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Planning the key

This time of year is when many production facilities look to carry out maintenance, upgrades and improvement work that requires more space or time than available when the plant is running at full capacity. Although this is becoming less common - as an increasing number of facilities are now organised to do most routine work either during the normal working day, overnight or at weekends - the correct selection and use of the latest access equipment can make the whole exercise easier, more efficient and safer. In recent years the number of access products available has grown significantly, along with the choice within specific product categories.

Growing number of sectors

The key factors when looking at aerial work platforms for industrial applications are of course the height and reach required, indoor or outdoor, does it have to reach over an obstacle and are there low floor loadings or working space restrictions?

The vast majority of industrial applications will of course be inside a building however it is very

common for companies to rent in equipment with working heights far greater than that required. This does not always carry a financial implication as asking most rental companies for a 15ft scissor lift often results in a 19ft or even a 26ft being supplied at the same price. But while this might seem an attractive proposition just in case you need more height, some substitutions might not be suitable

as the larger item is likely to be heavier, will be physically larger and might have a lower platform capacity than needed.

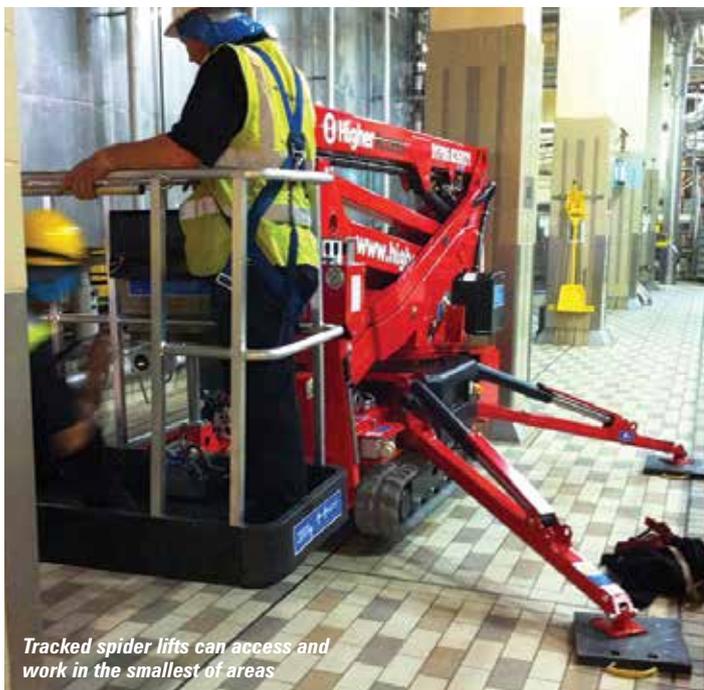
Too many end users still pay far too little attention to the equipment they require. In the worst cases this has resulted in a rental company providing a trailer lift for working in a building where it was difficult to manoeuvre the lift into place, costing time and resulting in staff misusing the equipment to get the job done. The fact is that planning the work and the access equipment required not only satisfies the legal requirement to properly plan work at height, but it will also pay off handsomely in terms of having the right machine for the job which is likely to improve the quality of the work, the speed at which it is done and ensuring it is done safely. On top of this you may find a smaller or alternative type of machine that can get closer to the work and may be better and might be cheaper.

Most industrial premises are lower than a lot of people assume, so for example a 12ft self-propelled mast type lift with its 5.7 metres working

height, will reach the ceiling of a large number of industrial premises while being light, easy to use and compact. Yet all too often people end up with a 26ft slab electric scissor lift, which does offer a larger working platform and in some cases more capacity, but it might cost you more, will be heavier and might be a challenge to squeeze into some areas.



Genie SX-180



Tracked spider lifts can access and work in the smallest of areas



A Nifty HR12

If heights are lower a whole range of other products of this type kick in. One sector that has grown significantly is the push around platform - both manual and self propelled - and this is covered in depth on the following pages. These platforms offer low level working heights but with the larger offering working heights of up to seven metres and above, they may be ideal for industrial applications where size and weight are an issue. For work that needs a small amount of up and over reach the mast-boom is ideal. Depending on the reach there is a growing choice with models with the largest models - the JLG Toucan T12 Plus for example - offering more than 5.5 metres outreach and 12.5 metres working height. Although its dimensions are compact, check that its weight (almost five tonnes) is not an issue.

Electric booms

So what if you are working inside a building carrying out maintenance or repairs and need equipment that is emission free and quiet but also need greater working height and outreach? The main options are Hybrid or bi-energy booms and tracked lithium/bi-energy spider lifts which can be more complicated to operate and need more outrigger space to set up.

Most of the access manufacturers now have a range of electric booms generally up to about 15 metres although this has only happened over the past four years. Latest is the Genie Z 33/18 launched at last month's and the company's first compact, lightweight electric Z boom offering a working height of 12 metres and reach of 5.6 metres - about the same as the largest JLG mastboom but weighing 3640kg about 1.3 tonnes lighter.

But it is only over the last four years - since the launch of the Niftylift HR17 - that articulated booms have had an electric hybrid option. One of their main advantages - particularly of the Niftylift booms is their reduced weight and size which all helps with working in confined areas and when there is a weight restriction on slab.

Last October Niftylift launched the 28 metre HR28 Hybrid - the world's largest battery electric powered boom. It is by far the lightest for its



This Niftylift HR17 Narrow has an electric hybrid option

size at 14.5 tonnes, as well as being very compact for its 19 metre reach.

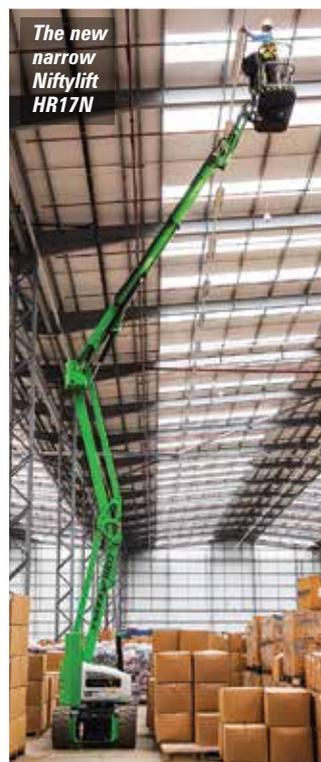
Other companies are looking at offering larger articulated booms. At Apex Riwal unveiled a 26 metre JLG 800AJ electric articulated boom which it had converted from the usual diesel. The change obviously reduces noise and emissions allowing the unit to work indoors and, says Riwal, the conversion does not affect the working envelope of the platform.

Niftylift also launched two new fully redesigned and updated versions of its popular narrow HR15N and HR17N booms. Both are still 1.5 metres wide but now feature a reduced stowed height of less than two metres which Niftylift says it is very important for specific applications. Working heights are 15.5 metres and 17 metres respectively with 9.7 metres outreach on both.

The final option is dependent on having a telehandler on site - perhaps for lifting and carrying items or unloading items from a wagon. There are now various access attachments for telehandlers which have the advantage of a large work area and good basket capacity combined with reasonable outreach. Whatever your needs there should be a safe and efficient method of working at height. Make sure you plan the work and book the equipment well in advance so that the work proceeds as smoothly, safely and as quickly as possible.



Push arounds now offer working heights of 7 metres and above



The new narrow Niftylift HR17N



A Snorkel A46JRT articulated boom



Special attachments can make working so much easier



Mast booms have a useful up and over capability





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The low-down on low level

The British always like to think of themselves as inventors and innovators, at the cutting edge of new developments. For the past two to three hundred years this has probably been the case, having created many of the life-changing inventions from steam engines and railways to the computer, jet engine, World Wide Web, electric motor - the list is endless. In the access sector this includes the low level push-around scissor lift. In its eight year existence, it has totally transformed low level working, driven in the UK by changes to working at height legislation but now becoming more popular in other parts of the world particularly Western Europe and the Middle East.



Snorkel TM12 features a 0.5m roll-out deck extension as standard

From its early, basic beginnings - four wheels/casters, a scissor stack and deck - natural development resulted in the push around becoming more sophisticated even including versions with drive motors to create self-propelled versions. However the original concept is making a comeback as more manufacturers enter the market with their own take on the concept, which delivers a no frills, basic, safe work platform for low level work.

A few companies have deviated from the scissor mechanism with some interesting results. One design

that has always attracted a lot of interest is JLG's Liftpod. Originally launched in 2007 by JLG Australia, this lightweight (70kg) three piece - base, mast and basket replacement for a ladder offers 150kg capacity and 4.4 metres working height. Unfortunately it never caught the mass imagination possibly because it seemed slightly more complicated to move around and erect or more likely too different for traditionalists. A few years ago JLG launched the slightly smaller 3.8 metre FS60 and the 4.4 metre FS80. The smaller version was developed so that it would fit into elevators without being dismantled.

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The new JLG Liftpod FT140.

JLG is obviously committed to this concept and launched a larger generation Liftpod - the FT140 - at Conexpo earlier this year. Retaining the key Liftpod features, it is simple to assemble, operate and transport and has the same 150kg capacity, but offers a significantly improved working height of just over six metres. The FT140



Lightweight Faraone

The growth of the push around can surely be measured in the amount of new manufacturers adding products as well as new models from existing manufacturers. One manufacturer that now has a wide low level range is Italian company Faraone. Founded in 1969

by Sabatino Faraone, the company initially produced aluminium window frames. Its ability to work with complex profiles led it to the development and production of aluminium ladders in 1979 and the opening of its current plant in Tortereto. Driven by Piero Faraone ladders were initially a division within the window frame company but a few years later the company IMA was created, which now includes special aluminium ladders, mobile scaffold towers, work platforms. At the time the aluminium ladder was an innovative product replacing wood ladders and within 10 years the company was market leader in Italy and in many international markets and has since been heavily involved in the development of European standards for ladder construction. In 1989 it started producing mobile scaffold towers. Today it has four production plants covering 60,000 square metres with its headquarters in Tortereto a coastal town in the Abruzzo region of Italy. It also has production facilities in Poland and Spain.

Its range of aerial platforms has expanded over recent years but all are compact and lightweight and largely made of aluminium. The company is looking for dealers for its interesting range of push around and self-propelled platforms with working heights of up to eight metres. Its latest platform is the new Elevah 40 which has a working height of four metres and weighs just 75kg with a platform capacity of 100kg enough for one person and



Faraone Elevah 40 weighs just 75kg



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Faraone Elevah 65E Move with double extendible deck

tools. The compact battery powered platform uses a motorbike type twist grip to raise the platform. It is 700mm wide, 900mm long with a stowed height of 1.2 metres.

One interesting variation is the Elevah 51 Move - a self-propelled stock picker - which has a 200kg platform capacity, 100kg in the basket and 100kg either on the front carrier or on the moveable tray. As the name suggests it has a maximum height of 5.1 metres, weighs a total of 335kg, has single joystick controls and a 300mm step

in height.

Largest in the range is the self-propelled Elevah 80E Move which has a working height of eight metres but has an outreach of 1.8 metres (through its two section power extendible basket) at a height of about three metres.

Custom built

Custom Equipment introduced three new European push-around scissor lifts earlier this year with narrower - 670mm - overall widths to cope with domestic/office doorways. The

models are the 3.6 metre working height HB-P3.6, the 4.5 metre HB-P4.5 and the five metre HB-P5.0 with 250kg platform capacity - 227kg on the 3.6 - and are virtually maintenance free with sealed AGM batteries as standard. The platforms are also 275mm longer than earlier models at 1.42 metres, enough for two people to work side by side, before having to use the 760mm extension.

The Originals

Italian manufacturer Bravi was way out in front in the low level access game, and yet its first product in 1986 was a self-propelled platform - the Model BP3 - with an 18 metre working height. Three years later it launched the Lui, a nine metre self-propelled mast lift. The five metre Lui Mini came along in 1995 and with constant improvement over the extension.



Custom Equipment introduced three new European push-around scissor lifts earlier this year



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Th range of Bravi models

years, has evolved into the Leonardo HD, the main model in the current Bravi range.

But what of Pop-Up - the originator of the push around? It now has three key models - the Push 6 pro, Push 8 pro and Push 10 pro - with platform heights of two, 2.5 and three metres. These are sold direct in the UK and via the Snorkel distribution network overseas. Features now include automatic anti-surf brakes, emergency lowering, tilt sensor and saloon gates.



PopUp Push 10 Pro and the new snorkel platforms



The expanding ELS Makine access range includes this 5.3 metre working height Junior 5.5 push around.

More new products

Turkish manufacturer ELS Makine has two larger push around scissors with 10 and 12 metre working heights. Its smallest low level platform is the 5.3 metre working height Junior 5.5 push around very similar to the Pop-Up Push 10 pro but heavier weighing 430kg.

Dingli is leading a new charge into the low level market by Chinese manufacturers, it offers two push arounds - the five metre JCPT0507 with 240kg capacity, weighing 366kg and the 5.9 metre JCPT0607 which has the same platform capacity but is 30kg heavier.



The Dingli JCPT0507 has 240kg capacity and five metre working height.

Italian manufacturer Airo is another company expanding its low level range. Its latest platform is the V6E which has a capacity of 120kg and



Smaller brother of the Airo V6E is this V5E

working height of 5.5 metres and a moveable loading platform capable of carrying up to 90kg for stock picking duties.

A new self-propelled mast

ATN is the latest company to enter the 12ft self-propelled mast market, joining Snorkel, JLG, Skyjack, Haulotte and Genie with its new 15.3ft Piaf 660R which offers a working height of 6.65 metres with a 380mm platform extension. Platform capacity is 200kg and overall weight is 920kg. Overall width is 780mm while a very tight turning circle allows it to turn within its own width. ATN has developed a larger 7.9 metre version with an extra mast section, but decided that the smaller unit was more



The new ATN Piaf 660R with a working height of 6.65 metres

marketable. It will most likely launch the larger platform at a later date.

Cut the power

Another manufacturer that is carving out a significant share of the low level market is Power Towers. Its original product, the Power Tower, was launched shortly after the Pop-Up but uses a sigma lift mechanism and boasts a five metre working height. More recently its manually powered 3.5 metre Pecolift has been a huge success and earlier this year it added an outdoor wind-rated version, with stabilisers, operable on slopes up to three degrees. The company has now unveiled the Ecolift with a 4.2 metre working height. Although the same width as the Pecolift, the Ecolift is 315mm longer at 1.3 metres and 118kg heavier at 298kg. It also has a slightly higher stowed height at 1.93 metres. With no electrics or hydraulics these non-powered lifts boast minimal operation and maintenance costs and unlimited usage - assuming the operator stops for the odd meal - and they certainly appear to have struck a chord in the market.

One thing is for sure a massive surge in the development of new products for indoor applications means that no matter what the job there is a solution for almost any industrial work at height challenge - so no excuse to stick a pallet on the forklift.

Keep safe this shutdown.



The new Power Tower Ecolift