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ALLMI Village at Vertikal Days

On May 14th/15th Vertikal Days hosted the ALLMI Village, an exhibition of the latest innovations in loader crane and ancillary equipment. In place for its eighth consecutive year and since the show's inception in 2007, the ALLMI Village yet again formed a key feature of the event, building upon the success of previous years with a record number of exhibitors and visitors, while displaying an impressive array of products, as well as providing extensive advice and guidance on all aspects of lorry loader lifting operations.

ALLMI chief executive, Tom Wakefield, said: "We find ourselves saying this every year, but yet again this was our busiest and most successful Vertikal Days show to date. The level of activity on the





ALLMI stand and within the wider ALLMI Village demonstrates the profile of the association and its members, as well as the demand for our training courses and various industry services. As expected, the visitor numbers increased once again and as we always find at Vertikal Days, the quality of delegates was excellent, with those present representing a wide range of industry sectors and all having a genuine interest

in lifting operations."

"There was a great atmosphere around Haydock Park throughout the two days. The show continues to be an excellent platform upon which to promote ALLMI and the lorry loader industry, and we are looking forward to experiencing further benefits over the coming months as we build upon some of the relationships established during the show."

ALLMI Operator of the Year

Located at the centre of the ALLMI Village, the association ran its 'Operator of the Year' competition over the two days. The competition saw an impressive number of entrants testing their operational ability in terms of accuracy, speed and safety, whilst negotiating the specially designed course. The eventual winner was Mark Smithson of ALLMI member company Mark Smithson Transport, who completed the course in seven minutes 27 seconds.

Smithson said: "The competition was very challenging, given the course that was set out and the time penalties that could be incurred. It was also extremely competitive, with involvement from a large number of very good operators and so I'm really pleased to have finished in first place." He continued: "I was very keen to represent the company by taking part, as we've always viewed the competition as important for raising awareness of quality training and assessment,

as well as promoting best practice. We're big advocates of the ALLMI scheme and the



fact that it represents safety and efficiency of operation, as these are qualities which are of paramount importance to us at Mark Smithson Transport."

ALLMI's Tom Wakefield, added:

"Once again the competition was a big success this year. A great deal of interest was generated before and during the show and that's reflected in the significant number of entrants we had for the event. The standard of operation continues to be extremely high and Mark was a worthy winner, doing very well to finish ahead of the field. As well as Mark receiving the £250 cash prize and competition trophy, his company, Mark Smithson Transport, will now be provided with a free ALLMI training course of their choice, and will have the right to use the ALLMI Operator of the Year logo as part of their livery."

Operator of the Year 2014

Operators' Forum Meeting Review

ALLMI also held its first fleet owner meeting of 2014 at Vertikal Days. Members convened in order to discuss a wide range of industry topics, as well as to hear updates on the latest projects and activities to be undertaken by the association.

Operators' Forum chairman, Steve Frazer-Brown, said: "Forum meetings are always a valuable opportunity for members to get together and to discuss topical industry matters. A variety of issues were debated and reported on, and we also hosted Paul Walker of the Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), who delivered a presentation on load security. This was extremely informative and it generated a great deal of follow-up discussion and debate on a subject which affects many Forum member companies."

For information on membership of the Operators' Forum, please contact ALLMI.