

360° rotation - on a fork

Dutch telehandler rental company Slemaco has patented and obtained CE approval for a set of forks for telehandlers which offer a full 360 degrees of rotation in order to allow wide loads to be rotated and telescoped into narrow openings, such as windows.

The company, based in Biezenmortel, north of Tilburg has spent 10 years operating and renting telehandlers, giving them a deep insight into the products, their applications and some of the challenges user face. It occurred to them that picking up palletted loads in narrow confined areas, or placing long items = equal wide loads into buildings with narrow openings often reduced jobsite efficiency, based on this the owners Ruud Slenders and Ronald Maas set to work to design a solution, once perfected they called it the Romaster.

The rotation is made possible thanks to a fairly large slew bearing with hydraulic worm drive which allows 360 degree continuous rotation - if desired. However it is the ability to rotate the forks by up to 90 degrees each side of centre that most users will appreciate. The Romaster uses the telehandler's standard quick release connections so that a fleet owner need not purchase one for every machine in their fleet.

Once the two owners have perfected the design they applied for a patent and called in TÜV to verify their

calculations, inspect it, check its conformity to all relevant EU directives and CE mark it. Now that this has been done the company is looking to market it internationally in partnership with equipment distributor VGM. Slemaco will handle the home market while VGM will look after exports.

So far the company has tested the Romaster with Merlo, Manitou and Dieci telehandlers, the TÜV inspection and approval process included a look at the interface with the telehandler and its effect on the boom etc...



The Romaster 360° forks



The forks allow a long load to be turned to pass through a restricted opening.



The Romaster can pick and place a load from an angle



during normal anticipated use. However to date none of the telehandler manufacturers have tested or approved the installation. The Romaster has a maximum capacity of 2.5 tonnes and Hans Visser of VGM says that while suited to all industrial telehandlers he prefers to mount it to 360 degree models and straight frames fitted with outriggers.

Use it with gloves

Getac UK a manufacturer of rugged computers aimed at field-based applications has launched a new line of rugged Tablet PCs - the V100 - which it claims are the first rugged computers to offer a Multi-Touch screen for use with or without work gloves. The new Multi-Touch technology allows users to move and edit documents, rotate maps and photos, zoom in and zoom out on the maintenance manuals and navigate numerous system applications by using a series of single touch, dual touch, "flick," and application "gestures" with their fingers.

Getac's Resistive Multi-Touch technology is not based on capacitance sensitivity, which means users can perform these actions, and many others while wearing protective gloves. This makes it ideal for industrial and field professionals who work with dangerous chemicals or perform their job in extreme weather conditions. Even with gloves, the sensitivity and accuracy of the multi-touch screen is extremely high. The screen features 2048x2048 resolution, 100 points per second report rate, and less than

Getac's new V100 rugged tablet PCs have new easy to use touch screen technology.



35ms response time. The tablets are also completely compatible with Microsoft's Windows 7.

"Our customers work in some of the most extreme environments and weather conditions where touch screen technology and flick gestures are faster, safer, and more convenient than using a keypad," says Peter Molyneux, business development director at Getac UK.

Getac's Multi-Touch technology will also offer when it is launched later this month.

enquiries

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