

PRESS RELEASE

Following successful trials at a number of its sites, Lawsons, a family owned independent timber and builders' merchant operating in London and the South East has ordered 5 new JCS 30-19E electric-powered Teletruk.

Lawsons is the first UK customer to invest in the JCS 30-19E, which was launched in Spring 2019 and is the first electric-powered model to be added to the Teletruk range.

Paul Murray, JCB's Teletruk General Manager, said: "The introduction of electric-powered Teletruk has been met with an overwhelmingly positive response from the truck user community. The launch of the 30-19E opens up so many new markets for us and Lawsons' order is no doubt the first of many for this hugely exciting product."

The machines acquired by Lawsons will be deployed at the company's facilities at Bedford and Edgware, and their acquisition is part of a move by Lawsons towards greater use of electric-power across its materials handling equipment fleet.

Lawsons operates from 17 depots, 11 of which are within the boundary of the M25 motorway and supplies trade and public customers with a broad range of fencing, timber, landscaping and building materials as well as windows and joinery and, of course, tools and other essential site supplies.

With many of its facilities located in urban environments close to residential communities, Lawsons is increasingly conscious of the need to be a 'good neighbour' and is doing all that it can to consider any concerns that those who live near to its depots may have about noise and air quality.

Lawsons' Group Transport Manager, David Harvey, said: "We make every effort to ensure that the materials handling equipment in use at our sites - particularly those located in higher density environments - is as quiet as possible and complies with current emission standard regulations.

"We are constantly assessing ways of making our depots more environmentally responsible and give careful consideration to the mix of materials handling equipment in operation, so as soon as we heard that JCS had developed an electric-powered Teletruk that is quiet in operation and produces no harmful emissions, we knew that it would be perfect for us."

Lawsons identified the benefits that the Teletruk would bring to its business when JCS originally launched the forklift back in 1997 and, for some 20 years, JCS Teletruk technology has played a key role in the company's materials handling processes.

The company currently runs some 55 diesel-powered Teletruk which are used for a variety of duties, including unloading incoming delivery vehicles, putting away and picking stock and loading the 100 or so lorries and vans that make up Lawsons' transport fleet with orders bound for customer sites.

Because outside space at many of Lawsons's sites is limited, the Teletruk is the ideal forklift truck for the company thanks to the fact that its telescopic forward reach boom allows trailer and vehicle beds to be accessed from only one side. Picking or packing loads from one side only minimizes the space needed to load or unload a vehicle, so they can be parked tight to a wall or racking - leaving valuable space free in the central yard area for additional storage, extra delivery vehicles or for tasks such as cross docking.

David Harvey said: "Because land is at a premium in and around London and the South East we have to maximise the use of every square foot of space we have at all of our sites and the Teletruk's ability to load and unload from one side of a trailer has allowed us to install extra racking at a number of our depots."

The JCB 30-19E features the iconic telescopic forward reach boom that has made the Teletruk such a popular lift truck across diverse industry sectors and power is provided by an 80-volt lead acid battery which can work a full eight hour shift on a single charge. Thanks to its AC electric driveline, the new truck can climb a 21 % gradient or ramp with ease and productivity is further enhanced with full free lift of 1575mm as standard and a lift capacity of 1900kg at 2 metres.

Paul Murray said: "Emissions, noise and the need to maximise all available space, are critically important considerations when it comes to choosing materials handling equipment for an urban facility.

"For companies such as Lawsons that are operating in close proximity to residential property and where space is often restricted, the Teletruk offers so many clear advantages and, while IC engine-powered models in the JCB Logistics Teletruk range meet the most stringent emissions regulations, the introduction of a battery-powered range makes the case for Teletruk even more compelling."

Lawsons' phased introduction of electric-powered handling equipment across its business will also help the company in its aim to achieve Freight Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) Gold accreditation. FORS is a quality assurance standard for operators of commercial fleets.

David Harvey said: "It is important that we demonstrate best practice across our business and we are going for FORS Gold accreditation as part of our ongoing process of continuous improvement."

JCB announced the launch of a second electric-powered Teletruk - the JCB 35-22E at the recent IMHX exhibition. The JCB 35-22E has a lift capacity of 3.5 tonnes.