



CPA BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2024 | WWW.CPA.UK.NET

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- | FIGHTING PLANT THEFT AND FRAUD
- | LOW EMISSION ZONES



P8 STARS OF THE FUTURE

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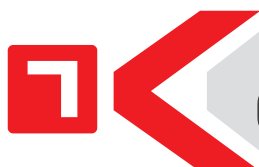
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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Brian Jones

BUSINESS AS USUAL

I hope you, your families and colleagues are well. As many of you will be aware, Stu McInroy resigned from the post of CPA Chief Executive in December and I would like to thank Stu for his service to the association and wish him well in his future endeavours. Further news about the position of CPA Chief Executive will be announced in due course.

I can assure you it is very much business as usual, and our primary focus is to continue to provide first-class support to you, our valued members. We have a great team of professional and dedicated staff, and the CPA team is on hand to assist you across a wide range of issues and topics. Included with this issue of the CPA Bulletin is our Annual Review which gives a recap of the many initiatives we have been involved in over the last 12 months.

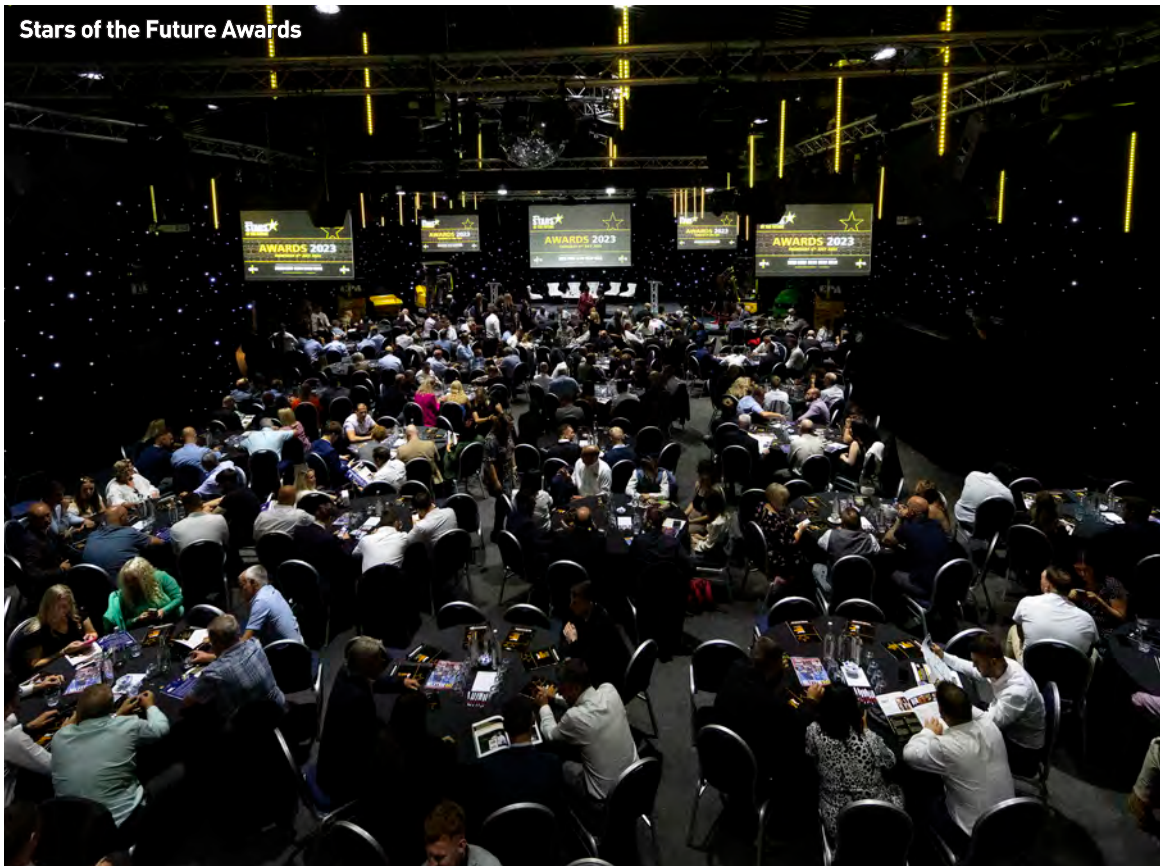
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We recognise that theft and fraud have a significant and increasingly damaging effect on our members' businesses and our financial contribution to the work of the NRCU and NCATT will bring immediate, tangible benefit in preventing and detecting criminal activity and the recovery of illegally obtained plant-hire equipment. The CPA is collaborating with the Construction Equipment Association (CEA) and insurance companies that together are contributing to fight machinery theft across the UK.

Stars of the Future Awards



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EXECUTIVE HIRE SHOW P.16

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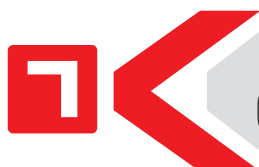
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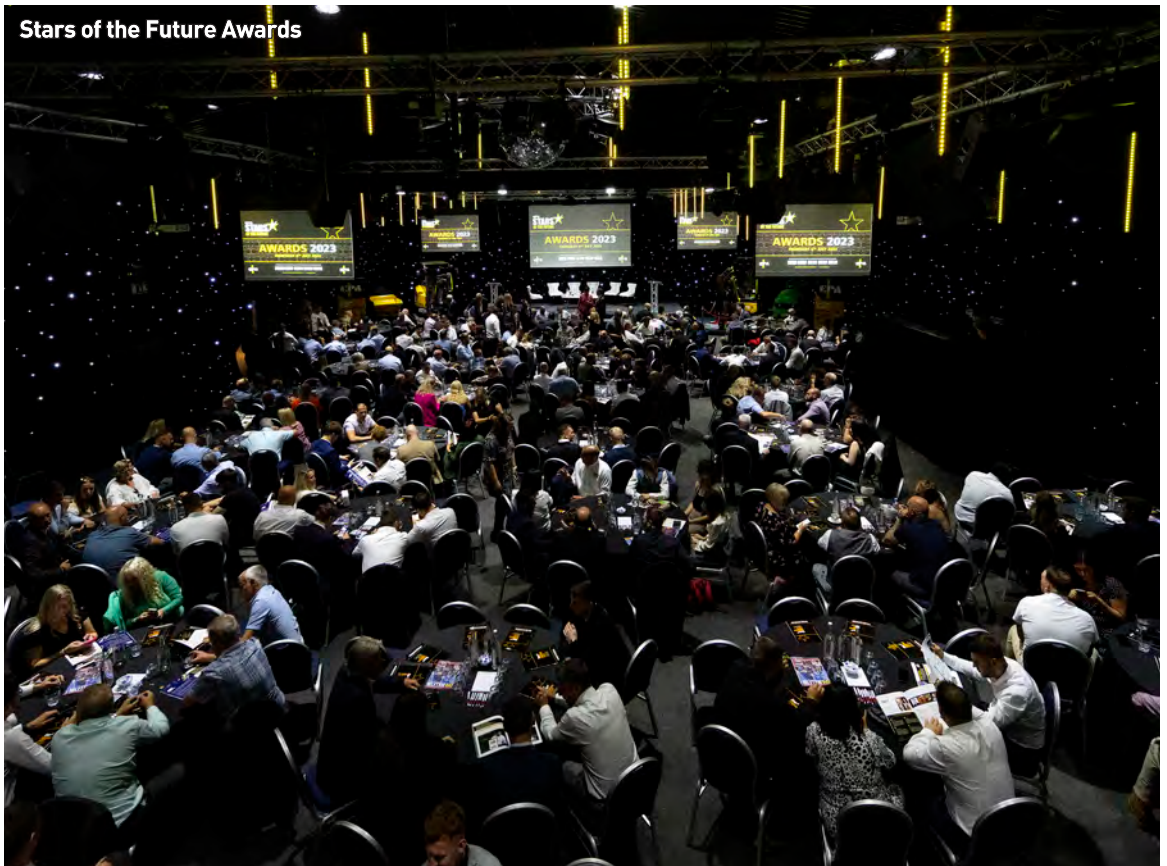
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ASSOCIATION NEWS

NOMINATE YOUR APPRENTICES FOR A STAR OF THE FUTURE AWARD

The Construction Plant-hire Association's (CPA) Stars of the Future Awards 2024 are now open for entries and all members are invited to recognise and reward your construction plant apprentices and trainees.



Nomination forms are available on the CPA website at <https://www.cpa.uk.net/skills-training/stars-of-the-future> and nominations can be made by the closing deadline of **22nd March 2024**. The awards scheme is organised by the CPA and has been running for over 10 years, identifying some of the industry's brightest up-and-coming talent.

We received almost 100 nominations across the various categories last year – an increase of more than 30% on the previous highest ever total – and even more entries are anticipated this year.

There are awards for **Plant Mechanic of the Year (Level 2)**, **Plant Technician of the Year (Level 3)**, **Plant Operative of the Year**, **Young Plant Operative of the Year**, **Plant Installer of the Year**, **Lifting Technician of the Year**, **Hire Controller of the Year**, **Apprentice Mentor of the Year** and **College of the Year**. All nominees are also eligible for special awards including the **Judges' Special Award** and the **Best Personal Statement Award**.

The 2024 winners will be announced at a prestigious awards ceremony at the Heart of England Conference and Events Centre in Fillongley, near Coventry, on **11th July 2024**. Stars of the Future winners will be in contention for a number of prizes, as well as national recognition. Previous prizes have included tool kits, iPads and an all-expenses overseas trip to visit a Liebherr crane manufacturing plant in Germany.

Stars of the Future nominations are welcomed from all employers including plant-hire companies, manufacturers, contractors, suppliers and others operating in the construction plant sector with apprentices and trainees in their workforce.

The national winners for Stars of the Future 2023 were:

- **National Plant Mechanic of the Year (Level 2)** - John Murray of John Maciver & Sons and National Construction College Scotland
- **National Plant Technician of the Year (Level 3)** - Bradley Baker of GGR Group and The Growth Company
- **Hire Controller of the Year** - Teah Stapleton of Kilnbridge Construction Services
- **Young Plant Operatives of the Year** - Joint Winners Chloe Jones of Flannery Plant Hire and Harnoorpreet Singh Gill of L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage
- **Plant Operative of the Year** - Roksana Przybylska of L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage
- **Plant Installer of the Year** - Spencer Bond of Wolffkran
- **Lifting Technician of the Year** - Lee Tanner of Wolffkran
- **Individual Apprentice Mentor of the Year** - Dean Duru of Boels Rental
- **Group Apprentice Mentor of the Year** - Gez Bonner of L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage
- **Best Personal Statement Award** - Shannon Bristow of Speedy Services and Askham Bryan College
- **Judges' Special Award** - Sean Palmer of Gorrel Equipment Solutions and Bridgend College

Sponsorship opportunities are available for Stars of the Future 2024. For further information, please contact **Lisa Collins** on **07968 840390** or email lisa@lisacollinscommunications.co.uk



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CPA STARS OF THE FUTURE



National winners from the CPA Stars of the Future Awards 2023



Construction Plant-hire Association

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Web: www.cpa.uk.net



NOMINATE YOUR PLANT APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES FOR THE CPA STARS OF THE FUTURE AWARDS



Now open for entries:

- ★ Plant Mechanic of the Year (Level 2)
- ★ Plant Technician of the Year (Level 3)
- ★ Young Plant Operative of the Year
- ★ Plant Operative of the Year
- ★ Lifting Technician of the Year
- ★ Hire Controller of the Year
- ★ Plant Installer of the Year

Award for employers:

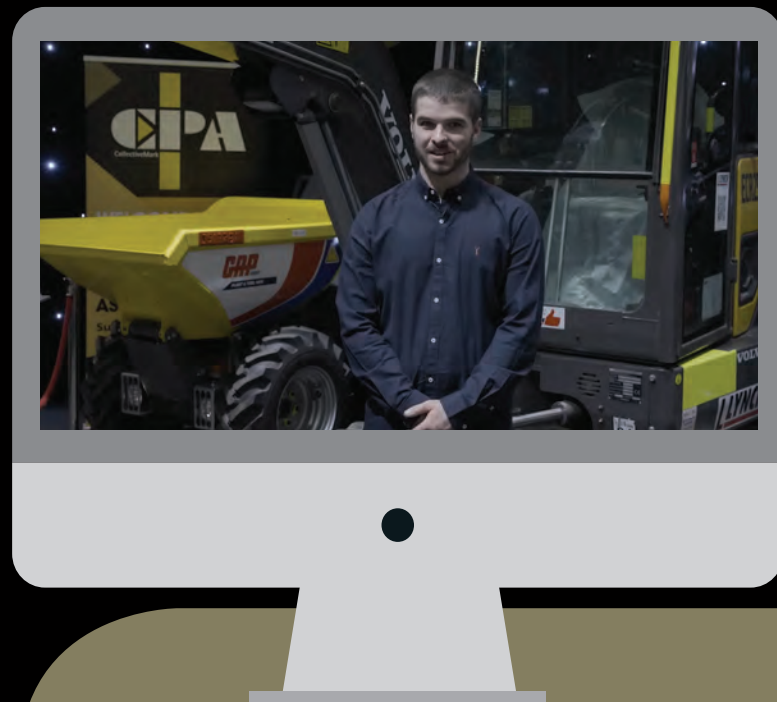
- ★ Apprentice Mentor of the Year

A range of additional special awards are available for all nominees.

WHAT IS STARS OF THE FUTURE?

Stars of the Future is an awards scheme for apprentices and trainees in the construction plant sector, first set up by the CPA over 10 years ago. It's a great way to reward and recognise apprentices who you see as being the industry's future leaders. Winners receive national recognition and have the chance of receiving some fantastic prizes, such as overseas trips to Germany.

Download the nomination forms and watch last year's event at www.cpa.uk.net/skills-training/stars-of-the-future



ACT NOW!

Nominations need to be in by 22nd March 2024

SAVE THE DATE:

Awards ceremony on 11th July 2024



CPA CONFERENCE 2023 REVIEW READY FOR THE CHALLENGE?



Alan Guthrie reviews the CPA Conference 2023 which discussed present and future challenges facing the plant-hire industry and strategies to remain resilient.

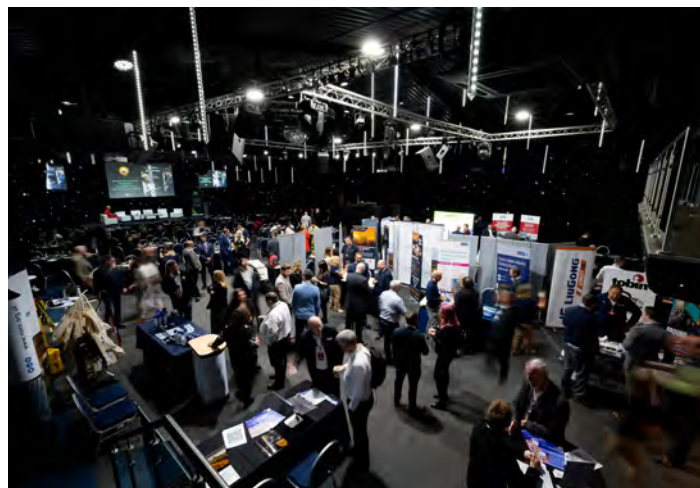
Challenges are inevitable in business and the hire industry reflects this, being involved so often in responding to urgent and unexpected customer requests, new regulations and emerging market trends. But surely there can never before have been a time when hirers faced so many pressing issues simultaneously, from political uncertainty, economic pressures and recruitment difficulties, to supply chain disruption, rising plant theft and the ongoing drive to Net Zero.

The CPA chose its Conference 2023 to address such topics head on. Held on 9th November 2023 at the Heart of England Conference and Events Centre near Coventry, the ambitious programme comprised four panel discussions, each focusing on different current and future issues under an overall title of **'Facing the Challenges in the Plant-hire Sector'**. Speakers were drawn from both within and outside the industry to give a rounded overview, suggesting practical measures and strategies to adopt.

CPA Chief Executive Stu McInroy opened the Conference and the four Conference sessions were chaired by Merryn Myatt, a former BBC news presenter who now specialises in media management and positive corporate communications.

In the first, current issues facing **'The Plant-hire Sector in 2023'** were discussed by four panellists: Asif Latief, previously MD of Boels Rental UK who spent 17 years with Sunbelt Rentals (formerly A-Plant) and who became Chief Commercial Officer at Speedy Services in January; Chris Gill, Director of L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage; James Atkinson, Vice President UK & Europe with industry data analyst Rouse Services; and Mark Anderson, MD North with GAP Group.

Asif Latief stressed that, although challenges exist like financing new equipment and getting customers to pay a fair hire rate for it, it was important to remember that the construction sector is cyclical, so companies had to keep one eye on current issues and the other



on the future. Hirers should ensure their fleets continued to reflect customers' likely future needs and make necessary adjustments: indeed, several companies had recently auctioned off surplus equipment.

"Position yourself and refocus on what you do now and where you need to be when the recovery comes," said Asif.

He said it was important to monitor costs and avoid unnecessary overspending on areas ranging from undertermined rehire contracts to charging correctly for deliveries and fuel services. And besides devising apprenticeships for new personnel, businesses should upskill existing people to increase staff retention when recruitment is so challenging.

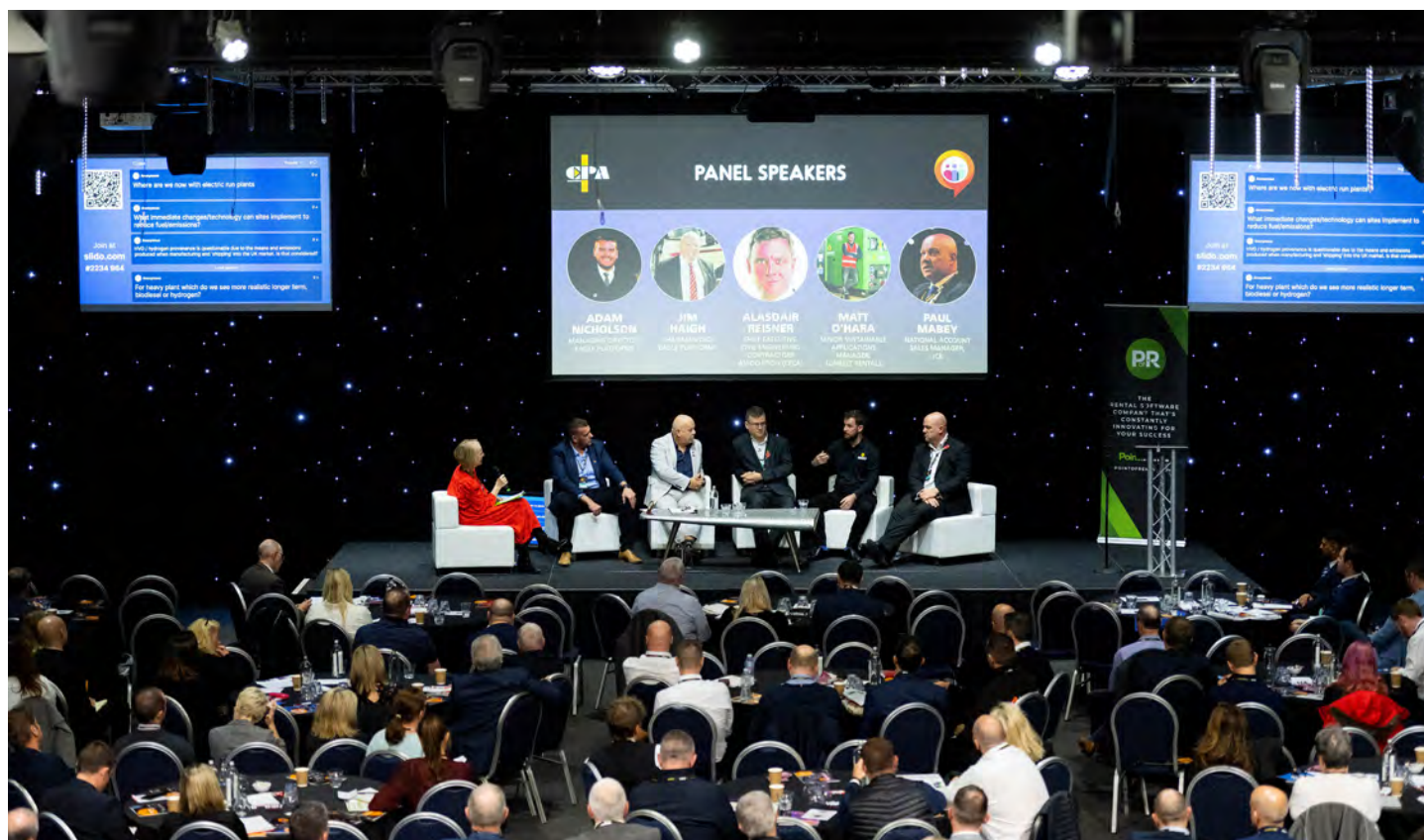
Asif also said he felt "short changed" by the King's Speech in November outlining the government's agenda, believing there was little understanding of construction industry issues and needs. Perhaps an equipment scrappage scheme might encourage adoption of new, eco-friendly machines that are typically more expensive.

Indeed, Lynch's Chris Gill wished the government showed more commitment and consistency. So little had happened by way of industry engagement and direction, it felt as though we had faced pre-election stagnation for years. A national, long-term strategy was needed to build our way back post-Covid and he welcomed the CPA's earlier stated initiatives to gauge member needs so their interests could be represented to government.

James Atkinson of Rouse Services believed there are many challenges, from high interest rates, rising equipment costs and rental rates remaining largely static. He said that the construction sector had been slow to embrace new technologies and digital services for greater productivity and that their adoption offered huge potential.

He said that the same applied to artificial intelligence (AI). One only had to think of the impact that smartphones and apps had made on business in recent years, and implementing AI meaningfully could bring similar benefits.





GAP's Mark Anderson was similarly positive. If hire was a £6 billion industry, that was a big sector to aim at even in a relatively flat market. Hire had proved itself to be resilient before, during and after Covid, and greater political certainty would help further.

He highlighted the importance of sound management, particularly in relation to people costs and equipment depreciation. Following Covid disruption when supply chain difficulties made some plant hard to obtain, many companies had ramped up purchasing to meet demand and were now reining in their spending as conditions normalised. However, it was important to invest in people as good personnel would guide a company's future success. Mark said he had been particularly impressed by the new talent entering the plant industry highlighted by CPA's Stars of the Future awards earlier in the year.

Five industry professionals participated in the second panel discussion **'Fuelling the Future'** focused on the challenges of transitioning away from diesel: Adam Nicholson and Jim Haigh, respectively the MD and Chairman/CEO of Eagle Platforms; Alasdair Reisner, Chief Executive of the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA), Matt O'Hara, Head of Sales for Clean Energy with Sunbelt Rentals UK & Ireland; and Paul Mabey, National Account Sales Manager with JCB.

Adam Nicholson believed a steep learning curve remained for customers wishing to go green by using electric or hybrid machines. One Eagle Platforms client had wanted to use battery machines during the day and charge them overnight with a diesel generator, which rather defeated the object. In future, adequate infrastructure would be needed for such charging purposes. Meanwhile, transitional fuels like HVO (hydro-treated vegetable oil) would play a role in replacing diesel, especially if the government encouraged its use with a rebate scheme - although the panel agreed this was unlikely.

Similarly, Eagle's Jim Haigh felt that more benefit could be derived over the shorter term from using the cleanest and most efficient

diesel technology with machines incorporating Stage V engines, building on what customers are already familiar with. He believed that battery technology still had to improve and that hydrogen, while being a fuel of the future, was clearly not yet available on a practical scale.

JCB's Paul Mabey stressed the importance of selecting the most appropriate energy source for each particular task and that customers can achieve cost-effective results now. Surprisingly, the UK lies at the bottom of the global league table for adopting JCB battery powered equipment, so any increase would deliver big incremental benefits.

Paul said that some house builders were questioning the green credentials of HVO, suggesting that the land devoted to growing crops from which it originates could be put to more ecologically friendly uses. He believed that battery and hydrogen powered machines complemented each other, the former suitable for compact machines, and hydrogen internal combustion engines like JCB's for larger, power-hungry plant that has to work virtually 24/7.

He added that telematics were a valuable tool in optimising diesel use in terms of reducing equipment idling times and unnecessary machine movements.

CECA's Alasdair Reisner agreed that diesel remained a valuable practical fuel over the shorter term but that it would clearly be phased out on the road to Net Zero by 2050, which is the government's stated intention. Hydrogen and other novel fuels would have a big role to play and the market would need to keep abreast of developments.

He also praised the CPA's work and guidance on issues like environmentally friendly plant operation and minimising idling. As such information is available now, industry professionals should be using it and this, he said, exemplified how the industry could work together to achieve improvements.



Matt O'Hara of Sunbelt Rentals agreed that technology existed now to reduce diesel engine running time and that it should be adopted by customers needing to go green. For sites like new house building projects without a mains electrical connection in place, a hybrid solution of a battery energy storage unit with a diesel generator would reduce emissions, lower fuel use and cut costs to deliver environmental and commercial benefits.

He said that the immediate question always posed by customers was how to quantify the savings they would make. Telematics data could show this. Furthermore, in future AI would be able to analyse information and make more accurate recommendations regarding site setups and optimising management to reduce emissions of carbon, NOx and other particulates.

Like JCB's Paul Mabey, Matt emphasised selecting the most appropriate equipment for individual tasks and sites. Solar power would be suitable at certain times of year, for example, while HVO could increase further the sustainability of diesel Stage V engine machines. Hirers and customers, he said, can work together to achieve benefits.

Challenges identified by some of the **CPA's Special Interest Groups** were explored in the third panel discussion, with participants comprising: Kirsty Archbold-Laming, Director of Southern Hoist Services and Chair of CHIG (Construction Hoist Interest Group); Peter Gibbs, Chief Operating Officer for Ainscough Crane Hire and Chair of the Crane Interest Group (CIG) for Mobile and Crawler Cranes; and Steve Featherstone, MD of Sachle Consultants who chairs the Rail Plant Association (RPA).

Kirsty Archbold-Laming said that the nature of the hoist and lifting equipment hire market was that any construction slowdown typically took several months to have an impact and that business remained steady. However, to mitigate any potential disruption, Southern Hoist Services had diversified into additional markets such as events and film production, as well as winning overseas contracts.

Kirsty said that a common frustration - which many hirers will empathise with - was how many customers simply expect equipment to arrive on site and be installed with minimal preparation having been done beforehand on their part. Perhaps clients could be educated in planning an installation in advance. However, she said

that considerable advances had been made in training since CHIG's formation, with dedicated courses on aspects of hoist inspection and usage. A course in basic training for new installers, leading to NVQ pathways, is due in January.

Peter Gibbs from CIG said that during a time of change such as now, when new kinds of equipment and power sources are being developed, risks and responsibilities change also. Again, hirers and users should work together to find the most appropriate and safest solutions. All too often, the onus was placed squarely on the equipment hirer.

He also emphasised the positive role that Special Interest Groups played during a period of political and economic uncertainty, raising awareness of key issues, representing members' interests and promoting higher standards.

Representing the Rail Plant Association, Steve Featherstone expressed the frustrations felt by many in the industry when the government had taken decisions suddenly to axe work already planned or under way without appreciating the impact on contractors, hirers and the supply chain.



Given the long procurement lead times for equipment and the length of time that large plant typically remained in fleets, companies faced making decisions about future investment against an uncertain backdrop while trying to satisfy the concerns of shareholders, lenders and other stakeholders. Special Interest Groups represent members' concerns and urge change.

Steve also suggested that the cancellation of the Birmingham to Manchester leg of HS2 could be viewed positively, since the allocated funding had always been long-term and the government's stated intention is to redirect this towards upgrading and improving existing infrastructure instead of greenfield activity. That represented challenges and opportunities, especially as rail passenger business was now back to pre-Covid levels as more people are using trains for leisure journeys.

The final session topic was **'Combatting Plant Theft and Fraud'**, with panellists including Superintendent Andy Huddleston, head of the National Rural Crime Unit; Ian Elliott, Group Head of Security with Clancy Group who previously had 30 years' service with the Metropolitan Police; Joel Babb, Cyber Security Evaluator with Falanx Cyber; and Kevin Howells, CEO/MD of the CESAR Scheme from Datatag ID Ltd.

Indicating the scale of the plant theft problem, Andy Huddleston said that prior to Covid, between 40-70 high value machines would typically be reported stolen each month but now the figure averaged 100-150, sometimes exceeding 200. Amongst other factors, disruption caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the ban on equipment sales to Russia has led to a thriving black market.

Plant theft is highly organised crime with machines often stolen to order by brazen, experienced gangs. Hirers and contractors needed to ensure their premises and sites are adequately protected.



Andy also stressed the importance of sharing information – another example of the industry collaboration that was mentioned frequently throughout the Conference. If someone heard of or fell victim to theft or fraudulent hire, they should circulate details to others.

Companies should protect themselves by adopting measures like forensically marking machines, which cost a fraction of the amount needed to replace equipment, he said. And the industry should urge more manufacturers to fit security systems as standard and do away with using single keys to fit all machines.

Clancy's Ian Elliott agreed that thieves were "super-efficient criminals" rather than random opportunists. Perpetrators, he quipped, probably knew more about starting a machine than some plant operators. Through initiatives from bodies like CITS (Combined Industries Theft Solutions), more police officers were being trained in recognising suspicious behaviour and in tracing stolen equipment.

However, it was essential that owners and site managers kept records of machine serial numbers and identification markings so that details could be provided quickly to the police, giving better chances of recovery.



Ian added that not just plant was at risk. Items like metal track mats were very attractive to thieves, so hirers should ask manufacturers to incorporate their company names on them. Streets works signs, fencing and barriers were also common targets.

Datatag's Kevin Howells said that hirers and equipment owners should adopt as many layers of protection as possible to guard against theft. Equipment should be registered on the national police database and fitted with visible and covert markings, as in the CESAR scheme, and devices like tracking devices and immobilisers could be added. However, he and other panellists agreed that prevention was far better than having to trace a stolen machine.

Falanx Cyber's Joel Babb said that cybercrime was one of the fastest growing areas of risk and all companies should check the security of their systems and information storage. "If you lost all your data tomorrow and were faced with a ransomware demand to unencrypt it, how quickly could you recover and what would be the cost to your business?" he asked. Firms should backup data regularly and consider cybercrime insurance.

Indeed, Ian Elliott says that cybercrime was currently regarded as Clancy's biggest risk and the company has established a specialist unit to manage it. All companies, including SMEs (small to medium enterprises) should be vigilant and suspicious of unusual emails or unexpected invoices suggesting their systems had been compromised.

Joel Babb urged caution at all times and especially if requests for equipment or payment stressed the urgent or melodramatic 'sob story' nature of the surrounding circumstances. Companies should operate due diligence, conduct background checks if suspicious and, above all, devise a policy and stick to it.

This year's Conference was the eighth organised by CPA and was the best attended yet with more than 200 delegates plus 20 exhibitors and event sponsors, which shows the appetite for information and the industry's collaborative spirit.

In closing remarks to the Conference, CPA President Brian Jones pointed out that the hire industry has a history of proving resilient during challenging times, as shown in the 1970s, 1990s and following the 2008 credit crisis, and it would prove so again.

Indeed, when event convenor Merryn Myatt had asked for a show of hands earlier in the day, a significant majority of delegates showed they were optimistic about future prospects, not pessimistic. A very good sign, then, and one suggesting that the CPA and the wider industry will meet these future challenges with confidence.

Rising to the Challenge

There was a record number of exhibitors at the CPA Conference with products and services designed to give plant-hirers a competitive edge.

Point of Rental Software, the Conference's Headline Sponsor, promoted its Syrinx, Elite and Essentials hire management software solutions. These products help users make better informed decisions in the light of current and future challenges in areas such as utilisation and rental rates. Available on both iOS and Android platforms, Point of Rental's Syrinx 365 app now combines the functionality of the legacy Operator and Workshop applications within POR One for easier remote working within the functionality found in a single location. Another feature under development will enable verified POR users to see where engineers are located in real time for the optimum response.

BigChange promoted its mobile working job management system that allows multiple aspects of a hire operation to be stored in one place. Tasks can be scheduled, tracked and marked as complete, with integrated SatNav capability, and invoices and payments can

be monitored together with an overview of job performance in a paperless environment.

Capja's paperless systems enable plant-hire firms to manage data efficiently. The company has won two Innovate UK awards, one for CapjaDocs that allows documents to be retrieved by scanning a QR code, and the most recent one is to develop the software to integrate with artificial intelligence to offer on-screen fillable forms.

CESAR Scheme from Datatag ID promoted its CESAR ECV emissions compliance verification system, an advanced emissions identification solution to create green construction sites. Tamper-evident colour coded labels give access to detailed machine information, allowing site managers to see the emissions standards equipment meets. Venom forensic DNA fuel theft deterrent was also displayed.

CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) gave details of the services it offers through grants, funding and training for every kind of plant and application. The organisation is currently piloting eight new training strands and is inviting industry feedback. CITB helps promote construction as a positive career choice to attract new talent.

CPCS (Construction Plant Competence Scheme)/NOCN demonstrated its new Health, Safety and Environment e-learning module, an interactive and neurodiverse suite that enables learners to participate remotely on-line, at a time and place that suits them. Users are verified via facial recognition and the educational resources can be viewed multiple times to ensure full understanding.

EMS (Equipment & Machinery Supplies) offers a range of construction products including Optimas paving and kerb handling machines such as vacuum lifts, stone clamps, screeds, laser levelling attachments and small paving tools like stone splitters and paving aids. Also available is the TMU40 remote controlled tracked tool carrier from C4 Mecanica.



Genquip Groundhog's welfare unit portfolio includes iRange models designed to eliminate the need for fuel throughout the summer months for up to 100% reductions in carbon emissions, with the onboard battery charger only running when required. The i360 unit was shown, plus Hogpad touchscreen displays directing enquirers to real-time product information.

GO Plant Fleet Services Ltd specialises in operated road sweeper hire and highlighted the importance of disposing of site waste correctly and legally. The company can provide electronic waste transfer notices proving that what has been disposed of has been done so in full compliance and at licensed tips, immediately viewable to customers.



MHM Group's environmentally friendly product line-up includes the ST9 compact solar-only lighting tower which gives zero emissions with no noise. Also available is the Solar-Hybrid Gen range combining solar and diesel backup power, with models available from 3.5kVA to 60kVA. Operation can be monitored remotely via telematics giving data on fuel savings and emissions reductions.

National Highways focused on the safe transportation of abnormal loads such as large, heavy or wide items of plant. Details may have to be given to the police, highway authorities and bridge or structure owners like Network Rail, and this can be simplified by using National Highways' electronic service delivery for abnormal loads (ESDAL).

Nexus Vehicle Rental is an aggregation service that enables enquirers to hire vehicle from more than 300 suppliers and the company has introduced a similar service for construction equipment via its IRIS rental management software. The organisation is signing up more partners for the system which is designed for fast automated procurement.

Plant Planet aims to connect up the plant-hire industry via its print, digital and app-based news services that together reach 60,000 subscribers across all platforms. Publication frequency is every two months and an industry podcast is to be launched shortly. Information is written for the industry, by the industry.

Products promoted by **Prolectric** included the ProPower Solar Hybrid Generator and ProPower Solar Battery Power three-phase solution, as well as the new compact ProRXM Hybrid Solar Lighting Tower.

The business has won a Queen's Award for Sustainable Development and recently achieved a Gold Corporate Social Responsibility accreditation with an impressive 95% score.

Rouse Services offers a data platform enabling hire companies to compare their own rental rates and utilisation levels with their peers, integrating with commonly used software systems. Also available is SmartEquip, a multi-manufacturer platform for parts and spares information that enables orders to be placed across many brands on a single platform.

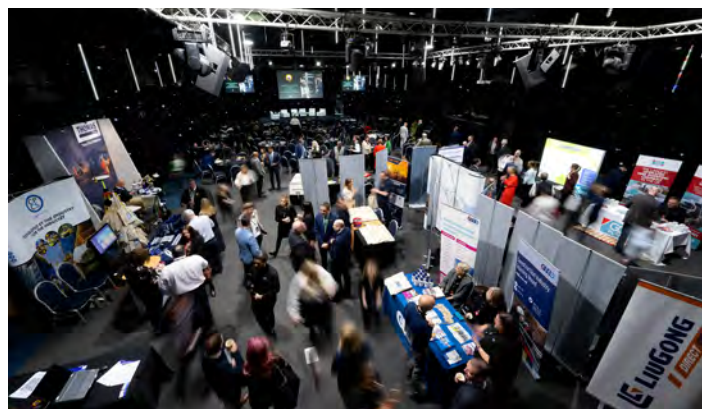
Spartan Solutions provides the Phalanx 6 suite of mobile apps and tools to digitalise logistics and services needs, designed specifically for rental applications. It integrates with major hire management software and can process operational aspects at the depot or in the field. It can also incorporate telematics and artificial intelligence data.

SQA, the Scottish Qualifications Authority, offers training internationally in a wide range of plant disciplines for all business types, including Ofqual and Qualifications Wales recognised programmes in: operative and specialisms; technical, supervisory and management; and street works. The organisation can also devise customised, tailored solutions.

Thomas Group offers self-drive and operated plant on a national basis. The company gave details of various machine control systems it can provide from suppliers including Leica, Topcon and Trimble, as well as its own OnGrade GPS machine control equipment hire, installation and monitoring service, along with drone survey operations.

Tobin Plant is a main dealer for the Chinese equipment manufacturer LiuGong which makes machines that range from 1.5 tonne mini excavators up to 95 tonne models. The company gave details of the electric machines in its portfolio, many of which have been proven in the field for more than two years.

VIN CHIP is a multi-layered technology-led security system to deter criminals and support the police in identifying stolen assets. It uses long-range RFID technology which can be used by police scanners with no risk of revealing the position of the chip. Serial numbers are registered on the company's Secure Asset Register.



The CPA Conference 2024 will be hosted on 7th November 2024, again at the Heart of England Conference and Events Centre near Coventry. Further details will be released in due course. If you are interested in sponsoring or exhibiting at the Conference, please contact Lisa Collins on 07968 840390 or email: lisa@lisacollinscommunications.co.uk

EXECUTIVE HIRE SHOW 2024

HIRE INNOVATIONS 2024: THE EXECUTIVE HIRE SHOW - LEADING THE HIRE INDUSTRY INTO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The 2024 Executive Hire Show is a key event for those in the construction industry, offering a preview of the latest innovations and a move towards a more sustainable future. Taking place on 14th and 15th February 2024 at the CBS Arena in Coventry, this year's show is a complete sell-out, indicating the high level of interest in new technologies and sustainable practices within the industry.



The Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) is exhibiting on stand H20. The CPA team will be on hand at the show to talk through some of the projects the association is currently working on, such as the Stars of the Future apprentice and trainee awards which have just launched for 2024 and the CPA Conference which is being hosted on 7th November this year.

Here's a sneak peek at what to expect at the 2024 event in addition to an impressive array of 150 exhibitors. There will be a comprehensive display of electric and alternative fuel technology. This shift towards greener options is not just a trend but a necessary step in the industry's evolution. From compact, battery-operated tools to larger electric excavators and dumpers, the range of equipment on show highlights the industry's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.

The innovation trail will be a key feature, along with 31 new exhibitors adding their products and ideas to the mix. These new additions bring fresh perspectives and solutions, making this event an essential visit for anyone in the construction sector looking to stay ahead of the curve.

Among these are leading names including **Takeuchi UK**, who are marking their return, after a year's hiatus, with an impressive line-up of new models and electric machines. **Walsall Wheelbarrow Company**, a top supplier in the market and the sole manufacturer producing all its parts in the UK, will also be present. Additionally, **ASKA International**, a renowned generator manufacturer, will be part of this year's exciting lineup.

Here's a glimpse of what to expect from other new exhibitors on their stands at EHS 2024:



Attachment manufacturer **Auger Torque Europe** will be showcasing its award winning Cone Crusher Bucket which is making its Executive Hire Show debut. The company is also offering 10% discount off standard pricing for Cone Crusher Bucket purchases at the show.



Ohashi distributors, **TH WHITE Machinery Imports**, will be showcasing Ohashi - Compact Woodchippers. Leading the lineup is the Ohashi ES151GH, which is claimed to be the only compact tracked 6-inch woodchipper in the market.

Lap Electrical, a designer, manufacturer and distributor of automotive electro-mechanical products will be showcasing its new amber/green seat belt beacons, and will also be introducing its new range of CV Lighting, which includes many parts used within the plant hire and construction sector.



Xummitt - Luxtronik Technology will be showing its mobile light and power solutions. Xummitt is a brand owned and operated by Luxtronik Technology. The company will use the show to launch its new portable light tower - Sierra, which is a more compact, brighter, smarter, safer than any light tower in its class. Designed from the ground up, Sierra is optimized for LED, delivering what he company describes as an unparalleled lighting performance from a robust, 5-metre light tower that fits in your car.

Also debuting is **Spartan Solutions**, who will be showcasing PHALANX 6, which is an all-in-one software platform that streamlines rental operations by digitizing logistical and service processes.

Refina will be showing the Eibenstock range of power tools and equipment for the UK plastering and rendering, flooring, surface prep, plumbing and drilling trades. These premium power tools are built to the highest standard by Eibenstock in Germany. They are designed and manufactured for professional use with powerful robust motors and gearboxes ensuring durability.

Multi Mover UK sells and supplies a range of material handling solutions for the commercial, industrial and healthcare. At the show the company will be highlighting its portfolio and also its custom-made moving solutions, from tow tugs and tow dollies, through to rail shunters and rail stock movers.



Look out for the **Addex Group**, whose products range from small industrial vacuums to large electric sweepers, and scissor lift manufacturer Skyjack, signifying the diversity and comprehensive offering the show will hold.

Generator manufacturer **e-power International** recently announced the opening of new branches in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) and the United Kingdom (UK). This is part of their expansion plans and marks an important milestone for the company. The company will be showcasing its rental range at the event.

At the EHS event, **Tyre Boss Ltd** will showcase the company's expertise in supplying a wide range of tyres, including pneumatic tyres, cushion solids, tracks, and custom solutions. Highlighting their innovation is the TY solid tyre, designed for the waste and metal recycling industry, offering four times the lifespan of regular pneumatic tyres and a maintenance-free experience.

Golz Group has been supplying diamond drilling equipment in the UK for over 25 years. Golz announces the launch of the company's new generation of hand-held and rig mounted diamond drilling motors at the EHS. Renowned across Europe for their exceptional build quality and durability, the Golz brand introduces the HDM22, EDM22, and EDM33 drilling motors. These additions

to their established range boast innovative features designed to simplify diamond drilling for both seasoned and novice operators.

Rollins & Sons, a leading supplier and distributor of professional quality American and European hand tools, will be showcasing the company's latest solutions and equipment, highlighting the continual innovation within the hire industry.

Access Platform Sales represents a wide array of access platforms from renowned manufacturers including LGMG, Genie, Hinowa, Niftylift, BoSS, and Omme Lift. Additionally, the company offers an impressive selection of push-around material lifts from Genie and Wienold Lift. The company is also known for its highly-regarded Hinowa series of tracked mini-dumpers and forklifts.

Owners or decision makers in hire/leasing companies, particularly in mining rental and construction leasing, are likely familiar with **MPMC Mobile Power Solutions** (MPMC China). Recently, MPMC has produced and sold over 2000 diesel generators and 1000 mobile light towers, known for their low operating costs and robust, environmentally resistant designs.



For the first time, MPMC will be showcasing its solutions at the EHS, offering an opportunity for attendees to experience their wide range of products, including customisable gensets and light towers designed for stability, safety, and heavy loads.

Adamo Precision Engineering will be showing the company's innovative Tigerbite Mini Crusher, designed to efficiently recycle waste into reusable materials.

Hallsdale Commercial Insurance Brokers Limited is exhibiting under the name of Insurance4Plant.co.uk. The company specialises in insurance for the plant hire and construction industry, offering comprehensive coverage for plant and machinery, including short-term hire insurance. Their services are tailored to meet specific industry needs, covering

equipment damage and liability concerns, ensuring thorough protection for clients in this sector.

The list of new exhibitors making their Executive Hire Show debut continues with **Q Climates**, a leading supplier of Evaporative Air Coolers to the UK hire market, supplying the Honeywell range. Evaporative Air Coolers have grown in popularity as a more energy efficient and low maintenance way of cooling.

Look out too for **Cramer**, suppliers of landscaping and gardening equipment. The company will be showcasing 'AiConic® Powered by Intelligence', which is now enhanced by AI.

Genesis Equipment who are the official UK dealers for XCMG Access Equipment, will be bringing XCMG to the EHS for the first time. The aerial lift and telehandler division of Chinese equipment manufacturer XCMG appointed Genesis Equipment in May 2023.

Trailer manufacturer **Nugent Engineering** will be at the event. Among the products on display, Nugent is showcasing its plant trailer range, known for robust strength and durability. With full type approval (ECWTA), these trailers offer an exceptional strength-to-weight ratio, suitable for various industries. The range features Nugent's patented Dual Drive™ suspension, enhancing towing experience.

Construction consumable company **ProSolve** will make its first appearance at the show. ProSolve is a company known for offering a diverse array of quality industrial and construction consumables, including paints, construction essentials, tapes, hygiene wipes, tools, PPE, abrasives, cleaning products, marker pens, crayons, and various hardware items.

Echo Barrier supplies eco-friendly acoustic barriers. The company is a renowned provider of temporary noise control solutions and is adept at addressing the significant demands placed on main contractors during construction projects in residential or commercial districts. These barriers have been proven to reduce noise energy by up to 99%, effectively eliminating nuisances and contributing to a more harmonious construction environment.

The EHS team is also pleased to host the 'Innovation Trail Eco-Live', once again, which has become a big highlight of the show, hosted by industry vlogger and content creator, Peter Haddock, that highlights emerging eco-friendly technologies poised

to shape the industry's future. Attendees will engage with cutting-edge, sustainable solutions that promise to elevate operational efficiency and safety standards within the hire sector and lead us into a net zero future.

Here's what visitors can expect to see on the 2024 Innovation Trail:

Atlas Copco is presenting the company's new range of lightweight, portable battery energy storage systems. These are notable for their use of high-density lithium-ion batteries, which makes them up to 70% lighter than traditional battery solutions. They offer over 12 hours of power on a single charge and can be fully charged in under an hour, depending on the model. This makes them a versatile and low-maintenance alternative to traditional diesel generators.



Husqvarna has expanded its battery-powered offerings with the K 540i power cutter, which operates on the BLi 36 V battery platform. This cutter features an adjustable blade guard, deep cutting capabilities, and an 'X-Halt' electronic brake system for enhanced safety. The BLi system supports a range of tools, including core drills and dust extractors, indicating a move towards a more unified, efficient battery platform.



Golz introduces the BattPak 5048, a fully weatherproof portable power solution with an IP67 rating, meaning it can operate even

when submerged in water. This power pack is notable for its capacity expansion capabilities and flexible charging options, including solar, mains, and electric vehicle charging points. It represents a robust and versatile power solution for heavy-duty equipment.

E-power focuses on sustainable solutions with its hydrogen and hybrid generators. The company's hydrogen generator adapts internal combustion engines to run on hydrogen, while the P-Grid hybrid solution combines a diesel generator with batteries for efficient energy management. These innovations showcase a commitment to reducing environmental impact in the power generation sector.



Takeuchi's TB20e, a 100% battery-powered mini excavator, offers a working time of eight hours at 65% load, comparable to its diesel equivalent. It demonstrates the growing capability of battery-powered heavy machinery to match the performance of traditional fuel-powered equipment.

Fuelbox is launching a new 500-litre AdBlue Box, an eco-friendly alternative to traditional bulk containers. This innovation highlights a push towards more sustainable solutions in the industry, coupled with the convenience of their efficient nationwide delivery service.

GGR Group's Faresin electric telehandler range, including the 17.45 model, exemplifies the shift towards electric



machinery. These telehandlers offer significant run times and come with standard onboard charging and intelligent charging capabilities, aligning with the industry's move towards more sustainable equipment.



Pramac Generac adds the PRAMAC LX LFP Series to its product line, a silent battery system with advanced technology and a high level of safety. This system is characterized by its ease of use and diverse applications, indicating a trend towards user-friendly and environmentally conscious solutions.

Auger Torque's Cone Crusher Bucket offers a cost-effective method for reprocessing small volume construction rubble into usable aggregate. This innovation highlights the industry's focus on recycling and efficient resource utilisation.



Lifos Fort introduces a compact solar PV and battery storage system, designed to reduce the cost, noise, and emissions associated with diesel generators on construction sites. This product represents a significant step towards more sustainable power solutions in the industry.

J-strut's award-winning telescopic steel prop, J-Strut, is designed to make propping safer, quicker, and easier, highlighting a focus on safety and efficiency in construction and renovation projects.



InspHire has announced a new what3words integration with its Office Edition, enhancing the precision of location tracking in rental management. This integration points towards the industry's embrace of digital transformation and innovative technologies.

Groundcare Products'

ZipLevel is a user-friendly altimeter/level that simplifies surveying and level checking tasks, indicating a trend towards more accessible and efficient tools in various industries.



Trime's range of fuel-saving, low-emission Stage 5-compliant generators, including solar hybrid models, showcases the



industry's commitment to reducing emissions and enhancing fuel efficiency.

Powr2's POWRSYNC device, which allows for the parallel connection of multiple battery systems, demonstrates an innovative approach to enhancing the flexibility and scalability of temporary power solutions.



Wirtgen's Vögele MINI pavers, both in diesel and battery-electric models, are designed for small-scale construction projects, illustrating the industry's move towards more compact and environmentally friendly machinery.



Rotair introduces the MDVN32B and MDVN34E compressors, addressing the increasing demand for zero-emission units in urban areas, reflecting a wider industry trend towards sustainability.

Mecalac's REVOTRUCK combines a revolving cabbed dumper with off-road trucking capabilities, emphasizing safety and efficiency in material transport on tight jobsites.



These entries on the innovation trail at the Executive Hire Show demonstrate the construction and hire industry's ongoing commitment to innovation, sustainability, and efficiency, promising an exciting future for these sectors.

"The Executive Hire Show stands as the epitome of innovation in the hire industry, consistently offering a dynamic platform for professionals seeking to rejuvenate and upgrade their equipment. This year, we're thrilled to welcome 31 new exhibitors, each bringing a fresh wave of cutting-edge products and expertise. It's not just an event; it's a celebration of progress and excellence in the hire sector. Too good to miss!" said Chris Moore, the Show's Publishing and Events Director.

Chris concluded, "The show, held on 14th and 15th February at the Coventry Building Society Arena, has proven its prominence in the hire industry by selling out all exhibition spaces. This year's event, featuring a record 150 exhibitors, confirms the industry's robust enthusiasm and commitment, solidifying EHS as the top destination for hire professionals to discover cutting-edge innovations and connect with colleagues."

To register to visit the Executive Hire Show for free, please visit <https://executive-hire-show-2024.reg.buzz/website>. Further details on the show and a full exhibitor list can be found at www.executivehireshow.co.uk



PLANT THEFT



CPA SUPPORTS SPECIALIST NCATT POLICE UNIT

The CPA recently announced that the association is committed to financially supporting the National Construction and Agriculture Theft Team (NCATT) to help tackle the ongoing theft of construction plant and equipment by organised criminal groups (OCGs).

The significant commitment from the CPA over the next three years, reflects the unit's ongoing success, led by Superintendent Andy Huddleston, in recovering £6m worth of agricultural and construction plant and equipment in 2023 alone.

This long-term commitment by the CPA is to help address central government's shortfall with all police force spending.

The membership will be updated - where possible - of the successes this unit will bring in 2024.



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Superintendent Andy Huddleston was a panel speaker at the CPA Conference 2023

FAILURE TO FRAUD OFFENCE

The government obtained Royal Assent for the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill, which became law on 26th October 2023. The legislation was brought in to help tackle the growing issue of fraud and money laundering.

This Act includes a new corporate criminal offence of failure to prevent fraud, which will apply to organisations meeting two of the following three criteria:

Prevent

- Companies with more than 250 employees
- Companies which have a turnover of more than £36m
- Companies with more than £18m in assets.

The new Act has also created reforms to Companies House, by introducing identity verification for all new and existing registered company directors, as well as those classed as 'People with Significant Control' of the business itself.

The government has produced a factsheet on this subject, and a copy can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/economic-crime-and-corporate-transparency-bill-2022-factsheets

This Bill will also apply to the law governing Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs).



EQUIPMENT THEFT (PREVENTION) ACT - SECONDARY LEGISLATION

The secondary legislation is still in the process of being drafted.

There has been a meeting between representatives of the power tool companies and the Home Office, to discuss how the secondary legislation will be drafted, and the implications to the manufacturers

on how the security features would be fitted to their equipment. At the time of writing, no further meetings are being planned.

So far, there has been no indication on the steps manufacturers have to adopt with the fitment of immobilisers for construction plant.

THEFTS AND FRAUDS REPORTED BY MEMBERS

- 13th October, the specialist police unit NCATT (National Construction and Agriculture Theft Team), circulated a warning of attempted frauds by a **'Gillian Russell'** and a **'Tristan Abbott'** who were operating in the York area.
- 19th October, NCATT circulated a warning about the company **'Evraz Holdings UK Limited'**, with a 'person in significant control' (PSC) associated with another company **'LEM Security'** who the police are interested in.
- 26th October, **United Powered Access** reported an attempted fraud by a person impersonating **Keith Waddington**, where the fraudster claimed to work for Seddon Homes (Warrington), then Seddon Construction (Bolton). The person attempted to hire a 9m telehandler for a site in Skelmersdale in Lancashire.
- 28th October, G.A. Doble had a **2018 Takeuchi TB219 Excavator** stolen from the Elan Homes Estate in Glastonbury, Somerset.
- 31st October, Hurt Plant Hire was approached by a **'Mark'** who claimed to work for **A & K Civils** and tried to order a 13-tonne excavator and a 6-tonne dumper for a site in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.
- 2nd November, Phoenix Mini Plant Hire had a **2019 Bobcat E10** stolen from the K5 Construction site, Hampshire Close, Chatham, ME5 7SG.
- 7th November, NCATT circulated a fraudster alert on **Sean Michael Charmley**, who claimed to be from **SMC Groundworks**.
- 13th November, KDM Hire reported details of a fraudster, **Thomas Smith**, who also used the alias **Bradley Moore**, who claimed to work for **Graham Construction**, and **O'Neill Building Works**.
- 21st November, Coppard Plant was the victim of a fraud by **Mr John McDonagh**, of Limerick, who used **St Peters Roman Catholic Church**, 7 St Peters Road, Cirencester as a contact address to hire plant and equipment.
- 27th November, NCATT circulated an alert regarding **HJW Construction**, which according to Companies House, was dissolved. Representatives of that company had been attempting to hire plant and equipment in the Scunthorpe area.
- 4th January, C&M Plant had a **JCB telehandler** stolen from their depot in Farningham (Dartford area).



POLICY

2024 - A NEW YEAR FOR ENGAGEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY?



Chris Cassley
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Politically, if 2023 was the year that the government, and Rishi Sunak in particular, took the opportunity to stabilise the economy and provide a degree of competent government, then this year, is one where we can expect a general election, a chance for the people to have their say. But what does the coming year look like for construction and the plant-hire sector in particular - especially when promises will be made, and each political party will be looking for the business vote.

The announcement, across Christmas, that the Budget will be held on 6th March, set tongues wagging across Westminster, that we could expect a Spring election. While, in a subsequent Q&A, the Prime Minister seemed to rule this out, with his 'working assumption' that the election would be in the second part of the year, he also crucially, did not rule out an election in May or June. The guessing game continues.

With the announcement of the date for the Budget, we also saw confirmation that the long-awaited Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) consultation on the likely decarbonisation options of NRMM (Non-Road Mobile Machinery) equipment, had been published.

The consultation is an opportunity for construction equipment users and manufacturers, to have their say on how the NRMM sector can reduce the use of diesel-powered equipment, as part of the government's wider moves to reach net zero by 2050. The government is keen to hear from as many companies as possible, with the call for evidence looking at the following areas:

- How NRMM is currently used across the economy
- The decarbonisation options available to NRMM, including efficiency measures, process changes, and fuel switching technologies
- The possible opportunities and barriers to deploying decarbonisation options
- Whether existing policies are sufficient to decarbonise NRMM in line with net zero
- Whether the Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy policy principles should also apply in determining the case for further government intervention to support NRMM decarbonisation.

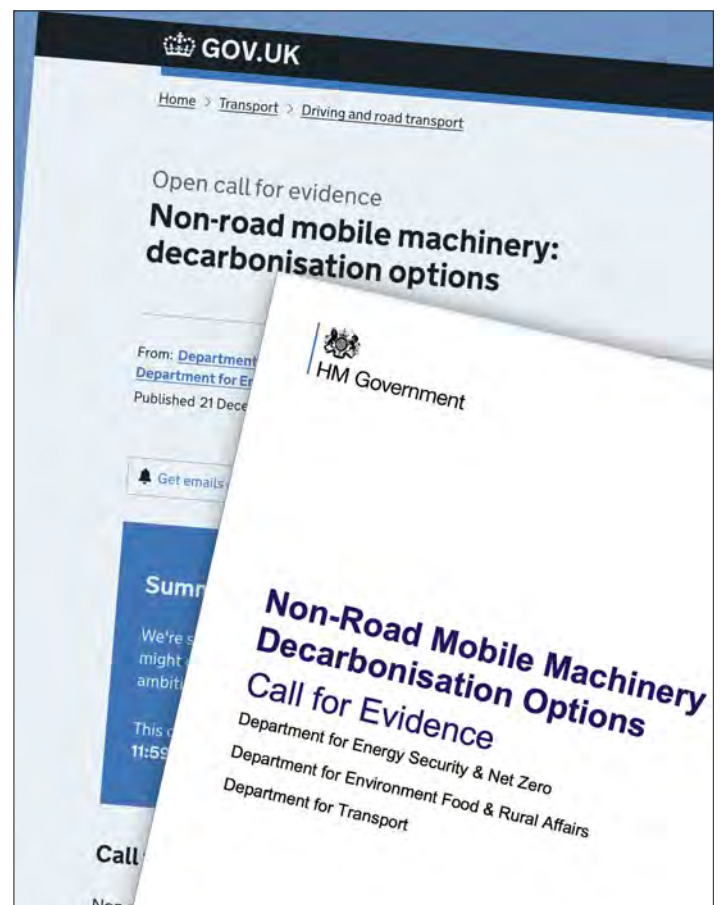
Please see the link to the consultation page at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/non-road-mobile-machinery-decarbonisation-options>

The CPA will be responding directly to the consultation, and while we would encourage as many companies as possible from the plant-hire sector, to take part and reply directly to the consultation, we appreciate this might not always be possible.

With this in mind, the CPA would be keen to hear from members, with their views on the following areas:

- Are you actively taking steps to move away from diesel powered equipment and fossil fuels, towards alternatives such as HVO, or electric/battery powered equipment?
- What is stopping you from decarbonising your fleet - is it cost of alternative fuels and equipment, the current economic environment, lack of investment incentives available, reliability and performance of alternative fuelled equipment?



- What policy measures and steps do you think the government could take, to encourage the decarbonisation of NRMM fleets? Steps could include introducing a scrappage scheme for existing diesel-powered equipment, reintroduction of the rebate for HVO or other bio-diesels, extending the Full Expensing Allowance for the plant and rental equipment industries.

While the consultation itself closes on 26th March, we can expect a response and the next stages of policy engagement, to come after the election. While we would like the Westminster machine to operate at full throttle, the general election will inevitably have an impact on day-to-day departmental business. Whatever happens politically, this is a really important consultation, and we are keen to see as many CPA members as possible, take part.

In other areas, we expect the Department for Education to publish its response to its review of the Industrial Training Boards (ITB), namely the Engineering and Construction ITBs. The CPA took part in the initial consultation last summer, with our main calls concentrating on greater clarity in the role of the CITB and how it works with the plant-hire sector. CPA members are already taking responsibility for a lot of the training that takes place in the sector - this is set to continue. Whatever the Department for Education review finds and recommends, the CITB is set to produce its own strategy and hold the CITB Consensus which was initially meant to be held last year.

As a prescribed organisation (PO), the CPA sits on the CITB PO Leaders Forum and represents the plant-hire sector through the consensus process to all members who pay the CITB Levy. Although the timing of the general election may well impact on the Consensus timetable, it is an important opportunity for members to take part and indicate their level of support for the CITB and the role of the Levy.

As the year takes shape and policies emerge, the CPA will be holding politicians and policymakers to account on what they can do to help shape and grow the UK's plant-hire sector. By the time of publication, I hope we have held the first in a series of meetings with the Treasury, to discuss the technical aspects of extending Full Expensing to the plant hire sector. As a member of the technical working group, we expect the first meetings to be held in January.

The CPA will also be meeting with the Greater London Assembly NRMM Working Group, a revival of a previous body that looked at the impact of legislation in Greater London and the role of construction equipment in air quality and the impact of construction equipment movement in London. It is an important body to be a member of, and I hope over the course of the year, to be able to report on progress and our involvement in setting the agenda and making London local authorities aware of the need for policies that are realistic and proportionate.

Above all, if I was asked by any of the main parties looking for votes and to hold office by this time next year, what I would want, my elevator pitch would be for policies that recognise the role of the plant-hire sector - and the role of construction in building economic growth.

We want a long-term outlook in decision making (especially when it comes to infrastructure policies - see HS2 as an example of what can go wrong), consistency in approach, and a business environment that builds confidence, provides incentives, and encourages companies to invest in people and equipment. That is not too much to ask. Is it?

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EVENT

Join us for a heartwarming evening committed to making a meaningful impact in the lives of Ukraine's people! In the wake of an ongoing conflict, more than 10 million individuals have fled Ukraine, leaving behind their jobs, possessions, and families, and now grapple with an uncertain future. Families have been torn apart, individuals have been wounded, and precious lives have been lost. **Thus far, we've successfully raised over £4 million**, and with your support, we aim to significantly increase our contributions, ensuring vital aid reaches those who need it most.

Thursday 7th March 2024 | 06.00 PM - 01.00 AM

Edgbaston Cricket Ground

Edgbaston Rd, Birmingham B5 7QU

Standard Table Package (12ppl) £4,000

Order of the evening:

06:00 PM	Welcome drinks
07:00 PM	Welcome
07:30 PM	3 course dinner (inc. bucket of beers or selection of wines)
09:00 PM	Auction
10:00 PM	Live entertainment & dancing
01:00 AM	Carriages

To book your table, contact:

Joan McKinlay
Contact : 07565 772 547
Email : joan.mckinlay@pointofrental.com
Web : www.aid-alliance.com

SKILLS

SKILLS UPDATE

Overall, I fully expect 2024 to be a quiet year on the skills policy front. With the General Election due in the second half of the year, I wouldn't expect there to be any new policy changes during the year, perhaps some announcements enhancing existing skills policies. Of course, the Prime Minister made the announcement of the new Advanced British Standard (ABS) last Autumn. The idea is that this brings together the best of A-Levels and T-Levels into a single qualification. However indicative timelines for policy implementation look a long way off.

There is more information at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-qualifications-to-deliver-world-class-education-for-all>

I expect the Government to continue to fully back and extend their existing flagship technical skills policies including the following:

- Apprenticeships
- T-Levels
- Skills Bootcamps

My understanding is that there is general cross-party support for Apprenticeships and Skills Bootcamps. Labour have indicated they would be open to making the Apprenticeship Levy Scheme more flexible giving employers the opportunity to use their levy more flexibly, for example on shorter course training. We'll wait to see how that develops, if of course there is a change of Government.

On a practical level, the plant-hire industry continues to be a significant contributor, within the construction sector, to the skills landscape. The industry is well served by available Apprenticeships and Skills Bootcamps. We continue to grow our apprenticeship numbers in the Plant Apprenticeship Standards, namely:

- Construction Plant Operator
- Lifting Technician
- Construction Equipment Maintenance Mechanic
- Hire Controller

Most of the above standards are either at, or are about to enter review stage with the Institute of Apprenticeship and Technical Education (IFATE), meaning Employer Trailblazer Groups get the opportunity to update their standards particularly focussing on:

- Digital skills
- Environmental/green skills
- Significant industry updates (ensuring still fit for purpose)

At the review stage funding bands will also be reviewed and updated if appropriate. We also have the Construction Equipment Maintenance Technician currently being developed, which will hopefully be ready for delivery in autumn of 2024.



Paul Skitt
paul.skitt@cpa.uk.net

Skills Bootcamps are being expanded further over the coming years. Skills Bootcamps are short technical courses for people (aged 19 plus), for up to 16 weeks, for either new entrants to an industry or upskilling existing employers. Flannery Plant Hire continues to offer Skills Bootcamps in Plant Operations. There is more information available at <https://www.flanneryplanthire.com/plant-operator-training/>

Skills and employment shortages continue to cause challenges for the plant industry but Apprenticeships and Skills Bootcamps are helping to address these challenges and provide multiple pathways for new entrants to enter our industry. This, alongside increased engagement with schools and colleges within the education sector, helps raise awareness of our industry to new talent. If you have any specific questions or need further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact me.



TECHNICAL

LONDON BOROUGHS LOW EMISSION ZONES - GENERATORS UPDATE



Katie Kelleher
katie@cpa.uk.net

A presentation was made at the recent Tower Crane Interest Group (TCIG) Open Meeting by Luis Bassett, who is Project Coordinator, Air Quality Projects (NRMM) of the London Boroughs of Merton, Richmond and Wandsworth. He also oversees NRMM requirements for most of the other London Boroughs and provided meeting delegates with an update on the requirements for London Borough Low Emission Zones (LEZ).

Although there are emission 'stages' for NRMM Stages IIIB and IV, constant speed engines such as generators - in the instance of providing power for tower crane use - were not defined and need to be Stage V compliant.



Luis stated that due to limited Stage V availability, Stage IIIA generators have often been granted exemptions but explained that has now changed. As of 1st Jan 2024, all generators need to be Stage V compliant, although they recognise that some sites may not be able to at times procure Stage V versions. He therefore stated that some exemptions for Stage IIIA will still be available but the criteria will be very strict and clarified that any Stage IIIA exemptions already granted before 1st Jan 2024 will be upheld, but from 1st Jan 2024, new exemptions for Stage IIIA generators will be on a case by case basis.

He further explained that to be given an exemption, the site must have a) asked for a Stage V generator; b) the supplier must have confirmed that one is not available and c) that the supplier must have a healthy Stage V fleet.

In terms of the definition of a healthy Stage V fleet a) the suppliers needs to demonstrate that they are able to supply Stage V equipment as least 50% of the time, b) have various Stage V's available for various node sizings and applications and c) have considered other technical solutions such as battery and flybrid equipment and that customers have been encouraged to adopt them.

On the final part of his presentation, Luis outlined some approaches that sites have adopted so far and have included:

- The use of battery and/or flywheel technology to make the loading compatible with a smaller Stage V generator;
- Battery technologies which can be trickled charged overnight and power the site and cranes during the working day if there is a restricted grid supply;
- The same battery technology charged by a Stage V generator within a few hours;
- Stage V generators which can be chained together, or supported by Stage IIIA backups, but only as a last resort.

Luis is happy to provide further guidance and advice and can be contacted at luis.bassett@merton.gov.uk

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE - CRANES OPERATIONS ALONGSIDE RAILWAYS

The CPA is currently in the process of updating CPA Documents CPA1402: Requirements for Mobile Cranes alongside Railways and CPA1801: Requirements for Tower Cranes alongside Railways. This necessary work is now underway and follows a current revision programme being undertaken by Network Rail (NR) on their document CIV0063: Piling, Drilling, Crane, MEWP and SMPT operations adjacent to the Railway, through a Network Rail internal working group.

Both CPA 1402 and CPA 1801 were originally devised to provide information on crane operations being carried out close to NR infrastructure and particularly on oversailing and impacts of crane collapse inside of the NR boundary, avoiding potential catastrophic situations. The guides do not impose any additional requirements but provide an easily accessible document - endorsed by NR - and integrates requirements from a range of their own publications as many were either not available outside of NR or had to

be purchased. NR have recently advised that many of their publications that are applicable to others can now be accessed free of charge.

A working group is currently working with NR to influence the changes in their upcoming revisions in order to serve better and reflect the needs of the lifting sector to provide a level of harmonisation. Some of the intended changes include clarifying the scope of when NR need to be advised of operations near to their boundary, terminology and an enhanced defining of oversailing and collapse-radius levels for the hierarchy of control measures. These levels are used to describe situations of cranes working near to but outside NR railway boundary lines and scope.

The NR document CIV0063 - second publication is due for release in June 2024 and we have been informed it will be free of charge to download as described. In line with the NR release, the updated CPA1402 and CPA1801 publications will be available for download from the CPA website at the same period.

HSE SAFETY NOTICE - LORRY LOADERS CRUSH RISK

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has released a safety notice on the dangers of operators potentially being crushed by powered tilting stabilisers, which has caused a number of fatalities. This HSE notice supplements previous industry-issued safety alerts and guidance in mid-2022 following another crushing incident.

The contents of the HSE safety notice can be read at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/lorry-loaders.htm>

Industry-issued safety alerts and guidance on safe practices can be downloaded at from <https://www.cpa.uk.net/health-safety-environment/health-safety-related-alerts>

ILLAPG LOAD HANDLING SAFETY MESSAGING

The Industry Lifting Lead AP Group (ILLAPG) - managed by CPA - is distributing a key message poster on safe load handling, devised by one of their members. This poster forms part of a wider campaign being undertaken by the ILLAPG on the topic of 'Hands off, Step Away, Safe Space' and part of a number of actions following a fatality involving a lifting operations activity. Other campaign material such as safety training videos are being devised and will be available for use across industry.

The poster can be downloaded from the CPA website at <https://www.cpa.uk.net/safety-and-technical-publications/illapg-publications>

Key Message Poster

Load Handling

ALIGN Life Saving Rule:
Never work or stand under a suspended load.

RISK ASSESS LOAD HANDLING

Consider if the load:

- Is affected by wind direction
- Needs a pointed end or angle, including the number and positioning of lashing
- Needs direct, hands-on control

• Present a risk to the surroundings where it is a safe place for them?

• Could move, rotate and manage the potential for load movement?

Be alert for unexpected load movement:

Loads are most likely to move or settle at the start of the lifting operation.

Remember: STOP - Look - Assess - Move

S	L	A	M
STOP	LOOK	ASSESS	MOVE

Why do loads move unexpectedly?

- Not set over the corner of gravity
- Excessive/lashing deflection
- Loads disturbed at unloading
- Slip over a lifting shoe
- Turning loads slightly
- Pull loads (e.g. under tension, shear, tension)
- Loads with a mixed base (e.g. concrete slab)
- Poor communication between crew and align
- Dynamic factors (e.g. crane boom, hook, roller, free suspended, and unconnected elements combined)
- Loads pulled together (e.g. metal, scaffold beams)

C1 ■ ALIGN

REMEMBER: HANDS OFF. STEP AWAY. SAFE SPACE.

1. After the load is attached and before the load is picked up, take your **HANDS OFF** the load before it is moved.

2. **STEP AWAY** until the load is freely suspended, steady and stable.

3. Stand in a **SAFE SPACE** (as agreed with the lift supervisor after a Point of Work Risk Assessment) while the load is being picked up.

NEWS FROM CPA MEMBERS

To submit news for consideration for future issues of the CPA Bulletin, please email lisa@lisacollinscommunications.co.uk

City Hire Expands

City Hire has announced the opening of a new distribution centre in Warrington, Cheshire.

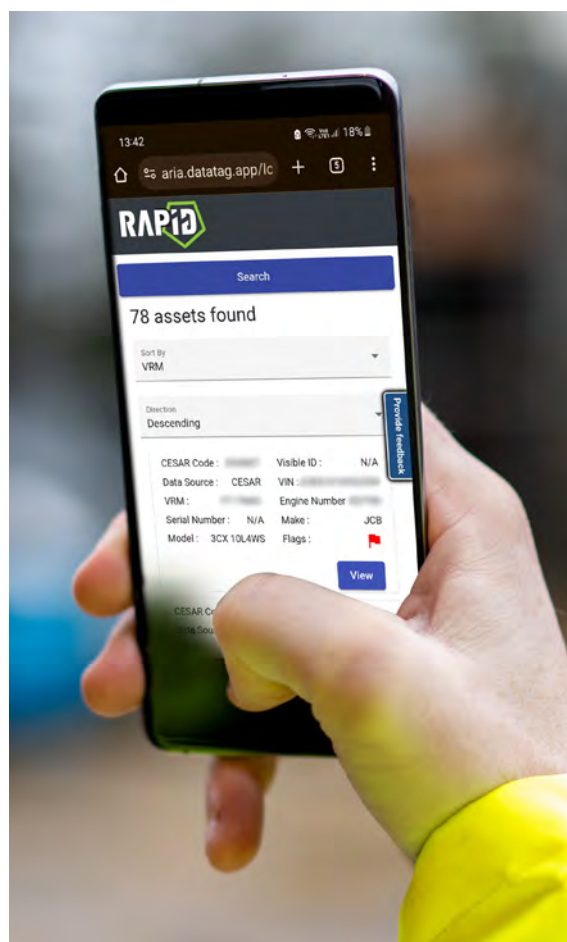
The 1.8 acre site is in an ideal location to support City Hire's existing distribution centre in Liverpool, as well as serving additional regions in the North West.

City Hire's FORS Silver accredited transport team will be operating a number of vehicles from Warrington and Liverpool, supplying construction sites across Merseyside, Manchester and the North West.

This follows on from the acquisition of Construct-Equip in September, allowing City Hire to operate out of distribution centres in Birmingham and Telford to supply the West Midlands with tool and equipment hire. City Hire supplies a wide range of equipment for hire including Plant, Powered Access, Tools and Non-Mechanical Equipment and now operates from a total of six distribution centres serving the North West, West Midlands, London, Essex, Kent and the South East.



Transforming Equipment Security



In a significant advancement in the field of equipment security, Datatag, the delivery partner of the Construction Equipment Association's (CEA) CESAR Security Scheme, has unveiled its latest innovation of a RAPID check (Registered Assets Police Information Database) and an 'Ultra Tag' RFID transponder.

This breakthrough is expected to considerably enhance the security of construction and agricultural machinery by equipping every police officer with the means to quickly check a machine's 'status' on the secure database and significantly extend the read range of the CESAR system's RFID transponders to assist police further.

The 'Ultra Tag' is a highly secure RFID chip with enhanced reading distance. When used with a Datatag scanner, it marks a substantial improvement in identification technology. RAPID, a web-based application, represents a year of development by the team at Datatag and consolidates data of approximately 625,000 construction and agricultural machines into a single, accessible platform. The database is a huge benefit for law enforcement agencies, allowing all 142,000 police officers in the UK, and countless others globally, to access comprehensive data with just a smartphone.

The system offers a secure amalgamation of police, manufacturer, and insurance data and by simply entering a part of a vehicle identification number (VIN) or any related number, officers can rapidly determine the status of a machine. This feature is particularly crucial in identifying stolen machinery quickly thereby securing recovery and assisting in prosecutions.

Kevin Howells, Managing Director of Datatag said: "The launch of the RAPID check service and the Ultra Tag represents a monumental stride in our commitment to advancing security technology. These innovations are not just about protecting assets; they're about empowering all law enforcement with the tools they need to combat theft and secure vital machinery. Our Ultra Tag is a game-changer in RFID technology, offering unparalleled security features that are virtually tamper-proof. We believe that our new RAPID check will revolutionise the way police officers across the globe interact with and safeguard construction and agricultural machinery."

Major JCB Investment for GAP

GAP has made a substantial investment to boost its hire fleet with new JCB equipment.

The investment includes a diverse range of equipment such as Dumpers, Rollers and Telehandlers. Key additions to GAP's hire fleet include machinery such as 6 and 9-tonne Dumpers, Compaction Rollers and a versatile range of Telehandlers. Reinforcing the company's commitment to environmental responsibility, GAP continues to integrate JCB Dieselmix Stage V engines into its equipment.



New Vacuum Truck and Sweeper Range for RSP UK

RSP UK, a leading supplier of suction excavators, has announced plans to expand the company's range of construction equipment. The first new products to be added to the range are Amphitec vacuum trucks and BROCK sweepers.

Amphitec is a leading manufacturer of vacuum equipment and has changed its UK distributor to RSP UK with immediate effect. German company R&G, owner of the RSP group, acquired Amphitec and ATEC Rental in August 2022. The acquisition



broadened RSP's product range with vacuum technology that is complementary to RSP's ventilation technology, and the full integration is now underway with the merger of the international sales and service organisations of both companies.

"We are excited to now be able to better serve our customers by providing them with a wider range of exceptional construction equipment," said Lloyd Gardener, Director of RSP UK. "We are extremely proud of the strong relationships we have built across the construction, civil engineering and utilities sectors in the UK and believe we can bring the same high quality of production, service and maintenance, and training to our customers across a variety of products."

Prestigious TechFest Award for Xwatch



Xwatch Safety Solutions, together with Leica Geosystems, and Flannery Plant Hire has been recognised at the TechFest Awards, organised by Construction News and New Civil Engineer, for their pioneering 3D avoidance safety solution, marking a significant advancement in construction site safety.

The innovative solution first trialled and adopted by Flannery Plant Hire, was created in collaboration with Leica Geosystems, part of Hexagon, and Xwatch Safety Solutions. It has been recognised for its significant contribution to enhancing safety and well-being on construction sites. The system's sophisticated design enables the creation or importation of 3D avoidance zones, both above

and below ground, directly within the Leica Geosystems MC1 3D machine control software.

Chris Matthew, Head of Business Strategy at Flannery said: "This technology is a game-changer. It not only enhances our safe operation onsite but also supports our operator community. The integration with the MC1 tablet simplifies the process, making it a popular addition among our operators. They now have an extra layer of protection, allowing them to work with greater confidence."

The TechFest Awards are a testament to the innovative spirit driving the construction and civil engineering industry. The awards recognise the role of technology in addressing current challenges and shaping a better future.

The 3D avoidance solution has already demonstrated its value in 'real world' applications, having been tested on sites with Tier One contractor Kier Group. Its adoption is said to signify a major step forward in the continuous pursuit of enhanced safety standards in the construction industry, proving that technological innovation is key to advancing workplace safety and operational efficiency.



DSD Construction Goes from Strength to Strength



Cumbrian-based DSD Construction, which specialises in highways and associated civils infrastructure, has reported a 40% increase in turnover in 2023 as a result of new contract wins and existing contract renewals, alongside a diversified expansion of its offering. The company was established in 1993 and is still owned and operated by the founding family.

There has also been significant investment across the business with new infrastructure, additional plant and resources, representing a spend of over £5 million during the last three years. Employing over 165 local people and with 'Investor in People' status, the company has recruited 40 new employees over the last year, including six apprentices.

The Directors recognised that the use of digital technologies to change the business model and provide new revenue and

value-producing opportunities was integral to their growth strategy. They have been successful in streamlining many administrative processes, drastically reducing the time and costs spent on basic tasks, leaving space to focus on growing the business.

Shaun Nugent, Managing Director of DSD Construction said: "Our constant drive to deliver sustainable solutions for our clients has also provided stability for the business through the development of a diversity of products and services. Sustainable construction products, including modular trench box systems and solar/wind powered off grid lighting, are now part of our growing portfolio."



Sunbelt Rentals Awarded Bronze Membership by the 5% Club

For the second consecutive year, Sunbelt Rentals has been awarded bronze accreditation from the 5% Club, highlighting the company's commitment to its people and sustainability. The scheme assesses employers' activities, evaluates their future plans and commitments, and examines their approaches to quality, social mobility, diversity, and inclusion.

One of the key initiatives of Sunbelt Rentals' commitment to training is the company's apprenticeship programme. This programme - which has been in operation for over 10 years - plays a critical role in the company's investment in the next generation and highlighting the career opportunities available in the industry. Over the last two years, they have provided apprenticeships to 200 people, with further developments planned for their upcoming programme to broaden the opportunities.

Jenny Parry, Head of Talent at Sunbelt Rentals said: "We're delighted to celebrate our bronze membership with the 5% club for the second year running. Initiatives such as our apprenticeship programme and mentoring schemes are just two ways that we invest in our people, and this aligns with our business goal to own the future of rental and purpose to transform lives."



Key to a Successful Restoration



GEDA transport platforms are contributing to the successful renovation of the historic Zagreb Cathedral in Croatia. The devastating earthquake that ravaged Zagreb in 2020 inflicted considerable damage across the entire city, and the historic cathedral was severely damaged.

Zagreb Cathedral is currently undergoing restoration to repair the damage, and the work is proceeding at a rapid pace. The cathedral, which is

one of Croatia's most precious cultural and architectural assets, is the subject of a comprehensive renovation project that began in May 2023 and is expected to take another five years to complete. Two GEDA 1500 Z/ZP transport platforms are playing a pivotal role in the restoration work.

The GEDA 1500 Z/ZP transport platforms are fitted with the platform A variant, measuring 1.45 metres by 1.65 metres. The platforms are capable of carrying up to 2,000kg. The GEDA 1500 Z/ZP offers a lifting speed of 12 m/min in passenger mode and 24 m/min in goods mode.

Thanks to two separate sets of controls, both people and materials can be transported safely and efficiently.

One noteworthy feature of these lifts is their innovative GEDA UNI-X-MAST system, with two masts ensuring a smooth ride and low anchoring forces. In Zagreb, this is allowing each lift to be anchored via the scaffolding. In this case, German



company GEDA's decades of experience as a manufacturer of industrial and construction lifts has been particularly useful, as a custom solution had to be devised for the cathedral.

Standing 108 metres tall, the building on this project exceeded the maximum conveyor height (100 metres) of the GEDA 1500 Z/ZP transport platform. It is this adaptability and precision that has allowed the restoration work to progress so smoothly.

AMPS Awards Celebrate Innovation and Sustainability

The Association of Manufacturers Power Systems (AMPS) hosted its Awards for Excellence at the Motorcycle Museum in Solihull to recognise innovation and sustainability.

The entries were said to set a new benchmark for sustainable practices within the sector, illustrating that the journey to net zero is a passionate endeavour for many companies in the industry.

David Oates, AMPS Director General said: "Our thanks go to all the participants for their hard work and determination. The judges and our wonderful sponsors deserve special mention for their expertise, time, and support in making these awards a reality. Congratulations to all the winners and those shortlisted for showing what it truly means to be at the forefront of the country's path towards a sustainable future."

Hannah Magowan from Dale Power Solutions won the accolade of Apprentice of the Year. A strong advocate for Women in Engineering, Hannah has made a significant contribution to innovative projects such as the Thyristor-based control board and the DC alarm unit. Hannah's leadership as a New Product Development Lead Engineer, particularly in sustainable battery energy storage, exemplified the spirit of this award.

IPU won Member Company of the Year in recognition of the company's long standing industry relationship, innovative contributions and extensive educational efforts. The

company's role in advancing AMPS objectives and dedication to sustainable solutions was said to set IPU apart as industry leaders.

The Innovation and Technology Award was won by WB Power Services for the company's innovative WB e-Pod - a scalable standby power solution combining adaptability and sustainability. The product has revolutionised standby power solutions, finding swift adoption in critical sectors such as data centres and healthcare.

The Atlas Copco ZBC 250/500 Battery Storage Unit was declared the Environmental Product of the Year. The product exemplifies the 'blanket zero' concept, reducing emissions and operating noise while providing versatile and renewable power solutions.

The Project of the Year Award was given to joint winners - Generator Power and Eminox. Generator Power was celebrated for its technical ingenuity in the Gloucester Hospital NHS Trust project, ensuring

uninterrupted power during critical upgrades. Eminox won for the Sunbelt Energy Farm project, a pioneering sustainable construction effort on Europe's largest rail infrastructure project, balancing environmental concerns with logistical efficiency. Both were equally outstanding in their own ways hence the decision to split the award between them.

Wakefield Acoustics won the Business Growth and Strategy Award for the company's strategic response to pandemic challenges and impressive growth, especially in power generation and data centres.

The Energy and Sustainability Award was given to Prolectric in recognition of the company's all-encompassing approach to sustainability, significantly reducing emissions while saving costs for clients.



Steaming In

King's Boiler Hire have been chosen as a supplier for an inaugural and ground breaking de-steaming project at one of London's leading universities.

The works being undertaken by the university includes the removal of the steam

generating infrastructure and replacement with one of the largest Low Temperature Heating System networks. The project significantly reduces the amount of carbon sent into the atmosphere and limits the harmful effects of climate change.

Being the only company capable of supplying both steam and hot water boilers on such a large scale in one project, King's Boiler Hire were the chosen suppliers of the temporary boiler plant, namely three steam and six hot water boilers.

The hire was planned in advance, with deliveries to the university meticulously programmed for weekends, through the busy capital, to avoid road closures and disruption to students, local businesses, museums and historical venues. The hire boilers were vital in the continuous supply of heating and hot water to ensure the smooth running of the university's world class public research faculties.



To submit news for consideration for future issues of the CPA Bulletin, please email: lisa@lisacollinscommunications.co.uk

THE DAWN OF AI IN PLANT-HIRE: A PARTNERSHIP FORGING THE FUTURE BY CAPJA

This picture is an AI generated image of Capja AI software



In the bustling offices of Capja, a sense of excitement is palpable. The team has just clinched their second UK Innovate Award, a prestigious honour that underscores their relentless drive for innovation. But this isn't just another feather in their cap; it's the seed funding for a venture that could redefine the plant-hire industry.

Capja's partnership with Southern Cranes & Access, a family-run business known for its expansive fleet and commitment to customer service, is more than just a business collaboration. It's a meeting of minds, a shared vision to push the boundaries of what's possible in plant-hire operations.

"This is a huge opportunity for Capja to deliver something ground-breaking for the industry," says Josh Wallman, the founder of Capja. "We've been pushing the boundaries in the specialised sector of crane hire for years. It's about time we leverage software to unlock new possibilities in this industry."

The project is ambitious but grounded in practicality. It aims to harness the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to solve real-world challenges: from drafting Risk Assessments and Method Statements to monitoring the depreciation rates of fleets and predicting equipment failures.

"AI isn't just a buzzword for us; it's a tool with immense practical applications," Wallman adds. "Working with forward-thinking companies like Southern Cranes allows us to trail-blaze what's possible, gaining massive advantages in the process."

Luke Wood, the Project Manager at Southern Cranes, shares the enthusiasm. "The possibilities

of integrating AI and machine learning into our operations are electrifying. This isn't just an upgrade; it's a transformation that will change the landscape of plant-hire altogether."

Kelvin Prince, Director at Southern Cranes, echoes this sentiment, "We've always been on the lookout for technologies that enhance safety and operational efficiency. The potential of AI in our industry is limitless, and we're thrilled to be at the forefront of this revolution."

But the project's impact extends beyond the bottom line. It's also a nod to sustainability, aiming to optimise equipment usage schedules to reduce emissions and resource

consumption. "We like to keep things easy and simple for the users and let the software do the heavy lifting," Wallman notes, highlighting the user-friendly approach that has become Capja's hallmark.

As the project unfolds, Capja is inviting industry stakeholders to share their insights. "Your voice matters," says Wallman. "Your ideas could shape the future of our AI-driven solutions."

The partnership between Capja and Southern Cranes is more than a business venture; it's a leap into the future. While the full scope of the project remains under wraps, one thing is clear: the future of plant-hire is bright, and it's powered by AI.

Your insights could be the missing piece in our AI puzzle. Contact us to share your thoughts on how AI could benefit the plant-hire industry – hello@capja.co.uk



Notes:

- **Innovate UK:** A key component of UK Research and Innovation, serves as the nation's innovation catalyst. With an annual budget exceeding £1 billion, the agency empowers businesses to transform groundbreaking ideas into economic growth by providing the necessary expertise, facilities, and funding.

www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk

- **Southern Cranes & Access Limited:** A family-run business, Southern Cranes & Access boasts one of the largest and most versatile fleets of access machines and cranes in the South-East.

www.southerncranes.co.uk

- **Capja Limited:** Specialising in the plant-hire market, Capja offers cutting-edge digital solutions to streamline operations and enhance safety.

www.capja.co.uk



Boost your customer satisfaction with swift, efficient access to crucial fleet and asset documentation, eliminating site and back office delays.

**Look Professional
Be Secure.**

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PROTECTING YOUR PLANT IN 2024

BY JENSTEN GROUP

2023 proved another challenging year for many construction plant owners. Thefts of plant reached record levels, and it's estimated that it's now costing the industry over £800m per year. With just 10% of stolen plant being recovered and with supply chains still recovering from the pandemic, the second-hand market has seen some prices reach parity with new equipment. With criminal gangs increasingly seeing plant as a soft target, protection needs to be the watchword for all in 2024.

Specialising in plant insurance proved eventful in 2023, and in common with most covers, plant insurance prices rose last year by around 10%. While these increases can be attributed to things like increased costs for repairs and general inflation, their timing could hardly have been worse.

While many analysts believe that insurance premium rises will slow this year, few, if any, see costs coming down. Inflation remains an issue, and rising demand is also likely to play a part in keeping costs higher. Concerns about thefts and higher equipment prices have seen a flood of plant owners seeking cover for previously uninsured equipment. Jensten Group has also seen a rise in the of requests for road risks cover as the cost of transporting equipment on the back of a lorry or low loader have been too high.

Anyone who's been unlucky enough to make a claim in 2023 would be well advised to seek some advice from an independent



plant insurance specialist when it comes to renewal. Premium increases could be significant, and getting an expert to review their existing cover and do the shopping around for them could prove wise.

When it comes to insurance, prevention is always better than cure. More and more plant owners are installing trackers and other security devices to deter thieves, but there is more that needs to be done. For

example, a lot of people will have plant covered through their liability insurance but are not aware the items must be kept within a locked building/compound when not in use overnight. Not doing this not only means they are less secure and more attractive to thieves and vandals but can also lead to policies being invalidated.

Something else we've seen a lot of recently is issues with trailer cover. A standard plant insurance policy won't cover a trailer while it's being towed. In the event of an incident, you could be left liable for any damage to it and its contents.

Looking on the bright side, 2024 looks set to be a much better year for the construction industry. The Construction Products Association is predicting a 1.1% increase in 2024 as the economy recovers, inflation continues to fall and demand for both new build and RM&I housing means activity grows. Alas, this is likely to increase the risks to plant and owners will need to take even greater care to protect their equipment in 2024.





NEW ESTA HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION STARTS WORK

ESTA is pressing ahead with a new long-term campaign to lobby for the raising and harmonisation of European health and safety standards in the heavy lifting and transport sectors.

Plans for a special health and safety commission to drive this agenda were first announced last year and work is now underway to collect evidence and agree the timelines and detailed aims.

ESTA's commission will look at how health and safety procedures and legislation in the heavy transport and lifting sector across Europe can be coordinated to raise standards while reducing ambiguity and inefficiencies.

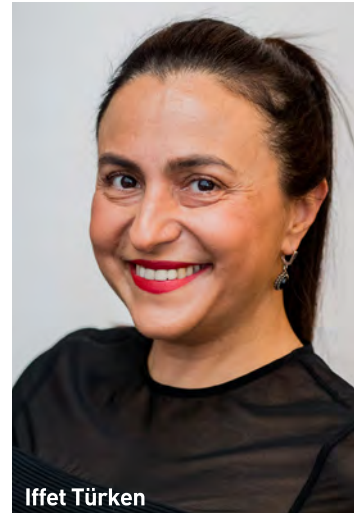
ESTA Section Transport President Iffet Türken said: "Safety training and standards are not at an equivalent level in all EU Countries and this unsatisfactory situation means that training qualifications in one EU member are often not recognised in other EU states.

"While the design and construction of mobile cranes in the EU is regulated under the EN13000 norm, the regulations covering the use and operation of mobile cranes vary from country to country."

The same applies for the recognition of training standards for banksmen and riggers or the compulsory minimum training allowing craftsmen to work on a construction site.

Türken continued: "This fragmentation raises the industry's costs unnecessarily, causes delays, creates uncertainty and, most importantly, makes the industry less safe.

"One of ESTA's key goals is to try and harmonize the national rules and regulations in Europe governing both abnormal transport and mobile cranes in the interest of safety and efficiency – and we are keen to hear from any member or supporter who would like to become involved in this important work."



Iffet Türken

Apart from **Iffet Türken**, who is an Executive Board Member of semi-trailer producer Kässbohrer, the other members of the commission to date are **Gerard Bastiaansen**, Wagenborg Nedlift; **Blanca Claeysens**, ASA France; **Luca Fantini**, Fagioli; **Moreno Massetti**, Fagioli; **Marcel Schets**, Mammoet.

WINCH GEARBOX MAINTENANCE PROPOSALS ON TRACK FOR PARIS PUBLICATION

Klaus Meissner



ESTA's work to develop new proposals to enhance existing maintenance regimes for mobile crane winch gearboxes is on track for publication in Spring.

They are being drafted by a small group of experts led by ESTA's crane expert Klaus Meissner along with Mammoet's Hermen Kamp and Gerrit van Hove from Sarens.

The requirement to calculate the remaining life of a winch is a crucial safety consideration because if the winch gearbox fails the crane's load comes down.

The ESTA working group has presented its first draft to the mobile crane manufacturers through FEM - the European materials handling federation. Gearbox manufacturers have been involved by

video conferences, have received the draft and are now being visited for face-to-face talks.

Klaus Meissner said: "We are making quick progress. We are a small team with great experience from users and in crane design. Our target is to have the first version for publishing ready to present to the ESTA Spring Meeting in Paris.

"Prior to publication, we have circulated the proposals for comment and reaction amongst the crane and gearbox manufacturers. We also have asked some of our members in the crane industry to do a 'litmus test' - that is to say to look at historical accidents and assess whether our proposed measures would have prevented the incidents from taking place."

The current regime involves a major overhaul after ten years to check that the winch gearbox is still in good condition, but many experts argue that the ten-year threshold is an arbitrary deadline and does not reflect the equipment's actual usage.

Supporters believe the new proposals could both improve safety and - in some cases - save money.

STRONG BACKING FOR ESTA'S NEW TRANSPORT STABILITY GUIDELINE

ESTA says it has received “exceptionally strong support” from its members and the heavy transport market for its on-going work to improve safety during the use of SPMTs and establish an internationally accepted training qualification for operators.

At the end of last year, ESTA published a well-received new transport stability guideline for the use of Modular Hydraulically Suspended Trailers.

ESTA is also progressing plans to develop SPMT operator training through the launch of ETOL - the European Transport Operators Licence - using the structures developed for the European Crane Operators Licence.

Photo Courtesy of
Collett & Sons



The stability guideline is freely available to ESTA members - and their members - from the Library in ESTA's website. It is the result of work carried out by ESTA's SPMT working group whose member companies come from eight different countries, reflecting the widespread concern across Europe.

The new guideline specifies the factors to be considered when verifying the global stability and capacity of a modular hydraulically suspended trailer by calculation, assuming that the trailer is operating on a stable surface. It also details the conditions and considerations for local stability of trailers within a transport arrangement and the stability of the cargo itself.

It will eventually be incorporated into a completely updated best practice guide expected to be published next year.

ESTA Director Ton Klijn said: “The truly exceptional response we have received for this project shows the importance of our work in this area.”

He continued: “We are now working on the next stages of the best practice guide while at the same time developing the organisational structures that will enable us to bring transport operator training and certification into the framework originally developed for crane operators through ECOL.

“We strongly believe that these developments will not just raise safety and efficiency but will also help the industry recruit the operators it needs going forward.”

The companies in the SPMT working group are **Cometto, DNV, Fagioli, Goldhofer, Mammoet, Sarens, Technip, TII Group and Wagenborg**. Members of the peer review group are **BMS, Collett, Saipem, Siemens Gamesa and Transportes y Grúas Aguado**.

BOOK YOUR SEAT AT THE ESTA AWARDS 2024

Don't forget to book your seat at the 2024 ESTA Awards dinner - the leading international event for the heavy lifting and transport sectors.

Regularly attracting over 400 guests, it is a great way to meet old friends, make new contacts and celebrate the very best projects and developments in the industry in the past 12 months.

This year's dinner takes place on the evening of 25th April at the Hilton Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris during the Intermat exhibition.

For further information about the awards - and ESTA's accompanying autumn meetings - please go to the ESTA website at www.estaeurope.eu

CPA has reserved a table, please contact **Peter Brown** at peter@cpa.uk.net if any CPA Members are attending.



LEGAL NEWS

CHANGES TO 'SPENT' CONVICTION FOR EX-OFFENDERS DRIVING OFFENCES



David Smith
david.smith@cpa.uk.net

From 28th October 2023, the government introduced new timeframes for certain criminal convictions to become 'spent'. The government's rationale was that by reducing the rehabilitation periods for ex-offenders, it will result in them finding it easier to re-enter the workplace. The rehabilitation period is the period following a conviction when an individual is treated as rehabilitated, and their conviction becomes 'spent'.

Significant changes include reducing the time it takes for some convictions to become 'spent'. Under previous rules, any custodial sentence of more than four years was never 'spent', but under the new regime, this has changed - where after seven years from the end of the sentence, the conviction will now be 'spent'. Although there are exceptions to certain convictions, 'spent' convictions do not need to be declared to a prospective employer.

However, some exceptions to these changes apply and the commission of further offences can also impact these reduced periods. Shorter rehabilitation periods will apply to those who are under 18.

These changes apply to England and Wales, and in Scotland, the government has produced a guidance document: 'Self-disclosure of previous convictions and alternatives to prosecution'.

COMPANY LAW CHANGES - SMALL COMPANY ACCOUNTS

The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act recently came into force in October 2023. This new legislation means that micro and small companies will need to file more in-depth financial information on the public register at Companies House.

If a company meets two of the following three criteria it is classed as a 'micro company':

- with a turnover less than £632,000
- balance sheet of less than £316,000
- with fewer than 10 employees

Micro companies currently only need to file a very simple balance sheet and the number of employees.

However, if a company meets two of the following three criteria it is classed as a 'small company':

- with a turnover of less than £10.2m
- balance sheet of less than £5.1m
- with fewer than 50 employees.

Small companies currently only need to file a simple balance sheet and the number of employees.

Going forwards, both micro and small companies will have to file information from their 'Profit and Loss' account. Small companies will also have to file a directors' report. The exact details of the new requirements, which at the time of writing, have not yet been disclosed, but it will almost certainly mean that turnover and 'Profit and Loss' figures will need to be disclosed by all limited companies in the future.

More information is available at
<https://changestoukcompanylaw.campaign.gov.uk/changes-to-accounts/>

Members may wish to speak with their accountants/auditors for further information on this subject.

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TRAINING OF ALTERNATIVE FUELLED VEHICLES

An Alternatively Fuelled Vehicle (AFV) is a motor vehicle powered by natural gas, biogas or hydrogen, or hydrogen and electricity.

When the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 was introduced, it allowed 'B'/car drivers to drive AFVs that weighed up to 4.25 tonnes. However, this meant that the driver of that vehicle could not drive it outside of Great Britain, that it

must be used to transport goods, and that this type of vehicle could not tow a trailer. The driver must also have completed a minimum of five hours of training.

Members are reminded that should they wish to purchase AFVs in their fleet, then they should also factor in any relevant training for the employee(s) who will drive that vehicle.

FLEXIBLE WORKING REQUESTS

From April, the Employment Relations (Flexible Working) Act takes effect, which gives all workers, including agency staff, a day one right, i.e., the right to claim this from the first day they work for a new company.

The right is extended where instead of the existing system allowing an employee to make one request in any 12 month period, it has been increased to two requests. The employer must consider that request and the timeframe to respond will decrease from three months to two months. If the change is agreed, then the employee's contract terms are altered to reflect that change.

In another change to existing procedures, the employee will no longer be required to provide any explanation as to the proposed effect their request to flexible working will have on the employer.

At the time of writing, the government has not made it clear whether employees who have been with a company for a few weeks will still have to wait until they reach the existing 26-week employment threshold before they can submit a flexible working request or not.

Further information on this can be found on the ACAS website.

DFT PROPOSES DCPC REFORMS

In mid-December, the Department for Transport (DfT) issued its response to the consultation on reform to the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (DCPC) scheme.

The government's response outlined significant changes to the way vocational drivers receive periodic training throughout their careers, with the introduction of increased flexibility for drivers when they renew and/or regain their qualification.

To achieve this, the government aims to introduce a new National DCPC for drivers who do not intend to drive international routes. In addition, they are looking to:

- Reform training by reducing the minimum course length from 7 hours down to 3.5 hours.

- Decouple e-learning from trainer-led courses; and to
- Develop with the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) more core course content and encourage informal assessment at the end of modules.

The DfT also decided to consult further on introducing a new periodic test as an alternative to 35 hours of periodic training.

It is expected that the new regime will take effect during late summer/early Autumn. The membership will be informed of any developments as they occur.

DVLA WEBSITE - ACCESSING DCPC AND TACHOGRAPH INFORMATION

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has now included an individual's Driver CPC (DCPC) and tachograph information to their personal 'Driver and Vehicle' account on its website since the middle of October. However, you will need a UK passport to initially create an account, but it is only available to GB licence holders, and not Northern Ireland licence holders.

DVLA's hope is that once the account has been created, it will assist drivers in reviewing their records, and set-up reminders when the vehicle must be serviced and taxed; but you need to be the registered keeper to view your vehicle details.

For further information on this, go to the DVLA's website.

LONDON'S DIRECT VISION STANDARD (DVS)

At the time of writing, Transport for London (TfL) has circulated an updated guidance document on the Direct Vision Standard (DVS).

The guidance document outlines the requirements owners of vehicles must meet to ensure their fleet meets the minimum 3-star rating which comes into force from 28th October 2024.

There are sections on Progressive Safe Systems (PSS) and categories of vehicles which are exempt or partially exempt from the DVS requirements.

A copy of the guidance document can be found under 'Transport' within the Legal section of the CPA website at www.cpa.uk.net/legal-insurance-plant-theft/legal/transport

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UNPAID LEAVE FOR CARERS

From 6th April, any employees who are caring for a dependent with long-term care needs, will receive a new statutory unpaid leave right, which grants them one week's leave in any 12-month window. This right is formed from part of the Carer's Leave Act.

UPDATE ON DRAFT GB LEGISLATION FOR HOLIDAY PAY AND TUPE TRANSFERS

Further to our article published in the August 2023 issue of the CPA Bulletin, the consultation on two post-Brexit consultations on reforming holiday pay and TUPE have concluded.

The proposed legislation will ensure that from next year, employers need only keep adequate records to demonstrate that they and their employees are complying with the Working Time Regulations - particularly the average 48-hour working week and Opt-out agreements, length of night work and health assessment for night workers.

The Government has removed the requirement for employers to record the number of hours each employee was working - although for companies who pay their workforce on an hourly rate, this will obviously need to continue.

One of the proposals put forward was to create a single rate of holiday - which for Great Britain would combine the four-week holiday with the Bank/Public Holidays (1.6 weeks/8 working days). The Government has rejected this proposal, and instead will legislate for companies paying the 'enhanced' rate, e.g. for commission, overtime, bonuses, etc. for the four-week period, and a 'flat' rate for the remainder.

Those who are employed for part of the year, or work irregular hours, then their accrual holiday calculation method will be done at 12.07% of hours actually worked in a pay period, whatever that may be for each employer (e.g. weekly, fortnightly, monthly).

The proposed legislation will restate EU case law in relation to carry-over of annual leave when an employee is unable to take their leave due to being on maternity/family related leave or sick leave.

The planned TUPE reforms will proceed in allowing small businesses (with fewer than 50 employees) undertaking a transfer of any size, and businesses of any size undertaking a small transfer (of fewer than 10 employees) to consult their employees directly if there are no existing worker representatives in place.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE LAUNCHES NEW INQUIRY INTO SSP

As part of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement regarding those on long-term sick leave, and methods for them to return to work, the Work and Pensions Committee has launched an inquiry that will review the effectiveness of Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) and how it might be reformed to better support the recovery and return to work of people who claim it.

The committee had launched a call for evidence which closed on 8th December 2023, and focused on issues such as:

- whether SSP is set at a sufficient level,
- international alternatives,
- the three-day waiting period, and
- whether a phased return and SSP work better together.

The membership will be updated on any further information from government.

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Q&As

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the answers given within this section of the CPA Bulletin, no liability for any damage, liability, cost, loss and/or expense which the reader has incurred can be accepted by the Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA). The reader should obtain independent legal advice on any issue reported within the CPA Bulletin, before proceeding with a course of action.

Q We have a customer that wants to hire plant from us, but they do not have any 'hired-in plant' insurance cover. What is the best way to proceed? Should we use our own insurance, then charge them for it?

A You can certainly offer them insurance cover by way of a subrogation waiver under your own policy, provided you have obtained the correct policy from your insurer which allows this. You may wish to discuss this with your insurance broker first if there are any aspects of the waiver you are uncertain about. You can proceed, once you have understood the workings of the waiver policy - most companies charge their customer 15% - 20% of the hire rate for this facility. If the customer has not got hired-in plant cover, they could look to obtain a 'short-term' hire policy from any reputable insurer whilst the plant is in their care. There are a number of insurance brokers, whose contact details can be found within the 'Insurance' section of the CPA's website. I am happy to discuss this further if you wish.

Q I was hoping you could help with a query regarding VAT Reverse charge. I have tried to find the answer myself by reading through all the information online but cannot get a definitive answer, so I just wanted to confirm that I have understood everything correctly.

We had an order for the supply of plant with an operator which was subject to Reverse VAT and has been invoiced accordingly.

Whilst on site, there was some damage caused by the customer and we have subsequently invoiced for this. We didn't apply Reverse VAT to the damage charges but when our customer paid these invoices, they automatically applied the reverse charge and did not pay us the VAT. Should we have applied the Reverse charge to these invoices as well or do the damages count as a separate order?

Any advice you could give me would be much appreciated.

A Navigating through the intricacies of Reverse VAT can be complicated, but the short answer is, yes, you should have applied the Reverse VAT charge for the damage invoice too. The reason being is that as the original hire was not subject to VAT, then damage invoice will not apply either - as they relate to the same supply.

VAT for the damage invoice would only apply if the original hire was subject to VAT. I hope that clarifies the position, but if you have any further questions, then please get in touch.

Q When the government introduced a law stopping bank's from adding a 'handling' charge for when a credit or debit card was used, I noticed that HMRC's website stopped imposing a 'handling' charge for credit cards but appear to continue if a debit card is used. I have noticed that HMRC has charged me a 0.17% non-refundable fee when I used my debit card. Is this legal?

A When the government introduced this legislation in 2018, it was designed to prevent customers incurring additional charges, but the legislation was aimed at consumer customers and not businesses. I can only presume that the charges you have incurred from HMRC is on the basis that these are through/related to your business, and so, in their eyes, would be outside the scope of the legislation; however, you should confirm with HMRC that that is their rationale in issuing those charges.

Q When do you normally ask a new business customer to sign the terms? Do we need it physically signing or can we send it electronically?

A As a rule, you should always attach a copy of the Model Conditions ('the terms') and the Hire Contract Form (HCF) in any email until such time as there is an established 'course of trading' between the two parties. The length of time that has elapsed to obtain that relationship will depend on the frequency the customer hires from you. As an example, if a customer hires from you on one or two occasions each month, then within six months the relationship should be established, and you will not need to keep attaching the terms.

Instead, the terms can be attached to an all-customer email, where each customer is blind-copied into the email - and the terms are sent out. This email can go out once a year, reminding them that all current and future hires are subject to these terms. If the email is sent out requests a 'Read Receipt', then you know they have received it. [The Model Conditions are only used for business-to-business hire agreements.]

Once the 'course of trading' has been established, then you can just email out the HCF. Ideally, it would be perfect if the customer (electronically) signed and returned the HCF, but this is not always possible. Instead, as long as there is some form of written acknowledgement - email or text from a duly authorised person within the customer's organisation, confirming that the customer has accepted the HCF's details - the machine being hired, for how long, for how much, etc., then that should provide sufficient evidence that a contract is in place.

I hope that helps clarify the position.

Q I am wondering whether you would be able to offer me some advice regarding the use of agency operators, and their liability for any damage to our plant whilst they were operating it. Is there anything within the Model Conditions that stipulates where the responsibility lies, or does it come down to the terms and conditions used by the agency?

A As you are supplying the operator under the Model Conditions to your customer, then you must be assured that the operator is deemed competent, i.e., hold the relevant card for the machine they will be operating. If you are sourcing the operator from a third-party, then they have a duty to ensure that the operator they supplied to you is competent.

If an incident has occurred on site, which questions the operator's competence, then the third-party should provide an explanation as to the checks they have made before providing that person to you. [Provided that it can be shown that the operator is competent, then under the Model Conditions, the customer will be liable for the operator's actions and omissions (clause 8), as well as any damage to the plant you supplied (clause 13(b)) - though in this circumstance, you may not want to proceed with that option.]

The third-party may have their own sets of terms and conditions, which may exclude liability in certain situations, so you should review these to confirm what liability, if any, the agency is under. Subject to that review, it would be worth contacting the third party to ascertain what steps they took to check competence, and whether they are willing to contribute to the loss you have suffered.

I am happy to discuss this with you once you have more information.

Q I have been asked to look into any future legislation that will affect Site Dumpers in 2025. The info that I have sent to me is as follows:

"The order comes ahead of new legislation regarding operator protection which comes into force in spring 2025. This legislation states that all site dumpers with an unladen weight of more than 4.5-tonne must have a production fitted cab, which is in line with ROPS and FOPS ISO 3471 and 3449."

I have managed to get my hands on the two ISO Standards from 2008 and 2005 but not sure where to look for any new legislation that may be due.

A The requirement for cab fitment for dumpers falls within EN474 part 1 2022 design requirements - safety. I am not sure when this requirement was added but has been a design requirement for all earthmoving equipment since I believe 2006, so technically it has been around for a while. EN474 part 6 for dumpers provides an exemption for machines of 4.5 tonnes and below.

I understand however that certainly for the UK market, that some manufacturers claim that demand for non-cabbed machines meant that they continue to provide these for the marketplace. EN474 only covers the design requirements, and I am not aware that it is legislative in terms of mandating within the UK. I need to check with the HSE if it will become regulatory under say the supply of machinery regs as well as with the manufacturer's trade association.

The only driver for the increasing demand for cabbed types is through the Tier 1s along with the Construction Industry Plant Safety Group, in that manufacturers are now providing enclosed cabs for machines both above and below 4.5t. However, the cabs only need to comply with the ROPS and FOPS standard. There is also only a voluntary design standard being introduced in the UK for cab strike strength which will allow the operator to remain seated during the loading activity. Currently due to a lack of an ISO/EN standard, advice from the Construction Industry Plant Safety Group is that operators depart from the cab during loading unless certain parameters are met.

Let me know if you require further information.

Q I have an individual who has presented me with a qualification card that looks like it has been accredited by the CPA/yourselves.

I wanted to know if this replaced the need to hold an EUSR Categories 3,4 & 5 qualification, or if it was the equivalent. As there is no expiry date on the card, I wanted to know what type of qualification this was.

A This is a certificate issued by a training provider - the National Construction College (NCC) - for a course that was either written by, or endorsed by, one of the CPA's Special Interest Groups - in this case, the 'Shoring Technology' group. The certificate is only confirmation that the course was undertaken and is not connected to any national qualification framework.

To be clear, the CPA do not, nor have ever accredited courses or hold records of certification - that will be in the domain of the provider.

We do not have a syllabus on what was delivered so we are unable to determine to what current equivalents there are and according to the provider's website, has been replaced by EUSR programmes. Only EUSR can determine if it is acceptable for their certification purposes. Hope that helps.

Q I wondered if you could provide any guidance on any deposit, we ask our customer for.

A It can be very difficult to quantify what deposit you ask for, as there are a number of factors to consider: who the customer is, what machine they are looking to hire, etc.

The first issue is whether the customer is a business or a homeowner. If it is the former, then the business would normally have hired-in plant insurance cover, so any damage should be covered, if that is a particular concern to you. However, a policy such as that will have an excess, so that could be a starting point when deciding what deposit to ask for. Other factors affecting the deposit being asked for, could include the plant's value and age.

For a homeowner, who is unlikely to have any insurance cover, this may be provided by you as some form of damage waiver – where the customer pays 15-20% of the hire rate. [You would need to obtain such a policy from your insurance provider before you can offer this facility to customers.] If that is all agreed, then again, any excess under the policy could be addressed by the homeowner paying a deposit – again subject to the value of the item they are looking to hire.

The method in calculating the deposit is up to you, but the CPA does not have any specific sums to recommend as it will be on a case-by-case basis.

Q We have received an invoice from our supplier (who is not another CPA member) for an item of equipment that was stolen that had been on hire to us at the time. The value of the lost item seems disproportionately high, and wondered – as a guide – whether there was anything within the Model Conditions which could help calculate the value?

A There is no methodology within the Model Conditions to calculate the value of a lost/stolen item. The reason being is that the membership as a whole, offers such an array of plant and equipment of different values/ages/conditions/etc. that it would be impossible to produce any meaningful mathematical table to assist you.

That aside for the moment, clause 13(b) simply states that the Hirer/ Customer is liable for all loss and damage to the plant during the hire period. Historically, the calculation of the lost plant is based on its market value; however, how that market value is calculated can be fraught in the current second-hand market, where in some recent instances, the asset has appreciated in value rather than depreciated.

You could independently look at identical products which are for sale by other vendors, to give an estimation, as well as speaking with manufacturer to see if they can help. Once you have some more information, you could still query the amount you are being charged by your supplier. However, it may be dependent on what the supplier's terms and conditions state, as to how the cost was calculated.

Q After having a look through the Model Conditions, I cannot see anywhere if the customer is responsible for any repairs post-hire to put the equipment back into the same state and condition when it was hired out. Is there anything?

A The first thing to clarify is whether there is actual damage to the plant/equipment, or if this was simply 'fair, wear and tear'. The customer is liable if it is the former, but not if it is the latter.

Should there be any claim for damage (long) after the hire had ended, then this may be challenged by the customer. The Model Conditions does not specify a timeframe in which the owner must inform the customer of the damage, but any delay in informing the customer should be explained. Once this damage can be attributed to a particular hire, then that customer is liable under clause 13(b) of the Model Conditions. As the conditions falls under contract law – each contract has effectively a 'shelf life' of 6 years – so even if the hire ended a few weeks earlier, they would still apply.

I am happy to discuss this further if you wish.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

BRITISH CONCRETE PUMPING GROUP (BCPG)

The next British Concrete Pumping Group meeting will take place in the first quarter of 2024, with the meeting format and venue communicated once arrangements have been confirmed.

CONSTRUCTION HOIST INTEREST GROUP (CHIG)

The Construction Hoist Interest Group Steering Committee and Open Meetings took place on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October 2023 respectively as hybrid events, with both physical and virtual delegates attending. The meeting venue was the Heart of England Conference & Events Centre, Meriden Road, Fillongley, CV7 8DX, with the respective meeting agendas covering a range of topics including:

- HSE Update
- CHIG Guidance Document Update
- BS7212 Revision Update
- EN12159 and EN16719 Update
- Hoist Selection Guidance Document
- Rescue from Height on Hoists
- NASC Update on Guidance for Scaffolders using Lifting Equipment
- IPAF Update
- Late Payment – How to Approach/Deal with Clients
- Tackling the Skills Shortage
- Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) Requirements Update

CRANE INTEREST GROUP (CIG)

The Crane Interest Group Open meeting took place on Thursday 2nd November 2023 at the Heart of England Conference & Events Centre, Meriden Road, Fillongley, CV7 8DX, with the meeting agenda covering a range of topics including:

- TIN and Publications Update and Review Programme Priorities
- CAP 1096 Update
- Minimum Standards for the Procurement of a Mobile Crane Guidance
- HSE Update
- Apprenticeship and Skills Update

SUCTION AND VACUUM EXCAVATOR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SAVE)

The Suction and Vacuum Excavator Steering Committee Meeting took place on Thursday 26th October 2023 at the Heart of England Conference & Events Centre, Meriden Road, Fillongley, CV7 8DX, with the meeting agenda covering a range of topics including:

- Election of the new SAVE Interest Group Chair
- Recent Safety and Operational Issues
- Apprenticeship Potential Update
- Standardisation of Manufacturer's Instructions
- Safe Use of Suction Vacuum Excavators - Good Practice Guide Review

SHORING TECHNOLOGY INTEREST GROUP (STIG)

The Shoring Technical and Steering Committee Meeting took place on Wednesday 29th November 2023 at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Queens Drive, Ossett, Wakefield, WF5 9BE, with the meeting agenda covering a range of topics including:

- Recent Safety Issues
- HSE Update
- CITB Update
- STIG Guidance Documents and TIN's Review Update

TOWER CRANE INTEREST GROUP (TCIG)

The Tower Crane Interest Group Open Meeting took place on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at Ironmongers' Hall, Shaftesbury Place, Off Aldersgate Street, Barbican, London EC2Y 8AA, with the meeting agenda covering a range of topics including:

- TINs and Publications Update
- CAP 1096 Update
- HSE Update
- Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) Requirements Update
- Training and Apprenticeship Update
- Over Sail Licence Charges by the City of London
- Refusal by TfL to Issue Advance Bus Diversion Quotations



Rob Squires
rob.squires@cpa.uk.net

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CONTACT US

THE CPA TEAM - WORKING FOR CPA MEMBERS



Stu McInroy was appointed CPA Chief Executive in June 2023. Stu joined the CPA from the Road Safety Markings Association (RSMA), where he was Chief Executive since 2018.

stu.mcinroy@cpa.uk.net



Peter Brown is the CPA's Technical and Development Manager. He has a long background in plant technical operation and maintenance activities, followed by experience in plant-based education and training and development, including 18 years at CITB working as a standard-setter for plant occupational standards, qualifications, training standards, etc. and latterly as CPCS Product Manager.

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David Smith has worked as the CPA's Legal Manager since 2001, and has qualifications in both law and accounting. Prior to joining the CPA, David worked in the construction industry for eight years.

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Katie Kelleher joined CPA in 2023 as Technical and Development Officer. Her role involves providing CPA Members with guidance and advice on technical, training and safety subjects, as well as helping produce and maintain our safety and technical publications. She also represents CPA on industry-led initiatives and working groups. Katie joined CPA from Select Plant Hire where she worked for the past eight years as a Crane Operator and Appointed Person.

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Adam Godwin has two roles within the CPA; he is responsible for communications to the Members, where he edits the CPA Bulletin and oversees the CPA's website; he also provides administrative support to the Rail Plant Association (RPA).

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Chris Cassley is responsible for the development and lobbying of the key policy issues that are important to CPA Members. He spent 16 years at the CBI where he was responsible for construction policy and acted as Secretariat to the CBI Construction Council.

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Rob Squires is the CPA's Training and Safety Manager. Prior to joining the CPA, he spent many years managing training, card and certification schemes with experience within the demolition sector and with CITB managing a range of CSCS-based schemes.

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Lisa Godwin is the CPA's Membership Manager. She has worked at CPA for over 25 years and has a wealth of experience supporting CPA Members. Lisa oversees all aspects of the CPA membership process, along with the strong CPA Membership Team.

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Siva Subramaniam (Finance Manager) and **Jenny Lupton** (Membership Support Administrator) form part of the experienced CPA Membership Team.

TELEPHONE: 020 7796 3366

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Should any members wish to contact their
Regional Council Member please email
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and your enquiry will be directed to the
relevant Council Representative.

RAIL PLANT ASSOCIATION

PAUL HELKS, CHAIR OF THE RPA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORTS ON THE CURRENT INITIATIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION



Paul Helks
RPA Management Committee
Chairman

A Happy New Year to all readers, but sadly not for everyone in the rail plant supply chain. A lot has happened since 2024 began and more will transpire over the next few months. It is with great sadness that another business has fallen by the wayside as TXM Plant is no longer trading. The ramifications will be far reaching and it is imperative that a reflection and understanding on supply chain fragility is explored. To name but a few considerations, terms and conditions, late changes and reward ultimately all have to be discussed at a senior level.

Review of the Year

The Rail Plant Association (RPA) made some bold step changes in 2023 and more will need to be pioneered in 2024. Summarised below, are some of the subjects as covered in the RPA articles in the CPA Bulletin throughout 2023. Please take a moment to reflect and consider them.

January/February 2023

- Standards update following withdrawal of the Quarterly PT&RS Standards Briefing Report.
- Work continues on the RPA fitter competence material.
- Recommendation to visit Safety Central and follow the link provided for electrical safety step-up.

March/April 2023

- RPA 2023 AGM - Update from Steve Featherstone - Dramatic increase in late cancellation of work due to RMT

strike action. The RPA asked Steve to independently chair a review and rewrite of RPA terms and conditions.

- Proposal made to increase RPA Management Committee members from 10 to 12 (agreed with no objections). New committee is: Andy Black, Paul Price, Steve Bodman, Paul Helks, Jim Nabarro, Ian Morgan, Graham Pirson, Darren Matthews, Liam Ledger, Richard Romaszko, Andrew Shipley and David Richardson.
- Thanks to Steve Wadham for his long service and support of the RPA.
- Completion of RPA Management Committee Publication Review Groups' appraisal of rail industry standards.
- Jordan Skey appointed Technical Head of Plant, Network Rail.
- Steve Featherstone update - Primarily regarding Statement of Funds Available for Control Period 7 (CP7) - a slight increase compared to CP6. Also talk of potential enhancement schemes and how these can be justified.

May/June 2023

- An Cap Gemini conducted survey found around 50% of base plant and 90% of attachments did not have a Product Acceptance certificate. RPA and Network Rail in talks to find resolution.
- OTP community asked on behalf of Network Rail to complete a request for information document for a review of Network Rail's On-Track Plant (OTP) asset register.

- Rail Live Exhibition on 21st June.
- Steve Featherstone update - Strains and costs incurred by the supply chain due to Covid-19, Brexit, Ukraine war and the rising prices caused by the aforementioned.
- Concerns were raised regarding the government published rail network enhancements pipeline being outdated.

July/August 2023

- At the RPA Leadership Meeting on 4th July, Phil Bennett, Network Rail, gave an overview of the outlook for CP7. Tom Male, Network Rail, presented a summary of the Christmas and New Year workbank. Leigh Goble shared the latest Rail PPS data.
- A brief summary of Rail Live 2023.
- Steve Featherstone update - Highlights the slight drop in construction productivity since 1997 and how this can be rectified and why potentially 'game-changing' plant and machinery has not seen use. Expresses concerns among Rail Live attendees about the difficulties of getting items through Product Acceptance.

September/October 2023

- Rail Plant Terms & Conditions 2023 published and circulated to the membership.
- Discussion regarding the aging rail workforce, the difficulty of new staff progression and the potential fixes for this - a proposal to allow companies to train operators from scratch and an expansion of sentinel training courses.
- OTP Core now online. No consultation with OTP community.
- Calls for discussion with Network Rail regarding plant movement around public

holidays. An increased interest from the Police and Highways department.

- Visibility of workbanks, imperative for security of supply chain.

November/ December 2023

- Slips, trips and falls roadshow.
- Message from Jordan Skey regarding RIS 1530-PLT Issue 7 coming into force.
- One Big Circle was invited to RPA Management Committee meeting.

- Steve Diksa, Bridgeway Consulting, delivered a presentation on the COSS Enhancement Programme.
- Steve Featherstone update - Discusses other concerns such as: the amount of work for the supply chain being lower in CP7 than 5 and 6, high inflation and interest rates and the average asset age of the track system being allowed to deteriorate.

Moving Forward

With all that is going on behind the scenes with the RPA, throughout 2024 we will continue to focus on work-bank visibility, industry adoption of the terms and conditions that fairly reflect late cancellation, staff demand, and the upskilling process. The challenges ahead will test us all, but now more than ever we must pull together, rather than pull apart.

STEVE FEATHERSTONE UPDATE

In many rail industry publications, we have read reports about the construction and operation of the Network Rail High Output fleet of track renewal and ballast cleaning machines. As the latter part of Control Period 6 (CP6) and the whole of Control Period 7 (CP7) are focusing far more on tactical solutions the need for the High Output systems has reduced significantly and the team is being considerably downsized. I find this disappointing as the High Output systems played a key role in maintaining the average asset age.

In response to the financial constraints set by the government, the average asset age of the track system is being allowed to deteriorate during CP7. You have to go back decades to find a similar strategy of managed decline on the British railway. I am surprised that the ORR endorsed plans which allow the average asset age to decline over a five year control period. Hopefully there are plans in place to recover this during CP8 and CP9 rather than establish a new baseline at the deteriorated level.

The last year of a control period has traditionally been a bumper year for the supply chain with the so called hockey stick spend profile. CP6 is proving to be very different as Network Rail is cutting back on significant volumes of work which is putting the supply chain into considerable distress. The supply chain has got used to managing with boom and bust cycles but what we are seeing now is more akin to a famine. It is to be hoped that the supply chain remains intact ready for when we get to the new funding that will come with CP7.

The ORR recently announced their final determination for Network Rail spending in CP7. The Network Rail regulatory settlement is a cash settlement with inflation risk sitting with Network Rail. Continued higher than normal inflation will eat into the actual volume

of work which can be delivered with the cash funds in CP7. As asset managers try to make the best of the funds available, CP7 will likely see an increase in heavy maintenance, life extension and refurbishment rather than the full renewal of assets. A new generation of railway engineers are going to discover how to make do and mend and as a plant community we will have to support them in that.

On an inflation adjusted basis, funding in CP7 for maintenance and renewals will be slightly less than in CP6 which will ultimately mean less work for the supply chain, albeit the reduction in High Output work will compensate to some extent.

My rule of thumb for plant workload volumes is one third maintenance, one third renewals and one third enhancements. Whilst the first two thirds for maintenance and renewals are there or thereabouts for CP7, we still have no news from the government on the enhancements pipeline which typically makes up the final third of the plant volume of work. This will be critical to the success or otherwise of the supply chain during CP7. The cancellation of HS2 from Birmingham to Manchester will see more work on the classic network but this is for CP8 and CP9. Unless enhancement volumes pick up quickly to more normal levels, it is



Steve Featherstone

likely that CP7 total volumes of work for the supply chain will be around 80% of that seen in CP5 and CP6.

On behalf of all Rail Plant Association members, a delegation met with representatives from the Department for Transport on 8 December to explain what life is like for the supply chain dealing with an uncertain forward order book, high inflation, high interest rates and cash flow challenges. We stressed that with around £1 billion of plant and around 5,000 employees, it is important that the rail plant industry has the confidence to invest in the next generation of plant and the next generation of resources to operate and maintain them.

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