


# access



I N T E R N A T I O N A L

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**Access 50**

**Apex Show Guide**

**EXCLUSIVE:**

**Manitou  
launches  
telescopic  
booms**



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# Taking control

Tracked platforms, which require outriggers to be employed before the operator can safely elevate the platform, have been traditionally been considered complicated to operate. We look at the new types of controller design which are making these machines more appealing to occasional users.

## NO MORE ARACHNIDS

Following an item published on our web-site [www.khl.com/ai](http://www.khl.com/ai) about Teupen's APEX launches, I have, been reminded that, in North America, the term "spider" and "spiderlift" may not be used to describe a self propelled platform with outriggers as it infringes the trademark of a US company called Safeworks. Safeworks apparently has a range of products in the suspended access, rigging and safety field which use the name Spider.

Now this creates a problem of what to call self propelled access platforms with outriggers, as I am certainly not going to type that out every time. I know many of you operate outside North America and I hope you will continue to use the term with which we are all so familiar. However *Access International* does circulate to that and every other part of the world and of course our website and e-newsletter are also read globally, so I'm going to have to come up with something else.

Atrium lift is a popular choice although, personally I think this fails to acknowledge the range of applications in which the machines can be employed. So I am asking for your help.

I will welcome any suggestions for a new, easily understood term to describe self propelled platforms with outriggers, so please let me know what you think. In the meantime for the benefit of this piece, I will call them tracked platforms and hope it does not confuse. **MH Editor**

## Easylift keeps it hydraulic

Easy Lift says that in contrast with other manufacturers, on its small to medium models the positioning of the boom is actuated completely hydraulically. This makes them easier to use and makes maintenance simple and easy, even for non-specialised technicians, so also much cheaper.

On medium to high models, where operators need to work with the radio control (provided as standard)

combined with a fixed control station in the basket, Easy Lift uses Danfoss hydraulics, which make all manoeuvres very precise and reliable.

Easy Lift believes that its tracked platforms can meet a variety of work requirements, ranging from maintenance and renovation works to cleaning, interior restorations, pruning and garden maintenance.

Easy Lift's stabilisation system with variable geometry allows each outrigger to be placed in different positions, allowing the platform to stabilise even in tight spaces and on steep slopes. The control system, connected to the stabilisers continually limits the working area depending on the position of the load in the basket: a fully automatic, simple, mechanical device. Easy lift only uses electronics, where it can improve movement and speed management.

**Easy Lift's medium to high models employ a remote control and a fixed station**



**“W**e have seen significant changes and improvements in the Ragno machines

over the last 20 years but particularly to the control systems in recent years,” says Phil Lomax of Tracked Access, the UK and Ireland dealer for Italian manufacturer Palazanni

“In earlier years spiders were considered very specialist pieces of equipment and, like truck mounted equipment, always went with out with an experienced operator. There was an unwritten rule that any spider over 24m needed to go with an operator.

“The expansion in the use of spider equipment is largely due to more attention to ground loadings and the benefits of spiders’ compact dimensions. The wider use has necessitated simpler, more user friendly control systems without loss of function.”

Another Italian manufacturer Easy Lift agreed, “In recent years, the rental of tracked platforms has grown considerably becoming, for some models, the biggest market. This is the reason that Easy Lift has designed and engineered products, aiming right at the rental sector.

“For this market, the challenge lies in the fact that platforms can be rented to non-specialized operators or even to operators at their first use. It is, therefore, essential to simplify as much as possible all manoeuvres and in particular that of stabilisation.

“Most models are equipped with an automatic stabilisation system that allows the operator to stabilise and destabilise the platform on any terrain and slope by simply pressing a button.”

**AI**

## HINOWA'S REMOTE AND RADIO CONTROL

Italian manufacturer Hinowa will launch a new tracked platform at APEX. The Goldlift 14.70 IIS is an enhanced version of the 14m working height Goldlift 14.70, which was launched in 2003 and sold 2000 units.

The Goldlift 14.40 has radio control, which can also be used as a wired remote control and which among other functions allows the operator to deploy or retract the stabilisers. The new Honda engine IGX has an automatic rev control for lower fuel consumption or the machine can be supplied driven by lithium ion batteries. Other enhancements include full 360deg rotation (compared to 300) and a satellite diagnostic system for remote assistance.

Along with 14m working height the Goldlift 14.40 IIS has a 7m outreach and 200kg maximum basket capacity, with outriggers deployed it has a 2.7m by 2.7m footprint.



# Bluelift controls for flexibility

“The Bluelift C22 has many features specifically designed to make the platform more versatile and easier to use,” says Andrew Fishburn of Bravi UK and Bluelift’s UK dealer.

The drive and outrigger deployment functions of the machine, are operated from the radio remote control supplied as standard on all 22m machines, the remote control can also operate the engine selection, the engine start/stop, lifting movements and, importantly, the emergency lower procedure. The radio remote control has an operating field of up to 10m; however the manufacturers recommend that operators are within 5m of the platform, to ensure they have adequate control of the area in which the machine is operating.

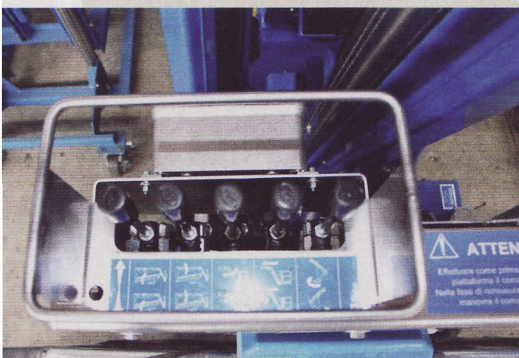
If an operator is working in an area where

## CTE AIMS FOR FORM AND FUNCTION

CTE designs its controls to be direct and simple, but at the same time supported by a tested technology.

There are two controllers on a machine: a control board in the platform and a vehicle drive control board.

The controller in the platform allows the operator to move, work and control the whole machine with just one hand. Lights help the operator to see immediately if there are any malfunctions; there is one light for the weight control, one for a right stabilisation and one that has an overall surveillance of the machine.



Clear decals (stickers) usefully positioned assist the operator in his work. Hand levers are kept to a minimum for easy use and prompt reactions when necessary.

The vehicle drive control board allows the operator to move the Traccess remotely in order to avoid any accidents to the operator. The control is ergonomic and removable, when removed the platform will not turn on and will not start its work, so that it acts as an anti-theft device.



The radio remote control supplied as standard on Bluelift’s 22m machines also operates the engine selection, start/stop, lifting movements and the emergency lower procedure.

the use of radio frequencies is restricted then the remote control can be connected to the machine with a cable, this cable is also used for recharging the remote control.

Outrigger deployment and levelling are automatic. The electronic board which controls this manages the full stabilisation process to reduce the possibility of the outriggers being incorrectly deployed. On the Bluelift C22 there are three options for the outrigger setting area, this creates extra versatility and enables the machine to be used in narrow spaces.

## Palazzani has stealth safety

Palazzani tracked machines have auto-levelling outriggers controlled by a single switch and proportional controls with ramped operations for smooth and controlled operations. In addition they have ‘enable’ buttons to prevent inadvertent activation. Phil Lomax of Tracked Access the UK Palazzani dealer says that Palazzani machines also have a number of passive safety features that the operator doesn’t necessarily need to know about. These include boom/outrigger interlock, cage overload cut-out, slew rotation cut-out (on models without continuous rotation) and automatic monitoring of the outrigger pressure, which allows maximum performance depending on the cage load and outrigger configuration.

“Palazzani spiders uniquely allow continuous rotation and full working height whatever the



## NEW TEUPEN CONTROL SYSTEM INTRODUCED AT APEX

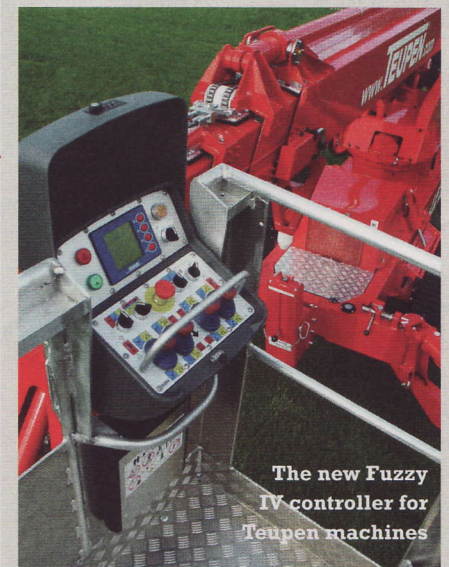
At APEX Teupen will be launching an enhanced controller, the Fuzzy IV, which is designed to make the platforms even easier to use, increase reliability and smooth boom operation.

More precise calibration of machine movements on the control card further improves positioning accuracy. A new control panel now displays information about all machine functions on a large screen that is easy to read even in direct sunlight – designed to be practical, clear and functional.

When operating in track drive and stabilisation mode, the user can view graphical information about the range of inclination, the stabiliser locking status, the ground pressure and correct stabiliser setup.

During lift operation all available boom movements are graphically displayed. In addition, the operator will be informed when the load limit and maximum pivoting angles have been reached or the maximum basket load has been exceeded. The operator also receives assistance when moving the boom back into transport position.

Teupen is exhibiting the new control system at APEX 2011 in Maastricht on its 25m model, the LE025Tplus.



The new Fuzzy IV controller for Teupen machines

outrigger positions,” says Mr Lomax. “This is all controlled passively and gives the operator maximum performance and full safety.”

Wireless radio controls are now widely used on Palazzani machines allowing all control functions to be performed from the ground.

“The main benefit of radio remote controls,” says Mr Lomax, “is to allow the machine to be driven at a safe distance. This gives better all round vision for the operator and allows the machines to be loaded/unloaded safely without the operator needing to drive the machine from the cage or climb up onto the transport vehicle.

Palazzani tracked platforms can also be fitted with cage protection systems which automatically prevent movements if the trip bar or proximity switches are activated.