

# IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

# C&A

Place your products in front of more than 31,300 crane, telehandler and aerial work platform buyers & users who will read the July/August issue of **Cranes & Access**...



## THIS ISSUE WILL INCLUDE FEATURES ON:



### TOWER CRANES

The tower crane sector continues to evolve with exciting developments across all types. Our roundup will look at the latest new products, including flat tops, low tops, luffers and self-erecting models, as well as highlighting interesting applications. If you have any tower crane news to share, we would love to hear from you.

### SCISSOR LIFTS

The scissor lift market sector is alive and kicking with more choice than ever, from compact micro units up to heavy duty beasts, and an ever increasing number of manufacturers. We take a look at the latest innovations and new entrants in an ever changing market. Have you got news to tell?



### TECHNOLOGY & SOFTWARE

We delve into the rapidly changing world of technology and software and its impact on the lifting equipment world, including an interview with the director of product strategy at one of the leading access manufacturers. Contact us if you have any new or interesting products.

## VERTIKAL DAYS 2026 PREVIEW: EUROPE'S LARGEST SPECIALIST LIFTING EVENT!



Europe's premier lifting equipment event - Vertikal Days - returns to the Newark showground in the UK, on the 9th and 10th September. With many new, first time exhibitors there is a larger pavilion for indoor stands to cope with many displaying new technology along with innovative software solutions and specialist ancillary products.

Crane and aerial lift manufacturers are also promising to show new product developments. The preview will highlight some of the more interesting news on what to expect with full details on attending.

Send any information,  
news, photographs or  
ideas on these subjects  
to  
[editor@vertikal.net](mailto:editor@vertikal.net)

Every issue of **C&A** is also packed with our **regular columns** and **news** plus **reader's letters**, **books**, **models**, **training**, along with the latest news from **CPA**, **ALLMI**, and **IPAF**.

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# THE CPA CONFERENCE GETS SERIOUS

The Construction Plant-hire Association held its CPA Conference at the Institution of Civil Engineers in Westminster, central London, earlier this month. The theme of the event was 'Unlocking the Nation's Growth Plans'. Around 150 delegates attended, including a wide range of people from rental companies and suppliers along with a few politicians. A key subject was why the UK construction industry has underperformed, along with ideas to get the country building again. The event was hosted by construction industry journalist Peter Haddock.

CPA chief executive Steve Mulholland opened the conference by outlining CPA's recent lobbying work with regulators and legislators on skills, training and rising fuel costs. The organisation has also commissioned Oxford Economics to produce specialist reports, including 'The Economic Impact of the UK Construction Plant-hire Sector', and 'Half-Built Britain: Unlocking the Nation's Infrastructure Growth Plans', with a third report on Net Zero to be published shortly.

Mulholland added that every £1 spent on construction generated £3.30 in the wider economy and made the point that the CPA is now speaking more frequently with members of the UK parliament.



Steve Mulholland

In the first session, Graham Robinson, global infrastructure and construction lead at Oxford Economics, said the consultancy forecast little or no UK growth this year, with inflation rising and interest rates unlikely to fall quickly, adding that its report found governments had underinvested in infrastructure for decades, and policymakers needed to understand the industry's challenges, noting that equipment rental companies reinvested 26 pence of every £1 earned in machinery. He argued that regulation should reflect this capital intensity, while PPP (public-private partnership) funding models could also be explored to improve efficiency.

CPA policy director Chris Cassley, called for greater consistency in government, including a cabinet level infrastructure secretary, noting that construction ministers had changed on average every 10 months over the past 15 years. He also urged fiscal policy that supports growth and

business investment, clearer national planning policy, and a stronger focus on skills training. In the 'Building Skills for the Workforce' session, Flannery Plant Hire operator Molly Gill described moving from nursery work into construction after completing a government funded Flannery bootcamp. The 2025 CPA Stars of the Future Young Plant Operator of the Year said schools should do more to highlight careers in modern, technology-led construction.



Molly Gill

Aaron Davis, Flannery safety and skills director, said more than 2,500 people had completed the firm's bootcamps over the past three years, but 85 percent went on to find jobs elsewhere in the sector, which he said still boosted industry recruitment but highlighted the need for longterm government support.

In session three, former Downing Street director of communications Lee Cain, the founder of public relations consultancy Charlesbye, said audiences now filter out most messaging noise, so communications should focus on one clear priority, keep it simple, and repeat it consistently, citing the Covid-era slogan 'Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives' as an example.

The final session focused on 'Decarbonisation and Preparing for the Future', led by Luis Bassett, CPA's decarbonisation and sustainability manager. He warned that climate change is accelerating and damaging infrastructure, but argued for a staged, pragmatic route to net zero.

Chris Sleight, managing director of Off-Highway Research stated that battery electric machines accounted for only 0.4 percent of UK construction



equipment sales last year, but in China the figure has passed 15 percent, in Norway nine percent and in the Netherlands eight percent. These other countries, he said, had subsidies in place to help equipment owners make the transition.



Jerome Mayhew

The Conference was closed by Jerome Mayhew, the Conservative member of parliament for Broadland and Fakenham, and shadow minister for transport. He posed a number of rhetorical questions to sum up the challenges, including:

- How can we respond meaningfully to where the country's infrastructure needs to be?
- Why do projects take so long and cost so much (HS2 being a case in point)?
- What exactly do we need to fix?

He said that he has been tasked with seeking answers this summer, suggesting that instead of 'steady as she goes' we needed 'scruff of the neck' politics.



Peter Gibbs



(L-R) Chris Cassley of CPA, Chris Matthew of Plantforce, Cameron Brown of Charlesbye, Peter Gibbs of Ainscough Crane Hire and Mark Hoad of Sunbelt Rentals