

# cranes & access



July/August 2024 Vol.26 issue 4

[www.vertikal.net](http://www.vertikal.net)

**TOWER  
CRANES**

**SCISSOR LIFTS**

**GLASS  
HANDLING**

**VERTIKAL DAYS  
PREVIEW**

### Comprehensive Upgrade Fourteen Benefits

#### PERFORMANCE+

- 1 **Industry Leading Platform Capacity**  
Maximum increase up to 40% compared to the original model
- 2 **Side and Rear Forklift Pockets**  
Multiple choices for transport efficiency
- 3 **Lithium-Ion Battery with Long Duty Cycle and Fast Recharging**  
High-density battery pack with five-year warranty
- 4 **High Strength Damage Resistant Tyres Compound**  
Double the life compared to conventional tyres

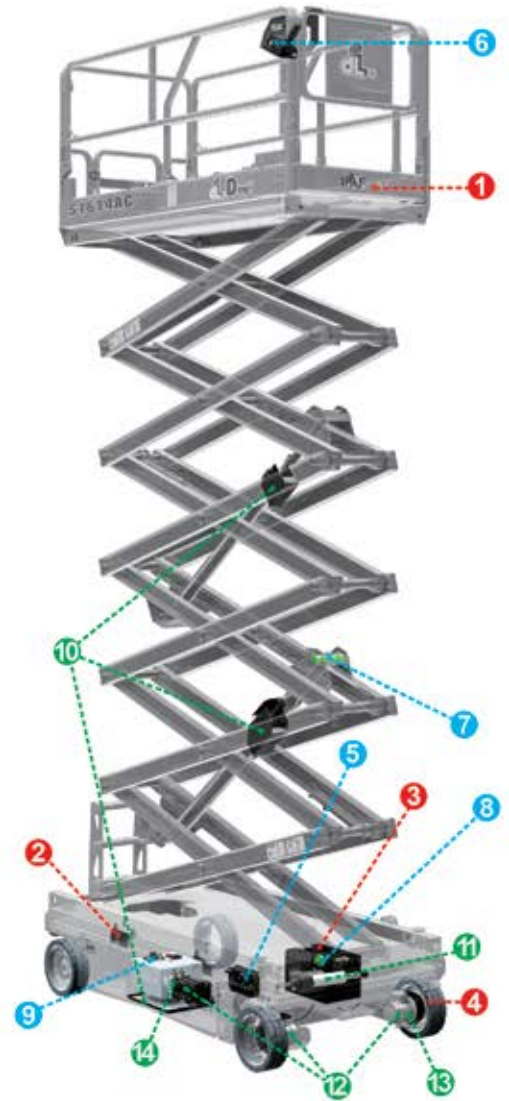


#### RELIABILITY+

- 5 **Integrated Four-in-One Motor Controller**  
40% reduction in connections and harnesses
- 6 **New Platform Control Box**  
The durability of the touch pad is greatly improved, the new surface cleans easily, and the display is three times larger
- 7 **Reliable Load Sensing System**  
Less affected by temperature and friction
- 8 **Scissor Angle Sensor Reliability Improvement**  
Limit switches are reduced by 60%
- 9 **Hydraulic Oil Heater (Optional)**  
Applicable for cold environment

#### ENVIRONMENT+

- 10 **Hydraulic Oil Leak Containment**  
For applications with zero leak tolerance
- 11 **Electric Actuator Steering System**  
No hydraulic oil, faster steering speed and 66% reduction in energy consumption
- 12 **Gravity Down Energy Recovery System**  
Battery charge regeneration during platform descent
- 13 **Highest Efficiency Electric Drive System**  
15% decrease in energy consumption and higher power density
- 14 **Highest Efficiency Electric Lift Pump System**  
20% decrease in energy consumption and higher power density



#### AC+

	250kg	408kg	250kg	450kg	350kg	350kg	350kg	350kg
<b>Working Height</b>	8m	8m	10m	10m	12m	14m	16m	16m
<b>Overall Width</b>	0.7m	0.8m	0.8m	1.2m	1.2m	1.2m	1.2m	1.4m

## AC+ Series Scissor Aerial Work Platform

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## TOWER CRANES 17

There have been a fair few high profile tower crane incidents over the past year or so, but also many new and exciting product developments. We review the sector and take a look at the tower cranes used on the world's longest running construction project - Gaudi's masterpiece, the Basilica of the Sagrada Família in Barcelona, see page 56.

## SCISSOR LIFTS 29

Given the apparently simple design of a scissor lift, there have been a surprising number of new developments over the past year. Many of the new products are from Chinese manufacturers which are taking a larger slice of the global scissor lift market with no sign of that abating in spite of attempts to break the speed through the use of import tariffs.

## GLASS HANDLING 39

Glass installation is now a highly skilled trade using increasingly innovative panel handling equipment. We review some of the latest developments as well as seeing the equipment in action in a variety of unusual and challenging applications.

## VERTIKAL DAYS SHOW PREVIEW 47

This year's Vertikal Days at the new venue of Newark Showground in Nottinghamshire has already sold out and is set to be the biggest to date and the largest lifting equipment event anywhere in Europe this year. Here is the essential information you need to visit the show as well as a taster of new product launches.

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## ON THE COVER

Glass handling specialist GGR used a 3D Head Overhang Beam to install new glass panels on the captain's bridge of the Arendal Spirit ship. See full story on page 42



**IN THE NEXT ISSUE** Scheduled for publication early September the next issue of Cranes & Access will include the 2024 Vertikal Days Show Guide featuring every company that is exhibiting, as well as features on Loader cranes, Spider lifts and Remote controls. 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

## CULTURE CHANGE NEEDED

The world seems to be going through an angrier, more divisive and less understanding period, exasperated by a more tribal attitude in our politics. We have been here before and it never ends well.

Truth, openness and 'doing the right thing' seems to be optional for some large organisations and politicians that think they can ignore normal moral and ethical standards, and if it goes wrong bluff or bully their way out of it...and offer a hollow apology if exposed. Unless directors of such companies are held personally accountable and if found guilty spend time behind bars, nothing will change.

The lifting industry has not been immune to this mentality which can seriously undermine a culture of safety or quality. A weak safety culture costs lives. Just before Christmas five men died on a site in Sweden after erectors from the hoist supplier failed to check that all three mast sections in a pre-assembled length were all bolted together. Five families lost loved ones for the sake of four missing bolts! Sweden has already published a full and incisive report into the December incident.

In Seattle, Washington, four people died in 2019 after tower crane erectors removed all the bolts from the tower sections while waiting for strong winds to subside so that the mobile crane could continue the dismantling process. Two of those who died were passing motorists! The only penalties handed down so far are fines or awards against the company, which are likely to be the subject of a legal battle for years to come.

The latest statistics highlight a rise in the number of deaths at work. In Italy demonstrators have covered public squares with hundreds of cardboard coffins - each representing a person killed at work - in order to highlight the issue. In the UK, the latest HSE figures show a sharp rise in fatal falls from

height, while IPAF's Global Safety Report documents a significant rise in serious incidents. All this when there is more and more talk and a seemingly greater focus on safety than ever before. What is going wrong?

It would appear that too many companies seem to think being 'safety conscious' is about the message, posters and slogans in the workplace, and statements in annual reports, while 'prestigious' awards confirm their efforts, when all too often their actual safety culture is sadly lacking.

We see this when we contact a company involved in a serious incident that is not already in the public domain. Their priority is to find the 'whistle blower', rather than help improve safety by sharing information.

The attitude of some safety authorities, such as the HSE in the UK, does not help as they prioritise prosecution and blame - taking years to do it - rather than immediately sharing the information to help create a safer workplace. The HSE should look to Sweden for guidance!

An effective safety culture must start at the very top of a company, setting and maintaining values that everyone happily buys into and reinforces. Directors must be passionate and honest and believe that 'it is better for a job to be delayed than risk injuries by cutting corners' and to applaud and support an operator who refuses to be pushed, bullied or cajoled into making an unsafe lift or move. The culture must become ingrained to the point where every employee becomes a safety zealot. The alternative can be disastrous - just look at what is going on at Boeing where a strong quality culture has been compromised!

I was always told that if you do something, do it right and do it once. It will not only reduce injuries and fatalities but also pay dividends.

### 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*