

GOING UP IN THE WORLD

A history of Simon Engineering, the development of the powered access industry and a lifetime as an engineer, by Denis Ashworth

Ashworth was a keen engineer and from an early age found himself in at the very start of the modern powered access industry.

His book is an unusual combination of autobiography and history of Simon Engineering Dudley, a pioneer of the powered access industry and at one time, the world's largest manufacturer of aerial lifts.

The coffee table sized book, is highly readable and includes around 150 photographs and drawings from the very beginning of the industry. It is a 'must read' for anyone who is interested in powered access, the hydraulic equipment industry or in comparing modern day engineering challenges with those of an entirely different era.

The book is available direct from the publishers at £19.50, plus £4.50 postage and packing.

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Smartphone app update

The development process for ALLMI's smartphone app has reached the beta testing stage. It is being designed for both iPhone and Android operating systems and will contain a wide range of features that will be of benefit to everyone involved in the loader crane industry.

ALLMI chief executive Tom Wakefield, said: "A significant amount of work has been undertaken on this project in 2016, and we recently consulted members in order to gauge opinion and gather feedback. We have been delighted with the response, and the process certainly seems to have generated excitement and interest in what is the first ever smartphone app to be dedicated to the UK lorry loader industry."

The new app will be freely available and will include an array of information, from details of ALLMI courses through to guidance documents and safety videos, as well as member and training provider search functions, and the latest industry news. It will also contain an Operator Course Booking Facility, which will be a great tool for accredited instructors.

The app will also feature a range of calculator tools to assist users in carrying out various industry roles. These include tools for calculating the vertical loads placed on stabiliser legs and also the pad sizes required for a particular lifting operation. In addition, there will be a tool for assisting with sling selection when handling cabins or containers, as well as one for determining the sail effect of wind

on any given load. A tool will also be available which will help users to determine whether a lift falls into the hired and managed or contract lift category, and whether a site visit is required in advance of the operation.

Look out for further updates on the development of the smartphone app and should you wish to contribute ideas or suggestions, please contact ALLMI.



New Guidance - coming soon

ALLMI is currently finalising a raft of new guidance documents, which are due to be released in the coming months. Covering a wide range of topics and representing the culmination of a number of projects conducted throughout 2016, the documents will soon be reviewed for final approval by ALLMI's Technical Standards Committee.

New guidance will cover the following subjects:

- Thorough Examination & Load Testing
- Second-hand Lorry Loaders
- Handbrake Interlocks
- Working at Height
- Lorry Loader Build Files
- Product Familiarisation

Look out for further updates in forthcoming issues of Cranes & Access, and please contact ALLMI if you have any questions regarding the above topics.

2017 Course Dates

ALLMI has released its new course dates schedule for 2017. Being the UK's only accrediting body to provide specialist training for each member of the lorry loader lifting team, as well as engineers, instructors and managers, the courses are delivered to the highest standard, with the content meeting the normative requirements of BS7121 Part 4: 2010.

Courses available include:

Booked through an ALLMI Training Provider:

- Lorry Loader Operator
- Slinger/Signaller

Booked through ALLMI directly:

- Crane Supervisor
- Appointed Person
- Thorough Examiner
- Manager - PUWER 9.2
- Instructor



Course information and dates can be found by visiting www.allmi.com and clicking on "Training", or by contacting ALLMI.

Fundraising Champions

Following a second year of fundraising at its Membership Event, ALLMI has received the "Fundraising Champions" award from the Lighthouse Club. Association chairman, Mark Rigby said: "The Lighthouse Club plays a vital role in the construction industry and we fully support its aim of providing financial assistance to those affected by illness, injury or bereavement. We look forward to working together in the future."



Record training levels

ALLMI trained a record number of people during its 2015/16 financial year, as demand increased for the association's card scheme. With early figures showing further rises for the current financial year, the upward trend looks set to continue.

ALLMI technical manager, Keith Silvester, said: "ALLMI has long been regarded as delivering the leading training programme for lorry loader operators, as it's the UK's only course to be both commended by the Health & Safety Executive and recognised by Build UK, as well as being fully compliant with the requirements of BS7121 Part 4 and approved by CSCS."

Chief executive Tom Wakefield, added: "Companies and sites actively look for operators holding the ALLMI card. Demand is strong, not only for operator training, which is more popular than ever, but also for the Slinger/Signaller, Crane Supervisor, Appointed Person and Thorough Examiner courses, all of which are now approved by CSCS."

