

Expanding into new markets

Sidetracker Engineering has expanded the range of products it manufactures, whilst retaining the multi-directional lift trucks which have been the mainstay of its business since 1963. The range now includes:

- Two man-up machines: useful when steel stock holders receive orders for mixed quantities of light duty sections, which can then be bundled, trade weighed and labelled at height. This saves bringing bulk stocks down to ground level, to pick one section and then return it back into the racking.
- Heavy duty electric platforms: These high capacity platforms, railed or free standing, are suitable



for transferring materials between buildings where craneage is not available or for moving stocks long distances to despatch rather than tying up a forklift for this bulk task.

- High capacity walk behind trucks: These are suitable for use when traditional fork lifts are too bulky and expensive. Sidetracker says it can manufacture capacities not normally available with walk behind machines.
- Heavy duty reach trucks in capacities of 3-6t.

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Scissor lift tables

Tecmach has supplied a series of scissor lift tables which have indexing turntables to improve efficiency and safer manual handling in a manufacturing facility. This forms part of a drive to reduce operator fatigue when transferring finished steel components from automated CNC machine onto trays on stillage.

The scissor lift tables - in both 1



and 2t versions - have a heavy duty rectangular turntable on which the steel transport stillage can easily be loaded. The turntable has eight detent indexing positions so the operator can build the layers uniformly whilst easily reaching the entire stacking area without excessive stretching. This reduces fatigue and removes the risk of product damage.

The turntable has electronic position detection, so the scissor lift table can only be lowered when the turntable is correctly aligned with the platform.

Control of the platform and loading height is by a heavy duty cast alloy foot switch which means operators always have their hands free.

Tel: 02392 525613

Smart raising of an angel

An intelligent cargo hook has aided the heli-lifting of a golden statue of an angel onto the top of a church spire in Surrey. The cargo hook was fitted with a HeliNav LoadMaster made by Sensor Technology. This feeds the pilot with live information about the load hanging beneath his aircraft, making complex operations safer, easier and more efficient.

Additionally the system logs data on load, distance, location and flight path, giving the operating company a complete set of information for its client billing and aircraft maintenance scheduling.

HeliNav LoadMaster is based on Sensor Technology's wireless load



sensor, a strain gauge based stainless steel tension type sensor. It can wirelessly transmit data to a readout where it displays live readings and records them to build up an exact profile of each operation. Its inbuilt 32MBit memory can hold up to 280h of data which can then be downloaded to a PC via USB cable.

Tel: 01869 238400

Semi-automated order picking trucks

Toyota has launched two order picking trucks equipped with its remote drive feature, t-mote, to help increase productivity in picking processes, improve ergonomics by reducing operators' fatigue and contribute to a safer work environment.

The BT Optio OSE250 order picking truck and OSE250P order picking truck with operator platform with t-mote remote drive feature are said to improve safety and increase productivity. Using a small finger operated remote control, the remote drive function allows the operator to advance the truck without having to



ride on it. The operator can walk alongside it and pick goods from the racking to a load carrier, reducing the need to repetitively step on and off the truck.

The remote drive concept is said to shorten the time a working cycle takes, which in turn increases the picking productivity of operators and creates a smoother picking flow.

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Automated straddle carrier



4-high straddle carriers as well as an emulation system for the terminal. Both the live equipment and emulation environment will use Kalmar's Terminal Logistics System (TLS), which allows all automated equipment, process automation solutions and access control, security and failure monitoring devices to be controlled via a single platform.

Kalmar TLS is an advanced equipment control system pre-integrated with the Navis N4 terminal operating system (TOS).

Key factors in the selection were Kalmar's reassurance that it could provide a system capable of 'Mega-Terminal' scale as well as integrating equipment and terminal operation systems from any third party.

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Kalmar, part of Cargotec, has won a tender to supply automated straddle carriers for Eurogate as its container terminal, Wilhelmshaven, is entering the next phase.

Kalmar will deliver four automated

Bed transporter

The EP Electric Bed Transporter system from ePowerTrucks is designed to prevent work-related injury and make life easier for hospital porters and nursing staff while moving beds.

The easy to manoeuvre, power-assisted EP Electric Bed Transporter is said to greatly reduce the effort required to move beds, reducing the risk of musculoskeletal and repetitive strain injuries caused by lifting heavy equipment.

The ergonomically-designed, compact, lifter and transport system is compatible with most beds, stretchers, trolleys and other movable equipment worldwide, without the need to change attachments.

The dual drive system with

height-adjustable handle allows one person to drive equipment weighing up to 600kg with just one finger or thumb, without any strain on their back. The claw-like design of the lifter allows stress-free attachment to the bed or trolley, adapting easily to different castor sizes. Its wheel base expands smoothly from 550cm to 890cm as it captures and lifts the bed by its castors using its Connect & Lock jaw assembly.

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