

SEEKING STARS

Entries are now open for the CPA Stars of the Future Apprentice and Trainee Awards 2026:

- Plant Mechanic of the Year (Level 2)
- Plant Technician of the Year (Level 3)
- Hire Controller of the Year
- Young Plant Operative of the Year
- Plant Operative of the Year
- Crane Operative of the Year
- Plant Installer of the Year
- Technical Support Person of the Year
- Apprentice Mentor of the Year
- Plus some special awards

FREE TO ENTER
OPEN TO BOTH
CPA MEMBERS AND
NON CPA MEMBERS



Jack Lovesey, National Plant Mechanic of the Year 2025



National winners 2025

ACT NOW!

Make your nominations, either online or by completing the nomination form at www.cpa.uk.net/product/stars-of-the-future/ by 20th March 2026

SAVE THE DATE

Awards ceremony on 9th July 2026

Construction Plant-hire Association
www.cpa.uk.net
stars@cpa.uk.net

CPA
STARS
OF THE FUTURE
2026

STARS OF THE FUTURE AWARDS 2026



The CPA Stars of the Future Awards 2026 are open for nominations for apprentices and trainees and are not restricted to CPA members. The deadline for submissions is 20th March 2026.

Nominations can be made online or using a traditional nomination form in Word, and further details can be found on the CPA website at <https://cpa.uk.net/product/stars-of-the-future>. Relevant categories for the lifting sector include Crane Operative, Plant Installer and Technical Support, as well as Plant Mechanic and Plant Technician.

2025 STARS OF THE FUTURE PRIZES

Just as the CPA 2026 Stars of the Future Awards are launched, several of last year's winners have been making use of their prizes, which ranged from iPads to toolboxes, certified training courses to a couple of overseas trips.

WOLFFKRAN TRIP - BEST PERSONAL STATEMENT AWARD

The winner of the Best Personal Statement Award 2025, as well as the Plant Technician of the Year - Scotland, was Scott Kelly, 20, of Finning, who is now in the fourth year of his apprenticeship. The Wolffkran sponsored prize for the Best Personal Statement Award was a two day trip for two to Berlin, which included a tour of the Wolffkran facility in nearby Luckau.



Scott Kelly

Kelly travelled with his father, James, a former offshore engineer and was accompanied by Wolffkran UK managing director Dave Holder, who also serves as a CPA Trustee and chairman of the CPA's Tower Crane Interest Group.

Speaking of the trip, Kelly said: "At the Wolffkran factory, Dave gave us a comprehensive tour, explaining the entire process - from crane design and manufacturing to assembly, painting, and shipping. We even climbed an operational crane in the yard - a thrilling experience that gave us a real sense of scale. We then returned to Berlin for a visit to the Christmas market."

"On our final day, we had a Trabant tour - driving the iconic East German two stroke car, which included a visit to the DDR Museum, before heading back to Glasgow. We had a great time. Huge thanks to Dave, Wolffkran and the CPA for organising such a memorable trip."

Dave Holder added: "From the outset, it was obvious that Scott and his dad James share a passion for engineering as well as a real cultural interest in the city of Berlin. The two showed a high level of engagement and interest in our products and the manufacturing facility. It is really encouraging to see such enthusiasm for equipment in general and convinces me that this prize is, without doubt, an extremely worthwhile contribution to the Stars of the Future Awards."



Scott Kelly and Dave Holder up the tower crane in Berlin

LIEBHERR TRIP - PLANT INSTALLER AWARD

As one of the original Stars of the Future prize providers and sponsors, Liebherr once again organised a visit to its plant in Ehingen. The prize is normally reserved for the winner of the Lifting Technician/Crane Operator Award, but a lack of entries in 2025 caused it to rethink, and it agreed to transfer the prize to the winner of the Plant Installer Award, which includes apprentice tower crane installers.



Joel Munt

This is the sixth year that Liebherr has offered this prize, which includes hotel accommodation and travel expenses. The 2025 award was won by Joel Munt of L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage. He started his career as a yardman but was inspired by one of his colleagues who was a GPS technical engineer - a role he always fancied trying. He is now a machine control engineer, and the portfolio of projects he has worked on includes the HS2 high speed rail link. He was accompanied on the trip by a colleague, Lewis Greenall. They were welcomed at the plant by Arran Willis, Liebherr's after sales operations manager for the UK and spent the day touring the production facilities before being given a chance to operate a selection of cranes in the company's test area.

Willis said: "Although our visitors, Joel and Lewis, are not directly involved with cranes, we do now have two crane addicts."



ILLAPG 2026 MEETING DATES

The Industry Lifting Lead AP Group (ILLAPG) has confirmed its 2026 meeting schedule, with sessions planned throughout the year to continue supporting guidance development, competency progression and best practice within the lifting sector. The confirmed dates are:

2026 Meeting Dates	Venue
16th April	GGR
4th June	Skanska
6th August	TBC*
8th October	TBC*
10th December	GGR

*To Be Confirmed. Venues subject to change



Meetings are typically well attended both in person and online, reflecting continued engagement and collaboration across the appointed person and wider lifting community.

For further information or to enquire about attending, please contact enquiries@illapg.com or visit www.illapg.com.