

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT



As passenger travel reaches a record high it is no wonder that beltloaders remain in popular demand.

Joe Griffith, Chief Commercial Officer at Mallaghan, reported an exceptionally strong order book in 2024, with an even stronger demand expected in 2025, with a multitude of exciting projects across the globe.

He said the all-electric SkyBelt has been well received in the US, saying the US market values the product for its premium quality and features more than in Europe.

"The SkyBelt was designed from the ground up to be a fully electric machine. As such, its design and systems are optimised for a fully electric operation. We don't offer it as an internal combustion machine as part of Mallaghan's commitment to decarbonising the airport environment where possible," said Griffith.

It comes with an 80V lithium-ion or lead acid battery and offers a patented conveyor lifting mechanism that greatly reduces the possibility of the operator inadvertently impacting the aircraft with the front end of the conveyor when adjusting the rear.

"The patented lifting mechanism allows for vertical boom movement with minimal lateral/traversing movement. This is a

GSE manufacturers report a positive outlook for the beltloader market in 2025 as passenger numbers continue to rise.

key advantage over other beltloaders in the market where excessive lateral boom movement creates the risk of fuselage contact and also adds unnecessary difficulty to the operational procedure," explained Griffith.

The boom height is another impressive feature as it reaches up to 165in to service a full range of narrow and widebody aircraft.

The in-built Controlled Approach System (CAS) technology has also made a significant impact on the reduction in the number of aircraft incidents, in many cases reduced by as much as up to 80%.

"Mallaghan offers a more ergonomic machine that the operator can set to a height they are comfortable working with. CAS has sensors that offer additional protection when an operator intentionally or inadvertently puts the end of the conveyor inside the aircraft baggage hold."

A leading US airline said: "Since introducing the SkyBelt we've seen a marked reduction in aircraft damages thanks to the Advanced Vehicle Controlled Approach System (VCAS)."

Griffith said adequate charging infrastructure remains one of the key challenges for electric machines.

"However, the SkyBelt infrastructure demands are minimised as compared to its competition through the use of ultra efficient systems and lithium-ion batteries which reduce charge infrastructure demand through longer run times and reduced charge times," he said.

In an exciting new development, Mallaghan has partnered with Power Stow and now offers its Rollertrack Conveyor on the SkyBelt chassis.

"This is game-changing as our SkyBelt chassis is designed from the ground up to accommodate the unique technical attributes of extendable belt systems, such as the Power Stow Rollertrack Conveyor with increased weight and operational geometry. The two systems are integrated via CAN-bus which delivers a much simpler and easier user experience."

Power Stow's flagship product the Rollertrack Conveyor continues to be



popular in the US, with ongoing deliveries to meet market demand.

Ken Brown, President, Power Stow Americas, said: “Both ramp employees and management consistently describe it as the biggest game changer they have experienced in their lifetime in the ramp environment.”

In Europe, many existing customers are now adding several new units to their operations to expand their Rollertrack Conveyor fleet, demonstrating continued satisfaction over the years.

“Meanwhile, Asia is an emerging market where we see increasing demand for semi-automated solutions, particularly in Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore, where we have also established a strong market foothold,” said Brown.

Demand for automation

The Rollertrack Conveyor side of the business has expanded into smaller markets and to new customers who need automated solutions in baggage handling to help solve labour shortages in these areas.

“The success of the Rollertrack Conveyor and the reputation Power Stow has built are driving solid interest in our newer products as well like the Tail Loader and Transfer Belt.

“The Tail Loader has been extremely well received in the market, generating strong interest from multiple customers eager to demo the product. Its ability to reduce musculoskeletal injuries and enhance the ergonomic work environment for ramp employees has been widely recognised.

The Rollertrack with Tail Loader represents a new and even more advanced supporting tool, both in terms of health and safety benefits, but also due to the fact that it enables a highly productive two-person operation, with one person in the cargo hold and another at the rear end of the boom. While many of the initial units were installed on new production units, a significant number have also been purchased for retrofitting onto existing Power Stow fleets, further demonstrating its value and growing demand.”

Power Stow has received very positive feedback from customers including both traditional and cargo handlers.

“They particularly appreciate the Tail Loader for its sturdiness, quick response in operation, wide working range and ability to handle heavy loads,” said Brown.

Among the Tail Loader’s many features is its compatibility with any Power Stow

supported chassis and maximum load capacity of 100 kg/220 lbs in any position. The first demos and purchases in the US and Canada will be happening in the coming months with multiple customers, while a number of units are being delivered to European and Asian clients.

“Anticipation and interest are high, reflecting the strong demand for innovative solutions that benefit users and customers alike,” he said.

In 2024, orders continued with existing customers while Power Stow welcomed new clients and engaged with potential customers.

“The outlook for 2025 is solid, and with successful demos, we look to expand our customer base even further. Power Stow continues to grow in all of our major markets, while also adding new ones to our reference list as our solutions effectively address key industry challenges. With our solutions we enable leaner baggage handling operations with higher productivity, reduced work-related injuries, and faster baggage handling – all-important targets that every ground handler strives to achieve. Given this, we are confident that demand for our solutions will continue to grow in the years ahead.”