

The sky's the limit

Soaring energy prices are producing an upsurge in solar panel installations, augmented by rising environmental awareness and pressure to create zero-emissions housing.

But in a notoriously changeable renewables market bereft of government incentives, it's vital to strike while the iron – or, in this case, sun – is hot. Profiting from solar panels means increasing efficiency; shorter project lengths allow extra capacity for your firm, so the obvious key is to save time.

For solar system installers, a motorised hoist has the potential to slash working hours, meanwhile enhancing safety and minimising risk of damage to PV panels.

Direct Hoist, an ever-expanding Midlands-based construction hoist hire and sales specialist, is supplying a growing number of renewable energy organisations with cost-effective solutions. From sole traders to large-scale developers, Direct Hoist offers equipment – and essential expertise – to speed up time spent on site.

Direct Hoist specialises in market-leading German GEDA machines, which boast unbeatable quality, reliability and versatility. GEDA's ingenious Solarlift was designed for transportation of sensitive solar elements and photo-voltaic modules using a specific solar panel platform, which features a rubber surface for careful carriage, along with adjustable fixings and a platform capable of handling panels of 0.5 to 1.6m width.

Direct Hoist founder Rob Wilson says, "The Solarlift speeds up the job, makes it safer and easier to conform to manual handling regulations. It has a spring-loaded platform,

which can carry a stack of several solar panels up to a lifting height of 19m.

"The hoist is designed to run at 70 degrees but, of course, roofs are all different, so we can add an angled track section to follow the pitch for ease of unloading."

The Solarlift is compactly sized for convenient storage, will run from a 240-volt electrical supply – ideal for domestic installations – and can be squeezed into tight spaces. And, thanks to its unique design, it can be set up on site in minutes.

Rob continues, "It has automatic stops at

the floor and top (or, say, the apex), so it can be controlled by a single operator. The hoist makes work much more efficient where you might normally use a ginny wheel or carry panels on your shoulder. You only need to drop or damage a couple of panels, and that's the price of a day's hire."

A choice of Solarlift models and ladder sections means load capacities of up to 250kg, running as fast as 38m per minute. GEDA also provides accessories such as a roof trestle for working underneath the ladder.

A very capable alternative to the Solarlift is the GEDA Star 200 or 250, which for some customers proves to be ultra-cost-effective thanks to its multi-purpose abilities. The Star series of electric rope hoists have enormous scope for installation on scaffolding, through an open window, from the building between storeys, or the roof itself using a free-standing tripod with ballast container. GEDA's board-lifting frame – designed for carrying plasterboard sheets – lends itself to hauling solar panels in complete safety, even in difficult conditions.

There's also a selection of containers and cages, making light work of lifting tools or rolls of insulation to the top of a building or through windows. With a working height of up to 50m and carrying capacity of 250kg, inclusion of a swivel arm means unloading is





simple. Installation can be performed by one person, again saving time and costs.

Perhaps most convenient of all is the GEDA Battery LadderLIFT, which dispenses with clumsy cables thanks to cordless technology. Using an electric motor within the platform, powered by a 24V 10Ah lithium-ion battery, the Battery LadderLIFT is able to carry as much as 120kg up to heights of 10m.

Operation is managed wirelessly by remote control or a smartphone app, and recharging takes two hours. With no tools needed to erect the Battery LadderLIFT, it boasts an ultra-short assembly time.

Photovoltaic panels can be securely transported at a speed of 15m per minute and, when the Battery LadderLIFT is not needed, its ladder sections can be used as normal step-ladders or lean-to ladders – again increasing versatility.

Little wonder, then, that many sole traders and smaller energy installers are getting on board with the benefits of a hoist – either to buy or hire. Direct Hoist is, of course, ideally positioned to advise on sales and servicing of GEDA hoists to ensure customers choose exactly the right equipment – not just for their current circumstances but to allow scope for expansion – and stay safe throughout their working life. Full familiarisation is provided on hand-over to the end user, and Direct Hoist offers in-house training.



Clockwise from top left: GEDA 250 Comfort; top right: GEDA Battery LadderLIFT fitted with solar carrying platform; left: GEDA Battery LadderLIFT fitted with Premium carrying device; bottom right: GEDA Solarlift; bottom centre: GEDA Battery LadderLIFT Premium; bottom left: the Battery LadderLIFT is easily wheeled into position on site.

What's more, finance is now available through Direct Hoist's sales department, so it's even easier to take advantage of a hoist's innumerable benefits.

Direct Hoist's impressive product knowledge means its versatile GEDA equipment can be reconfigured for almost any circumstances – taking account of load calculations, equipment specifications, and whether there are any voids below ground or obstructions (such as telephone lines) above.

Direct Hoist is continuously investing in new equipment to ensure its range is varied enough to suit any development, backed up with free advice, site surveys and expert project planning. And not just for the job in

hand – Direct Hoist assesses what might be needed later in the scheme to ensure the right equipment is provided from the outset.

Rob says, "We're ever-expanding and looking to the future. We're going green, although electric vans don't yet offer the range we need. So we've installed an HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) diesel tank for our vehicles, which is 100 per cent renewable, and gives a 90 per cent reduction in CO2.

"We're a forward-thinking company. The only way for us is up."

Contact Direct Hoist
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SUPPLIER OF
GEDA HOISTS TO
 CONSTRUCTION
 AND INDUSTRY

GEDA MINI 60 SCAFFOLD HOIST

PAYLOAD 60KG
 MAX HEIGHT 40/70M
 SALE ✓ HIRE ✓



GEDA MAXI 120 SCAFFOLD HOIST

PAYLOAD 120KG
 MAX HEIGHT 40/70M
 SALE ✓ HIRE ✓



GEDA MAXI 150 SCAFFOLD HOIST

PAYLOAD 150KG
 MAX HEIGHT 40/70M
 SALE ✓ HIRE ✓



GEDA STAR 200 STANDARD



PAYLOAD 200KG
 MAX HEIGHT 25/50M
 SALE ✓ HIRE ✓

GEDA STAR 250 COMFORT



PAYLOAD 250KG
 MAX HEIGHT 25/50M
 SALE ✓ HIRE ✓

GEDA BATTERY LADDERLIFT



PAYLOAD 120KG
 MAX HEIGHT 10M
 SALE ✓ HIRE ✓

GEDA SOLARLIFT



PAYLOAD 150-250KG
 MAX HEIGHT 19M
 SALE ✓ HIRE ✓

GEDA INCLINED TILE HOIST



PAYLOAD 250KG
 MAX HEIGHT 19M
 SALE ✓ HIRE ✓

GEDA 200 Z (RACK & PINION)



PAYLOAD 200KG
 MAX HEIGHT 35M
 SALE ✓ HIRE ✓

GEDA 300 Z & Z/ ZP (RACK & PINION)



PAYLOAD
 Z - 300KG GOODS
 ZP - 300KG GOODS/3 PEOPLE
 MAX HEIGHT 50M
 SALE ✓ HIRE ✓

GEDA 500 Z (RACK & PINION)



PAYLOAD 500KG
 MAX HEIGHT 100M
 SALE ✓ HIRE ✓

GEDA 500 Z/ZP (RACK & PINION)



PAYLOAD
 Z - 500KG GOODS
 ZP - 850KG GOODS/5 PEOPLE
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