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MATURING NICELY...

The market for spider lifts has been developing, maturing and growing and a steadily increasing pace. As a bi-product of this we have seen a good number of acquisitions by new entrants or even private equity, alongside mergers and partnerships. Interestingly the percentage of end users who chose to buy their own machines rather than rent is far higher than for most other forms of powered access. One particular industry that has taken the spider lift to heart is tree care, both in Europe and North America. Given the highly fragmented nature of this market the preference is for lifts that can be towed behind a pickup - in Europe this limits overall weight of the machine to around three tonnes. Therefore, for most arborists the largest lift that works for them has a working height of around 20 to 22 metres. *See the arborist feature on page 39.* But here we will take a look at the latest product launches and developments.

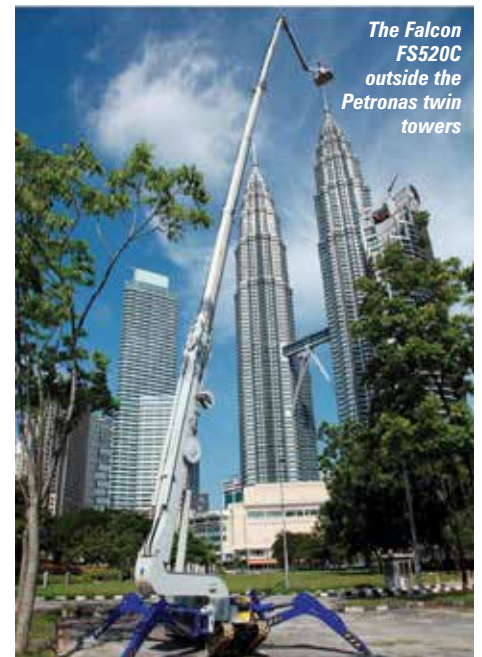
From a design point of view, the standard spider lift has changed little over the past 25 or so years. Back then Alfons Thihatmer, the then managing director of German spider lift manufacturer Teupen would say, "a spider lift should be as small and as light as possible but with the biggest reach." Teupen was one of the leading spider lift manufacturers along with Oil & Steel, Falck Schmidt, Italmec and Hinowa. Even then the Italian manufacturers were beginning to dominate the industry.

Teupen began making spider lifts around 1987, introducing more compact and lighter models that pushed the working envelope. The largest machine it ever produced was the 50 metre Leo 50GT in 2006, and Leo 50GTX with slightly higher platform capacity a year or two later. At the time, it seemed huge, far too big to be manoeuvrable in restricted spaces.



The first units were delivered to the UK in 2007, however, it was never a popular machine, only selling in small numbers. The main problem was its size - it weighed 13.5 tonnes, was almost 9.5 metres long with an outrigger spread of 7.6 metres. Outreach was 17.1 metres with 200kg in the platform or 20 metres with 80kg. And while its 50 metre working height was impressive, not many everyday tasks required such a height. Work on electricity pylons was one of the few areas where it was at home. The Leo 50GT was dropped from the model range seven years ago but is still available as a special build if required. Another manufacturer making big spider lifts at the time was Danish company Worldlift/Falck Schmidt - the spider lift inventor. In 2010 it launched the 52 metre Falcon FS520C, taking the world's largest spider lift title from Teupen. The lift was developed in co-operation with lead customer, Irish/international rental company Height for Hire/Easi UpLifts.

One of the first FS520Cs was purchased for the maintenance at 379 metre high Petronas twin towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The big Falcons - available in wheeled or tracked versions



The Falcon FS520C outside the Petronas twin towers

- were primarily aimed at high atrium cleaning and maintenance work in airports, shopping malls and luxury hotels, often because the architect had not provided a solution to change, clean or maintain high level lighting or glazing. The Petronas tower lift's main purpose was to clean the inside of its glass dome. The FS520C was based on the company's 42 metre model and included its dual trunnion mounted tracked undercarriage and tri-power pack - AC Electric, DC battery and diesel.

Falck Schmidt followed a slightly different design philosophy than Teupen, based on its experience in atrium applications. Its models were designed to pass through standard single or double doorways for indoor applications and were available on wheels or tracks.

In the following years family owned Falck Schmidt

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The 52m Falcon followed the same design philosophy as this 37 metre Falcon

was passed on to a number of new owners, and rebranded as Worldlift, Skako and after a 2011 MBO, TCA Lift - Tall Compact Aerial Lift. In 2018 it changed to Falcon Lifts, matching the name of the spider lift's brand which has remained a constant throughout. In late 2024 Falcon Lifts ran into financial problems filing for protection from its creditors having struggled to service its debt load. However, a quick financial restructure meant that the company re-opened its doors in February 2025.

LARGER PALAZZANIS

Palazzani launched its first spider lift in 1986, a machine that looked suspiciously like a Falck-Schmidt. But it was quite a surprise when it launched the 52 metre Ragno XTJ52 at Bauma 2013 joining the Falcon FS520 as the largest spider lift in the world. Palazzani updated the lift to the XTJ 52+ in 2014 and also introduced the fully electric Eco version at last year's Bauma.

The XTJ 52+ has a working height of 52 metres, a maximum outreach of 19.5 metres with 120kg in the platform, the overall length is 8.9 metres when stowed and it weighs 14.98 tonnes. It is available on tracks or wheels with diesel or electric power. The main features of the 52 metre lift are its compact dimensions and relatively light weight.



Palazzani updated the lift to the XTJ 52+ in 2014

Palazzani had shown the prototype 58 metre TTZJ 58 at Bauma 2022 with 20 metres outreach and overall weight of 17 tonnes, but so far only a few have been delivered and because of some design issues the model is currently going through a complete revamp.

How the newer Palazzani and Platform Basket compare with the older Teupen and Falcon FS520

	Teupen Leo 50GT	Palazzani XTJ52+	Falcon FS520	Platform Basket 54T
Working height	50m	52m	52m	54.1m
Outreach	20m	19.5m	17.5m	20m
Cap a max outreach	80kg	120kg	100kg	136kg
Max capacity	200kg/17.1m (400kg - GTX)	400kg	200kg/16.5m	400kg
Weight	13,500kg	13,800kg	13,500kg	23,000kg
Length	8.45m	8.9m	9.25m	9.55m
Width	1.58m	1.45m	1.2m	1.75m
Height	1.98m	2.54m	2.1m	2.45m
Outtrigger footprint	7.6 x 5.65m	6.46 x 5.17m	5.5 x 4.75m	6.93 x 5.43m

For more than a decade no other manufacturer entered the large spider lift market until Platform Basket launched its 54 metre Spider 54T in 2023. The lift has a 54.1 metre working height and a 20 metre outreach with 136kg in the platform. The overall length is 9.55 metres with seven metres working footprint, however it weighs a massive 23 tonnes!

It would seem from the comparison that we must have become used to bigger machines, because while it appeared very physically large at the time, the Teupen Leo 50GT - admittedly having a slightly lower working height - has a very competitive specification even today. At 13,500kg it is still the lightest of the four as well as being the shortest and lowest. Its outrigger footprint is slightly larger but not massively so.

The standout specification is the 23,000kg weight of the Platform Basket 54T - 10 tonnes heavier than the others. It does have the highest working height, best outreach/capacity combination and equal best maximum capacity, but physically it is the largest of the four.

TEUPEN CHANGES

Teupen as a company has also gone through various changes over the years and since April 2024 has been part of the American truck crane and bucket truck manufacturer Altec. Today its spider lift range is topped by the 38.6 metre Leo39GTplus which has up to 23.3 metres of outreach, is 7.85 metres long with platform, 1.99 metres wide and weighs 8,750kg.

With a view to being able to be towed - i.e. maximum lift and trailer combination of 3.5 tonnes - the largest models in its range weighing less than 3,000kg are the 24 metre Leo24T and Leo24GT. The GT has 12.8 metres outreach and is 6.45 metres long, 890mm wide and weighs 2,990kg. Power is either diesel or 230V electric motor.



The Teupen Leo24GT replaces the Leo23GT

The Leo24GT has replaced the Leo23GT - the very last of which was exhibited and then sold at the

54T IN SCOTLAND

Large spider lifts initially found a niche with transmission line work, a good example occurred this summer in Scotland, when SP Energy Networks Transmission Operations rented a new 54 metre Platform Basket 54T from Paramount Platforms to repair a damaged transmission line in Lockerbie.

The job involved the repair of a broken aluminium strand on a transmission tower. According to the contractor, reaching the cable was the main challenge because the site was located well away from access roads and across ground that would have been problematic for conventional equipment.

The 54T was able to reach the remote site without the need for trackway or temporary roadway. Once in position, the repair team were able to elevate the platform to the perfect height for the repair.

The operation was completed within a few hours, reducing site disruption and the duration of network restrictions. The lift's eight section main boom is topped by a four section articulating jib giving a maximum outreach of 15 metres at an up & over height of 44 metres.



APF Forestry event at the end of September. The 24GT is probably the biggest spider lift that can be towed within the 3.5 tonne weight limit - other manufacturers such as Hinowa, CMC, Platform Basket, Leguan etc have lifts around the 20 to 23 metres.

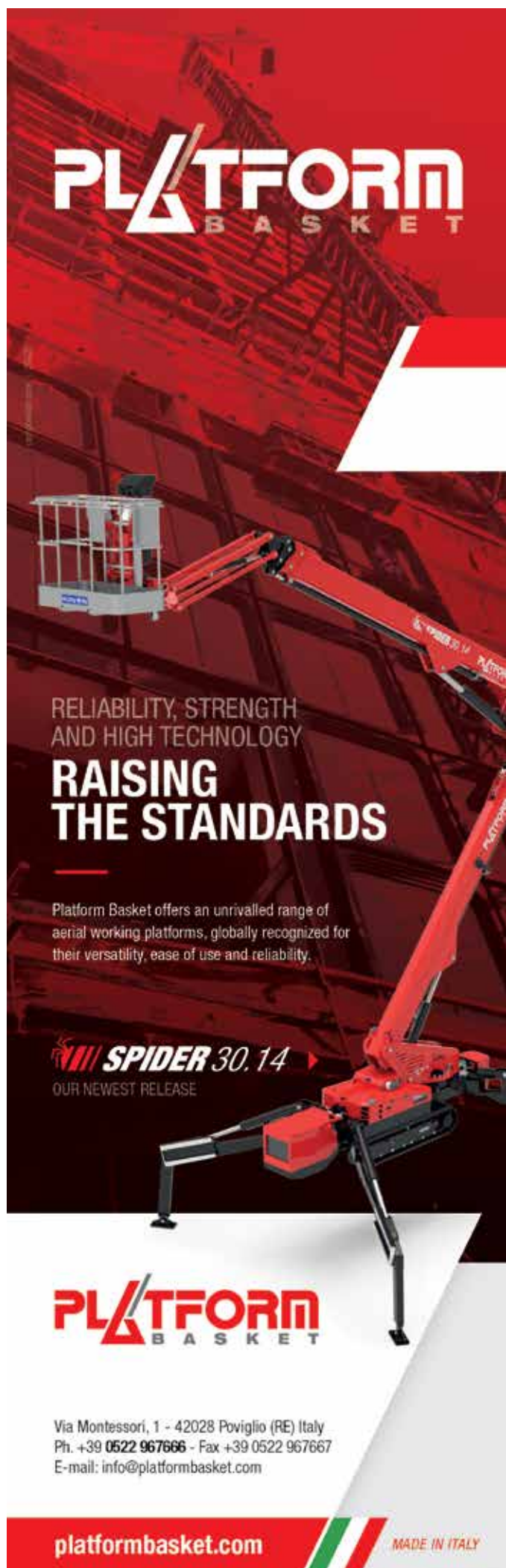
ACQUISITIONS, NEW MANUFACTURERS AND MODELS

As the spider lift market has matured there has been a flurry of activity from new companies looking to benefit from the expanding market. The vast majority of spider lift manufacturers are based in Italy - Hinowa, Palazzani, Platform Basket, Oil&Steel, Bluelift, CMC, CTE, Cela, Easy Lift, Imer and Multitel to name a few. But with a lot of private equity buyers in Italy several acquisitions have occurred this year.

Activity started in May when Italian truck mounted and spider lift manufacturer Multitel Pagliero acquired a majority stake in Palazzani which will continue to operate independently under its own name. The deal was formally completed in September with former chief



Multitel acquired a majority stake in Palazzani - (L-R) Anna Pagliero, Paola Palazzani, Renzo Pagliero, Fabio Pagliero, Francesco Zola and Fabio Pagliero



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executive Paola Palazzani also announcing her departure from the business her grandfather founded and her father made famous for its large spider lifts.

The two companies have worked together since 2008, leading to the launch in 2009 of the 17 metre Multitel SMX 170/Palazzani TZX 170 spider lift, which combined a Multitel superstructure with a Palazzani undercarriage. The move was a success, and the range expanded over the years, making Multitel a significant player in the spider lift market, while providing Palazzani with a line of smaller articulated models. In many respects this deal mirrors what happened with Hinowa, which was acquired by JLG in late 2022 following a 12 year partnership.

ALMAC ACQUIRES EASY LIFT

In July tracked aerial lift and spider crane manufacturer Almac acquired spider lift manufacturer Easy Lift in an all-share purchase deal supported by its owner, private equity firm Wise Equity, which acquired a majority stake in Almac in 2022. Wise Equity had made no secret about wanting to expand Almac through acquisitions as well as organically.

Easy Lift founders and senior managers Michele and Emanuele Soriani remain with the company in their current roles and join the Almac board of directors. The company continues to operate as a separate business within the new 'group' and retains its own sales and distribution network.



Barely a month after the acquisition Almac unveiled its own line of spider lifts, almost certainly based on the Easy Lift products. The BA Line includes four models with working heights of 15, 18, 21, and 24 metres, which apart from the B1890 - which has a long single riser - include dual risers, two or three section telescopic booms and articulating jibs.

Automatic outrigger set up and levelling is standard and power options include diesel, petrol, bi-energy/hybrid and battery electric. The smallest in the range is the 15 metre B1570-A which has an outreach of 6.8

*The top of the line
- the 23.5m Almac
B2490-A*



metres with its maximum platform capacity of 230kg, at an up & over height of 6.2 metres. Overall width is 830mm and it weighs 2,000kg.

The 17.6 metre B1890-A has up to 8.5 metres outreach at an up & over height of 5.3 metres with 120kg of its 200kg maximum capacity in the basket. Overall width is 855mm and total weight 2,330kg.

The B2190-A has a maximum working height of 20.4 metres and 9.8 metres of outreach at an up & over height of 8.8 metres with its



maximum platform capacity of 220kg. Overall width is 855mm and total weight 2,890kg.

Finally, the largest unit is the B2490-A, with a maximum working height of 23.5 metres and 11.5 metres of outreach with its maximum platform capacity of 230kg at an up & over height of 11 metres. Overall weight is 3,250kg, while the overall stowed width is 990mm.

NEW LOOK FOR EASY LIFT

Easy Lift - celebrating its 20th anniversary this year - also revealed new corporate colours of orange, white and black to create what the company describes as "a more modern, distinctive and



The R180 in the new Easy Lift livery

dynamic look". The new livery will be introduced gradually from November.

IMER'S NEW 30M SPIDER

In June Italian manufacturer Imer showed a pre-production version of the 30 metre IM R 30 DT articulated spider lift, having displayed a prototype in 2025. It features a four section telescopic riser/lower boom and a three section upper boom, topped by an articulating jib for a maximum working height of 29.8 metres. Outreach is 15.5 metres with 140kg in the platform reducing to 12.5 metres with its 300kg maximum capacity. It also has a below ground reach of six metres and weighs 4,995kg. Overall width is 890mm or 1.4 metres with tracks extended, and it is 6.2 metres long with a stowed height of just under two metres. Standard outrigger footprint is 5.1 x 4.5 metres.

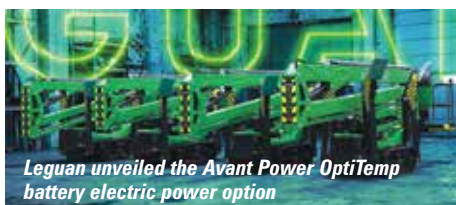
Imer is also set to launch an updated and upgraded version of its 23 metre spider lift with up to 12 metres of outreach with 140kg, or 10.6 metres with the maximum platform capacity of 230 kg.



The 30m Imer IM R 30 DT

LEGUAN'S ELECTRIC SPIDERS

After launching its largest spider lift - the 26.5 metre 265 - last year, Finnish manufacturer Leguan Lifts unveiled the Avant Power OptiTemp battery electric power option for all of its models, including the 17 metre 170, 20 metre 195, 22.5 metre 225 and 26.5 metre 265. Designed and built in Finland it uses liquid-immersion cooling to keep the battery pack at the correct temperature with the electric system developed as a complete,



integrated package. The company says it can work a full day on one charge, with performance comparable to diesel versions with the same user interface.

The company adds: "Many hybrid options combine a combustion engine with a small battery pack, offering only limited battery capacity and compromising performance compared with diesel powered spider lifts. The OptiTemp-powered lifts, by contrast, are fully electric delivering a full day of operation on a single charge and, in many applications several days without recharging, all the while maintaining the same speeds and power as the diesel models."

TEREX SPIDER LIFTS

At the end of last year Terex Utilities launched its first spider lift, the 21 metre SL5 under its Green-Tec brand which covers tree care and related products. The new SL5 has a single riser, three section telescopic boom and jib with 90 degrees of articulation. Maximum outreach is 9.9 metres, with the unrestricted maximum platform capacity of 230kg at an up & over height of 6.5 metres. Overall weight is 2,850kg, overall stowed width 830mm, extending to 1.1 metres on site, while the overall length is five metres with an overall height of just under two metres. Power comes from a Kubota diesel. The new machine will be the first in a range of spider lifts with working heights of up to 30 metres and will also include the SL6 and SL7, all with overall widths of 890mm or less, plus rubber tracks, variable outrigger settings and auto levelling.



The Terex Green-Tec SL5

THE BADGING ROUTE

This move by Terex Utilities is logical in that spider lifts in the tree care sector and work around power line routings are big business in North America. We understand the platform is a version of the Easy Lift R210, but with a reduced outreach and higher platform capacities.

Badging products is always an interesting move, and it will be fascinating to see how this develops. Will Terex develop its own products, or if sales pick up will it follow Altec - which took over Teupen - and attempt to acquire another manufacturer?

SINOBOOM

Chinese manufacturer Sinoboom originally 'dipped its toe' in the spider lift market with its own manufactured machines. However, the company quickly realised that spider lifts is a highly specialised market and required a different approach, deciding that a partnership with Falcon Lift was a better way to go. It confirmed the partnership at Bauma 2022 following a trial period, with Falcon supplying the Chinese company with some of its larger lifts with Sinoboom branding for sale outside of Denmark and North America. The partnership came to an end when Falcon Lifts entered administration at the end of 2024 due cash flow issues related to economic slowdowns and payment terms on its Sinoboom deal.

Sinoboom then launched its own 27 metre SPA27J and battery powered SPA27EJ last summer. Features include a three section telescopic riser/lower boom which elevates almost to the vertical, topped by a three section upper boom and an articulating jib. The maximum outreach of 14.5 metres is available at an up & over height of 13.5 metres with 120kg in the basket, or just over 12 metres with the maximum platform capacity of 230kg, both with the wider outrigger width of 4.7 metres. Outreach with the 2.97 metre 'narrow footprint' is 11 and nine metres respectively. The unit can level on slopes of up to 10 degrees with up to 500mm of outrigger lift. Power comes from a Kubota diesel with a plug-in AC motor when working indoors. A lithium battery powered SPA27EJ is also available.



The battery powered Sinoboom SPA27EJ

The overall width is 900mm, extending out and down to 1.14 metres, overall length 5.8 metres, or 4.95 metres with platform removed and overall height 1.99 metres, rising to 2.11 metres when the tracks are extended. Total weight is 3.9 tonnes for the diesel and 4.5 tonnes for the SPA27EJ. The units can be ordered for delivery anywhere outside of the USA, mainland Europe and Australia.

OTHER CHINESE ENTRANTS

Chinese manufacturers are now beginning to manufacture spider lifts as volumes grow. Dingli does it through strategic partnerships and distribution channels, while Zoomlion, Goman, Inslift Technology and Lemax all produce their own spider lifts.

Visitors to Vertikal Days will have seen both spider and trailer lifts from Lemax. The company

SPIDER LIFTS

produces five spider lifts - the LT8S to the LT16S - with working heights from 10 to 17.7 metres as well as a range of boom and scissor lifts. The spider lifts have outreaches from five to 8.1 metres and weigh between 1,720kg and 2,200kg. Machine widths are 750mm and 850mm for the two largest. All have a 200kg platform capacity. Power options include diesel, battery electric and hybrid systems.

Lemax LT14S at Vertikal Days



Inslift spiders - manufactured by Jiangsu Inslift Technology - has a five ES series model line-up using dual telescopic booms. The ES range includes the 19 metre ES190, 22 metre ES220, 24.5 metre ES250 weighing 3,380kg and the 28 metre ES280 with 350kg capacity. The most recent addition is the ES300 - a 30 metre spider with a 14.8 metre maximum outreach and 230kg maximum capacity.

Zoomlion produced its first spider lift, the 27



The 30m Inslift ES300 hybrid tops out its five model spider lift line up

metre twin telescopic boom ZX27AE with lithium ion battery power in 2023. It features a three section lower telescopic boom, with an over centre linkage to a three section top boom and articulating jib. Maximum outreach is 14.2 metres at an up & over height of 12.7 metres with 120kg



The 27 metre Zoomlion ZX27AE



The recently launched 30 metre RE-Lift RE30HY

in the platform, while the unrestricted platform capacity is 230kg.

Overall stowed width is 890mm, with an overall length of 5.7 metres with the platform removed and an overall height of just over two metres, the widest outrigger spread configuration is 4.48 metres, while auto level is standard. Total weight is 4,650kg.

And finally, Indian access rental company **RentEase** has just launched equipment manufacturing and sales brand, RE, taking it beyond its existing rental, service and training activities into equipment design, manufacturing, sales, parts supply and distribution. Two ranges have been announced so far, RE-Lift for powered access and work at height equipment and RE-Move for material handling, with more to follow. Details on machines is scarce but one of the first machines to be showcased was the new 30 metre working height RE30HY spider lift with 15 metres of reach. ■

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