



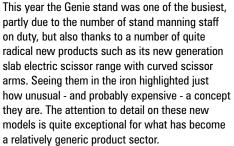


A BUSY ARA

This year's American Rental Association's ARA Show was held earlier than usual at the end of January in Las Vegas. While the first day was busy and people were discussing orders, it lacked the 'buzz' of last year's event held in New Orleans.

The show also seemed a fair bit smaller than usual, but there was plenty to see and a good few new or updated products. What did stand out were a number of 'Hot' features that almost all manufacturers chose to highlight such as rotating articulated jibs, 'step up' platform attachments and basket accessories for boom lifts, such as mid-height grilles. The following is a brief overview, while a more comprehensive pictorial overview can be found online.

This year the Genie stand was one of the busiest, partly due to the number of stand manning staff on duty, but also thanks to a number of quite radical new products such as its new generation slab electric scissor range with curved scissor arms. Seeing them in the iron highlighted just they are. The attention to detail on these new models is quite exceptional for what has become a relatively generic product sector.













ARA SHOW





The other stand-out display in terms of new products came from MEC with more new booms on show including 60ft and 65ft versions of the Dual Reach boom lift concept it unveiled last year as an 80ft boom. The benefit is that it can switch between a pure telescopic or an articulated boom - two machines in one.



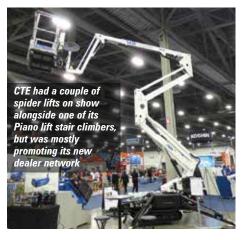
It also launched a more traditional boom lift, the classic 66ft telescopic 66RJ, with rotating jib. The final new boom lift announced was the 135ft 135RJ with 43 metre working height, rotating jib, 408kg maximum platform capacity and 24.4 metres of outreach.





Caterpillar re-entered the telehandler market, but only in North America with four new models built in England - the TH0642, TH0842, TH1055 and TH1255 - with lift heights of 13 and 17 metres and capacities of 2,700kg to 5,400kg.



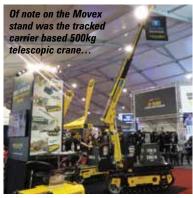














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