



# News



*Aisle-Master articulated trucks are wholly designed and manufactured in Ireland and enjoy an unrivalled reputation for quality and long life operation. They can work in aisles of just 1.75m, have capacities of up to 2.5 tonnes, lift heights of up to 15m, with a choice of AC electric or LPG power. A parts warranty of 5 years or 5,000 hours now offers even more peace of mind for users and underlines the extreme reliability of the range.*

## Ramping up the power for SCP

Aisle-Master has enabled SCP UK to rise to the challenge of maintaining previous stock levels in a smaller warehouse footprint at its premises near Gatwick airport. The company is part of SCP Distributors LLC (Poolcorp) based in Louisiana, the world's largest wholesale distributor of swimming pool supplies, spas, and related products.

Following strategic rationalisation, Warehouse Manager Joe Taylor had 26,700ft<sup>2</sup> at his disposal rather than 41,000ft<sup>2</sup>. "The limited manoeuvrability of our old reach truck would have meant having aisle widths of around 6m for some of our larger loads which are 8ft square," says Joe. "By replacing it with the Aisle-Master we have squeezed the maximum volume into the space available to achieve an impressive total of 760 pallet spaces plus 120 bays for storing hot tubs."

SCP's deliveries arrive on site in rigid trailers or containers so any handling equipment needs to negotiate the fairly steep rear ramp for offloading and loading. The Aisle-Master's powerful AC drive motor easily copes with this, and access into the trailers is no problem due to the four stage mast with a low closed height, which can then extend to 5600mm to deposit pallets into the highest racking inside.

SCP had not used an articulated truck before but chose the Aisle-Master brand as Joe and his team were impressed by its robust build and testimony from existing customers as to its extreme reliability. It has certainly delivered the goods and payback on investment will be quickly achieved when the lower operational costs of the smaller warehouse are factored in.



# On the move for Thetford

Thetford is the leading global supplier to the camping, caravanning and leisure industry with its range of mobile sanitary systems, refrigerators and cooking equipment. The UK arm of its operations, Thetford Ltd, recently moved to a new 73,000ft<sup>2</sup> manufacturing and warehousing facility in Rotherham. SHE Coordinator Dean Howson took advantage of the move to implement new handling and storage procedures and three Aisle-Masters were chosen to replace previously used counterbalance and reach trucks.

“The three to four metre aisle-widths needed for our old trucks would have swallowed up the extra footprint of around 10,000ft<sup>2</sup>, leaving us with no increase in storage capacity,” says Dean. “We went for the Aisle-Masters not just because of their space saving capabilities but also due to their versatile indoor/outdoor operation. Aisle widths are now considerably narrower than previously possible, resulting in a total of 842 available pallet spaces.”

The electric powered trucks work across the board offloading components and placing them near production lines, taking finished goods to the racking and high level bulk store, picking to order and loading delivery trucks. One of the trucks has been fitted with double deep forks (2050mm when extended) to enable awkward packs and stillages to be easily loaded across the truck bed.

“This has been a challenging project,” says Dean, “but from day one the Aisle-Masters have enabled us to



factor in future growth and have been well worth the investment. We now have an efficient system in place to handle our output of 2,000 units a week, with reliable trucks that do everything we want, anywhere we need them.”

## Geared up for growth



An LPG powered Aisle-Master is Truck Dismantlers Ireland's all round handling and storage solution as MD Adrian McElvaney explains: “Our company has seen a rapid upsurge in business recently and we have moved to new 20,000ft<sup>2</sup> premises in Monaghan to keep up with increasing demand from both domestic and export markets. We realised that we needed to adopt a much more rationalised approach to the storage and handling of the large volume and varying sizes of components we deal with.

A forklift that works indoors and out is vital, which is why our Aisle-Master is ideal. It is

equally at home working in the newly installed racking system for speedy parts retrieval as well as in the yard loading and offloading HGV's. It

has made an invaluable contribution to our operations and enables us to provide an improved customer service.”

