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IPAF **PASMA**

All training centres above offer IPAF/PASMA approved and audited courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

My Future success at Vertikal Days

My Future My Choice, a UK charity which introduces children to career opportunities in engineering, was back at Vertikal Days this year - only this time hosting workshops for a horde of children!



The children built a hydraulic crane arm using just cardboard, pipes and syringes.

Sponsored by Liebherr, the charity invited children to the event from

St Helen's Allanson Street Primary School and Liverpool's Maghull High School, to provide an insight into what a potential career in the lifting industry might involve - as well as hopefully sparking some enthusiasm for the industry.

The day kicked off with an introduction from My Future My Choice director and workshop leader Hugh Thomas, which saw him demonstrate the basic engineering principles of pulley systems and hydraulics. The children were then divided into teams, along with a Liebherr apprentice or staff member, to build a crane from cardboard, using a system of water filled syringes and pipes to simulate the hydraulics.

During the lunch break the teams had a tour of the exhibition stands, in order to see 'real live' cranes and to learn more about them. The



Hugh Thomas (R) demonstrating the basic principles of engineering

afternoon session saw the newly-made cranes compete against each other, with each team tasked with operating their crane to pick up a ball and drop it into a bucket in the shortest time.

Hugh Thomas said: "Support from Liebherr, through funding and help from its team of apprentices, has been invaluable in developing

our Lifting Aspirations Education Resource for school children. Support like this from within the industry is essential if children are going to be excited by science and technology. Working alongside the Liebherr team has helped children see engineering and specifically the lifting industry as a lifestyle choice for their future."

Double prosecution following fall

UK roofer Paul Hardy and timber supplier Howarth Timber have been sentenced after labourer Andrew Ward, 44, fell to his death at a site in London, in 2012. Ward was working for Hardy at the time, and fell more than eight metres through a fragile cement roof while fixing a leak at the Howarth site in Tottenham,

Hardy was given a four month suspended prison sentence and fined £3,000 with costs of £11,756 after failing to plan the work adequately and to provide a risk assessment or method statement. He also failed to supply a suitable work platform, instead providing an incorrectly-erected scaffold tower and ladder. Howarth Timber was fined £93,750 plus costs of £12,580 after failing to check the competency of Hardy and properly assess the risks associated with the job.

Investigating HSE inspector Chris Tilley said: "The dangers of working at height are well-known, and guidance is widely available. The work here should ideally

have been undertaken without the need to directly access the roof, for example by using an aerial work platform, or, if that was not possible, with safety measures to minimise the risk of falling such as or netting, crawl boards or fall arrest harnesses."



Andrew Ward fell more than eight metres to his death through a fragile cement roof

Galmon opens training facility

Singapore rental company Galmon has opened a new 6,700 square metre state-of-the-art facility, dedicated to work at height training. Featuring 11 air-conditioned classrooms, a 300 seat auditorium and a large outdoor training area, the Galmon Academy will provide Ministry of Manpower-accredited training courses as well as IPAF operator and other courses. It will also provide PASMA mobile tower training.



Galmon's founder Desmond Ong welcomes guests at the opening of the new training facility

Speaking at the official opening, Hawazi Daipi, Singapore's senior parliamentary secretary for manpower and education, said: "The ministry has launched initiatives to encourage the view that all injuries at work are preventable. If we have this mindset, then the use of aerial work platforms instead of ladders and scaffold to undertake work at height is an obvious choice. They enhance productivity and are quicker to deploy, and more importantly, they are safer to use as they remove the risks of climbing."

Who trained them then?

Spotted in Belgium, a man working above a busy motorway from a well-worn man basket suspended from an excavator. A second man - presumably the excavator operator is also leaning over the railings in order to prevent the platform from scraping the edge of the bridge.

