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CM Labs develops new Manitowoc simulator

Canadian developer CM Labs is developing the second in a series of Vortex simulators incorporating the Manitowoc group's Crane Control System (CCS). The initial simulator will be based on the 165 tonne Manitowoc MLC165 lattice boom crawler crane, however the CCS controls are common across Manitowoc and Grove cranes.

Vortex simulators are powered by Vortex Studio, high fidelity physics based real time simulation platform that delivers unparalleled realism and immersion, and incorporates actual onboard crane computers and load moment indicators, different boom configurations, accurate simulation of machine behavior, plus cable physical property simulation for winch line, slings, load and multiple rigging options. High quality visuals and sound effects complete the immersive experience. The realism ensures skills learned on the simulator will transfer well to live equipment.



The CM Labs Manitowoc CCS simulator

LEEA school programme

The Lifting Equipment Engineers Association (LEEA) has launched Think Lifting, a school engagement programme to bring the opportunities of the lifting industry to the attention of school children aged between 11 and 13.

The LEEA will provide members who wish to get involved in the scheme with free training to provide volunteers with the required knowledge to work with local schools and will equip them with the tools for demonstrations and problem solving exercises. There are also videos introducing students to opportunities in the lifting industry. Chief executive Ross Moloney said: "Finding the next generation of engineers is one of the most pressing concerns in our industry. So the association is taking vital action to help create a sustainable workforce."



Lack of safety checks costs £35,000

UK granite worktop manufacturer Grantech has been fined £30,000 plus costs of £4,906 after failing to ensure that its lifting equipment was examined and maintained to ensure it was safe to use. Following an inspection at the site in Buckley near Chester, it was discovered that the examinations were not carried out at the required six month intervals, and that when they were done, the same faults were reported, as the company had taken no action in the interim.

HSE inspector Mhairi Duffy said: "This prosecution could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices. Companies should be aware that the HSE will not hesitate to take enforcement action against those who fall below the required standards."



Skyjack supports Skills Ontario

Skyjack has worked with long term customer Battlefield Equipment Rental on the 30th 'Skills Ontario Competition' for Canadian trade and technology students. The two day event held in May at the Toronto Congress Centre included over 2,400 competitors. Skyjack provided two 26ft SJIII 3226 DC slab electric scissor lifts for the competition to help secure telephone poles to the ceiling trusses.

Skills Ontario chief executive Ian Howcroft said: "The Skills Ontario Competition is the largest event for skilled trade and technology students in Canada. Our competition encompasses students of all ages varying from fourth grade students all the way up to apprenticeship level professionals. It's an exciting opportunity for these participants as they prepare themselves for a future in skilled trades and technology."



My Future My Choice @ Vertikal Days

Vertikal Days once again hosted local schools to My Future My Choice workshops. The sessions were once again sponsored and supported by Liebherr GB, with students able to operate a real crane and also take a



turn on the IPAF VR simulator.

Who trained him then?

Spotted in Worthing, Sussex, UK, two men working on ladders from the roof of their van. They have footed the ladders against the edge of the van's roof rack, but then the ladders are being used at an angle that they were not designed for. It also forces the person using it to stand at an angle that subjects the ladder to a risk of tipping. Odd that they pay no attention to safe and efficient work at height equipment, yet have taken great care to protect their van roof.

