September 2025 Vol.27 issue 5 www.vertikal.net LUADER CRANES SPIDER LIFTS **CRANES** VERTIKAL DAYS SHOWGUIDE



Three-Year **Comprehensive Warranty**

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PERFORMANCE+

Industry Leading Platform Capacity Maximum increase up to 45% compared to the original model

Side and Rear Forklift Pockets Multiple choices for transport efficiency

Lithium-Ion Battery with Long Duty Cycle and Fast Recharging High-density battery pack with five-year warranty

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RELIABILITY +

Integrated Four-in-One Motor Controller 40% reduction in connections and harnesses

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

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Less affected by temperature and friction

Scissor Angle Sensor Reliability Improvement Limit switches are reduced by 60%

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ENVIRONMENT +

Hydraulic Oil Leak Containment For applications with zero leak tolerance

Electric Actuator Steering System No hydraulic oil, faster steering speed and 66% reduction in energy consumption

Gravity Down Energy Recovery System

Battery charge regeneration during platform descent

Highest Efficiency Electric Drive System 15% decrease in energy consumption and higher power density

Highest Efficiency Electric Lift Pump System 20% decrease in energy consumption and higher power density



AC⁺ Series Scissor Aerial Work Platform

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SPIDER LIFTS 27

A year ago, the spider lift market was going through a spate of consolidation and change. A year on and the trend appears to have gathered more steam with some interesting and unusual company moves as well as increased activity in the mid to large end of the market.

VERTIKAL DAYS 2025 SHOW GUIDE 37

This year's Vertikal Days returns to the Newark Showground in Nottinghamshire for two days on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th September, with many new companies and more manufacturers represented making it the leading specialist cranes, access, telehandler event in Europe and an event not to be missed! Our comprehensive guide contains everything you need to know about the show, the exhibitors and the products they plan

ROUGH TERRAIN CRANES 89

to exhibit.

Whilst the oil & gas industry is a significant user of Rough Terrain cranes, there are signs that other end users are beginning to discover or rediscover their advantages. We take a look at the market and the latest products and developments.

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ON THE COVER

A Hoeflon spider crane fitted with the 'Multitool' attachment, taking tools such as the forks, vacuum pads and the Multiclaw for clamping and positioning pipes up to 500mm in diameter. See it in action at Vertikal Days.



IN THE NEXT ISSUE Scheduled for publication in late October, the next issue of Cranes & Access will include a comprehensive review of the Vertikal Days 2025 show, along with features on Spider & Mini crawler cranes, Sustainability, renewables and recycling, Equipment for tree care and most importantly the annual Top 30 UK/Ireland Rental Company Report. 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

JUST LOOK UP!

One news story that caught my eye this month was the tower crane working over a live motorway in the UK. Although loads are not being lifted over the lanes, there is still a 70 metre jib oversailing live traffic, which on any other site would be an absolute No-No. Apparently, because of the potential safety concerns, it took years of planning and endless meetings to allow this to happen - unsurprising given the pace of planning, regulation and implementation in the UK.

Principal contractors are often the first to 'blow the whistle' on safety issues... such as demanding devices to prevent entrapment/overhead crushing or from being thrown from an access platform by wearing a harness attachment warning device such as 'Fastn' or 'Harness On'.

While any safety campaign or product that saves lives is commendable, in reality the number of lives saved by such devices is often minimal...historic data indicates about 10 deaths from overhead crushing over the past 10 years.

For as long as I can recall the 'elephant in the room' has been the adoption of a device to reduce the number of electrocutions caused by operating a crane or work platform too close to high voltage power lines.

At Conexpo 2022, IPAF launched its High Voltage! campaign to raise awareness of the risks of using aerial lifts near power lines, while CICA in Australia has done a similar thing for cranes, as have other organisations. Given the numbers of incidents and fatalities since then it is obvious the message is not getting through. The IPAF campaign was launched in the USA and not Europe because power lines in Europe tend to be below ground, while in the Americas, parts of Asia and

Australasia the majority are overhead, often in close proximity to work areas.

As I write this, another fatal shock story has been posted on Vertikal.net. A man was electrocuted whilst trimming trees around overhead power lines from a trailer lift in Stirling Heights, Detroit. He simply moved too close and paid with his life.

Unfortunately, similar incidents happen all over the world - almost on a daily basis.

So why is more not being done to try and prevent the hundreds of deaths each year given the effort made to reduce overhead crushing or wearing a harness?

Most, if not all, aerial work platform manufacturers have adopted anti-entrapment devices as well as offering harness attachment alerts - all started by a few individuals at a major contractor reacting to one incident by banning work platforms from their sites unless fitted with a prevention device.

Electrocutions when using cranes and aerial lifts are much less frequent in Europe, but they do occur, so why do contractors not mandate overhead power line warning systems be fitted to equipment that might come close to a live power line. The technology exists, with several companies offering devices that are now certified as reliable and effective. Cost may be the issue, but the price would drop significantly with wider adoption.

It is hard not to draw the conclusion that where such incidents are rife, the number of fatalities is considered acceptable, but surely the aim should be zero?

We have the technology - perhaps now is the time to take it more seriously.

Mark Darwin

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