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# A successful Vertikal Days

For a fifth consecutive year ALLMI's presence at Vertikal Days proved to be a big success. The loader crane display in the ALLMI Village was the best to date and resulted in an impressive number of visitors from a range of industry sectors. ALLMI executive director, Tom Wakefield said: "Once again the show produced excellent results for ALLMI and member company exhibitors. We've always found exhibiting at Vertikal Days to be a great way to promote the association and this year's show was no exception. The Village was a hive of activity throughout the two days and because of the specialist nature of the show, every visitor we spoke to had a genuine interest in lifting operations. We expect to see further benefits over the coming months as we build upon some of the new relationships we've established. We can only see Vertikal Days going from strength to strength in the years ahead and we fully intend to be a part of that."

*The ALLMI Village at Vertikal Days was the best so far.*



## ALLMI General Meetings

As part of its presence at Vertikal Days, ALLMI held general meetings for both manufacturer/service company and fleet owner members. On the afternoon of 22nd June, manufacturers/service companies were given several presentations, starting with ALLMI chairman, Mark Rigby and an overview of everything the association has achieved over the past 12 months.

Executive director, Tom Wakefield, followed with a report on trading activities, which included a 19 percent increase in membership over the 2010/11 financial year, as well as increases of five and 10 percent in the uptake of ALLMI's lorry loader training and slinger/signaller training respectively. Members then heard from HSE principle specialist inspector, Ian Simpson, on the legislation and standards affecting the use of lorry loaders. The meeting finished with a presentation from ALLMI technical director, Alan Johnson, who explained the legal requirement for the training of managers/supervisors, and the courses that ALLMI offers in this area. Johnson also updated members on the impressive uptake of ALLMI's Appointed Person course in 2011 and the development of the new ALLMI Code of Practice, due to be released later this year.

On the morning of 23rd June, ALLMI's fleet owner members received the same presentations, but with the addition of Forum chairman, Steve Frazer-Brown, providing an update on the executive committee's activities, including a report on the development of guidance relating to the use of the loader crane hook as an anchoring point for fall arrest equipment. ALLMI chairman, Mark Rigby, said: "Holding our general meetings at Vertikal Days proved to be very successful. We received a record number of delegates across the two meetings which is so important given the number of projects that ALLMI is currently involved in and how crucial it is that discussions are held with members in order to get their points of view. Members left the meetings having been very well informed on a range of issues and then had the opportunity to take in the show. It's definitely a format we'll be looking to reproduce in 2012."

## ALLMI Operator of the Year Competition 2011

ALLMI's first ever Operator of the Year competition generated a great deal of interest at this year's Vertikal Days. Situated within the ALLMI Village, entrants tested their operational ability in terms of accuracy, speed and safety, whilst negotiating the specially designed course. The eventual winner was in fact ALLMI's very own technical director, Alan Johnson, who completed the course in 6 minutes 39 seconds. He comments "The task was quite challenging given the course that was set out and the time penalties that could be incurred. Some very good operators had already put some great times in, so I was pleasantly surprised to have finished in first place." Alan has subsequently donated the prize money to the Derbyshire Festival 2014 charity appeal which aims to raise £2 million pounds by 2014.

## Filming commences for ALLMI / FTA Training DVD

The first week in July saw filming commence for a new training DVD being produced by ALLMI and the Freight Transport Association (FTA). The DVD will be used as a training aid by fleet owners and training providers, the content will cover a range of modules, including:

- Legislation/standards applicable to lorry loaders
- Pre-operational checks
- Siting the lorry loader
- Safe operation
- Stowage for travel

And will address the modules in relation to:

- Builders' merchants
- Civils/utilities
- Specialised lifting/hook operations

The package will also include a second disc, containing useful PDFs for employers and training providers to use. ALLMI technical director, Alan Johnson, says: "We are very excited about the development of this DVD. The script was produced following extensive consultation with our members and the FTA, so the content is very much in line with industry requirements, as well as best practice. So far, filming is running on schedule and we hope to make the DVD available shortly after the summer period."

