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# Is it a platform or is it a crane...?

c&a

spider lifts

Spider lifts are now more popular than ever yet despite this they still have a relatively low profile with end users. Even in the more developed markets such as Western Europe the product and its capabilities are still relatively unknown. Given the increasing numbers of manufacturers now offering them, coupled with the continued improvements and breadth of choice, manufacturers clearly also believe that the market still has a long way to go.

In last year's feature we commented that the spider lift - like the spider crane - is a true marvel of engineering, with a diverse and highly developed product range. It is reliable and can provide a good financial return, way in excess of the more 'run of the mill' powered access equipment. And while a platform that could act as a crane (or vice versa) would certainly extend its appeal and versatility, only a few have gone down this route - until now.

Testcentrum De Lille - manufacturer of the Giraf Track - unveiled its GT580 Compact Crane Concept at Intermat. While it is not a spider lift as such, the GT580-3C - which is still to be certified - might possibly edge in on some top end applications currently carried out by tracked spider lifts. The track

mounted machine has a new three section boom and hydraulic winch, 7.8 tonne maximum capacity and 15 metre lift height. The capacity can be increased to 10 tonnes with an optional reinforced boom and it will also be available with a fixed or hydraulic luffing jib, with a maximum capacity of 3.4 tonnes at a height of around 21metres. It will also offer a fully integrated work platform with jib in order to reach working heights of 21 metres or more, giving the machine increased versatility.

But perhaps the first true spider lift/crane has just been launched by Italian manufacturer Cormidi - known more for its mini-dumpers than its access equipment - with the introduction of its two model, multi-purpose KB-X P spider lift and crane range.

For many years Palazzani spider lifts have had the facility to be used as cranes with interchangeable winches/cages and with heights of up to 50 metres. However the Cormidi KB19-12 and 22-13 models are a little different in that they have been designed using a common base that can just as easily be either a work platform, crane or tool handler, with maximum working and lifting heights of between 19 and 22 metres.

When the KB22-13 is fitted with a platform, the four section main



JLG's foray into the spider lift sector - courtesy of Hinowa - which began in 2010 is finally beginning to reach the market

boom and double articulated telescopic jib offers a working height of 22.5 metres and an outreach of nine metres with a platform capacity of 200kg (or 12 metres with 80kg in the basket). The lift also provides around seven metres of horizontal outreach at an up and over height of around 14 metres.

The telescopic double articulation jib also gives the unit some underbridge capability - reaching four metres below ground level - with the ability to work directly under the machine itself. The double articulation also makes this an incredibly compact machine when stowed and the overall weight of the KB22-13 in work platform mode is 3,100kg.

With the platform removed the unit is quickly converted to a spider crane with a maximum capacity of 800kg. It can lift 500kg to about 16 metres or 450kg at a height of 12 metres with a five metre outreach/overreach. At its nine metre outreach at ground level lifting capacity is 400kg.

Alternatively attachments other than a hook or a winch can be fitted to the boom, including those requiring

hydraulic power such as a glass panel handler or hydraulic demolition breaker. The crane model weighs in at 2,885kg.



Cormidi main boom and double articulated telescopic jib offers around seven metres of horizontal outreach at an up and over height of around 14 metres.



With the platform removed the unit is quickly converted to a spider crane.



Giraf Track unveiled the Compact Crane Concept GT580-3C

## spider lifts **C&a**

The KB range can either be controlled by the control box or by remote transmitter which displays the operating data on an LCD screen.

It can automatically adjust the engine power, optimising speed for smoother movements and includes auto-levelling outriggers.

Its IPSone telematics system is able to connect with Cormidi technicians to assist with trouble shooting or for owners to see usage patterns etc, while a data logger stores information and can highlight anomalies and misuse of the machine. Although these Cormidi machines are probably the most radical spider platform development, there have been many new spider products and developments introduced over the past year.

### New range from Imer Access

Imer group division Imer Access recently launched a new IM R line of spider lifts with two new models, the 19 metre IM R19 and the 15 metre IM R15. Imer says the range

will be extended to four models with the largest probably being a 23 metre at Bauma next year.

Following the purchase of the Iteco brand in September 2009, Imer has been active in the access sector forming Imer Access early last year. Based near Mantua in Italy, Imer Access builds a range of products including indoor and outdoor self propelled scissors, articulated booms, truck mounted platforms on 3.5 tonne chassis and now spider lifts.

These new spiders should however not be confused with the LEM series of spider lifts – the LEM 1200 to LEM 2200 - produced by Platform Basket for sister company IHIMER which will continue as a separate range. Having two different lines of spider lifts from one group is however an unusual situation.

The new IM R 15 weighs 1,980kg and has an overall outrigger footprint of 3.2 x 3.3 metres. Maximum platform capacity is 200kg although its maximum eight



*Imer says the range will be extended to four models with the largest probably being a 23 metre at Bauma next year.*

metres of outreach is achieved with 120kg in the basket.

The platform has 360 degrees (non continuous) slew and features include width-adjustable tracks. Transport dimensions are 4.85 metres long, 800mm wide and two metres high.

The larger 19 metre IM R19 has nine metres of outreach with 120kg in the basket but this is reduced to seven metres with 200kg. Wireless remote control is available as well as automatic leveling outriggers and adjustable tracks. Outrigger footprint is 3.2 x 3.3 metres and weight is 2,300kg.

### Lightweight Cela

Italian platform manufacturer Cela launched two new spider lifts at Intermat in April, the 15 metre working height DT15 Spyder and the 24 metre DT24 Spyder. The DT15 is unusual in that it features a two stage highly versatile outrigger system. The unit is also lightweight - weighing just 1,550kg - with a compact 2.3 metre by 2.75 metre hydraulic outrigger spread which manages a five metre outreach with 200kg platform capacity. However, the outriggers have an easy to use manual telescopic extension which extends



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The DT15 is unusual in that it features a two stage highly versatile outrigger system and is lightweight at just 1,550kg.

the spread 550 mm each side. The unit has a clever automatic linked outrigger and load sensor which provides a separate working envelope for one, two, three or four outrigger extensions – when used over an extended leg the outreach increases to 7.5 metres with the 200kg in the basket. Up and over height is eight metres and the unit is capable of reaching 1.5 metres below ground level. Largest in the three model range is

the DT24 Spyder which shares its boom with the company's 3.5 tonne GVW truck mounted DT24. The Spyder has a working height of 24 metres with 12 metres outreach and 14 metres up and over reach. Weighing 2,800kg the unit is relatively light, has a 4.8 metre by 3.55 metre maximum outrigger spread and has the added advantage of being able to reach 4.5 metres below ground level. While not quite in the growing '25

metre' sector, we have added this machine to the comparison table (see page 22)

If you don't need that additional one metre of working height, the specifications of this machine look very impressive.

**25 metre Multitel**

One of the manufacturers offering a 25 metre machine is Multitel which uses the boom from its 25 metre MX250 truck mounted lift on the base of its smaller SMX225 spider to create the SMX250 its largest spider platform to date. The main

feature is its weight which at 2,660kg makes it the lightest in its class allowing it to be transported on a trailer towed behind a conventional 4x4 vehicle. Maximum outreach is 11.65 metres and features narrow and standard jacking. On narrow jacking the outprint is less than three metres wide but the unit still has full 360 degree rotation. The boom configuration is also interesting in that it with its twin telescopic booms for some excellent up and over reach.



The main feature of the Multitel SMX250 is its weight which at 2,660kg makes it the lightest in its class

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## Finally, JLG spiders are available!

JLG's foray into spider lift sector - courtesy of Hinowa - which began with the surprise announcement at Saie, Bologna in 2010 of its 'compact crawler boom' range - is now finally beginning to reach the market. JLG has been extremely cautious, wanting to get every aspect of the range in place, with its staff fully up to speed on the products before taking orders. The aim is to ensure that the support for these product is not different than for its own products, but this has led to a somewhat long and drawn out process. Hopefully the wait will be worthwhile for JLG customers although it might be hard going for a while yet. Working heights range from two 13.8 metre units through 16.81 metres, 18.87 metres to the largest the 23.1 metre working height X23J.



The new Teupen Leo 15GT extends the concepts and base machine of its entry level model, the Leo 13GT to the 15 metre market.

### Teupen overhaul

Teupen is well into its total overhaul of its smaller spider lifts with the introduction of the Leo 13GT and more recently the Leo 15GT at Intermat. The design and innovation in the Teupen products has made it the leading brand, although not the most prolific, that title is almost certainly still firmly held by Hinowa. However like all 'quality' products, they generally have a price to match which has allowed the more cost effective manufacturers to gain significant orders when selling against Teupen, particularly to larger rental companies which generally will not pay a great deal for additional features.

The new model essentially extends

the concepts and base machine of its entry level model, the Leo 13GT to the 15 metre market. It offers a working height of 14.7 metres, 7.6 metres of outreach and a 200kg platform capacity.

It employs the same anodised finish to its aluminium boom as the Leo 13GT as well as the same platform, safety technology, fully automated levelling and cable remote controls. Additionally, tracks can be raised and widened for driving on sloping ground, where more ground clearance is required or even to reduce the overall machine height. Power sources include both diesel or gas engines and follows the launch of the higher spec Leo 15GTplus last September.

The Leo 15GTplus includes a Kubota diesel engine and a little more working height at 15.5 metres with an outreach of 7.9 metres thanks

to its improved stabiliser technology and articulating jib.

Other developments will include a new mounted Robin-Subaru gas engine generator with automatic speed control for the Leo 13GT and the fitting of Teupen's FuzzyIV controls to the Leo 30T and Leo 36T.

### Omme compact

Danish spider and trailer lift manufacturer Ommelift's latest addition is a compact, yet heavy-duty 25 metre dual power articulated boom spider lift. The 2500 RXBDJ has a maximum outreach of 12.8 metres with a seven metre up and over reach. The fully unrestricted outreach is 10 metres with its full 200kg platform capacity. The lift mechanism



The 2500 RXBDJ has a maximum outreach of 12.8 metres with a seven metre up and over reach

comprises a heavy duty dual arm sigma type riser, four section telescopic boom and a 1.4 metre articulated jib.

The overall transport length is 6.55 metres, but this can be reduced to 5.95 metres thanks to the quick disconnect basket. Overall width is 1.1 metres and overall height just over two metres. Total weight is on the heavy side at 3,950kg but working width (over the outriggers) is 3.75 metres, and thanks to its dual riser tail-swing is always zero.

The lift is powered by a Kubota diesel for outdoor use and includes a 200Ah battery pack for indoor or sensitive outdoor applications, all without the need to connect to the mains. A pure battery powered model with larger battery pack is also available for those who prefer it.

As with most Omme spider lifts the 2500 has impressive levelling ability, offering the possibility to climb and level up on slopes of up to 35 percent/19.3 degrees allowing it to handle challenging terrain, steps and kerbs. With assistance the unit can also level on slopes of up to 40 percent/21.8 degrees thanks to its high lift outriggers.

### Hinowa revs up

Leading spider lift manufacturer Hinowa launched an automatic RPM control for its single cylinder Hatz Diesel power option called 'Hinowa Diesel AutoRev'. The new option is available on its IHS models - the Goldlift 14.70, and 17.80XL, and Lightlifts 14.72 and 19.65 - which currently feature a two speed Hatz single cylinder engine with a manual setting at either 1,600 or 3,000 rpm selected by moving a lever on the side of the engine.

This means that most users typically chose the higher setting before going up in the platform in order to obtain decent function speeds and

power. From 2012 a three step automatic setting with speeds of 1,800, 2,200 and 3,600 rpm will be selected automatically, depending on function demand. The higher speed will also improve many of the machines function speeds for more efficient working. The main benefits however are lower fuel consumption and less noise as the engine automatically switches to the lowest possible speed when demand is low. Other benefits include lower emissions and longer engine life.



From 2012 Hinowa is introducing a three step automatic setting with speeds of 1,800, 2,200 and 3,600 rpm depending on function demand.

### Leguan dealer

Avant Tecno is one of the few manufacturers to offer both wheeled and tracked versions of its machines. The wheeled 'skid steer' versions are ideal for use on hard surfaces allowing rapid travel and deployment in many repair and maintenance situations. Flagship model is the Leguan 160 which has a 15.9 metre working height and 6.7 working outreach. Both platforms have a maximum load of 200 kg and using Leguan's continuous load control system allows the full capacity to be used in all positions, removing the requirement for limit switches.

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Leguan 160 which has a 15.9 metre working height and 6.7 working outreach



Avant Tecno recently appointed AXS Sales of Bromsgrove as its exclusive England and Wales dealer for the Leguan platform range.

**Insulated Platform Basket**

Italian Platform Basket launched a number of new and updated products at Intermat including an



The 17 metre PB18.90.46 is fully insulated to 46KV with special fibreglass sections in the riser and levelling linkage as well as the jib.

insulated model that it co-developed in the USA with its distributor Tracked Lifts. The 17 metre PB18.90.46 is fully insulated to 46KV, with special fibreglass sections in the riser, levelling linkage and the jib, allowing it to work close to live overhead power lines for utility work, or as an extra precaution on applications such as tree trimming, where power lines might be present.

The company's 15 and 18 metre models - the 15.75 and 18.75 - date back to the time Platform Basket took over the old Basket business and have been instrumental in the company's success since then, but they have now been given a major update. Now known as the 15.75 PRO and 18.90 PRO they feature

new more powerful and quieter Kubota diesel engines, automatic outrigger set up and levelling, a more accurate load limiting device which will enhance the working envelope, improved electrics and drive system together with dual speed hydraulic motors for greater productivity.

The company has also launched battery versions - the 15.75E-Pro, 18.90E-Pro - as well as the 22.10E which is also has the option of Bi-Energy or battery/diesel. The adoption of a more efficient drive train with inverter technology and brushless AC electric motors gives sufficient battery life makes battery power practical, without the need to go to lithium ion batteries says the company.

**25 metre spider lifts compared**

	Cela DT24	Multitel SMX250	Omme 2500 RXBDJ	Teupen Leo 25GT	Teupen Leo 25GTplus	Platform Basket 25 WE (wheeled electric)
Working height	24m	25.2m	25m	25m	25.2m	25m
Maximum capacity	200kg	200kg	200kg	200kg	200kg	200kg
Maximum outreach	12m with 100kg	11.65m with 80kg	12.8m	15.5m with 80kg	18.0m with 80kg	13.5 with 80kg
Outreach with maximum capacity	9m	8.55m	10m	12.5m	15m	
Total weight	2,800kg	2,660kg	3,950kg	2,980kg	3,760kg	5,000kg
Transport dimensions LxWxH	4.8 x 0.8* x 1.95m	5.12 x 0.98* x 1.92m	6.6 x 1.1 x 2.01m	7.22 x 1.78 x 1.98m	7.0 x 1.58 x 1.98m	6.4 x 1.0 x 1.98m
Engine options	Diesel Electric	Diesel Electric	Diesel Electric	Diesel Electric	Diesel Electric	Electric
Boom	Articulated	Articulated	Double artic riser	straight	straight	straight

\*chassis width only - basket not included



# Platform Basket

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# Technology leader

German truck and spider lift manufacturer Teupen has gone through and is undergoing many changes. Rüdiger Kopf, chief editor of sister magazine of Kran & Bühne spoke briefly with its chief executive Michael Wothscke.



Michael Wothscke

Teupen has been following a new direction, both for its products and its distributor network. Over the past three years the company has expanded its overseas presence, establishing a wholly-owned subsidiary in the US, added to its coverage of the Middle East as well as expanding its staff in France, Scandinavia and Poland. At the same time all production, product development and main company functions have been pulled back to - and will stay at - the company's headquarters in Gronau, Germany. Product changes during that time have included the development of its spider, trailer and truck mounted platforms, however Wothscke emphasises that the Leo spider lift platforms are very much Teupen's core business.

"The Leo brand is still very important for the company," says Wothscke. "Even though our engineers have looked for synergies

between all the models, spiders will always be our main product line. We are aiming to have more parts commonality across the Leo range which benefits both the manufacturing and our customers."

"We have more than enough space for future expansion and by concentrating all the functions at Gronau it gives us more control over the whole manufacturing and distribution process," he said.

The current owners of the company - Hanover based private equity firm Nord Holding, which purchased a majority stake in 2008 - says that it has a long-term view rather than the usual five to seven years. It gives the example of the investment in the USA as proof of this long-term commitment.

"We have no intention of expanding through acquisition. Our target as the only German producer of spider platforms is to continue to be the leader in technology."

## Reaching the lighthouse

The Rubjerg Knude lighthouse - located in Rubjerg on the North Sea coast of Northern Denmark - was built and first lit in 1900 and is situated on top of a sandy cliff top 60 metres above the sea. Until 1908 the lighthouse operated on gas which it produced from a gasworks on site.

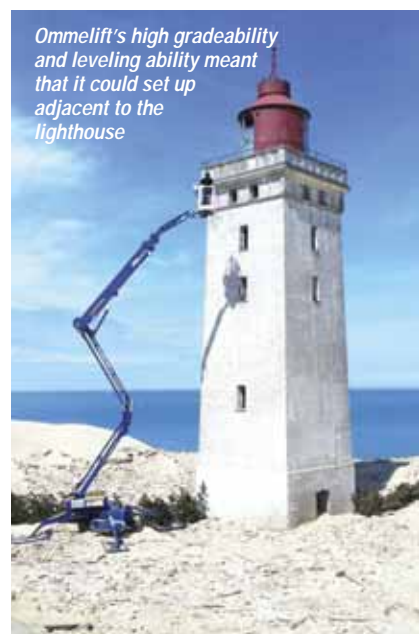
It ceased operating in 1968 and for a number of years the buildings were used as a museum and coffee shop. However continually shifting sands and coastal erosion - a serious problem in the area - meant they were abandoned 10 years ago. The smaller out buildings were eventually covered by the sand but the main lighthouse structure remains, but had lost its white paint that makes it stand out. When the decision was taken to repaint it the problem was how to reach it with some form of access equipment apart from façade scaffold which would have taken a good deal of effort and been inefficient for what is a relatively short job.

The solution was to use a tracked spider lift. A 27.5 metre Ommelift 2750 RXBDJ was rented for the job, but had to track a fair distance over the deep and shifting sands. In the worst areas four large ground mats were used under the tracks. The Ommelift's high gradeability and leveling ability meant that it could set up on the sand dunes adjacent to the lighthouse to carry out the work.

*In the worst areas four large ground mats were used under the tracks*



*Ommelift's high gradeability and leveling ability meant that it could set up adjacent to the lighthouse*



*The Ommelift 2750 RXBDJ had to track a fair distance over the deep and shifting sands*



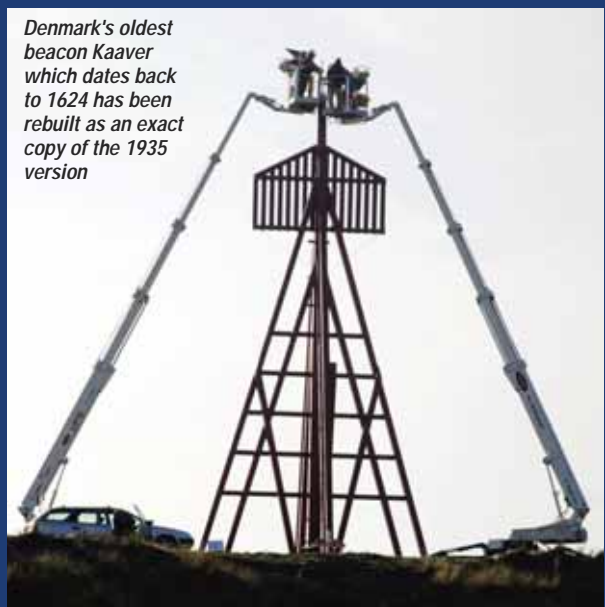
## Beacon restoration

The Kaaver is Denmark's oldest beacon, first built in 1624 on the Danish North Sea island of Fanøe. Although the beacon no longer had any navigational significance by the 19th century, it was structurally maintained and regularly painted. Unfortunately the beacon was completely demolished by a storm in October 1935 and not rebuilt, that is until now. A number of local entrepreneurs had the idea to rebuild the beacon as an exact copy of 1935 Kaaver - with work being completed last October. In order to assist with the work two 25.8 metre Omme 2600 RBD provided by Riwal Denmark were used as well as a mobile crane from Danish company BMS.



*Two Omme 2600 RBD provided by Riwal Denmark were used as well as a mobile crane from Danish company BMS*

*Denmark's oldest beacon Kaaver which dates back to 1624 has been rebuilt as an exact copy of the 1935 version*



# Olympic first

The first 52 metre TCA Falcon FS520C to be purchased by a rental company has been working in the athlete's village at London's Olympic Park apartment project in Stratford, East London. Easi UpLifts purchased the world's largest spider lift at the end of 2011 and the platform has been working on the building with a 46 metre high internal atrium which needed cleaning along with slight repairs to the roofing systems.

However the only access to the work area was through a 1.4 metre wide doorway, making it impossible for larger powered access equipment to enter the building. Once inside, floor space was also at a premium, leaving just enough room for the machine to be set up and operated. Easi UpLifts claims that this solution was the most efficient and economical for its client, saving time and money that would have been lost through the use of traditional scaffolding.



*Once inside, floor space was at a premium, leaving just enough room for the machine to set up and be operated.*

"The 52 metre spider is part of an increasing capital investment in our specialised access division," said Easi UpLifts' managing director John Ball. "We will continue to lead the way, providing customers with cost effective and time saving solutions to difficult access problems."

The company has also added two new 90 metre Bronto Skylift truck-mounted machines to its UK rental fleet with more specialised equipment due to arrive later in the year.



*Access to the work area was through a 1.4 metre wide doorway*

## Size helps

One of the main features of a spider lift is its ability to access 'difficult to reach' areas. Dutch rental company Hoogwerker Centrum Nederland was recently faced with the challenge of providing access equipment to paint the inner courtyard of a house where the only entrance was through an exceptionally narrow opening.

The structure meant that it was impossible to erect scaffolding, while the narrow width of the entrance meant that there was no chance of a traditional platform getting through without damaging the walls.



Hoogwerker Centrum realised that the only platform able to fit was a compact tracked spider lift and selected an Oil&Steel Octopussy Classic 1402.

The lift is very compact when stowed, measuring just 780mm wide by 1,950 mm high and 3,520mm long and yet offers a 14 metre working height and 6.5 metres of outreach. The platform can also be removed to make access through tight areas even easier.

The Octopussy Classic 1402 enabled the work to be carried out efficiently and safely while fully complying with all of the health and safety regulations. The whole contract took just two days - including painting, clean up and removing all materials.



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