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Vertikal Days 2012

For a sixth consecutive year, ALLMI's presence at Vertikal Days proved a huge success. Building significantly on the achievements of the previous shows, the loader crane display in the ALLMI Village was by far the best to date and resulted in an impressive number of visitors from a wide range of industry sectors.

ALLMI chief executive, Tom Wakefield, said: "Once again the show produced excellent results for ALLMI and member company exhibitors. Whilst Vertikal Days has always provided a great platform to promote the lorry loader industry, the general feeling amongst ALLMI exhibitors was that this year's show was something of a milestone for the event. The ALLMI Village layout was much improved, with more equipment on display than in previous years. The visitor numbers increased



significantly, but without diluting the excellent quality of delegates that we've come to expect from Vertikal Days, everyone we spoke to had a genuine interest in lifting operations. In general, there seemed to be more of a buzz around Haydock Park throughout the two days and this is something we look forward to building on next year and beyond."

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 27th June, manufacturers/service companies were provided with several presentations. ALLMI chairman, Mark Rigby, gave an overview of the association's achievements over the past 12 months, while Tom Wakefield reported on ALLMI's trading activities, which included a 17 percent increase in membership in the 2011/12 financial year, as well as increases of five and 120 percent in the uptake of ALLMI's lorry loader and Appointed Person training respectively.

ALLMI technical director, Alan Johnson covered projects recently undertaken by the association, including the revision of guidance on avoiding bridge strikes, the development of ALLMI's Crane Supervisor course and the production of the association's Terms and Conditions for a lifting contract with a lorry loader. Johnson also reported on the progress made by the Industry Software Collaboration Working Group, which is looking at the issue of independent repair agents having access to manufacturer software, fault finding codes and training. The meeting concluded with a presentation from HSE principle specialist inspector, Ian Simpson, on the importance of slinger training.

The following day fleet owner members received the same presentations, with the addition of Forum chairman, Steve Frazer-Brown, covering forum executive committee activities, including a discussion on ALLMI's draft Work at Height guidance, and the subject of ground pressure, which will form the basis of a presentation at the next general meeting.

For information on any of these issues, please contact ALLMI

ALLMI Operator of the Year Competition 2012

ALLMI once again held its Operator of the Year competition at Vertikal Days.

Situated within the ALLMI Village, a record number of competitors tested their operational ability in terms of accuracy, speed and safety, whilst negotiating the specially designed course. The eventual winner was Kevin Bennis of Emerson Crane Hire, who completed the course in 5 minutes 51 seconds.

Tom Wakefield, added: "The competition was a big success with a record number of entrants, the standard was extremely high and Kevin was a worthy winner.

As well as the £250 cash prize, Emerson Crane Hire will receive a free ALLMI training course, and have the right to use the ALLMI Operator of the Year logo."



ALLMI introduces International Membership

ALLMI has amended its Articles of Association to allow full membership to companies based outside of the UK. ALLMI chairman, Mark Rigby, commented: "This is a natural progression for the association, for some time now we've had extensive dealings with companies based overseas which are keen to adopt and promote best practice. In these situations, it seems only logical to support them in any way we can. Our focus is still very much on the UK, but if an overseas company wishes to work with us on a formal basis the Articles will now allow that to happen."

One such company is Hydraulic Components, an importer of PM loader cranes in Trinidad. Managing director, Glenn Singh, said: "We've been involved with ALLMI for five years and have always been impressed with the quality of its information. Membership is the next logical step for us and we'll now go through the auditing process and if successful, look forward to strengthening our relationship with ALLMI, helping promote their standards on an international basis."