

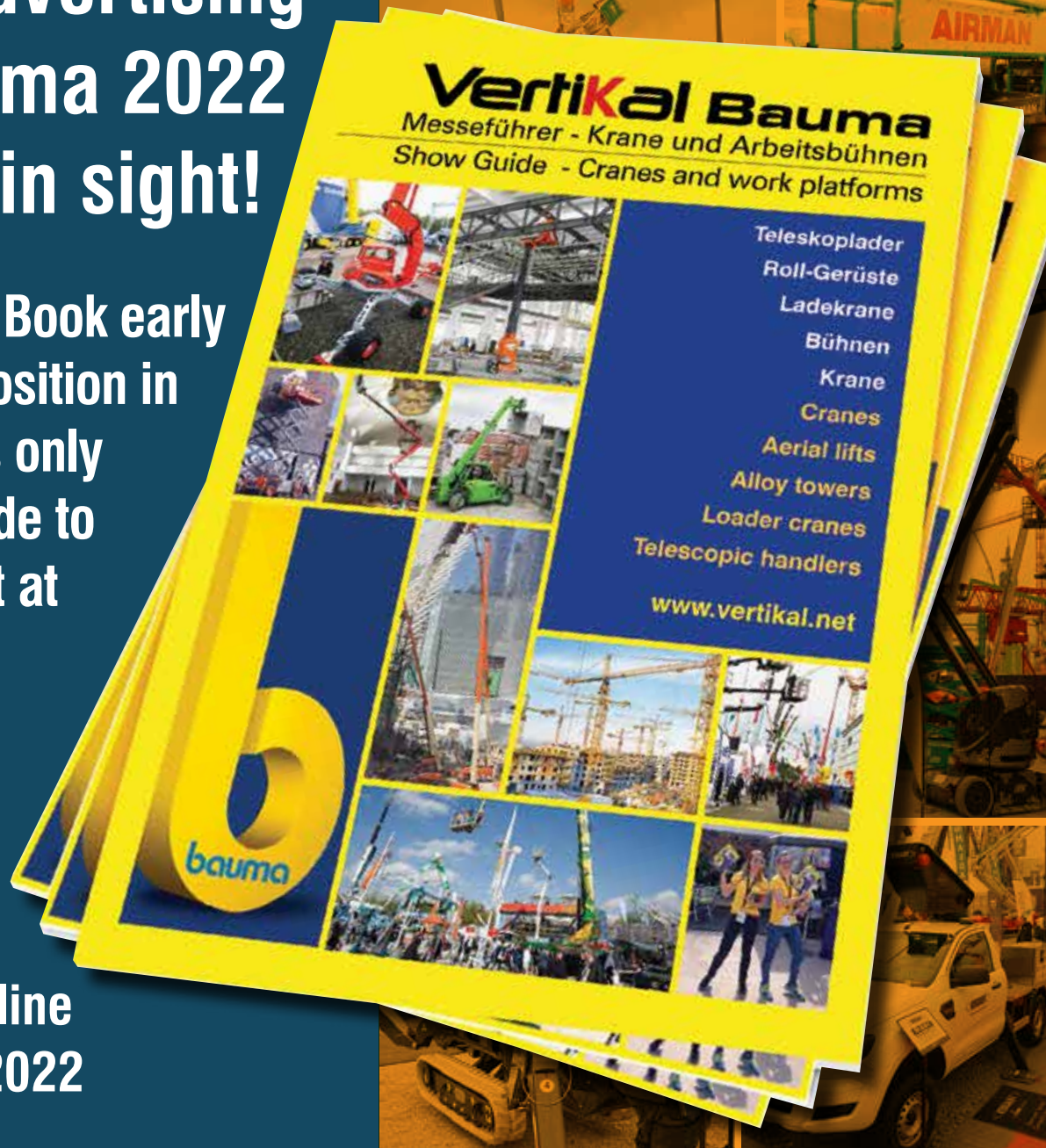
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CPA Stars of the Future Awards 2022 - Still time!

There are just few weeks left in which you can nominate one of your apprentices for a CPA Stars of the Future award 2022. The nomination deadline is 31st March 2022, and the winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on 7th July at the Heart of England Conference and Events Centre near Coventry.

A number of national titles will be awarded including Plant Mechanic, Plant Technician, Hire Controller, Lifting Technician and Plant Installer. Stars of the Future winners will be in contention for a number of prizes as well as national recognition.

Last year 70 candidates were nominated for a Star of the Future award, and the CPA anticipates even more nominations this year. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the CPA website at www.cpa.uk.net/skills-training/stars-of-the-future



Red diesel updates

Most companies working with the UK construction industry are now aware that diesel powered equipment will no longer be able to fill up with red diesel or rebated biodiesels - including what is termed a 'special vehicle'. Quite simply, from 1st April, if the machine is undertaking a construction related activity, red diesel cannot be put in the fuel tank. Equipment owners and their customers need to be clear on the implications of forthcoming changes.

The CPA has hosted the first two online seminars which clarify the details and implications of the changes, including a question and answer session with two representatives from the HMRC. It can be viewed without the need to register on the CPA website www.cpa.uk.net/events/cpa-webinar-programme.

A full list of Frequently Asked Questions and supporting information on the changes to red diesel use can also be downloaded free of charge from www.cpa.uk.net/news/hmrc-red-diesel-update



Apprenticeships Update

Statistics show that there are as many as 250,000 construction equipment operators in the UK, as well as 40,000 mechanics and many other rental related occupations. The CPA has played a key role in developing apprenticeships over the year. Technical & development manager Peter Brown provides a brief overview.

'Trailblazer' Origins

In 2014, following a report on the then existing apprenticeship framework provision by the UK government, a new approach to apprenticeship development was proposed for England to be known as 'Trailblazer' apprenticeships, replacing the CITB derived 'framework-based' apprenticeships that in general consisted of a training qualification offered by an awarding organisation and supplemented by an NVQ or SVQ.

The core difference with Trailblazer apprenticeships is that employers are now in the 'driving seat', with each occupation developed by employer-led Trailblazer groups that conform to a given criteria. Each group includes employers, representing the full spectrum of the occupation, both large and small, with a lead employer chairing each group.

The employer group then submitted a proposal to the Department for Education, through the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE), and once the proposal was approved, the Trailblazer group went on to identify the required skills, knowledge and behaviours for the occupation - known as the 'standard'. Once that was approved, the group would subsequently develop the assessment plan.

The first equipment-based apprenticeship to start was the Lifting Technician occupation for the training of crane operators in 2015. The lead employer was Laing O'Rourke, while CPA members in the lifting sector provided the technical writing service with the support of CPA technical staff.

Today the following apprenticeships are operational and gaining traction:

Plant Operative: There are now 260 registrations for this apprenticeship, along with 12 listed training providers and three end point assessment organisations (EPAOS).

Hire Controller: There are now some 62 registrations with five listed training providers and three EPAOS.

Lifting Technician: There are 28 registrations and three listed training providers able to offer this apprenticeship, along with two EPAOS.

Plant Mechanic: Despite early setbacks, there are now 30 registrations for this apprenticeship, along with one approved provider and one EPAOS.

Looking forward

Employers from both the construction hoist and tower crane sectors have expressed interest in an apprenticeship for installers. The occupation also exists within the mobile and crawler crane markets.

Lifting Technician award

While there are currently 29 individuals registered as Lifting Technician apprentices, not one was put forward by their company last year. The CPA is keen that this should change for 2022.

In addition to the other prizes, Liebherr GB is offering the winner of the Lifting Technician Award an 'all expenses paid' trip to Germany with a visit to its crane plant in Ehingen. The Plant Installer category was also poorly represented last year with only two candidates nominated. It will also carry a special prize.