

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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FIRST TOWER CRANE DIPLOMA

Potain is hosting France's first tower crane erector/installer diploma programme at its training academy in Saint Pierre de Chandieu, Lyon. The 10 week programme takes place through the year, combining theoretical and practical training.

Students earn a state recognised diploma and engage in additional assembly activities with their companies as part of a work/study contract. Launched last April, the first cohort has now graduated, with a second scheduled for January.

Cédric Fourier, head of the Potain Training Centre said: "This initiative is essential for the profession and advances the professional standards of tower crane erectors. It enables certification for newcomers and offers experienced technicians access to the diploma through a Validation of Acquired Experience course."



FATAL CRUSH COSTS £95K

Two UK companies - Premier Engineering Project and M&M Mobile Crane Hire - have been fined a combined total of almost £95,000 following a fatal load crushing incident.

Russell Hartley, 48, was a self-employed engineer hired by Premier Engineering to replace machinery at a recycling facility in Bow, London. An M&M crane was lifting a Trisomat screen off the forks of a telehandler when the machinery fell forwards, fatally crushing Hartley.

The HSE fined Premier Engineering £28,000 plus costs of £9,280, and M&M, £48,000 plus costs of £9,500 having found that they failed to ensure that the work being carried out was planned or supervised.

Hartley's wife, Debbie said: "Russell was everything to us, one of the nicest guys you could ever meet. Nothing was ever too much. If it needed doing, he got it done. He was a fantastic father and husband. I sometimes feel I am just waiting for him to come home. I can't accept that he has gone as I couldn't say goodbye."



The dropped Trisomat Screen

MORE NATIONWIDE APPRENTICES

UK based Nationwide Platforms has recruited new apprentices for its three year 'land technician' course, structured as a 'block release' programme, alternating every two months between work at a Nationwide depots and a residential stay at Beacham North College in Norfolk, supplemented with participation on equipment manufacturers' inspection and service training courses.



TRACKED LIFTS TREE TRAINING WITH EVERY MACHINE

US based spider lift distributor Tracked Lifts has teamed up with Nobel Oak Safety & Training to provide training with every platform it sells into the tree sector, ensuring operators are not only safe but also compliant with the latest regulations.



WHO TRAINED THEM THEN?

Spotted by a regular reader, a man installing or removing transport platform wall ties from a plank of wood jammed into the mast and over the narrow side platform extension.

The man is using a harness and lanyard but has clipped on to the very tie brace he is installing!

