

A cut above the rest

VMB's Towerlift systems are quickly becoming an industry standard for hanging small to medium-sized line arrays at outdoor concerts and events. **Andrew Low** talks to the company about these unique aids for the gigger rigger...

VMB of Valencia, Spain has gained a reputation for its innovative loudspeaker technology, one that earned it a spot at 2008's Glastonbury Park Stage. In addition to developing world-firsts in the loudspeaker market, VMB is also responsible for the development of the first and only front-loading lift specifically designed for hanging line arrays.

The company has been manufacturing towerlifts since the early 1980s and now offers 14 models of varying sizes. The latest additions to the Towerlift line are the TL-A240 and TL-A320, which were debuted at last year's Pro Light + Sound show in Frankfurt. Rental companies have already found the lifts to be an integral part of their road gear for small to medium-sized outdoor events, as they can fly up to eight line array boxes (300 to 320 kg) in only 20 minutes.

HERITAGE

Ben Sinclair, VMB's export manager, comments: "We have been manufacturing front loading lifts for a number of years now. Initially they were used – and in fact still are used – for lifting trussing and so on, however, we found an increasing

The TL-A320 is one of VMB's newest and most popular lifting systems

amount of users wanted to use these frontal load lifts to fly their line arrays. We then developed accessories and longer forks so that users could use these lifts for this function. The need to fly arrays continued to grow and we saw more customers buying the traditional frontal load lifts to fly their systems. We then decided to manufacture a lift that would be specifically designed to fly line arrays. This led to the development of the TL-A240 and the TL-A320. These two lifts enable users to actually situate their line array at half a metre from the lift. This means they have much more room to play with and, thus, achieve the desired inclination for the system set up. They have been a massive success and have become inventory of many small rental companies."

The TL-A240 and TL-A320 can lift 240kg and 320kg, respectively to a height of six metres. They are manufactured from aluminium and are designed to offer sustained front and lateral stability while guaranteeing fixed and safe positioning of the line array. VMB boasts that the advantage of its lifts over its competitors is the fact that the line array can be situated at half a metre.

VMB LIFTS LIVE SOUND ◀

Javier Matali, VMB's marketing director, explains: "With conventional front loading towerlifts the maximum weight is reduced the further along the forks you place the load. For example, a lift that has a maximum weight capacity of 300kg can only safely carry 190kg when that load is placed at half a metre from the lift. The TL-A320, however, can raise 320kg at half a metre from the lift. The design of the base has also, for the first time, made it possible to load a line array directly next to the

towerlift body without the outriggers getting in the way.

This also means the subs can be placed between the outriggers when the top cabinets are up and the system is ready to play. All these features are the result of a very long design process and is what really marks the difference between these lifts and other front loading lifts. This is why they are specifically designed for flying line arrays."

INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN

The VMB Towerlifts are used in over 30 countries through the efforts of its international distribution chain. Graham Gosden, technical director of MilTec UK. (VMB's UK dealer), says: "These lifts are great. We have been able to demonstrate how practical they are to our customers and everyone loves them. If you have a small line array that you need to set up at various locations, I can't think of anything better. It literally only takes about 20 minutes set up and you have your line array in the air. There is no need for unnecessary trussing and so on. The TL-As are so adaptable to a variety of situations and couldn't be more user friendly. Another big selling point is the fact that all VMB's lifts are BGV-C1 certificated."

VMB has been manufacturing its towerlifts in house for almost three decades. The release of the new TL-As have been an extremely successful venture for the company and it is looking forward to seeing them become an industry standard and the benchmark for lifting line arrays.

> vmb.es



TL series

VMB's TL series is offered in various configurations to meet application demands. Here's a run down...

- TL-054 Frontal load Towerlift: max.load 220kg/max height 5.45 m
- TL-055 Frontal load Towerlift: max.load 220kg/max height 5.1 m
- TL-056 Frontal load Towerlift: max load 200kg/max. height 6.5m
- TL-072: 240kg/6.5m Towerlift
- TL-075C: 300kg/6.5m Towerlift
- TL-078: 280kg/8m Towerlift
- TL-A240 Frontal load Towerlift: specially designed for lifting line array PA. It lifts 240kg with the centre of gravity situated at 50cm from the towerlift profile. Max.height 6m.
- TL-A320 Frontal load Towerlift: specially designed for lifting line array PA. It lifts 320kg with the centre of gravity situated at 50cm from the towerlift profile. Max.height 6m.

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