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Celebrate excellence in Windsor next April

Has your company made a noteworthy contribution to safe working at height or provided outstanding customer service? Reward innovation and enter now for the International Awards for Powered Access.

Scheduled for the 3rd April next year, the IAPA awards ceremony and IPAF Summit will be held at the Beaumont Estate Hotel in Windsor, near London. The deadline for entries is 20th December and all entries must be submitted using the official entry form available at www.iapa-summit.info.

Turkish potential



Mustafa Bilgin, chairman of Istanbul Vinc, speaking at the Europlatform conference

One of the topics discussed at the Europlatform conference in Istanbul this October was the huge potential of Turkey's powered access industry, which currently faces competition from the heavy use of alternatives such as loader cranes and scaffolding. Delegates were told how Turkey's booming economy and a large number of infrastructure projects, including a third Istanbul

airport and a new bridge over the Bosphorus, meant that the demand for access equipment would increase significantly in the coming years.

Serkan Acar, general manager of Turkish access rental company Acarlar Makine, told delegates that major infrastructure projects, coupled with new health and safety regulations, would help increase the use of powered access. He estimated the current access rental fleet, currently around 2,800 machines, could rise annually by 20 to 25 percent, doubling by 2016 and reaching more than 9,000 units by 2018.

Other speakers at Europlatform included Pierre Boels, chief executive of Boels Rental, who shared his company's experience of entering new markets, and Søren Rosenkrands of Riwal, who highlighted the particular demands of managing large booms and emphasised shared responsibility between manufacturers, dealers and rental companies.

Europlatform 2014 will be held on 25th September in Berlin, Germany. Event details will be added at www.europlatform.info.



The Europlatform conference in Istanbul

Don't use tower cranes for fun!



The tower crane offering rides at Bauma in Munich earlier this year

IPAF has welcomed the position paper issued by the Fédération Européenne de la Manutention (FEM) Product Group for Cranes and Lifting Equipment, which makes clear that tower cranes are designed and manufactured to lift loads, not people, and that they should not be used for entertainment purposes.

Drafted in response to IPAF's request for clarification following the offering of crane rides at Bauma in Munich earlier this year, it states: "Tower cranes are, in general, designed and manufactured to lift loads. All other uses are not allowed by manufacturers. When a user of a tower crane decides to operate a tower crane not in line with the intended use as described by the manufacturer, the user is responsible for a risk assessment according to the national work place safety regulations and he does so under his own responsibility."

"For professional use, national labour regulations may allow tower cranes to be used to hoist and suspend personnel in man baskets, but only in unique work situations when it is the least hazardous way to do the job. For any other use not described in the instruction handbook (for example, entertainment purposes), local regulations must be followed."

IPAF's chief executive Tim Whiteman said: "IPAF's members will not stand by such flagrant disregard of all safety campaigns that are aimed at ensuring that temporary work at height is performed by properly trained operators using machinery designed to lift people. While such fun rides may not contravene local legislation, they go against safety principles and industry good practice."

"Circus entertainment has no place in the professional construction and lifting equipment industry and IPAF has written to the organisers of the three major construction shows - Bauma, Conexpo and Intermat - for confirmation that they will not allow such rides in future. Powered access equipment is a safe and effective way to lift people to perform temporary work at height. Our industry is safe and we strive to keep it that way."

Al Cervero, vice-president of marketing and global business development at the AEM, said: "The AEM and its Conexpo show in Las Vegas will not allow rides as a recreational item. It goes against our criteria in our position paper of the Power Crane and Shovel Association (PCSA) and against show rules. We encourage demonstrations; however, demos should be real world applications and not in a recreational manner."

Intermat director Maryvonne Lanoe added: "I cannot imagine allowing the use of tower cranes for some kind of circus ride at Intermat since the show is dedicated to promoting safety in construction and the professional use of construction equipment."

Statements similar to FEM's have also been issued by organisations including the US-based Power Crane and Shovel Association (PCSA) of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) and the UK-based Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA).