



# Hilti unveils 'rugged' lasers

Two robust new rotating lasers from Hilti are claimed to be able to withstand rough treatment on site including falls, as well as guarding against water and dust due to their tough sheltered casing

## ROTATING LASERS

Hilti has launched two rotating lasers designed to survive drops from a height of 1.5 m.

Both the PR 30-HVS and PR 2-HS have been manufactured with shock-absorbing handles, and with the laser specially sheltered by an IP 66 protection class casing. The casing also guards against water and dust damage - two elements that the manufacturer claims are often associated with product failure and expensive repairs.

With horizontal, vertical and slope applications, Hilti says the PR 30-HVS has an accuracy of  $\pm 0.75$  mm at 10 m, a self-levelling range at room temperature of  $\pm 5$  deg and has been designed for levelling, aligning, grading and squaring.

The digital display on the receiver provides millimetre offset readings.

### Improved alignment

The PR 30-HVS also features Hilti's new auto alignment system, which aligns the laser to the position of the similarly protected PRA 30 laser receiver, meaning one person can carry out vertical alignments of up to 150 m.

Instruction videos can be downloaded and watched on a tablet or smartphone, while a range of accessories are also available for the new unit such as the PRA 90 tripod, which automatically moves to the height of the receiver.

The PR 2-HS is designed for exterior horizontal applications and has an accuracy of  $\pm 0.5$  mm at 10 m, a working range of 2 m to 600 m and a self-levelling range of  $\pm 5$  deg.

Applications for the unit include transferring and checking heights, levelling, excavation and setting out slopes.



Hilti PR 2-HS: Absorbs shocks

**1.5 m**  
Maximum height of the Pecolift

## Weighing up the pros and cons of the Pecolift

### ACCESS PLATFORMS NEIL GRAHAM & TONY MOLISSO

The Hireman has recently made a significant investment in a range of mobile access platforms from British manufacturer Power Towers. Adding to the Power Tower and Power Tower Nano, we now have several Pecolifts, which are mainly used as an alternative to podium steps.

The Pecolift is the first 'green' access platform we have invested in. It is manually controlled rather than battery powered; the user steps into the platform and turns a handle to elevate to the required working height. It also offers health and safety advantages.

Firstly, the absence of steps makes it much safer. There is only one step to get into the machine, instead of three or four steps to get onto a podium step, which

reduces the tripping risk.

Another safety feature is its automatically braked wheels, which increase stability and prevent 'surfing' - moving along in the podium once it is up. Once someone is on the Pecolift podium, they cannot move it without coming down first, forcing users to follow health and safety procedures. Other features include a non-slip platform, advanced guardrails and a tool tray for easy access to tools and equipment.

### Oil and battery-free

The Pecolift is environmentally friendly, with no hydraulic oil and no battery. This also means increased productivity on site because, unlike scaffolding, there is no downtime for set-up and no waiting for a battery to charge, which can take up to 12 hours.

There are also efficiency benefits. As a single, compact unit, the Pecolift is quick and easy to put up and move around; it does not require a qualification to set up such as PASMA training. In contrast, each time podiums are

moved, they must be reassembled as individual units, checked, tested and scaffold-tagged, which can be time consuming.

Being one piece of equipment also avoids the problem of losing parts during dismantling.

We have one main contractor that only allows Pecolifts on site, for health and safety reasons, and we would not be surprised to see others following suit,

perhaps for public sector or local authority projects.

There are, however, three clear drawbacks to the Pecolift.

The first is its height limitation - only 1.5 m platform height (3.5 m working

height), compared with our maximum podium platform height of 1.9 m and our smallest powered unit, the electric Power Tower Nano, with a platform height of 2.5 m. That is a considerable difference.

The Pecolift is also fairly bulky at 180 kg, which makes it difficult to move around on site; unlike a podium step, it cannot be moved by hand from floor to floor but requires a hoist or lift.

The Pecolift is also around five times more expensive than podium steps, which has an effect on the hire rate, as a proportion of the additional cost is passed on to the customer.

Our feeling is that there is a place for Pecolifts, particularly for large-scale projects where health and safety is the overriding factor. But there remains a majority of SME contractors for whom cost is the priority - and they will continue to use podium steps.

Neil Graham is managing director and Tony Molisso is training manager at The Hireman