

# cranes & access



October 2023 Vol.25 issue 6

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**SPIDER  
CRANES**

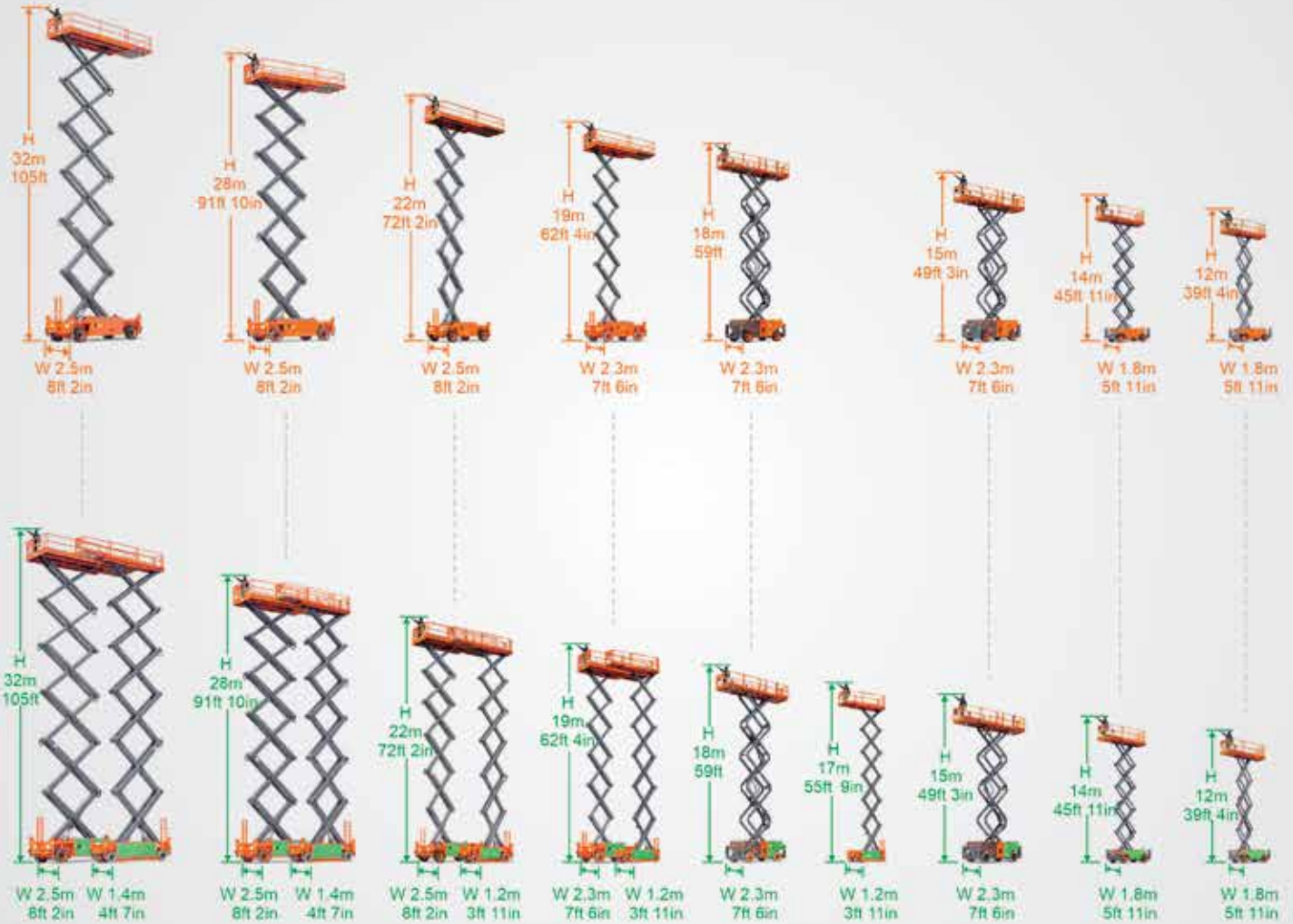
**GLASS  
HANDLING**

**MASTCLIMBERS  
& HOISTS**

**SUSTAINABILITY**



**Heavy Loading**  
**363kg - 1000kg**  
**800lb - 2204lb**



## Large Scissor Lifts Series

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New 250t Tadano, Aldercote's CZ range, HSE to prosecute 2017 tower crane incident, A higher Nano push around, Terex Franna FR17 C goes global, New Sinoboom 46ft telescopic boom, Platform Basket unveils 54m spider lift, New CTE truck mount and spider lift, Palfinger teams up with Optilift, Sunward ships first CE boom lifts, IPAF eLearning launched in China, Avance wind gust warning system, Changes at the top for JLG and Terex and financials round-up...

### SPIDER CRANES 17

Spider cranes escaped their Japanese homeland at the turn of the millennium although initially few rental companies in Europe took them seriously. Mini crawler cranes had been around for longer, but uptake was always marginal. The growth in popularity for both has been gathering momentum in recent years as companies realise how versatile and profitable they can be. We take a look at the latest developments.

### GLASS HANDLING 27

The growth in specialist glass handling equipment is a result of the increasing size and weight of today's windows and glazing panels. In recent years spider cranes and vacuum lifters have become widely used. More recently glazing robots are becoming more popular. We take a look at the market and a challenging corner glass window installation at the art'otel in the Battersea Power Station redevelopment in London.

## MASTCLIMBERS AND HOISTS 33

Although a seemingly mature market in terms of annual growth, a number of new manufacturers have entered the mastclimber and hoist market. We take a look at them and also visit Sheffield's £300 million West Bar project to see how the latest 'battery energy storage systems' can power the entire site including 40 mastclimbers, four hoists and two tower cranes.

### SUSTAINABILITY 43

The construction industry is one of the main consumers of minerals and natural resources, apparently responsible for around 50 percent of the worldwide consumption of raw materials. Tighter regulations have forced contractors and equipment manufacturers to find new ways to reduce their impact on the environment and the world's finite resources. We take a look at what's happening.

### GIS EXHIBITION REVIEW 51

The Italian lifting, heavy transport and marine handling exhibition GIS was held in early October and was by far and away the largest in its history with more than 400 exhibitors. Our review is mainly a photographic roundup covering new or unusual exhibits.

### INTERVIEW WITH STEVEN LIU 57

Steven Liu is the founder and co-owner of Sinoboom - one of China's leading self-propelled aerial lift manufacturers. In rare interview he spoke with publisher Leigh Sparrow revealing details of his upbringing, career including what led to him to get into the access market and how he and his wife built one of the world's leading aerial lift manufacturers in just 15 years.

## REGULARS

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### ON THE COVER

A pair of Alimak Scando construction hoists working on the refurbishment of an 11 storey building in Stockholm, Sweden.



**IN THE NEXT ISSUE** Scheduled for publication in late November, the next issue of Cranes & Access will include features on Pick & carry industrial cranes, Truck mounted lifts, Outrigger mats and pads and Used equipment and refurbishment. If you have any contributions or suggestions to make or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.



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# COMMENT

## WHAT DO WE LOOK LIKE?

Today more than ever we like to be seen to be doing the right thing, but all too often do not 'walk the talk'. We see this in all manner of industries, particularly construction and in major industrial plants. Or in the UK, utilities such as water supply companies.

It also applies to politicians. Wishing to appeal to certain voters they often claim they will 'cut the red tape' and regulations that hold companies back, although they can seldom, if ever, cite the rules they are talking about and rarely follow through. On the odd occasion when they try - such as the UK government's plan to repeal all EU regulations that "held the country back" - they discover that 'red tape' such as the Work at Height regulations or CE marking are actually sensible and even necessary... and quietly drop their plans.

These days any company of size produces pages and pages of policies covering everything from Human Trafficking and the Environment to Privacy, Health & Safety and Waste Management etc... with a myriad of detail on how they embed them in their organisation and measure themselves against them.

The aim is to show the world that they really care about health & safety, employees and the environment. Such policies are also a requirement to obtain a quality accreditation, but how many companies actually practice what they have written or properly train staff in these areas and more importantly, encourage a culture that makes them a reality i.e. 'walk the talk'. All too often they are just a box ticking exercise.

To be fair, many contractors and equipment suppliers have made huge improvements in

recent years and really do care about these things. Training all over the world is at an all-time high and yet still 'shit happens'. Training is not competence as the saying goes... Why does an experienced and fully IPAF trained delivery driver refuse to wear a harness when unloading boom lifts on site, until forced to do so? And even after having had a reported incident he continues to leave his harness in the cab.

Vertikal.net featured a story last week about a man riding in a bulk material bag on a tower crane hook to the top of a building - all of which was caught on camera. The bag was probably more than sufficient for his weight - 'probably' being the operative word - however numerous people on site including the 'highly trained' tower crane operator must have been 'in on it', knowing that it was not only stupid and dangerous but that it broke all the rules. Yet no one stopped him, and one even put it on social media. But go to the contactor's web site and you'll find dozens of policies and measures on how it prevents such things from happening.

Perhaps we should worry less about presenting a particular image to the general public, investors and lobby groups and concentrate instead on getting the basics right rather than 'ticking boxes'. If that happened the industry's image would improve immeasurably.

#### Mark Darwin

*Comment and feedback is most welcome via post, email, fax or phone stating if we may publish them or not: editor@vertikal.net*