

POWERED ACCESS REPORT

PLUS

RAPID ACCESS

HOW THE RENTAL
COMPANY IS REDUCING
RISK IN THE REGION

SERIOUS LABS

THE ROLE OF DATA IN
IDENTIFYING OPERATOR
PROFICIENCY

SKYJACK

THE NEXT STEP

MEWP MANUFACTURER TACKLES CRITICAL
SAFETY ISSUE WITH ITS LATEST INNOVATION

SIMPLY RELIABLE

MOBILE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORMS

رافعات متنقلة يمكنك الاعتماد عليها



ELECTRIC
DRIVE

تعمل بالكهرباء



ALL
TERRAIN

جميع الطرق



HIGH
CAPACITY

سعة كبيرة

SKYJACK
simply reliable

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A supplement of:

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Machinery
MIDDLE EAST

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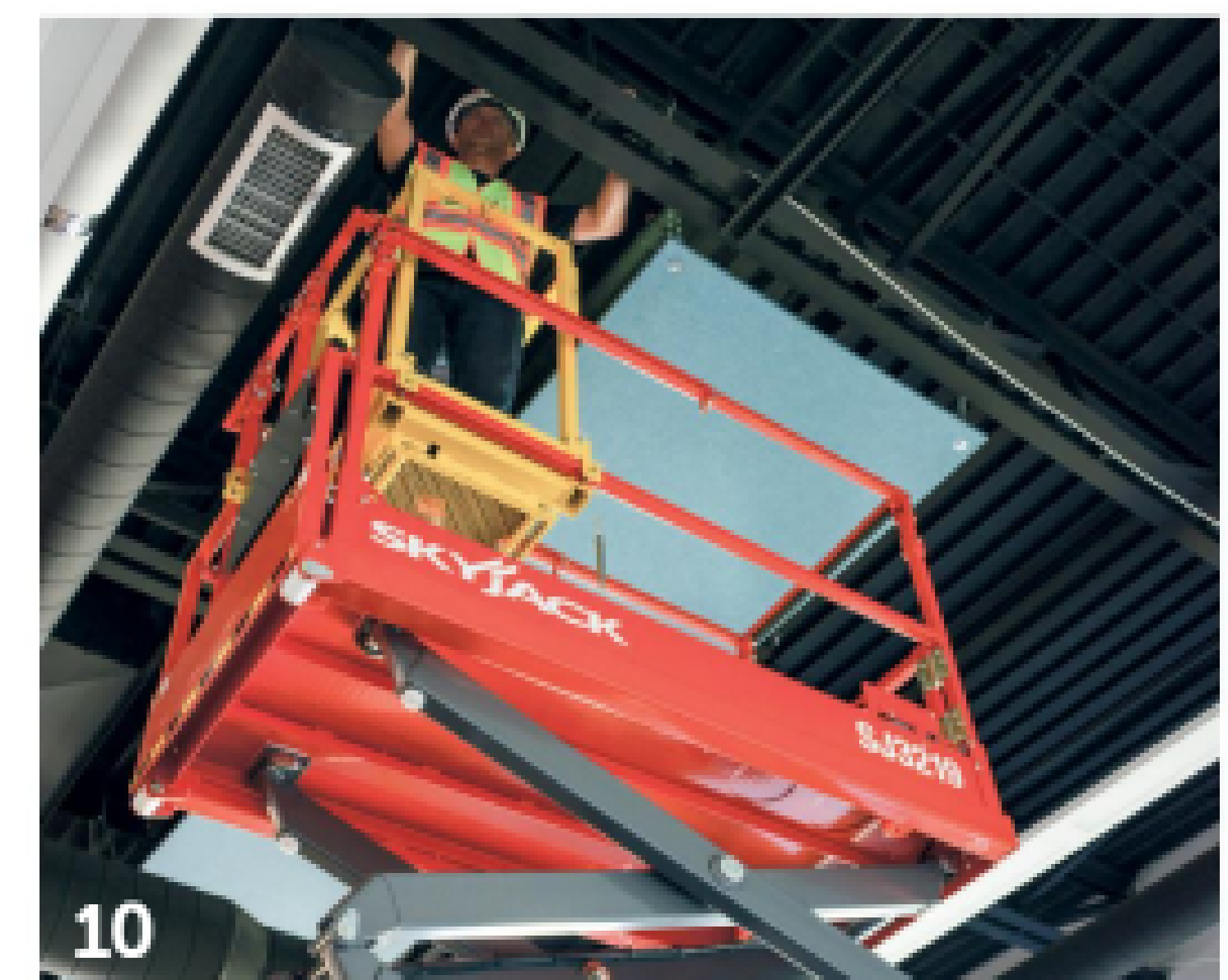
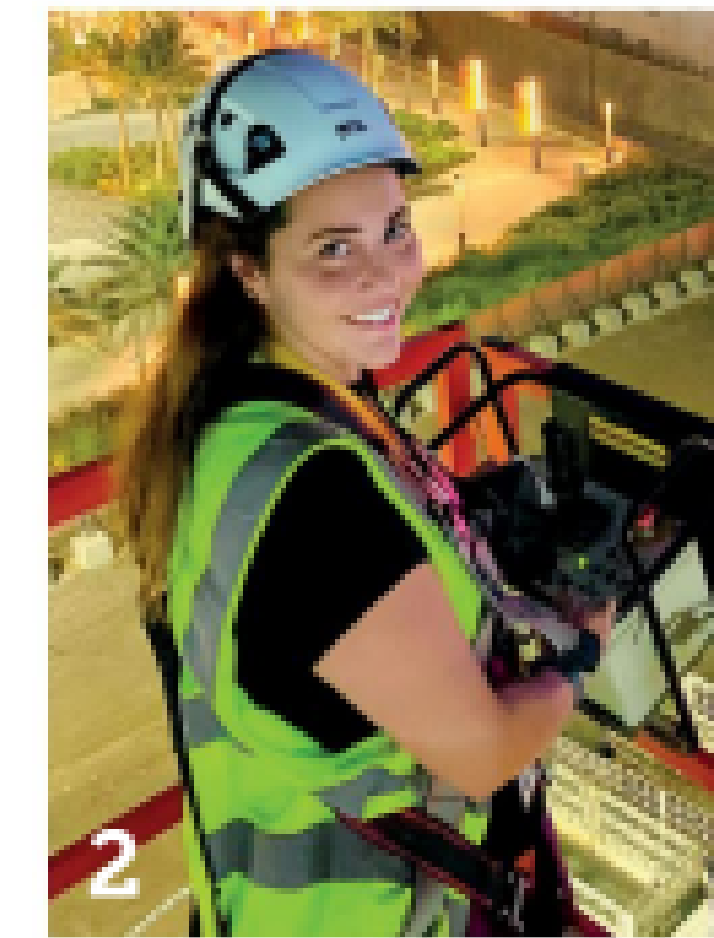
REDUCING THE RISK

Safety continues to be a critical issue in the Middle East's powered access sector. That is the standout message we received when compiling this report. The powered access rental industry accounted for 43% of reported incidents, globally, in 2021, revealed the IPAF Global Safety Report earlier this year. Fortunately, however, some steps are being taken in the region by both manufacturers and rental companies to address the high number of MEWP related incidents each year.

This report takes a look at some of the excellent work being done by Rapid Access in the services and training that it provides, whilst on the product side of things one of most recent innovations aimed at reducing risk in the industry has been Skyjack's XStep.

Meanwhile, a Serious Labs study shows the effectiveness of tackling safety by using MEWP simulation to understand operator proficiency levels while in our new feature we speak to Stephanie Tannous of Grako LLC about some of the highs and lows of managing work-at-height. Finally, adding colour to this report is the rather unusual MEWP art scene that has been hitting parts of the globe.

Mark Dowdall
Editor, CMME





Rapid Access Regional Director, Gareth Conley says the company has worked repeatedly with customers on reducing work-at-height risk.



“Rapid Access has made significant strides by working with its customers to instill a safety culture in their workplaces. With consistency and pursuance to excellence and safety, we hope to see significant improvements in this context”

RAPID ACCESS TAKES SAFETY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

ON THE BACK OF ACHIEVING TECHX PLATINUM SAFETY CERTIFICATION ACROSS ALL NINE DEPOTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST THIS YEAR, GARETH CONLEY, RAPID ACCESS' REGIONAL DIRECTOR EXPLAINS HOW THE EQUIPMENT RENTAL COMPANY IS DRASTICALLY REDUCING RISK IN THE INDUSTRY

What were the key factors behind your recent TechX accreditation milestone and how do you believe this approach to safety differentiates the company in the market?

One of the key differentiators in the market is the company's strong emphasis on safety – not only by lip service but with a physical and stringent internal audit that validates the quality and safety of the work that we have been delivering to our clients across the Gulf. We take pride in our Engineering Division which closely monitors how each country performs, giving our customers the peace of mind that they will receive the same first-class service in each country Rapid Access operates in. This is an internal challenge to each country and audited yearly, we call this TechX accreditation. To put simply, TechX is a pledge of Rapid Access to its clients in delivering and providing the highest technical service standards in all its operations and engineering activities. This programme helps

us drive consistent improvements across the organisation, ensuring that our clients benefit from the same high standards of reliability, quality, and engineering excellence wherever and whenever we are required to serve them.

The TechX team has a set of technical auditors that conducts planned but unannounced or spontaneous audit checks across all our nine depots in the Middle East. Each depot is audited individually (Saudi has three), with 200 questions on our checklist covering 5 sections crucial to our business operation, Site, HSE, Engineering, Transport, and Training. The depots are scored based on adherence to the Loxam Group's required standards; Bronze (lowest score), Silver, Gold, Platinum, and Diamond (highest score). Rapid Access is committed to excellent customer service, product knowledge, and “best in the business” service expertise. This year we achieved a major milestone with our TechX Platinum certification across all our 9 depots.

What are some of the other measures Rapid Access has adopted to reduce the

risk for operators when working at height?

Working at height is a risky business, no matter where you are in the world. The idea of any casualty at the site is simply unacceptable to us. And this is what drives our passion for safety in all our operations because Your Safety is our Priority.

As the region's pioneer and largest provider of licensed powered access training, we educate customers on the importance of safely working at heights by following proven best practices at a worksite. Rapid Access works closely with IPAF (The International Powered Access Federation), providing training to their leading industry best practices and regional standards, which can be conducted either on site or at one of our training depots in the Middle East. As part of this training course, we also provide machine familiarisation when requested to ensure that the operator fully understands the machine they are currently using.

Through our in-house training, our customers are made aware of proper equipment selection, preparation, and safe operation. This helps alleviate any potential health and safety risk.

In certain instances, customers using Rapid Access machines



Rapid Access provided equipment for work on stadium construction for the recently completed football World Cup in Qatar.

approach us to conduct work-at-height events on-site. With vast experience working on major projects and tackling site-specific issues, a team of lifting experts from Rapid Access conducts blended theoretical and in-person practical learning at customer's site. This customized training covers all aspects of working at height and is presented to operators

and site managers who have input when ordering machines.

The equipment selection process is crucial and must be considered while planning for safe work at height. When selecting the right equipment, there are a host of elements to look at, including the operator's capability, ground conditions, access to the location, environmental conditions, and reach. Through this event, we are able to share best safe practices and ways to be most productive using Rapid Access machines.

Being at the forefront of promoting best-in-class practices in the industry, Rapid Access continuously seeks improvements in providing safety features in its fleet. One of the latest safety innovations that is Rapid Access-exclusive is our HARNESS ON feature. The Harness ON is an Intelligent Anchor Point that reduces the risk of falls from the MEWP by preventing the MEWP from functioning until the operator has connected his harness to the intelligent anchor point. This leading and practical safety feature can be fitted to all MEWPs. As lives are at stake, it is vital that you partner with a credible AWP provider/company with an extensive equipment range and, at the same time, reliable, and places great emphasis on operating safely at the site.

Innovation is an essential component of our business. And Rapid Access is committed to delivering new technologies to its customers, which enhance safety and security when working at height. Each work-at-height project presents a unique set of conditions and complexities requiring rigorously safe, regulatory-compliant, and robust solutions.

Loxam Group's dedicated R&D Department, BlueSky Solutions, is on hand to not only deliver industry-leading material handling attachments and enhanced safety features but can also create tailor-made solutions for your specific work at height issue.

We welcome requests for any work-at-height event or orientation that can help prevent accidents,

reduce the risk of downtime, and demonstrate proficiency in the actual operation of the machine.

What are some key challenges both you and your customer face when renting out a piece of equipment?

Operator capability is the main challenge and is a real concern for us. Hiring the Rapid Access machines is certainly positive for us, but the actual use and site operation is a different story altogether. Operating heavy machines isn't rocket science, but all must be trained and certified due to the safety risks of using this type of equipment. Most of our hotline support calls that we receive due to breakdown stem mainly from the operator's error.

The first step is to get all your operators trained and certified. With this, you are assured that the operators can safely perform maintenance or repairs, paint ceilings or walls, and perform other tasks necessary at high elevations. But over the course of time, the operators often forget seldom-used AWP's safe equipment use practices and so every now and then, we encourage a refresher training course. Rapid Access offers an in-house VR (Virtual) Training Simulator designed to help improve competency, safety, and performance.

Rapid Access has made significant strides by working with its customers to instill a safety culture in their workplaces. With consistency and pursuance to excellence and safety, we hope to see significant improvements in this context.

In terms of product development where are you seeing the greatest changes taking place?

At a time when environmentally sustainable economies and societies are critical to responding to climate change, as a business, Rapid Access has introduced energy-efficient, electric, and hybrid aerial work platforms to help keep productivity high while helping reduce the carbon emissions.



Rapid Access ensures operators of its equipment are fully trained and certified through its in-house training and refresher courses.

(UK) to grow and diversify our safety offering. Nationwide Platforms (UK) have over 14,000 assets and a dedicated division called "BlueSky" that focuses on developing and producing safety products for access machines. One recently launched safety accessories is Harness ON, which reduces the risk of falls through a fixed connection when a machine is in operation. The Harness ON acts the same as a seatbelt in a vehicle. With this innovative safety feature, the machine will not operate if a harness is not connected. This safety feature can be fitted to all MEWPs with a harness anchor point.

Which sectors have been experiencing the most demand for your products in 2022? Why do you think this is?

We have seen growth from across all sectors throughout 2022 and Rapid Access is well positioned for this demand. Rapid Access has the largest Access fleet in the Middle East with the most diverse range of market-leading equipment operating in nine depots across the region. The company's broad range of equipment allows our regional teams to target various sectors from Construction, Facility Management, Logistics & Warehouse to Oil and Gas requirements.

How is 2023 looking for the rental industry in the Middle East and where will your focus and ambitions lie?

Next year, we anticipate that most countries we operate in will see growth. As a business, we are gearing up for a rapid movement across the Gulf region with machine quantity and quality. We will continue to drive best practices to our customers and develop safety attachments for our machines as we have been for more than two decades. With the support of our parent company, Loxam Group, our team's dedication to excellent service, and happy customers, we are confident that we have good days ahead of us. ●