XCMG

SCISSOR LIFT
XG2225ERT

GET IN TOUCH

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STACKS GOING ON...

What is happening with scissor lifts? Over the past six months there appear to have been a greater number of serious incidents with injuries and even fatalities, with causes such as electrocution, overturns from large banners on the platform handrails, loading and unloading machines and even a detached scissor deck. During that time five deaths have been reported on the Vertikal.net news portal.

A few months ago, the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) launched its 2025 Global Safety Campaign 'Stop Overturns - Safety Starts on the Ground' following a 50 percent increase in fatal overturning incidents in the two years between January 2021 and December 2023. And so far this year it does not seem to be slowing down.

The data from IPAF's Accident Reporting Portal showed 108 fatalities, 64 major injuries and 25 minor injuries from overturn incidents in the past decade. Of that 64 percent were in North America, 22 percent in Asia and 18 percent in Europe.

Perhaps surprisingly the statistics show that scissor lifts made up 33 percent of the incidents, more than any other type of lift, although most of this is down to the fact that scissor lifts make up the vast majority of the existing aerial lift population and that more incidents are being reported than ever before. Take this into consideration and scissor lifts are almost certainly the safest form of powered access, especially if normal common sense safety rules are followed.

IPAF launched 'Stop Overturns - Safety Starts on the Ground' following a 50 percent increase in fatal overturning incidents

Key recommendations of the campaign include a thorough ground assessment before going up including the drive route if moving the machine while in the platform, regular maintenance and operator training.

SCISSOR SAILS

Two of the five scissor lift related deaths this year involved a machine that overturned in strong winds, mostly due to the sail effect of large banners fitted to the platform guardrails. Such an incident occurred at the 'Axe Ceremonia' music festival in Mexico City's Bicentennial Park in April. Two photographers - Berenice Giles and Miguel Hernández - were in the fully elevated slab electric scissor which had a massive animal head banner fixed to the platform with winds at the time reaching between 50 to 59kph - 14 to 16 metres a second. The animal head caught the wind like a sail, with the force taking the machine over. The two photographers sadly suffered fatal brain injuries. The event was closed down and the second day abandoned while the safety authorities carried out a full investigation into the incident.

IPAF has a longstanding campaign warning of the dangers of adding banners to aerial lifts

IPAF has a longstanding campaign warning of the dangers of adding banners to aerial lifts which highlights the risks of doing so. This began following a scissor lift being blown over as the wind picked up at an early Vertikal Days event at Haydock Park. However, it would appear that the simple message is not getting through - certainly not to end users at exhibitions and festivals who probably receive little to no training before jumping into a scissor lift and taking it up. They are less likely to do that with a boom lift, spider lift or truck mount.

The mock Montgolfier balloon attached to the platform of a large scissor lift

There is no need to fold the guardrails on the new Genie scissors to pass through standard doors

Just last month a reader spotted a mock Montgolfier balloon attached to the platform of a large scissor lift - a 13 metre Sinoboom 4389RE/1323RE electric Rough Terrain scissor - in a suburb on the east side of Geneva in Switzerland. The event was being held for the 60th anniversary celebrations of the Maison des Quartiers community centre in the town. This stunt was dubbed 'Montgolfière' on the events timetable and featured the large balloon resting on a small tower base in the platform and guy-roped to the guardrails, along with some sandbags and rush matting attached to the guardrails to represent the balloon's basket.

The scissor lift with its balloon was raised to its full 13 metre platform height complete with four people on board with the top of the balloon about 20 metres high. Fortunately, it would appear that the wind that day was still enough for them to have got away with such a stunt.

On to some of the latest developments and initiatives…

NEW DESIGNS - CURVED ARMS!

The scissor lift as we know it today has been around since the early 1970s, developed in the Los Angeles, USA area by Selma Manlift, UpRight and Mark Lift and then MEC in Wisconsin and Skyjack in Canada. Since then, it has remained the same basic design - a simple chassis, scissor stack and a deck. Even with the market now flooded with manufacturers from all over the world - and particularly China - the design, particularly the scissor stack, has remained relatively constant with changes limited to the end caps and on some machines a tapered design.

But now Genie has done something quite different on its offering in the 'core' slab scissor lift range. Dubbed the 'Next-Generation Genies' the models include the 19ft GS-1932, 26ft GS-2632, 32ft GS-3232 plus the wider 26ft GS-2646, 32ft GS-3246 and 40ft GS-4046 scissor lifts. While the stated aim is to improve performance and reduce the total cost of ownership, the most noticeable change is a new curved scissor arm, said to be lighter yet more rigid and less prone to corrosion. Managing to repeatedly manufacture the curved arms, was, says Genie, a real challenge, but one that it has now mastered and while a little more costly to make has other cost saving benefits as outlined below.

Genie's new curved scissor arm design

The redesigned scissor stack also features a new linkage design which also helps save weight in the upper machine, significant enough, it says, to reduce the size and weight of components such as batteries and drive motors etc.. which also brings a lower replacement parts cost.

Other design changes are the result of detailed design and performance analysis to identify opportunities to eliminate rust, limit the opportunity for damage, and reduce wear and tear. They include a new chassis design that avoids water pooling, the use of reinforced steel on the roll out extension decks to help prevent damage or bending while also improving rigidity and steel reinforcement plates around the fork pockets - inset slightly from the side wear bars - to help avoid damage through misalignment when loading.

Genie has also focused on increasing componentry and service parts commonality and consistency across the product line. It says that overall, there are fewer serviceable components than with previous generations and of the components that remain, at least 70 percent are common across the product line, simplifying fleet management. It has also reduced the number of battery types and sizes to just two across

the entire range with FLA batteries in North America and standard maintenance free AGM batteries in other regions. Lithium-ion will also be available as an option globally. The company has also developed a new 'Battery Guard' option to help reduce the chance of theft.

Finally, there are a number of individual improvements such as a lower stowed height allowing the lifts to pass through standard doors without the need to fold the guard rails. The fixed guardrails are lighter and less expensive to produce and, it says, allow a 20 percent larger platform. A new modular and ergonomically designed 'Smart Link' platform controller is 30 percent lighter and allows parts to be replaced rather than the whole unit. It also has been updated to align to a new ISO 21455:2020 standard. Additionally, items such as Genie Lift Tools and Spill Guard hydraulic oil containment system will be standard on the new scissors in North America.

EUROPE AND CHINA

In the early days of development, Europe did not contribute much to the development of the regular self-propelled scissor lift, concentrating on larger models from Benford in the UK while in the Netherlands companies such as Holland Lift designed and built even larger, much heavy duty, high capacity scissor lifts, which mostly sold in the Benelux region and Germany. Many were used in glass house installation on reclaimed polder land. A few smaller German companies joined in but struggled to compete outside their local areas. However, as the adoption of self-propelled lifts gained momentum demand began to ludicrously outstrip supply - with lead times of between 18 months and two years for some models, in spite of their higher cost.

A 34 metre working height Holland lift G-320DL30 4WDS/N heavy duty scissor lift from 2015

Dingli in China was one of the first to spot this as an opportunity to enter the heavy duty market. As buyers become confident with the company as a supplier in terms of build quality and replacement parts supply, they started taking orders, especially given their short delivery time and attractive prices. A few years later this ultimately resulted in the sad demise of Holland Lift. At Bauma though another Chinese manufacturer Sinoboom announced that it had acquired all of Holland Lift's intellectual property and will start building them from the end of the year after updating the designs.

Dingli is now probably the leading Chinese aerial lift manufacturer on the market, but there isn't a month or two that goes by without 'yet another' Chinese company claiming to offer a range of scissor lifts and booms. Some of these - such as Noblelift, Sunward, LiuGong and Hered - are sizeable companies investing millions in R&D and new manufacturing facilities. Although Chinese company Noblelift builds its machines in a 'state of the art' facility in Malaysia. And it is not only Chinese companies that are joining the market, new Turkish companies Mote-Lift and Platfon have also launched new scissor and boom lifts in the past 12 months or so.

The 32 metre Dingli JCPT3225DC launched a few years ago

Noblelift has delivered 400 scissors to South Korean rental company Seyeon Tech Rental

In Malaysia, rental company Ban Ngai Rent - BNR - has taken delivery of its 1,000th Noblelift scissor lift

In our most recent Equipment Source Guide published in the April/May edition of Cranes&Access (volume 27 issue 2) there were 56 slab and Rough Terrain scissor lift manufacturers. Interestingly almost 45 percent of them - 24 manufacturers - are based in China with just six from USA, five from Germany, two from Japan, four from Italy, five from Turkey and one from India.

Chinese companies have invested heavily and geared up over the years to satisfy rapidly growing demand in the domestic market, however with this tailing off with the slower economy and a temporary oversupply as more companies adopt the concept, even smaller manufacturers are now looking to ramp up their exports.

GOOD START FROM NOBLELIFT

Noblelift is one of the latest companies to decide to take a serious run at the global self-propelled aerial lift market. The company, managed by Wendy Mao was founded in 2000 and is based in Changxing, Zhejiang, a 90 minute drive from Shanghai. It has been listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange since January 2015. Today it employs around 5,000 people with revenues in 2026 of CY6.9 billion ($967 million) with a pre-tax profit of CY540 million ($75.3 million).

The company has production facilities in China, Malaysia, Vietnam and France, and has manufactured aerial lifts for more than 12 years, but mainly as a sideline to its material handling equipment, which includes pallet trucks stock pickers and forklifts etc. It runs sales subsidiaries in Germany, France, the USA, Malaysia, Vietnam and South Korea.

Late last year the company decided to set up a dedicated aerial lift division and recruited Tim Whiteman as chief executive. An early example of its success has been the delivery of 600 scissors into South Korea, 400 of them to Seyeon Tech Rental, one of the country's largest aerial rental companies.

While in Malaysia, the country where the machines are made, one of the fastest growing rental companies Ban Ngai Rent - BNR - has taken delivery of its 1,000th Noblelift scissor lift since it began trading last year, taking its total aerial lift fleet to more than 2,200 units. Ban Ngai Rent is based in Semenyih on the south east side of Kuala Lumpur and serves the whole country, but has also started working in the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, with plans to extend that to Singapore and Indonesia.

The company is also on the verge of launching its first boom lifts, in the form of two articulated models, a 31ft electric industrial model the NAB 11EJ and a 45ft all electric Rough Terrain - the NAB 16EJ. The company will be exhibiting at Vertikal Days in September but sadly will not have units on display.

CFMG

A new Chinese entrant to the international stage is CFMG - Chu Feng manufacturing or Sandong ChuFeng Heavy Industry Machinery. The company started manufacturing aerial work platforms in 2008 and now claims to be one of the top 10 aerial lift manufacturers in China. It mostly produces scissor lifts, including slab electrics, Rough Terrain and tracked models, but also has a few articulated and telescopic booms. Located in Jiyang it employees 300 at its 50,000 square metre manufacturing facility, where it builds 11 models ranging from the 15ft CFPT0408LD to the 45ft CFPT1415LDS. Its largest Rough Terrain scissor lift is the 40ft CFPT1218RTE.

SUNWARD PUSHES HARDER

Another Chinese company that is concentrating on its European and North American export efforts recently is Sunward. Founded in 1999 by professor He Qinghua, who still manages the company it started out making pile drivers and is now a leading producer of excavators but also builds machines for agriculture and forestry and in recent years added telescopic crawler cranes, and now aerial work platforms and the telehandler market.

While it has been building scissors, articulated booms for a while, it has yet to make any real impact in Europe or North America. It has though had some modest recent success in Ireland where Global Hire has taken 69 of its slab electric scissor lifts includes 23 units of the 15ft SWSL0607DCs, 17 of the 20ft SWSL0807DCs, five 24ft SWSL1008DCs, 11 of the 32ft SWSL1212DCs and 13 of the 40ft SWSL1412DCs.

The order follows 11 Sunward electric scissor lifts sold to Northern Ireland's SDC Trailers for its production facilities last year.

THE TURKS ARE COMING

Several new companies from Turkey have also entered the aerial work platform market in the past year both launching internationally at Bauma. Mote Lift - a subsidiary of construction, agricultural equipment manufacturer and freelance fabrication business Hisarlar - set up its new aerial lift business in March 2024, launching its first products - including slab electric scissors

CFMG is another new Chinese access manufacturer


Sunward scissors on display at Bauma 2025

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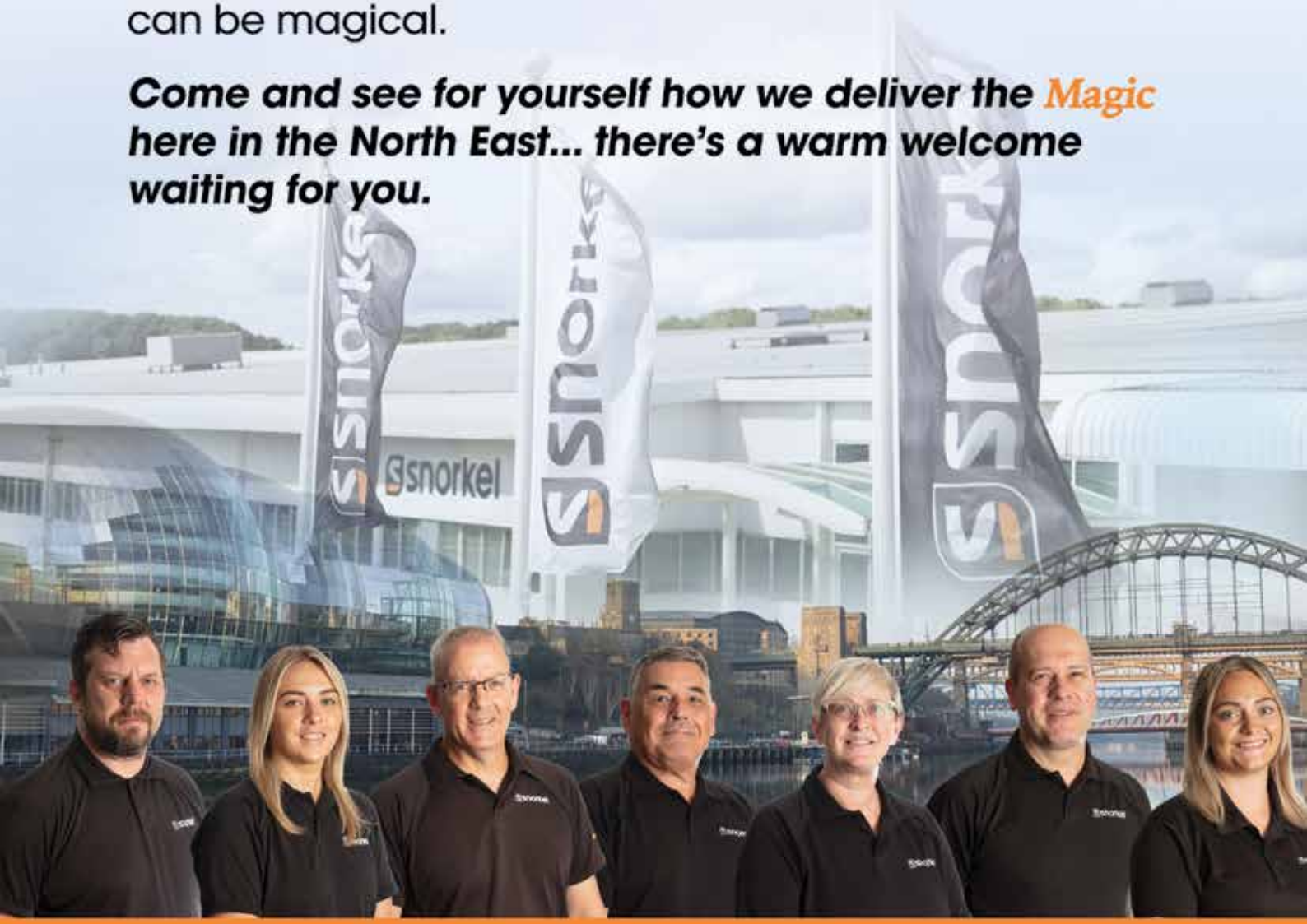

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Turkish company Mote Lift's stand at Bauma


The 39ft Mote Lift SCL1214


New to the market is Turkish manufacturer Platfon

and diesel and electric articulated booms - on the domestic market later last year.

Its first powered aerial lifts included a range of three scissor lifts: the 27ft slab electric SCL0810, 33ft SCL1012 and 39ft SCL1214 with a working height of just under 14 metres. All three have a maximum platform capacity of 460kg, are 1.15 metres wide with an overall length of 2.41 metres. Overall height with guardrails up is 2.4, 2.5 and 2.64 metres respectively.

Folding guardrails are standard on all three, but only the SCL0810 folds down to less than two metres. Overall weights range from 2,600kg to just over 3,000kg.

The company says that four years of development work has gone into the new machines, which "include the latest technology and developments." The machines have been certified by the Turkish office of TÜV Austria.

The company has recently added to its scissor range with the narrow version of the SCL08 - the SCL0810NW - which is 325mm narrower at 790mm wide, while the platform capacity is reduced to 250kg and overall weight is 2,180kg rather than 2,620kg.

PLATFON MAKINE

Platfon Makine was founded in 2024 and is based in Konya, Turkey. It already has a fairly extensive range of scissor lifts, including push arounds, tracked, Rough Terrain and slab - as well as articulated boom lifts, mast booms and an 18 metre spider lift.

The scissor lifts offer working heights from 5.4 metres for the AT5.5 push around up to 18 metres for the 680kg capacity twin deck 53ft PRT18E Rough Terrain machine. The 40ft PCS14 tracked scissor has a 14 metre working height, 318kg platform capacity, 3.2kph travel speed and overall weight of 3,380kg.

The PS range of slab scissors include the 20ft PS08 the 33ft PS12, the 40ft PS14 and the 46ft PS16. The two Rough Terrain models include the 40ft PRT14E and its largest scissor, the 53ft PRT18E with twin decks and electric power.

JLG'S NEW MODELS

The 19ft micro scissor sector has been around for several years however JLG has only just introduced its first model - the ES1930M - that really competes in the sector. It is a classic model with working height of 7.6 metres indoors, or 4.5 metres outdoors, and a maximum platform capacity of 227kg or two people. The overall


The ES1930M

width is 760mm, stowed height 1.9 metres with guardrails raised, while the overall length is 1.47 metres, total weight is 1,360kg and power comes from two 12 volt batteries. Standard equipment includes a 550mm roll out deck extension, active pothole protection and a leak containment feature.

The scissor stack incorporates a single lift cylinder with a newly designed stack design with an offset middle pin configuration. Standard features include variable tilt technology and ClearSky Smart Fleet telematics connectivity.

JLG E SCISSOR IMPROVEMENTS

JLG's ES slab electric scissor lifts - the ERT compact electric Rough Terrain scissor lifts, E18 self-propelled mast type lifts and stock picker - have all been updated to include AC drive motors, lithium-ion battery options and a range extender generator/charger.

The ES1932, ES2632, ES2646 and ES3246 now feature permanent magnet AC drive wheel motors as standard for improved battery life. The larger 40ft ES4046 and the DaVinci all-electric AE1932 scissor lifts are already equipped with AC drive motors. Some of the ES scissor lifts along with the E18 mast lifts can now be specified with lithium-ion batteries, mostly a single battery, with an additional Lithium+ option for a longer life between recharges.

The ERT battery powered compact Rough Terrain scissors now offer an optional 2,610W, 58V, 45A generator pack/range extender which can recharge and prolong work cycles. The lineup


An ERT 2669 Rough Terrain scissor

includes four models from 26 to 47ft all of which have a 1.76 metre overall width.

SCISSOR AVIATION PACK

An ANSI certified Aviation Pack - designed to avoid contact with the aircraft fuselage during manufacturing and maintenance - has also been introduced for JLG's 26ft ES2646 electric scissor lifts. The pack incorporates ultrasonic detection using high frequency sound waves and Lidar (Light Detection And Ranging) technology to create all-round sensing coverage for the lift. The machine includes four Lidar sensors that form a protective curtain below the platform, with dynamic sensing zones that adjust based on platform height. The system also features full-size gates for improved access and an integrated airline for tools. The pack was initially only certified to ANSI standards and not yet available in Europe.


JLG has introduced an Aviation Pack for the 26ft ES2646 electric scissor lift

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The upgraded 1623RE/5389RE

SINOBOOM UPGRADES RTS

Sinoboom has announced upgrades to four models in its range of Rough Terrain scissor lifts - the 43ft 1323RD and 1323RE, along with 53ft 1623RD and 1623RE (5389RD and 5389RE in North America) one diesel the other all electric. They offer a 680kg platform capacity, and maximum working heights of 15.1 and 18.2 metres respectively.

The main changes for the second generation models are tweaks to the drive train that are said to deliver a 20 percent improvement in torque and real life gradeability. As part of the change the wheelbase has been extended to 2.84 metres, while deep tread tyres are now fitted as standard, the overall weight has been slightly reduced and is better distributed between axles. All these have improved rough terrain performance and reduced the ground bearing pressure by around 10 percent while the stabiliser jacks have a slightly wider base. Other changes include a new design for the roll out deck extension mechanism, making it smoother and easier to use, while now also being able to be locked in any extension.

NEW 66T ELECTRIC RT SCISSOR

Chinese manufacturer XCMG has announced an electric version of its new 66ft XG2225RT Rough Terrain scissor lift, the XG2225ERT. The new models have working heights of 22 metres with a maximum platform capacity of 750kg on both the main platform and the 2.7 metre long roll out deck extension. When the extension is fully deployed the 4.59 by 2.25 metre retracted platform converts to a massive 7.29 metre long deck. Drive is possible with platform heights of up to 18 metres/20 metre working height. The overall length when stowed is 4.95 metres with an overall width of 2.46 metres and an overall height of 3.86 metres or three metres with guardrails folded. Overall weight is just less than 14,400kg.

XCMG XG2225RT Rough Terrain scissor lift

The Omega tracked scissor lifts used on Bam's 'Flow' sustainable housing project

As with the diesel/hybrid powered model the electric unit has four wheel drive and steer, and auto levelling jacks as standard. The unit is powered by a 48 volt 630AH lithium ion battery pack which almost matches the performance of the diesel in terms of lift lower speed while drive speeds are the same as are all other main specifications. The first units of both the electric and diesel models are due to start shipping in late August and should be available for delivery in Europe in early October.

LARGE DECK TRACKED SCISSORS

One sector that generally keeps a low profile is the specialist big deck, high capacity tracked scissors from manufacturers such as Omega Solutions in the Netherlands. Designed initially for greenhouse construction, the machines come with various deck configurations - both length and extendible front/rear and sideways. However, the deck size and large capacity means that the scissors have also found uses on construction sites.

For example, Dutch construction company Bam has purchased 18 Omega tracked electric scissor lifts - nine 26ft 615TSE and nine 31ft 815TSE models - for use on its 'Flow' sustainable housing projects which utilise modular timber components manufactured off-site which, according to Bam, reduces construction time by as much as 75 percent. The 615TSE and 815TSE offer working heights of 10.2 and 11.5 metres respectively and have a maximum platform capacity of 1,500kg. The big lateral deck extensions are hydraulically powered, and on the 815TSE, they increase the platform size by 2.6 metres when fully extended, taking the overall platform size to six by 5.8 metres, or six by 3.4 metres on the 615TSE. To prevent damage to buildings and enhance safety for users and bystanders, the platform is equipped with multiple sensors.

A big deck, tracked Omega 815TSE

The two models share similar stowed dimensions, the 615TSE has an overall length of 4.16 metres and an overall width of 2.2 metres, while the 815TSE is slightly larger at 4.5 metres long and 2.25 metres wide. The 615TSE has an overall weight of 8,200kg, while the larger 815TSE weighs 13,000kg.

The big scissors are powered by lithium ion battery packs can be operated via platform mounted controls or by radio remote control, and include multiple sensors to prevent collision damage, along with real time monitoring systems and onboard 230V AC power outlets delivering up to 1.5kW.

ZOOMLION AND PB TEAM UP

Chinese manufacturer Zoomlion and German scissor lift manufacturer PB have announced a long term partnership which includes the development of sales of Zoomlion aerial work platforms across the German speaking region. The agreement will kick off with an inventory in Germany of several hundred machines in order to offer short delivery times.

PB managing director Dieter Pawlowski said: "We at PB are very pleased about this partnership with Zoomlion and are convinced that together we can create added value for our customers at the machine, sales and service level. We already work well together in several areas and have therefore decided to expand this cooperation."

SKYJACK E DRIVE SCISSORS

Skyjack has confirmed that its new E-Drive scissor lifts are now ready for delivery to customers in Europe, Australia and New Zealand. The new lifts were launched in North American in 2023 and in Asia at Bauma China last November. They employ AC brushless electric wheel motors for the drive function in place of hydraulic motors eliminating around 60 percent of all hydraulic fittings, helping reduce the risk of leaks, while boosting battery life by 20 percent - more for extended drive applications. ■

Skyjack E-Drive scissors