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- High degree of parts and component commonality.

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#### Telescopic Boom Lifts



#### Articulating Boom Lifts



# Annual CPA Conference

Around 150 delegates attended this year's CPA Plant Conference at the Heart of England Conference and Events Centre near Coventry. The conference covered business critical developments, such as air quality in London, supply and demand of operators and the effect of health on productivity.

The presentations began with Daniel Marsh of King's College London speaking about emission measurement work for the London Low Emissions Construction Partnership and the Non Road Mobile Machinery Low Emission Zone policy for London. He outlined headline figures, such as 9,400 attributable or premature deaths in London as a result of poor air quality and the fact that 37 out of 43 zones in the UK have air quality levels which regularly exceed legal limits. He outlined actions to reduce emissions from off-road equipment and the introduction of Stage IV emissions standards for engines in off-road equipment used across London's Central Activity Zone, Canary Wharf and Greater London from 1st September 2020, plus subsequent Stage V standards.

Carl Letman of Skyblue Research spoke about the work being carried out on behalf of the CPA to examine the supply and demand of equipment operators in the construction industry, to provide better data which can be used for planning and implementing recruitment and upskilling programmes. He highlighted the fact that the two biggest challenges facing the construction equipment industry are ageing workforces and the difficulty of recruiting young people to the industry, while the new operators coming through typically lack the relevant skill levels to work on construction sites.



Daniel Marsh of King's College London

Mark Noonan of the CITB, spoke about the CITB's Levy Order and changes taking place within the organisation, such as the reformation of the grants scheme, the introduction of support systems including a centralised training directory, a national register and automated grant payments. He also outlined the need for training in multiple formats, which take account of emerging learning technologies.

Kate Walker of Diabetes & You spoke about the effect of health on productivity, with 650,000 employees in the UK phoning in sick every week. Her presentation focused on the problem of diabetes, given that it can often be an invisible condition for years until people start to see the damage that it has been causing. It is predicted that by 2035-36, £40 billion will be spent on costs associated with diabetes. She highlighted the need



for a strategy to locate the 940,000 undiagnosed workers in the UK, and provide the education and support to sustain wellbeing, thus saving lives and helping people achieve a better quality of life, cutting the number of sick days, and increasing productivity.

Carole Bardell, HS2's head of health, safety and security spoke on the high-speed railway's vision to be a catalyst for growth across Britain, and its aim to double the number of train seats between London to Manchester and Leeds by 2033. She also outlined HS2's 'Safe at Heart' campaign and the Supply Chain Standard for Health and Safety.

CPA technical consultant Tim Watson outlined statistics, such as the fact that over 80 percent of accidents may be attributed - at least in part - to the actions or omissions of people and that 43 fatalities occurred in the UK construction sector in 2015/2016. He spoke about the benefits of industry guidance and outlined the availability of over 130 equipment related guidance documents which can be downloaded free of charge

from [www.cpa.uk.net/publications](http://www.cpa.uk.net/publications).

The final speaker of the day was John Batty of Bluejohn Marketing, who also served as compere. He analysed the challenges 2018 will bring to businesses in the equipment rental market, referring to factors such as an ageing workforce, the lack of industry appeal for young people and the inability to attract, train and retain quality young employees.

Kevin Minton, CPA director concluded saying: "It was pleasing to see so many people at the conference. We try to make it an event for debate about issues that will affect our industry - those issues could include working practices, health and safety, productivity, people and skills. But before any policy is made, or any intervention planned, we need proper understanding of where we are and what we might face. We want to work with industry to allow people and businesses the scope to fulfil their potential and the conference afforded the opportunity to hear about some of the pathways towards that goal."



Tim Watson