

Addressing the challenge of sustainability

Summit Platforms invests in low emissions machines

The topic of climate change cannot be ignored and the outcome of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference last November has shown that more needs to be done to address its challenges.

This increased focus on the impact of carbon emissions is contributing to a change in behaviour across industries. Sustainability is a concern that businesses are taking responsibility for with many creating NetZero initiatives with the aim of reducing their carbon footprint throughout their full supply chain.

The powered access industry is also changing, with innovations in all-electric and hybrid machines coming to the forefront.

There is still a long way to go and here at Summit Platforms, we recognise the impact of the powered access industry and the part we have to play in reducing carbon emissions.

We've been steadily investing in low and zero emission machines and now have a comprehensive range of low-level access, boom, and scissor lifts. These machines can provide the same power and height capabilities of diesel machines but with lower or zero carbon emissions.

To make it easier for our customers to find these machines on our website, we've introduced the "low emissions" logo so they can be easily spotted whilst browsing.

Our sales teams receive training on the latest low emission technology and work with our customers to understand their requirements and match them with the best machine.

Amongst the low emission machines in our fleet, are those by the manufacturer Niftylift. Niftylift have been pushing forward with the creation of electric and hybrid energy boom lifts and have introduced the electric HR17 and HR21 boom lifts and the bi-energy HR12, HR15, HR17, HR21 and HR28 boom lifts, all of which we supply.

The advantages of all-electric platforms are many. As well as the benefit of no emissions, they are much quieter and cheaper to run than diesel machines.

Their compact size makes them extremely manoeuvrable and lighter in weight, meaning it's cheaper to transport them to and from the worksite.

Their reach performance isn't compromised either, thanks to reliable and efficient power systems.

Developments in technology mean that batteries are now long-lasting and can work longer on a single charge. Batteries are maintenance free too (another cost saving feature) thanks to a monitoring system which prevents battery damage and ensures no loss of performance.



NiftyLift HR17N



NiftyLift HR12N





NiftyLift HR15N

Bi-energy machines (also known as hybrids) such as the Niftylift Gen2 Hybrid HR12 boom lift, are powered by a diesel engine and an electric motor. The EU Stage V* compliant diesel engine is boosted by an electric motor when extra power is needed. This means smaller engines can be used but still maintain power and performance.

The smaller hybrid engines are more fuel efficient than larger diesel alternatives, using up to 50% less fuel and cutting running costs in half.

By using less fuel, hybrid machines emit fewer emissions, minimising their environmental impact and removing the need for costly exhaust filtration add-ons.

The Gen2Hybrid machine also includes an electric-only mode for zero emission operation. If the diesel engine is switched off, the machine will run cleanly and quietly on the electric motor making it ideal for indoor use.

As well as being lighter and cheaper to run, all-electric and hybrid machines allow you to work in more locations. This is an important factor considering many towns and cities have emission-restricted areas, such as London's Ultra Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ). Areas with noise restrictions are now common so by using electric or hybrid machines, disruption can be kept to a minimum when work is taking place. The variety of locations these machines can be used in makes them extremely adaptable and cost-effective as there is no need to hire multiple machines for different locations.

Even though the powered access industry is in a good place and heading in the right direction, it still faces challenges. Notably the challenge of balancing costs between investing in greener technology and what customers are willing to pay.

However, innovation in greener technology continues and more and more businesses are looking to meet low emission targets meaning the demand for eco-friendly machines is increasing.

Our investment in low emission machines to meet this demand is on-going and part of our founding ambition to make the hire of powered access as straight forward as possible and provide the highest performance standards for our customers.

**EU Stage V refers to the strict regulations of engine-exhaust emissions as set out by the European Commission.*



NiftyLift HR12L

