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Access towers: Rising to the challenge

As an increasing number of companies come to appreciate the safety and productivity benefits of mobile access towers, the more familiar a sight they become in construction, building maintenance/refurbishment and facilities management as a means of providing an effective and safe means of working at height.

Increasingly towers are also being used in a range of diverse applications to carry out work faster, safer and more efficiently than conventional alternatives. Often the use of towers not only provides a safe method of working at height, but one that speeds up and simplifies the entire process on site and in doing so delivers measurable cost savings.

In this issue of PASMA Focus, we take a look at some of the growing and varied applications for mobile access towers.

Cathedral

In this application an aluminium tower was chosen for its light weight and speed of assembly, alteration and dismantling. Weight was important because heavier steel scaffolding would, potentially, have overloaded and damaged the floor of the cathedral, which is supported by the crypt below. The use of an inherently clean aluminium tower also reduced the possibility of contamination to the fabric of the building, and the fast assembly, alteration and dismantling times significantly reduced the length of time required on site.



Tied Structure

Once again the lightness of aluminium towers played a key role in the selection process on this site where the tower needed to stand on a balcony area in a difficult-to-access location. The application demonstrates how towers can be employed at significant heights above the normal eight metre free-standing height for outdoor use, when they are tied-in to a supporting structure. In this particular case the top platform was set at a height of 26 metres.

Large Deck

Mobile access towers can also go outwards as well as upwards! This large deck structure delivered a working platform area of over 25 square metres.

The tower was still mobile, so that with the minimum of adjustment it could be relocated around the work area, significantly reducing both build and dismantling times.



C&a

PASMA focus

Façade

The speed of building and dismantling afforded by mobile towers means that in façade applications they can offer an excellent alternative to traditional steel scaffolding. This tied-in aluminium façade structure with walk through frames allows complete access to the entire front elevation of the building.

Cantilever

The mobility of towers means that smaller structures can be created and then quickly relocated around the work area as necessary. On this site, access was required to the outside edge of each floor level. A ceiling supported cantilever tower provided the ideal solution for the job in hand and a very solid working platform.



Kevin Bellis

The association was deeply saddened by the death of Kevin Bellis last month following a lengthy and typically courageous fight against cancer. A former deputy chairman of PASMA and long-standing member of council, he was a popular, knowledgeable and committed contributor to the work of the association and the mobile access tower industry at large. See letters page.



PASMA
The Association of Professional Access Scaffolders
www.pasma.co.uk

As a PASMA member, if you have an interesting or unusual story to tell about towers and tower training, please send it to michael.fern@psma.co.uk