

# Reaching higher expectations

*Leila Steed* looks at the latest industry trends and shifting demands in the spider lift sector

Over the past few years, the drive towards Net Zero has been top of the agenda for contractors, rental companies and equipment manufacturer's alike. But now that we have a plethora of low-emission alternative-energy access machines available to us, other industry demands are once again back in focus.

## The demand for height

Aiming to address the trend towards taller machines, Easy Lift's RA53 tracked platform is its latest offering.

With a working height of 52.3m and a double telescopic boom that has an outreach of 20m and an up-and-over clearance of 32m, the company believes the RA53 offers an "excellent height/weight ratio".

"In fact," says Easy Lift, "despite being able to reach a considerable height, it is still light overall with a weight of only 14,500kg. This differentiates it from competing platforms of similar height which weigh much more."

The standard RA53 spider comes fitted with

a 42kW diesel engine and a 380V electric motor, but is also available as a low-emissions hybrid version (RA53HY) that features a 48V, 300Ah lithium battery that can be used in indoor spaces.

Described as "very dynamic and versatile", the RA53 can also be equipped with a winch with a lifting capacity of 1,000kg, which makes it particularly well-suited as a rental product.

The manufacturer tells *AI*, "If equipped with a winch - one of the most recent implementations made on all high-range models starting from 24m in height, with different lifting

capacities - the RA53 becomes even more performing and versatile, because it allows the platform to be used also as a crane."

Meanwhile, Palazzani's Ragno TTZJ 58 aerial platform aims to raise equipment users even higher with a working height

Easy Lift launched the RA53 spider lift at Bauma 2022. IMAGE: EASY LIFT

Palazzani TTZJ 58





of 58m, courtesy of an articulated arm with a double telescopic fly jib.

“While reaching such an imposing height, this machine maintains all the necessary features of the Spider Lift and Palazzani products, such as compactness, lightness, safety, easy usability and agility,” says Palazzani.

Although slightly heavier than Easy Lift’s RA53, the 17,000kg TTZJ 58 model’s operator basket does offer a greater basket load capacity of 400kg, compared to the 360kg of Easy Lift’s RA53.

“...it is designed to be used in a wide range of applications, especially for interventions at important heights with difficult access, such as telephony, maintenance/restoration in both buildings indoor and outdoor, wind industry and rental,” the company adds.

The TTZJ 58 is still in the prototype testing phase but is expected to be production ready later this year.

While its design has primarily been driven by height demands coming from the telecommunication and wind turbine sectors, Finland-based manufacturer Leguan Lifts says it is also seeing the trend for greater working heights from its customers in the arboreal, construction and maintenance sectors.

### Safety at height

A manufacturer of aerial platforms in the 12 to 25-metre class, Leguan says that while its customers are “mostly looking for higher



## MACHINES THAT TALK TO EACH OTHER

Just like robotics and automation for MEWPs, the development of intelligent connected systems for equipment is continuing apace.

JLG recently revealed a next-generation Internet of Things (IoT) digital platform, that uses machine interactivity for two-way fleet management and interactivity.

The ClearSky Smart Fleet platform was unveiled to access industry professionals at the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) Summit in Berlin, Germany.

A ground-up redesign of JLG’s existing ClearSky platform, the updated ClearSky Smart Fleet features new capabilities that the manufacturer says will “transform the way customers work”.

Key features of the IoT platform include digitized daily processes for operational efficiencies, accurate and efficient machine location, additional equipment service capabilities, Streamlined logistics with Automated Site Networks, and actionable, on-demand machine and fleet insights.

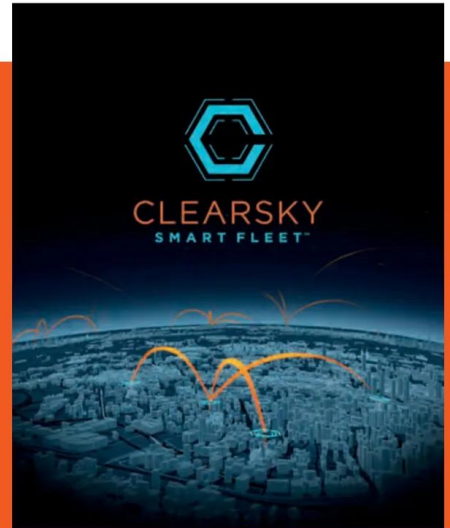


IMAGE: JLG

access” – which is a key area of development for the company – safety remains the number one priority.

The standout safety feature of the company’s latest model, the Leguan 225, is specifically designed to keep machine users safe in an emergency, such as power outages.

The model, which has a 22.5m working height and 11.2m outreach, is equipped with a new emergency lowering system that uses a battery-powered emergency pump with a gravity lowering system to bring the platform down ground level.

“Another major trend in the industry has been the integration of advanced safety features into spider lift models,” Falcon Lifts tells *AI*.

### The Leguan 225 is easy to load and transport



The company’s 430 Vario model – one of its latest models, is a dual-power unit fitted with a Stage V-compliant Kubota diesel engine and a rechargeable battery pack, and boasts several “advanced safety features”.

Key among these is the automatic levelling system, which precisely positions the lift for optimum stability, and the collision detection system.

In fact, all of the company’s newer models “now come equipped with collision detection systems, which help prevent accidents by alerting the operator when the lift is getting too close to obstacles.”

In addition to optional safety features such as a slope alarm and an anemometer wind warning system, the model’s maximum 43m reach is stabilized by a variable outrigger system that makes it suitable for use on uneven ground.

“This feature is especially useful in tight spaces where the operator needs to adjust the outriggers to a specific position to safely and efficiently complete a task,” says Falcon.

With an outreach of 18.5 meters and a basket capacity of 200 kg, the 430 Vario is suitable for lighter tasks.

The model’s tracks are also height and width adjustable, to “offer a safe and stable platform for workers to carry out tasks at height”.

Leguan and Falcon aren’t the only companies to offer new safety features. CTE Lifts’ Traccess 270 model has a jib that features a new “rise and drive” function, that allows it move while the jib is raised.

“Thanks to the “rise & drive” function of the jib, translation can take place without any difficulty on sloping ground or on ramps, keeping the unit completely stable,” says CTE.

The articulating model, which has a working height of 27m and is fitted with a 3-cylinder Kubota diesel engine, is also available with an optional anti-crushing device in the 250-kg capacity basket.

IMAGES: LEGUAN