

# New PecoLift rises to the challenge

**Project:**  
Reading Station Redevelopment

**End Client:**  
Network Rail

**Main Contractor:**  
Costain/Hochtief JV

**MET Contractor:**  
NG Bailey Rail Division

**When NG Bailey, who are providing mechanical, electrical and telecoms services (MET) on the multi-million pound Reading Station redevelopment, required low-level access equipment that could be used outside, on the station platforms, they sought a solution from Hire Station's specialist low-level access division.**

Hire Station, a preferred supplier of low-level access, tools and equipment to NG Bailey, was able to provide the company with newly-developed PecoLift units, which were first unveiled by Hire Station at the Network Rail Track and Plant exhibition held in the summer. Specifically designed for outdoor use, these PecoLift's are wind-rated and have all the attributes for safe working outdoors.

Mick Harris, NG Bailey's project manager at the Reading Station site, explains: "The project is a massive undertaking with all work being carried out while the station has continued to be operational. The project started in June 2011 and at the peak of activity, in March this year, we had over 200 personnel working on site. With such a large workforce, together with thousands of rail travellers passing through the station, safety is paramount. Much of our installation work requires the use of low-level access equipment and has been carried out behind the scenes inside the many buildings on site. However, working at height on the fifteen platforms at Reading presented us with its own set of issues - the platforms are open to the elements, and are also subject to the wind effect caused by trains passing through the station.



Therefore, any access equipment used had to be classified for outdoor use. We also wanted equipment that could be readily moved into position without the need for erection and dismantling. After calling Hire Station in, we were delighted to learn of the introduction of the wind-rated PecoLift and had no hesitation in placing an order for eight units. We already had 25 standard Peco's on site which had been successfully deployed on all types of indoor MET tasks. They are easy to move around and can easily be elevated to a height that is suited to canopy installation tasks and, importantly, they have proved very popular with our installation teams."

Unlike the standard PecoLift which is designed for indoor use on flat and level surfaces, the wind-rated PecoLift, can be operated on gradients up to three degrees and has a wind rating of 12.5m/s. The new PecoLift has all the features and benefits of the standard unit - it doesn't use batteries - so no charging or mains power requirement - just step on and turn the handle. Its unique winding mechanism requires minimal effort to attain a safe working height of 3.5 metres, and its wheels are automatically braked on elevation.

Graham Haigh, Business Development Director for Hire Station's low-level access division, said: "Development of the wind-rated PecoLift clearly demonstrates our commitment to providing safe and effective products that improve productivity. Hire Station identified the need for an outdoor version of PecoLift and, because of our strong relationship with manufacturer Power Towers, we were able to work closely with them on its development."



Wind-rated PecoLift provides a safer and more productive working method.



Winding mechanism requires minimal manual effort to raise the platform

For more information on Low Level Access equipment available from Hire Station, for short or long term contract hire, visit [www.lowlevelaccess.co.uk](http://www.lowlevelaccess.co.uk) or call 0845 604 5337

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