



CPA/Strategic Forum Outreach Meeting

The Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) will exhibit at the Executive Hire Show at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry for the ninth year running this February. During the show, which targets tool and general hire companies, the CPA will host a Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group 'Outreach Meeting'.

The meeting will be held on the morning of Wednesday 11th February between 10.30 and 13.00 in the Jaguar Suite at the Ricoh Arena. Discussion topics will include operator competence, medical fitness and the government's Public Health Responsibility Deal initiative. Other topics will include telehandlers, including new work on suspended loads, and the recently published guidance on ground conditions for construction equipment.

New projects that the CPA is planning to undertake in 2015 will also be introduced. These could include inadvertent operation of controls on excavators and similar machines, and lifting loads with excavators.

The Outreach Meeting is open to all and free to attend. To register visit: www.cpa.uk.net/sfpsg-om-registration. For more information contact CPA director Kevin Minton at: kevin.minton@cpa.uk.net

CPA Plant Conference 2015

The 2014 CPA plant conference held in November, attracted around 140 delegates to hear a range of speakers, including Peter Hansford, government chief construction adviser and Philip White, chief inspector of construction.

Planning is now underway for the 2015 event, which will take place once again at Wyboston Lakes, Cambridgeshire on the 4th November. The 2015 event will follow a similar format with key industry speakers.

The CPA is also planning a technical conference/workshop to take place during 2015, separate from the conference. Technical issues would be covered and aimed at health and safety managers and others with similar responsibilities. This would allow the November conference to concentrate on strategy and policy issues, rather than technical issues. Watch this space for further details.



Peter Hansford at the 2014 CPA conference

Stars of the Future 2015 - Venue and date announced

The 2015 'Stars of the Future' Plant Mechanic Apprentices Awards will be held on Thursday 4th June at the Plantworx exhibition at Bruntingthorpe Aerodrome, Leicestershire.

The Stars of the Future competition is an annual award scheme, now in its third year, devised by the CPA to recognise talented youngsters on plant mechanic apprentice schemes in colleges across the UK.

There are separate prizes for Level Two and Level Three trainee mechanics. College tutors monitor their students throughout the academic year both while at the college and in the working environment. From this assessment they select their 'Stars of the Future' candidates for the regional award, and these students are automatically entered for the National Award.

The awards recognise and reward outstanding apprentices who bring ability and commitment to their learning and their work, and who also possess additional capabilities that mark them out not only for their future within the service sector, but also as potential leaders of the industry. The CPA is working with the 11 participating colleges to recognise and reward even more apprentices from each college. In the inaugural competition held in 2013 there were 489 entries - in the 2014 competition 592 entries were received and for 2015 over a 1,000 students will be participating.

The awards will be presented by Richard Noble, the Scottish entrepreneur who was holder of the land speed record between 1983 and 1997. He was also the project director for ThrustSSC, which holds the current land speed record of 763mph, set in 1997 by Andy Green at Black Rock Desert, Nevada. Noble is also the pioneer of the Bloodhound SSC project, which is currently planning a land speed record attempt in 2016 with the aim of reaching 1,000mph dash across the Hakseen Pan in South Africa.

Noble presented the inaugural awards in 2013 and gave an inspirational talk to the young students who attended that ceremony - he plans to do the same for 2015 for the latest winners.

Speaking of the event, Noble said: "I thought the CPA Stars of the Future apprentice programme was very well done you could see the look of pride on the winner's faces, it meant a lot to them. I was delighted to be asked back for a second time to present the awards. These engineers really are our future - long may the scheme continue."



Richard Noble

The Bloodhound SSC.

