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INCREASINGLY COMMON

Once the ultimate niche, specialist aerial work platform, 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 the latest product developments and offerings.

The list of spider lift manufacturers continues to grow longer with at least 30 companies now offering products, while working heights now reaching 58 metres - courtesy of Palazzani which unveiled the prototype of its TTZJ58 last October. The latest producer to enter the fray is a newly established manufacturer, Italian company I-Lift Access Solutions, which made its public debut in Maastricht this June, unveiling the 18 metre articulated I-Lift 18 at the Apex show. It is one of two initial models along with the 21 metre twin telescopic boomed I-Lift 21. The company has also recently released details of the new 13 metre IL13 and the 15.7 metre IL16.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

The company, which is based in Bari in the south east of Italy was set up last September. Its location is no accident as all of the key managers were previously employed by neighbouring company CMC which has been growing at a rapid rate in recent years to become one of the leading spider lift manufacturers.

The IL18 has a classic twin sigma type riser topped by a two section telescopic boom and articulated jib. Maximum working height is 18 metres, while outreach is 8.3 metres at an up & over height of eight metres with the unrestricted platform capacity of 230kg. Overall width is 780mm, while the tracks can extend to almost 1.2 metres for additional stability when travelling on uneven ground. The outrigger spread is 2.9 metres by 3.15 metres with the ability to level on side slopes of up to 12 degrees. Overall stowed length is 4.5 metres with the platform removed, while the overall stowed height is just under two metres. Total weight is said to be 2,500kg. Power on the show machine was petrol, but a battery electric version is also available.

The second model, the IL21 has a working height of 20.8 metres, an outreach of 11 metres at a seven metre up & over height, while the maximum up & over height is eight metres with an outreach of 10 metres. Unrestricted/maximum platform capacity is 230kg.

The company claims its latest 15.7 metre working



I-Lift facility in Bari, Italy



New spider lift manufacturer I-Lift made its debut at the Apex show

height IL16 is the most compact on the market measuring 4.5 metres long (3.8m without the basket), 780mm wide without the basket and 1.99 metre high. Maximum outreach is 7.7 metres with 230kg unrestricted maximum load. Smallest lift is now the 13 metre IL13 which has a 7.5 metre outreach, 200kg maximum load and weighs 1,660kg.

SPIDER LIFTS

First image of the new 16 metre IL 16



As far as the specification goes, most equipment is standard including telematics and remote diagnostics, radio remote controls, outrigger cylinder covers, automatic 'home', self-centring, boom stowage and simplified auto levelling.

However, as with all equipment sectors that become more and more established, the new entrants rarely offer any innovative ideas or features, perhaps improving on certain features but often just adopting what already exists, is liked and works.

The company is stressing the attention to detail in its machines, from all internal hydraulic hoses and electrical wiring along with nylon riser rest pads and jib retainers to stop 'jib and boom waggle' while travelling on rough ground. It also highlights additional safety features such as a triple platform retainer pin retention comprising lynch pin, swing type plate and finally micro switch warning if both fail.

The benefits of having an experienced team running a startup are obvious however, to succeed in an increasingly competitive sector will not be easy - even with a well-sorted machine.

Zoomlion's first spider lift is the 27 metre ZX27AE seen here working at the Jiangxi Railway station in Jiangxi between Shanghai and Hong Kong



Success will depend on how rapidly it can build brand awareness and win the trust of buyers who already have plenty of choice.

CHINESE MARKET POTENTIAL

While there has been an influx of Chinese manufacturers into the aerial lift market, until now few have truly shown willing to take on spider lifts. Goman is one, although on a relatively small scale, while Sinoboom and Dingli have dipped their toes in the market in the past. They quickly realised that it was a very specialist market with few high volume product sectors. More recently Zoomlion announced its first spider lift, the 27 metre twin telescopic boom ZX27AE with lithium ion battery power - more on that later.

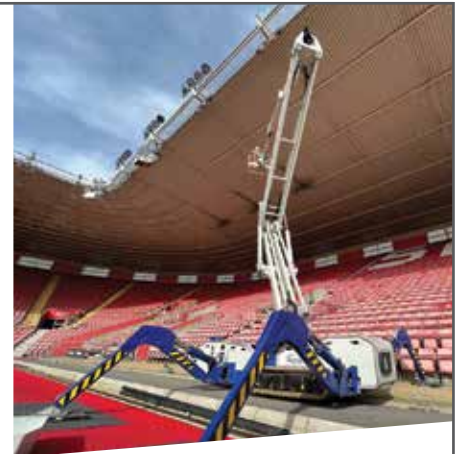
European manufacturers have had some success in China in the past, with both Falcon and Teupen having sold their larger models to specialist contractors or venues. Sinoboom has recognised the growing potential for such machines in China and other parts of Asia. Rather than try to design and build its own, it decided that a partnership



Thyge Mikkelsen of Falcon with Susan Xu of Sinoboom signing the partnership agreement at Bauma

with an experienced manufacturer was a better way all round. It announced a partnership with Danish spider lift manufacturer Falcon which as Falck Schmidt invented the spider lift concept. Sinoboom will distribute a number of Falcon models worldwide, excluding North America and Denmark. When the agreement was announced last October, Sinoboom had already sold 10 Falcons - mostly 43 and 52 metre models - to rental companies in China. Initially the machines will simply be Sinoboom branded versions of Falcon's standard products, however that could change in the future with Sinoboom adding additional features.

The move by Sinoboom is part of its commitment to providing its global customer base with a complete range of aerial work platforms. For Falcon, it helps to further develop its products. Its most recent introduction was the 38 metre telescopic 380XL Vario more than a year ago, which also includes a built in slide-out panel carrier designed to hold sheet material weighing up to 100kg on the outside of the platform,



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The Falcon 380XL includes a built in slide-out panel carrier designed to hold sheet material weighing up to 100kg on the outside of the platform



suitable for lifting glass and solar panels, plywood and other materials.

GROWING SPIDER LIFT ADOPTION

Spider lifts were initially limited to a few applications, such as cleaning and maintaining high atria in buildings with standard doorway entrances, or to reach transmission towers in remote locations, both with limited volume and specialist requirements. What has driven the relentless, if steady growth in spider lifts has been the uptake from arborists for tree work. The general 'working at height' hierarchy when working on trees, at least in Europe, is to use powered access where possible rather than climb. But another huge advantage is that aerial work platforms can be substantially quicker - as much as 70 percent or more. Not only that, it allows highly experienced tree surgeons to carry on working in the tree canopies long after they no longer care to climb.

Italian manufacturer CMC has largely built its business on the back of the arborist sector - particularly in North America, its largest market. In the last issue of Cranes & Access (July/August) we featured UK company TreeSmiths, following the arrival of the first 23 metre CMC i23 Insulated spider lift to be delivered in Europe. At its launch early last year CMC said it was the first in a new line of insulated spider lifts, although no other models have yet been announced.

Sam Smith of TreeSmiths said: "Power line work requires clearing vegetation from the conductors and involves a great deal of side pruning. Using an aerial work platform is far more productive than

climbing, making a huge difference to productivity when taken over a year. I would say that nine out of 10 jobs are faster with a work platform."

The CMC i23 is insulated to 46kV and uses insulated fibre inserts in each boom section as well as a high insulation fibreglass platform/ bucket for one person and special nonconductive oil in the hydraulic system. The net effect is a machine that will protect those working in the vicinity of power lines, both in the basket and below.

The i23 has a working height of 22.8 metres, a maximum outreach of 10 metres at an up & over



The 33m Sinoboom SPA 33HJ shown at Bauma was a badged Falcon 330 Z Vario



The CMC i23 is insulated to 46kV and uses insulated fibre inserts in each boom section



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SPIDER LIFTS

height of 12 metres with 180kg unrestricted/maximum platform capacity. The basket is snug at 600mm square. Overall weight is 3,930kg which according to TreeSmiths is one of its downsides as it has to be transported on an HGV trailer. The i23 is diesel with AC mains power for use alongside buildings, however other options include a lithium battery powered all electric or hybrid versions. Given its 23 metre working height the machine is reasonably compact - overall stowed length is 7.2 metres, under two metres high, with an overall width of 890mm with tracks in or 1.4 metres when extended. The outrigger spread is two stage variable from 2.88 to 4.96 metres wide with up to 32 degrees of levelling and a free jacking height of more than a metre, which is ideal for self-loading without ramps.

CMC EXPANSION

Late last year CMC received a significant financial boost when Italian private equity firm Metrika took a 70 percent stake in the company, with the intention of funding several new development programmes including adding further production lines to its 12,000 square metre facility, and the development of new models. It also promised "a targeted acquisition policy to speed up the expansion of production capacity to meet the growing number of orders from the market".

Barely a month after the investment, CMC agreed the acquisition of its largest distributor, All Access Equipment which is based in Wilmington, near Boston, Massachusetts, All Access was founded in 2010 by Lenny Polonski and has been the CMC distributor since 2011. A leading player in the North American spider lift market, it employs more than 60 staff over its two locations. The Polonski family will continue to manage the company under CMC ownership.

CMC also launched two new mid-range spider lifts last October - the 27 metre S27 and the 30 metre S30 - to replace its S25 and S28 models. The two machines are essentially one and the same, apart from the lower boom/telescopic riser which is two section on the S27 and three section on the S30. Both models share the same three section telescopic top boom and twin link articulated jib. Both have an overall stowed width of 890mm with the tracks extending to 1.4 metres, while overall length is 6.8 metres, overall height is less than 2.2 metres and it has more than a metre of outrigger levelling on slopes.

The S27 has a maximum working height of 27.3 metres and can reach 6.9 metres below ground level. Maximum outreach is 15.4 metres with 80kg in the platform, while the maximum platform capacity of 230kg is available at an outreach of up to 12.4 metres and an up & over height of 10 metres. The overall weight of the machine is 4,100kg.

The S30 has a maximum working height of 30.3 metres, with the same outreach and capacity as the S27 but at an up & over height of 14.5 metres - thanks to the longer riser - which also has a very slight effect on below ground reach which is 6.7 metres rather than 6.8. The S30 is marginally heavier at 4,270kg. The new machines have variable outrigger positions with automatic monitoring, which feeds into the machine's system and adjusts the working envelope accordingly.

The first 30 metre CMC S30 spider lift to arrive in the UK has been delivered to Affordable Access Hire



The CMC S27



A glimpse of Easy Lift's 52.4 metre RA53 before its unveiling at Bauma

BIG AND BIGGER

Bauma last year was eagerly anticipated because of the rumours of the launch of the 'world's largest' spider lift. Easy Lift kicked it off announcing the 53 metre RA53 a few weeks before the show, just before the opening day Palazzani took the wind out of its sails with the announcement of its prototype 58 metre TTZJ58.

Easy Lift's RA53 offers a working height of 52.4 metres, outreach of 20 metres with 120kg in the basket at a 32 metre up and over height, while the dual boom Palazzani TTZJ58 also features a telescopic jib with 20 metres of outreach at 29 metres up & over height. 19 metres outreach is possible with 230kg, while the maximum capacity of 400kg is available at around 14.5 metres. The lift can also reach eight metres below ground.

Overall length including basket is 9.25 metres - 8.59 without - and minimum height is 2.51 metres. The minimum track width is 1.45 metres,

increasing to 1.9 metres when fully extended. Basket widths range from 1.6 to 2.4 metres. As a comparison the much older and smaller 50 metre Teupen Leo 50GT is slightly longer at 9.35 metres including basket but more than half a metre lower at 1,980mm and slightly wider at 1.58 metres. The TTZJ58 has 660 degrees of slew, while platform rotation is 170 degrees - 90 + 80 degrees. Outrigger spread is 5.45 x 6.8 metres and power comes from a 32.5kW diesel engine with a single phase 2.2kW electric motor when indoors. Overall weight is 16.5 tonnes.

Palazzani also launched its wheeled or tracked Eco Ragno TSJ 35.1 with power options including Bi-energy - diesel and AC - or Eco with AC and lithium battery. The unit has a 35 metre working height, 15 metres with 230kg of outreach courtesy of its Strenx steel telescopic boom and articulated jib. Overall height is two metres in transport configuration.



The 58 metre Palazzani TTZJ58 'The world's largest spider lift'



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TWO NEW 40 METRES

Two manufacturers - Hinowa and Cela - have both launched 40 metre spider lifts, both of which top their respective ranges. Hinowa unveiled its LL40.18 Performance IIS at Bauma with deliveries beginning in April. The LL40.18 features a four section lower boom/riser and three section upper boom for a maximum outreach of 17.5 metres at an up & over height of 10 metres, or 17 metres outreach at an up & over height of 23 metres. It can also reach four metres below ground level. Maximum capacity is 300kg/three people and is good throughout most of the working envelope, reducing to 230kg for the last metre of outreach, or when the upper boom is fully elevated, while the lower boom remains stowed. Power is supplied by a Lithium battery/diesel bi energy power pack.

UK rental company Paramount Platforms received one of the early units, director Lee Kerr said: "What's so good about it is that it has exactly the same operating system as the other Hinowa platforms, it's still one touch button to level the platform and away you go. So, our customers will have no difficulty in using it."

"Lithium spider lifts are growing in popularity because clients want the flexibility and efficiency of indoor and outdoor working in one machine. Being almost silent with zero emissions it is ideal for work in residential areas. The clients of the contractors we work with are also increasingly expecting a contribution to their zero carbon strategies."

The 40 metre Cela DT40/DT131 Spyder Hybrid+ was also unveiled at Bauma and takes over from the 37 metre DT37 at the top of the company's spider lift line. The new hybrid spider lift is powered by either diesel coupled with a heated lithium battery pack for dual power. When compared with Hinowa's LL40.18 it has slightly less outreach and is physically slightly larger, although it weighs less at 8,000kg.

The Hinowa LL40.18 has a maximum outreach of 17.5 metres at an up & over height of 10 metres



The 40 metre Cela DT40 Spyder Hybrid+ was unveiled at Bauma

Like CMC, Cela has also received an injection of private equity funding, which says something about the sector. The Consilium Private Equity fund acquired a majority stake this summer, with the senior management team of Paolo Troni,



Launched at the end of 2021, the Platform Basket 39 T is a straight telescopic spider

How the Hinowa and Cela 40 metre spider lifts compare with the Platform Basket 39 T

	Hinowa LL40.18	Cela DT40 Spyder Hybrid+	Platform Basket Spider 39 T
Working height	40.2m	40m	38.6m
Outreach	16.5m (300kg)/ 17.5m (230kg)	16m (230kg)/ 18m (120kg)	16.7m (136kg)/ 14.8m (330kg)
Format	Atriculated	Articulated	Telescopic
Up & Over clearance	21m	19.5m	
Below ground depth	-3m	-9.5m	
Max capacity	300kg	300kg	330kg
Platform rotation	180 degrees	180 degrees	180 degrees
Platform size	2m x 0.7m	2m x 0.8m	2.34 x 0.87
O/A Length	6.82m no basket	7.34m no basket	8.91m
Width	1.2 – 1.7m	1.5m with no basket	1.41m
Stowed Height	1.99m	2.0m	1.99m
Weight - D/Li/BE	8,700kg/8,800kg/ 9,000kg	8,000kg	11,900kg
Power options	Diesel, Lithium, Bi-energy	Diesel + lithium battery	Diesel/lithium hybrid, diesel/AC Electric
Outrigger footprint	5.38 x 5.04m	7.2 x 3.4m	8.4 x 2.99/5.59 x 5.65m

Roberto Rocca and Simone Scalabrini retaining a substantial stake in the business. Chief executive Paolo Troni will continue to run it, with the additional support of independent advisor and ex Haulotte manager Stefano Di Santo. Cela has revenues in the region of €45 million and has achieved strong growth over the past couple of years as it has expended its product line and geographic spread.

Paolo Troni said: "The agreement with Consilium represents a further important step for the development of Cela. We are convinced that we have chosen the best partner to help us carry on the path that the company has taken in recent years."

GOMAN LIFT

Goman Lift is the only Chinese spider lift manufacturer that is currently exporting its own manufactured products. The company, which

Hinowa
a JLG company



hinowa.com

TC22

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Chinese spider lift manufacturer Goman produces lifts from eight to 53 metres



is based in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, has an extensive range of articulated and telescopic tracked spider lifts with working heights ranging from eight to 53 metres. The company was formed almost 20 years ago and while it is better known for its spider lifts, with two thirds of its production exported, half of it to North America. It also manufactures a wide range of aerial work platforms at its 28,000 square metre facility. Products include wheeled spider lifts, articulated and telescopic booms from 16 to 50 metres, trailer mounted platforms to 23 metres, and tracked scissor lifts. It does not build slab scissors, pointing out that others supply them so cheaply! It claims to have delivered several large spider lifts including four 50 metre models to the Chinese railways and two 48 metre articulated units to the Chinese Air Force.

Its most popular spider lifts until now have been its 36 and 18 metre models, but that has changed recently and currently is the 21 metre lift. It says it produces about 120 machines per year and has a 17 metre fully insulated 46kV machine with fibreglass boom and is working on a larger 23 metre machine which should be available soon.

RAPTOR - A NEW NAME

At the end of last year Italian manufacturer Socage announced a new company with a new range of spider lifts, Raptor. The Raptor company or division has a different ownership mix to the initial truck mounted lift business. The first three models have been announced and include the 15 metre Raptor 15S, 18 metre Raptor 18S and 21 metre Raptor 21S.



The Raptor 15S offers seven metres of outreach with a maximum platform capacity of 225kg

The 15S offers seven metres of outreach, with a maximum platform capacity of 225kg, while the 18S has a maximum outreach of 8.2 metre with 230kg platform capacity, finally the 21S has up to 10.3 metres of outreach and an unrestricted platform capacity of 225kg. Automatic outrigger setting, levelling and stowage is included.

30M OIL & STEEL

Oil & Steel currently produces a three model range including the Octopus 14 and the newer OctoPlus 17 and OctoPlus 21. The 17 metre OctoPlus 17 comes as standard with a plug-in AC electric motor and can also be equipped with a battery pack. It has 7.6 metres of outreach with a platform capacity of 250kg. Its outrigger footprint is 2.81 by 2.85 metres. The 21 metre OctoPlus 21 has 10.6 metres of outreach with 150kg capacity. Like its smaller sibling it can operate either in AC electric mode or on the battery pack. The company says that it has well developed plans for a new 30 metre spider lift, its largest model to date.

ZOOMLION ENTERS THE FRAY

Zoomlion has produced its first spider lift, the 27 metre twin telescopic boom ZX27AE with lithium ion battery power. The company announced the new model in China early in the new year with the first unit delivered to Jiangxi Railway station in Jiangxi between Shanghai and Hong Kong in May. The new machine has a three section lower telescopic boom with an over centre linkage to a three section top boom and articulating jib. Maximum outreach is 14.2 metres at an up & over height of 12.7 metres with 120kg in the platform, while the unrestricted platform capacity is 230kg.



Zoomlion's first spider - the 27 metre twin telescopic boom ZX27AE - has lithium ion battery power.

Overall stowed width is 890mm, an overall length of 5.7 metres with the platform removed and an overall height of just over two metres. The widest outrigger spread is 4.48 metres while auto level is standard. Total weight is 4,650kg.

31M BLUELIFT HYBRID

While the 31 metre Bluelift ST 31 was first announced at the end of 2021, a more recent option has been the Hybrid version with deliveries now taking place. Last month the first in the Netherlands was delivered to Dutch access rental company Kamphuis Hoogwerkers. The new telescopic machine offers up to 18 metres of outreach with a platform capacity of 100kg, 16 metres with 200kg and 15 metres with 320kg, while the maximum capacity of 400kg is available at 13 to 14 metres outreach, depending on slew position. Overall weight is 4,850kg.

The lift was ordered with a full specification including the large 1.8 metre by 800mm basket option.

And finally Platform Basket has been refining its products which are now all available with Hybrid power. The Spider 33.15 now has an increased load capacity of 300kg and the Spider 20.95 has an unrestricted 250kg. Both are also available with a winch which replaces the platform. ■



The Bluelift ST31 Hybrid working on 5G telephone masts

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