

A close-up photograph of a red, spherical Christmas ornament hanging from a snow-covered branch. The ornament is covered in a light dusting of snow and has the 'Vertikal Press' logo printed on it in white and red. The background is a soft, out-of-focus scene of snow and greenery.

Vertikal  
Press

# Thank you for your support

We would like to thank all of our readers, sponsors and contributors, for the fantastic support that you have given us this year, all of which helps to make this and our other publications and events what they are.

Wishing you all a very happy Holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous year in 2017.

From all of us at the Vertikal Press

# IPAF annual instructor seminars kick off

IPAF has begun its annual round of Professional Development Seminars (PDS) with two in the UK. Overall more than 720 instructors and training centre staff are involved worldwide, covering 25 countries and eight languages.

The seminars ensure that IPAF certified instructors remain up-to-date with legislation and training. Through attending the event, instructors also gain Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points, necessary to maintain their IPAF instructor status. This

commitment to continuous learning is one of the unique features of the IPAF training programme.

At the two events held in the UK, instructors heard from Ray Cooke, head of the Construction Sector Safety Unit at the Health & Safety Executive, about human factors



in aerial work platform accidents and the influence instructors can have in preventing them. They also heard from Phil Godding and Jan-Willem van Wier of JLG about

the future of powered access and the possibilities offered by new technologies.

## Europlatform: insights into new age rental and safety

The 10th Europlatform conference was held on 22 September in Vienna, Austria, with the theme 'New Generation Rental'. In his opening presentation on 'Toolbox to shoebox', Andy Studdert of US rental company NES Rentals, highlighted how rental companies can use technology to meet customers' needs, but challenged them to use it effectively as well.

Other presentations came from Eline Oudenbroek, managing director of Holland Lift, on hybrid technology for aerial lifts, Sören Ladig of Klickrent, on the opportunities and challenges of online rental,

Alex Schuessler, and founder of SmartEquip, on using technology to measure and manage the cost of ownership.

Giles Councill of IPAF and Tamlin Roberts of Bolt Learning, demonstrated how virtual reality can provide an effective blend of theoretical and practical training for aerial lift operators. Councill confirmed that IPAF would release a demonstration version of virtual reality operator training in 2017.



Giles Councill and Tamlin Roberts demonstrate virtual reality training

Per Stjernqvist of Trackunit, discussed how apps downloaded on smartphones are increasingly used to manage equipment permissions and access levels, as well as to manage operator instructions and training in the form of digital logbooks.

All presentations from Europlatform can be downloaded at [www.europlatform.info](http://www.europlatform.info)

**Europlatform 2017 will be held on 14 September in Warsaw, Poland.**

## New technical officers

The International Powered Access Federation has appointed two technical officers to its technical and safety department.

Harald Fries will be based at IPAF's office in Basel, Switzerland. He is an electrical engineer with a background in safety processes

and nuclear energy and has held several safety director positions in the nuclear industry, and has some experience of operating aerial work platforms. He speaks German, English and French.

Rupert Douglas-Jones will be based at IPAF's head office in the UK. He is a seasoned IPAF instructor, having been in the access industry for over 20 years in various management roles. He holds a Master's in health, safety and environmental law, and has experience as an expert witness.

Both will report to IPAF's technical & safety executive Chris Wraith, who said: "Between us, we now have an increased range of experience and knowledge in the technical and safety department, enabling



(L-R): Harald Fries, Chris Wraith and Rupert Douglas-Jones

us to offer greater support to our members, undertake specific research projects, and influence European and international developments."

The IPAF technical and safety department can be reached by e-mailing [technical@ipaf.org](mailto:technical@ipaf.org).

IPAF's Powered Access publication IPAF's annual publication is available now. You can order a copy by emailing [info@ipaf.org](mailto:info@ipaf.org) or download it from the publications section at [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org)



## IAPAs judging panel

The judging panel for the International Awards for Powered Access 2017 has been announced, it is:

- Andy Studdert of NES Rentals, and IPAF president.
- Eline Oudenbroek of Holland Lift
- Kai Schliephake of PartnerLift
- Mike Evans - now retired after a lifetime in the access rental industry
- Rick Mustillo of Kookaburra Equipment Sales and president of Australia's Elevating Work Platform Association.

The non-voting chairman of the panel will be Euan Youdale of Access International. IPAF's Tim Whiteman said: "The IAPAs

celebrate best practice and innovation in the access industry, the knowledge and experience of these judges will be invaluable in this process, and I would like to thank them for their support."

The presentation dinner takes place after the IPAF Summit on April 4th at the Hilton Wembley Hotel in London, UK.

The awards are free to enter, and companies and individuals can enter themselves or nominate others.

Visit [www.iapa-summit.info](http://www.iapa-summit.info) for more details.

