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Niftylift 'Women in Engineering' day

In mid November UK aerial lift manufacturer Niftylift held a 'Women in Engineering' event at its plant in Milton Keynes. More than 70 attended the event aimed at female students in Years 9, 10 and 11 - aged 13 to 16 - from half a dozen schools in the local area.

The event offered them an opportunity to learn about the different career paths available within the field of engineering and the practical application of different engineering specialisms within Niftylift. The day included an introductory talk followed by factory tours of



Niftylift's manufacturing facility, along with an 'Engineering Speed Dating' session with the chance to experience the disciplines of Production, Control Systems, Hydraulic Systems, Research and Product/Mechanical Design in five short taster style sessions.

The company said "Through events like the Women in Engineering

day, we are helping schools to promote STEM subjects to more than just the obvious candidates. By championing the creative aspects of the discipline, enthusing and inspiring young females, we hope to encourage a new generation of female engineers to take their place in an exciting, vibrant and growing industry - ideally working at Niftylift."

Course graduation for TVH parts purchasing and advisor

Belgian international parts supplier TVH organised a celebratory closing event for its third annual 'Become a Technical Purchaser' and 'Become a Technical Advisor' training programmes. Participants that pass the final exams can immediately start working at TVH as a technical buyer or researcher.

The exams took place on the 13th November with those passing receiving their certificates during an evening presentation ceremony and reception. Trainers were also in the spotlight for dedicating themselves to the project.

The two courses set up by TVH to teach technical knowledge through both theoretical and practical sessions, run for eight hours a day for two months.

TVH learning & development specialist Hermien Wittouck said: "In September this year, 10 trainees started the course, a larger group than usual. This is the third year that we have organised the traineeship, because it remains difficult to find the right profiles with the necessary knowledge, for example about hydraulics. The participants take the first step towards specialisation and

can immediately start working with us in an interesting job."

Successful TVH trainees



Ladders not appropriate

An employee of painter Ian Ramsay was permanently paralysed from the chest down after falling whilst installing a roof ladder at a property in Mawsley, Northamptonshire in August 2018. Ramsay had been hired to paint the exterior windows. An investigation found that the incident could have been prevented if the appropriate equipment had been provided, such as a scaffold or work platform and that the risk assessment should have identified that the work was not short duration, so the use of ladders was not appropriate.

Ramsay was sentenced to 160 hours of unpaid community service and charged £2,124 in costs. HSE inspector Rachel Grant said: "Those in control of any work at height activity must make sure work is properly planned, supervised and carried out by competent people. This includes using the right type of equipment for working at height. In this instance, the work should have been done from appropriate work platforms."

£95k for fatal fall

A UK solar panel company - Light Power Grp of Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire - has been fined £80,000, while director Michael John Webb was ordered to pay £15,000 and carry out 200 hours of community service following incident in which Webb's brother Stephen fell seven metres to his death while installing panels on a barn roof at Manor Farm, Orleton, Hereford in December 2015. An investigation found that no measures were in place to prevent falls from the roof.

Who trained him then?



Spotted in the UK a demolition contractor dismantling a steel frame building using an excavator and breaker for all the lifting. As they removed the bolts from the joined roof truss, it rotated on the breaker tool wildly, almost knocking one of the men in the head and brushing the other off the wall he was standing on.