Platformers...

The Vertikal Check is part of Platformers Days, an annual event for German access and lifting specialists. Typically it attracts up to a thousand visitors over a two day period. Platformers Days is the event that the upcoming Vertikal Days is modelled upon.

Held at the tiny hamlet of Hohenroda, deep in the countryside near the old East German border, this year's event - held on a Friday and Saturday - was the first time ever that the event passed without rain. The sun shone and the usual mud of the demo area vanished.



Coming barely six months after Bauma most of the new products has already been launched at the big show. It was however the first opportunity for many visitors to see and try the machines first hand. Completely new product launches were limited to the smaller local companies, such as PB which showed a the S171 -17 metre working height, 1.2 metre wide scissor lift with optional levelling jacks that offers up to 220mm of levelling. The concept is similar to the new Genie

The new PB S171 -1.2 metre wide, 17 metre work height scissor lift with 220mm of levelling capability.



GS3232 unveiled earlier this year, with automatic levelling. Local producer Weiss also unveiled a new 17 metre electric scissor lift, the SAB C-175 with wider chassis and dual deck extensions.

For many it was also the first chance to put the new Skyjack SB45J boom lift through its paces. Sadly the dry weather did not allow it to really show off its 4x4 capability. Merlo had one of its MP30 road going self propelled booms on display, although it was a purely static display, so no chance to see this exciting new machine in action.



Platformers Days 2007



which is supported by the Vertikal Press, has made people think. From a position a year ago where only a handful of exhibitors even had a harness on their stand, this year



Iteco's 12151 indoor/outdoor electric scissor (L) and its 12122 indoor only model. Note the chassis differences.

Another observation this year is the growth in the number of telehandlers on display demonstrating how closely affiliated this equipment is becoming to the aerial lift market. Merlo, Dieci, JLG, Genie and Manitou were all represented.

Bil-jax was a surprise with a substantial display following its success since its European launch at Bauma earlier this year. Dealer Lift Profi Kruger claims to have already sold over 20 Bil-Jax trailer lifts in Germany so far, mainly the articulated models.

IPAF has certainly made an impact over the past 12 months and it is very evident that the Clunk Click campaign (Click Clack in Germany) those not wearing them were a very notable exception. Sadly two of the offenders were North American companies. UpRight and Snorkel were both represented separately, in spite of the recent branding announcement, although the Snorkel stand sported an UpRight TM12. Both companies have separate followings in Germany, so putting them together without upsetting at least some customers will not be easy.

Genie had its new GS3232 and Z40N on display, giving most visitors the first opportunity to give these units a hands-on evaluation.

Aichi had no new units on display, but had a lot of new things to talk about. The European company is moving into large new premises in the coming weeks and it showed photographs of a new 14 metre straight boom that will set the design standard for a new range. The new model offers 12.8 metres of outreach, and has a stowed length of close to six metres.



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The new boom will be available in October with two new electric scissor lifts following in February. Both are single door (80cm) models with six and eight metre platform heights and are modelled on American/European products. It is possible that these will be

Platformers Days was

the first opportunity for users to test the new

Skyjack booms assembled in Holland. And finally, word is that the company's first articulated boom is on the horizon, with mid-year 2008 launch date.

Niftylift continues its expansion in Germany with an increasing number of rental companies adding its self propelled booms to their fleets. The truck mounted manufacturers were also out in force with most companies represented, including Palfinger, Ruthmann, Pagliero, Wumag, Bronto, Esda, CTE and GSR.

Palfinger showed the economy version of its new TA range on a 3.5 tonne chassis - the company launched the 'Business' version at Bauma. The Economy models are much simpler with smaller working envelopes. This is due to the fact



that the Business models feature beam and jack outriggers rather than simple straight down stabilisers and incorporate Palfinger's constant load monitoring systems evolved from its crane line. These systems optimise performance, providing two metres more outreach. The Business models also have a fancy moulded fibreglass deck and bodywork, higher specification upper controls and a better choice of chassis. The Economy is fitted to Nissan or Renault chassis while the Business range can be mounted either to a Mercedes or VW.



Eisele demonstrate how to escape from the 30 metre high platform of a Bison Palfinger TKA 30 truck mount

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