

Vertikal Days 2008

The second Vertikal Days event - showcasing cranes, access equipment and telehandlers - was held at Haydock Park in late June. In spite of the 'summer' date the weather was not kind. However this did not deter almost 1,000 lift equipment buyers from turning out to meet suppliers and view the latest equipment innovations.

Several manufacturers used the show to launch new products and services, including Linden Comansa which shipped the first production unit of its new LC1100 compact flat top tower crane directly to the show. The crane's arrival was threatened by a truck drivers strike in Spain. However 'most' of it arrived safely and the City Lifting team made relatively short work of erecting it well in advance of the show opening.



The new Linden Comansa LC1100 compact flat top tower crane

With the hoisting and slewing systems and the electric cabinets pre-installed within the cat head at the factory, the new crane is said to be easier to erect. This is also helped by the lower overall weight of the slewing structure.

The whole series has two slew motors to reduce stress on the crown, two hoist motors, with more hoist rope capacity and, consequently, higher under-hook heights; and a single or single/double trolley system with an innovative automatic change controlled by the operator from the cab.

A new cab position also provides a greater field of vision for the operator and 2.5 metre long jib sections increase the range and load combination possibilities.



City Lifting used the first Terex Demag 100/4 in the UK to erect the new Comansa LC1100 tower crane.

The Liebherr stand was very popular as it demonstrated its new Liccon2 Bluetooth remote control system fitted to the company's new three axle 50 tonne LTM 1050-3.1 All Terrain crane.

The device incorporates a sophisticated, yet user-friendly, on-board computer system with a new generation control system.



The touch-screen display provides comfortable and easy activation of the different operational functions, including the carrier drive and steering programme, the suspension system, setting up of the crane on outriggers, adjustment of the working floodlights as well as the cab's heating and climate control.



Using the new BTT-Bluetooth system, the crane driver can attach and detach the hook block from the front bumper by remotely controlling the hoist winch and boom lift cylinder from the front of the machine avoiding the need for mirrors or assistance.

Depending on the crane model, the BTT-Bluetooth feature can be programmed with additional functions such as mounting of swingaway extensions or counterweights. On the 1,200t capacity LTM 11200-9.1, for example, it is also used for assembling the boom. During road travel, the BTT-Bluetooth terminal can be plugged into the cab dashboard to display mileage and working hours information.

Peter Hird unveiled the all-new two tonne Jekko MPK20W electric powered pick and carry crane making its world premier at Vertikal Days.



The world premier of the Jekko MPK20W

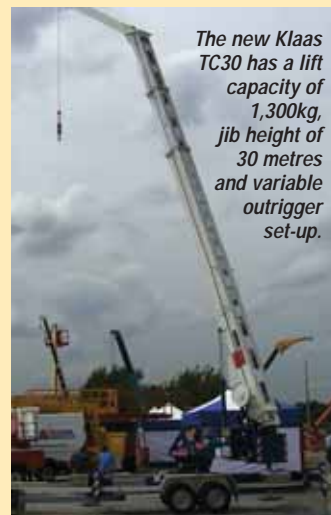
The first units are scheduled for delivery in September and features an end boom quick release which can take hook and pulley system as well as pallet forks.



The rear control panel on the Jekko MPK20W

Oktopus also launched new cranes with its K-800 compact 360 degree slew tower crane with, 2.6 x 2.6 metre footprint, 19 metre mast and five metre telescopic boom.

The K-800 is delivered on site in its integral trailer and is ready to work in minutes. Capable of lifting up to 800kg it is ideal for working where space is a premium and renovation work. The company also showed the new Klaas TC30 trailer crane. With a working radius of 24 metres coupled with a jib height of 30 metres and a maximum capacity of 1,300kg, it is well suited to tight areas thanks to its infinitely variable outrigger set-up.



The new Klaas TC30 has a lift capacity of 1,300kg, jib height of 30 metres and variable outrigger set-up.

On the access side, Bronto showed several truck mounted platforms and unveiled its new, three axle, 61 metre working height X61XDT with 37 metres of outreach and 700kg lift capacity. The 12 metre long unit has a 32 tonne GVW.



Seen for the first time, the 61metre working height, 37 metre working outreach Bronto X61XDT in Facelift colours.

Pagliero showed its recently launched 27 metre MX270 articulated telescopic truck mounted lift which tops out the highly popular MX range.



The recently launched 27 metre Multitel MX270 with the newly introduced MX170 in the background

In the self propelled sector, Skyjack showed off a number of its products including its new boom lifts - seen for the first time at a UK show - and a selection of scissor lifts. The SJ66T straight boom incorporates the company's axle-based four wheel drive system and features directional sensing drive steer control. Largest scissor on show was its 41ft SJ9241 with dual-powered platform extensions giving a total length of 7.3 metres.



Seen for the first time at a UK show is Skyjack's SJ66T with 20.1 metre platform height and 17.4 metre of outreach.

The newly named Spiderlift company appeared for the first time showing off machines from the Finnish-built Dinolift range it now represents in the UK alongside the Teupen range. Spiderlift enjoyed some success at the show including an order from Kimberly Access for the immediate supply of a 30 metre Teupen Leo 30T and a 23 metre Teupen 23GT articulated boom lift. These are the first Teupen products to join the Kimberly fleet and will be used on retail fit-out contracts recently awarded to Kimberly such as the Westfield Shopping development at White City in West London.



Spiderlift's Steve Hadfield (left) and Kevin Bell with one of the Kimberly Access machines.

Holland Lift displayed a 10.5 metre working height crawler mounted scissor lift with a 1.4 metre platform extension. Although not a popular concept in the UK, distributor Russon Access reports a couple of sales and increased interest at the show.



Another winner for Holland Lift? Not a popular concept in the UK but interest is on the increase.

Haulotte showed off its new 28.2 metre working height boom with telescopic jib the H28TJ+. Unveiled at Conexpo earlier this year, the company is reporting wide interest in what is a hybrid concept which features a six metre telescopic jib for additional outreach and 'up and over' capability. Maximum basket capacity is a useful 350kg as is the 22.6 metre horizontal outreach.



Haulotte's new H28TJ+ is attracting interest from the major platform rental companies.

Telehandlers were out in force this year with product from JLG, Genie, Manitou, Merlo, Liebherr, Sennebogen and Haulotte with its new 14 metre HTL 4014 telehandler which is now available in the UK. Merlo also had one of its prototype Platform MPR30 models on display for customers to evaluate.



The high-speed Merlo MPR access platform is based on the proven Roto telehandler combining 40 km per hour travel speed with a platform working height of up to 30 metres.

Loader cranes were also out in force, with the largest display of loader cranes in the UK this year. The display was centered around the ALLMI area and included manufacturers including Hiab with its regional dealer Muniserve, Effer with dealer Britcom, PM teaming up with sister company Oil&Steel, Hyva, Terex-Atlas, HMF Penn Hydraulics and Fassi UK.



Terex Atlas 120.2E



The ALLMI area was busy with one of the largest displays of lorry loaders in the UK this year

Terex chose to showcase one of its best-selling loader cranes - the five extension, 5.3-14.4 metre reach 120.2E - which is becoming the builders merchant's crane of choice. The 12 tonne/metre crane combines speed, flexibility and dependability with state-of-the-art safety features including the proven radio remote control.

"Service is the key to success in this industry," said Lee Maynard, general sales manager. "Every crane we supply is supported by a dedicated network of factory-trained engineers using fully equipped mobile workshops, backed by national call centres and regional workshops."



Versalift Unimog

The UK's leading van mounted manufacturer - Versalift - showed several models using a Unimog U3000, Ford Transit and Iveco as base machine.



GSR 200PX

Skyking showed this GSR200PX in Loxam colours on its stand.



Wumag WT610

One of two 61 metre truck mounted platforms was this Wumag WT610 on the Skyking stand.



Liebherr LTM 1050-3.1

The first Liebherr LTM 1050-3.1 in the UK is going north of the border to Edinburgh-based Bernard Hunter.

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Jekko SPD500 and trailer.

Jekko UK showed off its range of spider cranes and a new lightweight trailer.



Zoomlion QY30

Bob Francis Crane Hire just managed to complete the painting of its new 32 tonne lift capacity QY30 Zoomlion truck crane in time for the show. Distributor Universal Cranes was also showing an Ormig pick and carry machine.



Easylift R150

Several Easylift spider platforms were on display including the 15.2 metre platform height, nine metre outreach R150.



Leguan 125

Avant Techno builds the Leguan range of skid steer based and crawler mounted lightweight self propelled boom lifts. At the show was the Leguan 125 spider and the skid steer based 80SX scissor



First Platform Basket sale.

Chris Taylor (left with Shaun Day of Promax) of CAT Access took delivery of the first Platform Basket 18.75 in the UK. The company already has a Basket 15.75 in its fleet as well as a Bil-Jax 5533 that was ordered at SED. The 18 metre working height Basket 18.75 can travel through a standard doorway (0.78 x 1.95 metres) and weighs 2.1 tonnes. Taylor says that Barnsley-based dealer Promax has been excellent with both product information and support, and that further orders from Promax will be arriving later in the year.



Steve Huntley and Stewart May of JLG.

Huntley Plant Hire - the Newcastle-based telehandler and aerial lift company - has entered the small electric scissor lift market with an initial purchase of a selection of 20 units from JLG, including 1930, 2646, 2630 & 3246 models. Stephen Huntley (L) concludes a deal with Stewart May of JLG.



Bil-Jax trailer

Promax took several orders at the show for its Bil-Jax trailer and self propelled lift units. Since the show Haulotte has acquired Bil-Jax and no information is yet available on future distribution.



Dino 240 RXT

Rarely seen in the UK is the largest self propelled platform from Dinolift - the 24.5 metre working height and 215kg maximum platform capacity 240RXT.



The Clow Group

The Clow Group put on an impressive display including the adjustable Magic platform, the Folscaf one-piece folding platform and its new 3T fibreglass tower system.



Falck Schmidt FS420C

Expanding rental company Easi Uplifts was showing this Falck Schmidt Falcon FS420C crawler. Features include a double jib arm, automatic outrigger positioning, steering of outrigger and chassis from the basket.



CTE Z26

CTE UK had several machines including the Z26E platform.



Liebherr 32 TTR

Offering seven different jib lengths from 18 to 30 metres and three different under-hook heights - 14, 19 and 24 metres - the fast erecting tower crane 32 TTR has a double telescopic action for both mast and jib. Maximum lifting capacity is 4,000kg and the maximum lift at 30 metres working radius is 1,100kg.



GGR-Unic Galizia

As well as the Unic mini cranes, GGR-Unic displayed its Galizia pick and carry machines including the G70. The full range includes seven models with lifting capacities from 2.5 to 25 tonnes.



Faraone PK

Also on show was one of the new PK series of push around lifts from Faraone. The smaller PK60 and PK70 - dubbed the Push-Around King - have platform heights of up to 5.2 metres.



Penny Hydraulics

Penny Hydraulics showed numerous of its compact models for mounting on vans and small trucks.



A Tadano ATF 65G-4.

Tadano Faun distributor Cranes UK showed several All Terrain cranes including this ATF 65G-4 sold to Bryn Thomas and an AFT 50 G-3 in Steve Foster livery.



Valla

Valla UK showed several models from its pick and carry range including the 12 tonne electric 120E.

The Marketplace

The Market Place was once again a popular and busy area for visitors - particularly given the weather and a constant supply of hot drinks. A variety of companies exhibited in the dry including the CPA and IPAF as well as Meteo - Europe's leading independent weather forecasting business, which uses the web, email, SMS or faxback and can be tailored to suit individual sites and include conditions for various heights above ground level.

French-based crane electronics safety specialist AGS showed its latest crane 'anti-collision' management system. The company is making headway in the UK and currently has its largest system working - 15 cranes



Bravi showed off its Leonardo compact self propelled lift in the Market Place.

(a mixture of Comedil and Wolff) using two wireless networks - on a site at Salford Quays.

Computer software companies were also in the Market Place. Higher Concept showed the latest version of Syrinx Hire Management and

InspHire with its integrated rental software systems.

Bravi UK - the only self propelled exhibitor indoors - was showing off its products in their usual habitat.

A lesson learnt

As we have already said, the weather was not kind with strong winds and torrential rain on the second day. On the first day the weather was exasperated by strong gusts, one of which created a wake-up call to the industry when a Genie GS3232 was blown over. The platform was fully raised at the time with a large banner attached to the guardrails.

Thankfully the lift - which is an indoor model designed to pass through a single, 820mm wide, doorway and then offer up to 38ft (11.5m) of working height - came to rest against the very solid boom of a Genie telehandler. The Vertikal Days safety team sprang into action, fenced off the area and with the help of a crane from City Lifting, righted the lift without further drama. The incident however prompted the industry - via IPAF - to organise an

access exhibitors meeting on Day Two, where the question of training manufacturers' staff and the exhibiting of indoor machines outside was discussed with resolutions agreed.

The well-attended party on the evening of the Day One included a table by table, silent auction of crane, access and telehandler scale models donated by dealers and manufacturers. A big thank-you to all who bid as more than £500 was raised for the Lighthouse Club.



The Lincoln Noel Trio provided the music for the evening party.

Next year's event

Survey forms have been sent to all exhibitors asking for feedback including possible dates and venue for Vertikal Days 2009.

As we go to press the preferred choice is Haydock Park again in late June. Perhaps it will be third

time lucky in terms of the weather? Although one crane rental visitor suggested that the organisers should use the slogan: "This is a UK crane show - the weather will be crap - in the case of it being sunny, we apologise in advance".

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Opening times:

17 Sept.	10.00 - 18.00 h.
18 Sept.	09.30 - 18.00 h.
19 Sept.	09.30 - 17.00 h.

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