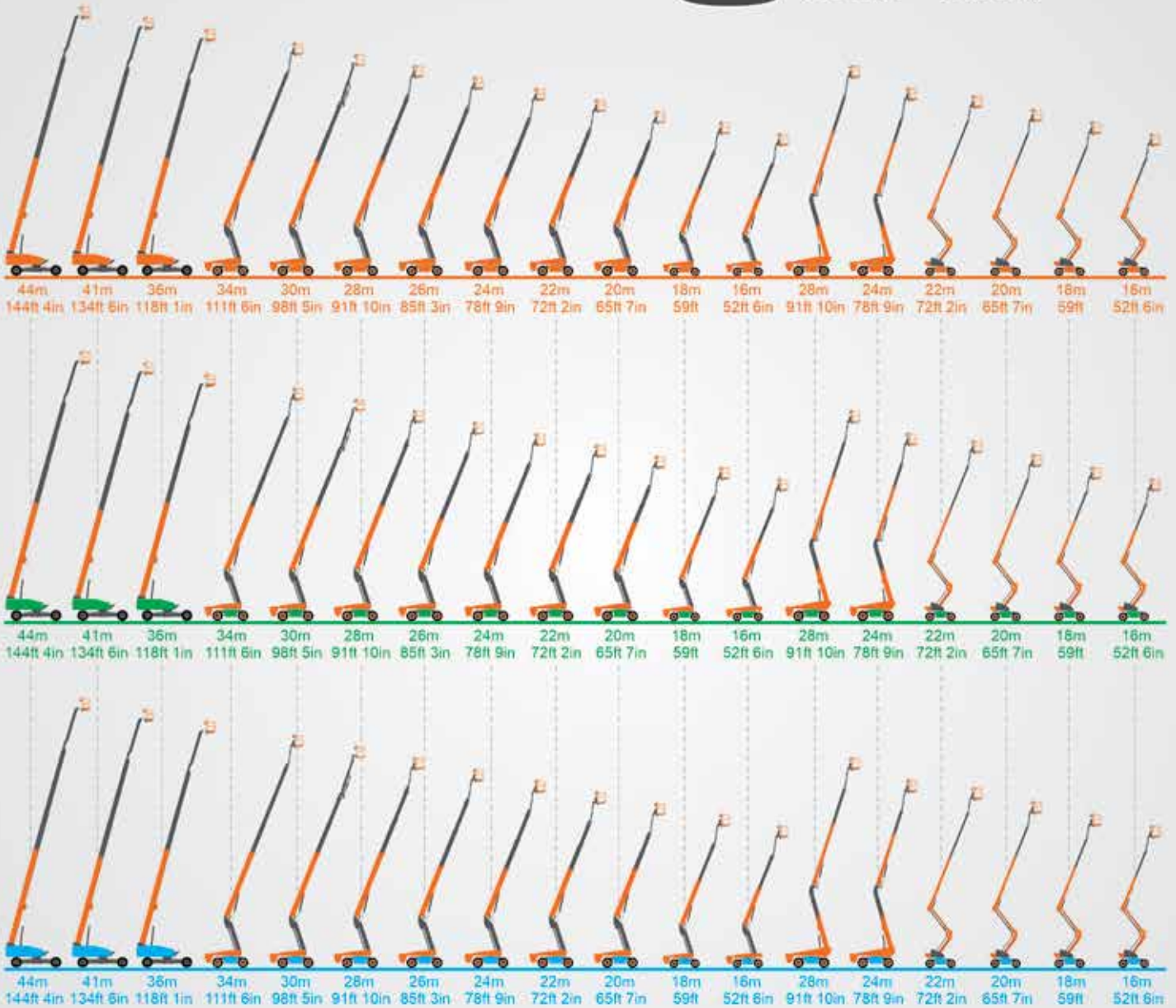
**REMOTE
CONTROLS**

**TOP 30 RENTAL
COMPANIES**

**TOP
30**



Heavy Loading
250kg - 454kg
551lb - 1000lb



Working Height

Modular Boom Series

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Standard Container Transport For The Full Range



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Liquidation for Holland Lift, New Wolff flat top, New 56ft Dingli HD scissor lift, Four more new Vallas, Reeslift 11m mast boom, Skyjack 'E' drive scissor, Dingli upgrades D series booms, New owner for Hy-Brid Lifts, Larger truck crane from Link-Belt, XCMG ships first 223ft booms, First Nifty fuel cell booms for Speedy, All Electric Wacker Neuson telehandler, third AWP plant for Manitou, Tadano settles with EPA, First Sinoboom AB46RJ and financials roundup...

TOP 30 UK & IRELAND RENTAL COMPANIES 17

Our annual UK/Ireland Top 30 rental company fleet survey highlights how the leading crane, aerial lift and telehandler rental companies in the UK and Ireland have dealt with the last year in terms of fleet numbers and investment.

LOADER CRANES 31

No matter what numbers you look at knuckle boom loader crane sales continue to grow at an impressive pace. The sector has, without question, the most acronyms and abbreviations for crane features of any type of equipment on the market. While it is quite confusing, it demonstrates the incredible level of innovation and technology that is helping the market to expand. We review some of the latest developments.

SPIDER LIFTS 41

Once the ultimate niche product for working at height, the spider lift is becoming an increasingly popular form of powered access, with a growing number of manufacturers offering machines with working heights now pushing 60 metres. We take a look at the market and some of the latest offerings.

REMOTE CONTROLS 51

Radio remote controls are becoming increasingly popular and are now used to control all types of lifting equipment...however as uptake increases so does the potential security issues. Taking control or hacking a remote controlled crane is apparently relatively easy if you know how, requiring a simple laptop connected to radio frequency equipment. Hackers claim that they are less secure than the average electric garage door opener and are the weakest link in safety-critical applications. We investigate further.

INTERVIEW WITH LAERKE ULLERUP OF TRACKUNIT 57

Mark Darwin interviews Trackunit's chief product and marketing officer Laerke Ullerup about the rapid development in the SaaS and tracking in the construction sector which requires both trust and collaboration to grow. Prepare to be confused.

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ON THE COVER

A 40t Palfinger PK 200.002 from the Meister Kran fleet lifting glass panels to the top of the prestigious Vier Jahrzeiten hotel on the Binnenalster lake front in Hamburg at an up and over height of almost 30 metres, a radius of around 27 metres and capacity of more than 1,000kg.



IN THE NEXT ISSUE Scheduled for publication in late October, the next issue of Cranes & Access will include features on Spider and mini crawler cranes, Glass handling, Mastclimbers and hoists and Sustainability, renewables and recycling. 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

GOING GREEN NEED NOT COST

The recent natural disasters in Libya, Morocco, Hawaii, USA and Ecuador and more must surely reinforce the climate change argument for all but the most ardent sceptics. This was emphasised a few days ago by a report highlighting a record reduction in the Arctic ice cap due to warming and the growing concern of the consequences.

Much has been said and much has already been done to reduce carbon emissions by many countries, but it often seems to carry a high cost and inconvenience. Reducing our dependence on fossil fuel by increasing renewable energy sources and converting to low emission power sources do have short term cost implications, although there is a payoff over the longer term.

No-one knows what the final solution will be - it is not a VHS/Betamax video dilemma - and may well involve a combination of solutions. At the moment battery electric is the dominant technology and will probably remain so for years. This month we have seen the first products with a hydrogen fuel cell hit the market with the first order for Niftylift H2 booms.

Technology is evolving rapidly, and the lifting sector has to be on constant lookout for cleaner and better ways of doing things. It is rare however, to find products that are both eco-friendly and save money in the short term. Last year we reported on the problems with the UK's electrical supply infrastructure as more battery

powered equipment and vehicles highlight the under capacity of the national network.

Flywheel technology is one solution, massively reducing diesel costs and carbon emissions from generators powering tower cranes, hoists and mastclimbers by substantially reducing the size of the generator required. The next 'power' phase appears to be the high output dynamic battery pack - not a normal battery, but one the size of a shipping container - which can replace a diesel generator and only needs a 40 amp power supply to constantly trickle charge it, possibly supplemented by solar panels, saving the huge cost and long lead time of a network supply.

Near silent operation, the huge reduction in diesel and CO2 and much lower electricity installation and removal costs - the savings are massive compared to a generator, even with the addition of flywheel technology. Battery packs such as these are already in use where power supply is an issue, such as Hong Kong.

It is possible to see how they might even power a whole construction site and remain in place for commissioning, even replacing diesel generators as an emergency back-up supply.

The threat to the planet from warming is becoming more obvious every day but there are an increasing number of win-win solutions that can help. Going 'Green' does not have to cost.

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