

# CRANE SAFETY 2026

Institution of  
**MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERS**

## 11 November 2026

etc. venues Manchester

**Celebrating ten years supporting lifting operations professionals:** join us this November and explore how engineers, site holders, OEMs, and regulators are addressing the complexities of maintaining safety and minimising risks.

Enjoy new presentations and case study insights showcasing recent projects, new technologies and innovations to enhance safety and reduce risk of incidents across all lifting operations.

### Confirmed speakers include:

- Health and Safety Executive
- Office for Nuclear Regulation
- LEEA
- Andun Engineering Consultants
- Sir Robert McAlpine
- Bowmer + Kirkland
- Select Plant Hire
- Sellafield

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Early Bird ends 16 Sep 2026  
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[www.imeche.org/cranesafety](http://www.imeche.org/cranesafety)

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This year, expect even deeper dives: whether it's advanced AI-driven safety monitoring, new considerations in crane design as we move away from the Machinery Directive to the new Machinery Regulations, and modern methods of construction, and how we attract new talent to our industry at all levels

**Steve Bradby CEng FIMechE**  
Event Chair

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# STARS OF THE FUTURE AWARDS 2026

The winners of the CPA's Stars of the Future Awards 2026 were announced and presented at the Heart of England events centre near Coventry, with more than 350 attendees, including the 109 nominations.

The awards highlight the outstanding talent developing across the construction equipment sector, recognising the industry's future leaders in occupations such as Mechanics, Technicians, Hire Controllers, Operators, Installers and Technical Support.

The winners of each national category were as follows:

**National Plant Mechanic of the Year - Harrison Kipping-Bier**, J P Dunn Construction, National Construction College East

**Courtney Lewis**, Alun Griffiths, Bridgend College - Highly Commended

**National Plant Technician of the Year - Harun Anderson Mohammed**, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy

**Hire Controller of the Year - Matthew Oliver**, L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage

**Young Plant Operative of the Year - Eve Bright**, Flannery Plant Hire

**Plant Operative of the Year - Kovid Sawon**, Flannery Plant Hire

**Crane Operative of the Year - Paul Reeves**, Ainscough Crane Hire

**Plant Installer of the Year - Samuel Lindley**, Churchill Living PLC and **Rhys Bush**, L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage (Joint Winners)

**Technical Support Person of the Year - Callum Shepherdson**, Flannery Plant Hire

**Individual Apprentice Mentor of the Year - Jake Davies**, Wolffkran

**Group Apprentice Mentor of the Year - Valon Krivenjeva**, L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage

**Best Personal Statement Award - Mason Pooley**, Sunbelt Rentals

**Judges' Special Award - Hannah Ward**, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy

**College of the Year - Bridgend College**

**Young Business of the Year Award - Rory Hopkins-Bond**, 007 Diggers Ltd

**Employer Specific Support Award - Selwood**

**Judges' Outstanding Determination Award - Behar Kamberi**, Ardent Hire Solutions, National Construction College East

CPA chief executive Steve Mulholland said: "The continued growth of the Stars of the Future Awards demonstrates the incredible commitment our industry is making to developing the next generation of skilled professionals. Every nominee should be immensely proud of their achievements, and congratulations go to all of this year's winners. It is particularly rewarding to see so many previous Stars of the Future winners progressing to senior roles across the industry, proving the lasting impact these awards can have on careers."

"This year's winners received an outstanding range of prizes, including professional toolboxes, iPads, certified training courses and two overseas study trips to Germany."

The external judging panel included Arran Willis of Liebherr, Siôn Morgan Jones of ACOP group, Kirsty Archbold-Laming of Southern Hoist Services, Leigh Sparrow of the Vertikal Press, Graham Black of Earthmovers Magazine, Tim Brownbridge of BAM Nuttall, Georgina Williams of JCB, Dean Watkin of G F Tomlinson and Trevor Simpson of Unite the Union.

The regional category winners and those highly commended are as follows:

**Plant Mechanic of the Year - North**

**James Bury**, Ainscough Crane Hire, Myerscough College

**Plant Mechanic of the Year - Midlands**

**Jack Robinson**, Amey, Wiltshire College & University Centre - Winner

**Hannah Ward**, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy - Highly Commended

**Jake Humphreys**, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy - Highly Commended

**Plant Mechanic of the Year - South**

**Harrison Kipping-Bier**, J P Dunn Construction, National Construction College East - Winner

**Andre Samuel**, Liebherr-GB, NSCG Stafford College - Highly Commended

**Yousuf Ajj**, Readypower Rail, NSCG Stafford College - Highly Commended

**Plant Mechanic of the Year - Scotland**

**Logan Reid**, Liebherr-GB, NSCG Stafford College

**Plant Mechanic of the Year - Wales**

**Courtney Lewis**, Alun Griffiths, Bridgend College - Winner

**Morgan Phelps**, M&G Plant and Tool, Bridgend College - Highly Commended

**Roxy Burrows**, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy - Highly Commended

**Plant Technician of the Year - North**

**Adam Hardingham**, Allan J Hargreaves Plant Engineers, Preston College - Winner

**Jarrad Thomas**, Selwood, Askham Bryan College - Highly Commended

**Tom Metcalfe**, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy

**Plant Technician of the Year - Midlands**

**Harun Anderson Mohammed**, Finning UK & Ireland, Finning Academy - Winner

**Frankie Thompson**, Sunbelt Rentals, Myerscough College - Highly Commended

**James Cuthbert**, SMT GB, Wiltshire College & University Centre - Highly Commended



Crane Operative of the Year - Paul Reeves

**Plant Technician of the Year - South**

**Alfie Martin**, MTM Plant & Sales, National Construction College East - Winner

**Griff Eden-Parish**, GGR Group, The Engineering Trust - Highly Commended

**Oliver Noble**, Quattro Plant, NSCG Stafford College - Highly Commended

**Plant Technician of the Year - Scotland**

**Brodie Davies**, Selwood, Askham Bryan College - Winner

**Fraser Grigor**, SMT GB, Wiltshire College & University Centre - Highly Commended

**Plant Technician of the Year - Wales**

**Blake Carey**, Speedy Hire, Bridgend College

