

The Vertikal

Guide to Conexpo

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Liebherr trip for CPA Star winner

Winner of the inaugural CPA Lifting Technician Star of the Future Award - Niki Fitzgerald of Select Plant Hire - travelled to Germany courtesy of Liebherr for a tour of the company's Ehingen mobile crane production facilities as part of his prize.

Traditionally, Stars of the Future has focused on mechanic apprentices but for 2019 the scope of the event was widened and included the Lifting Technician Star of the Future in recognition of the introduction of the new Lifting Technician Trailblazer Apprenticeship.

Fitzgerald was accompanied by John Young, senior resource manager of Select Plant Hire and were hosted by Arran Willis of Liebherr GB and Michael Heckenberger of Liebherr Ehingen.

The tour included the boom production area, the cutting, fabrication and machining facility, the production maintenance apprentice training room, the mobile crane final assembly facility, the hydraulic hose/pipework and electrical harnesses assembly area and the crane test pad where Fitzgerald had the chance to operate a 110 tonne crane prototype - the first non-Liebherr employee to do so.

Following the visit Fitzgerald said: "My experience of the Liebherr factory will be one I will always remember and cherish. It gave me great insight into the world of crane production, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity and would like to thank everyone at Liebherr for arranging the visit. This has been a great chance for me to further my knowledge in my career which I am very passionate about. What stood out about Liebherr's production processes was the attention to detail and from the start of my trip, they went above and beyond to ensure I had the best experience possible."



Arran Willis and Michael Heckenberger of Liebherr with Niki Fitzgerald and John Young on a 1,350 tonne LR11350 crawler crane



Niki Fitzgerald arrives at Liebherr Ehingen



At the controls of a LR11350

New guidance on Tying-In Hoists and Mastclimbers

This new good practice document from the Construction Hoist Interest Group provides guidance in an easily digestible form on the design and installation of construction hoist bases and supporting ties.

Recent changes to standards for both hoists and the construction fixings used to attach ties to supporting structures have resulted in confusion in the calculation of tie loads, the design of ties and the selection of fixings to attach those ties to structures. The increasing emphasis on the management of temporary works on construction projects requires the design of hoist bases, ties and their fixings to be recorded and subjected to checking.

A lack of understanding of the calculation of tie forces frequently results in excessive safety factors being applied, resulting in uneconomic tie designs requiring many fixings to attach them to the supporting structure. This has the effect of increasing costs and the difficulty of installing many fixings in one location, with the associated work at height issues.

Unfamiliarity with hoist tie and base design can provide difficulties for those carrying out temporary works checks, leading to misunderstandings and delays to the programme. Hoist tie and base design should always be carried out by those with the necessary skills, knowledge, training and experience to undertake this work competently.

The aim of the document is to provide clear guidance on tie and base design, the selection and installation of fixings and the presentation of temporary works information in a standard format.

The publication can be downloaded free of charge from: www.cpa.uk.net/construction-hoist-interest-group



Revised guidance for mobile cranes

The Crane Interest Group's guidance on the maintenance, inspection and thorough examination of mobile cranes - originally published in 2010 - has been revised. The revisions include:

- The specific inclusion of heavy lift cranes.
- A new section on the inspection of the chassis of roadgoing mobile cranes.
- New requirements for the identification and recording of safety critical components.
- New guidance on the need for thorough examination of mobile cranes after rigging on site, depending on the amount of installation required.
- Additional information on the preparation of defined scopes of periodic thorough examination and thorough examination following installation.
- Additional information has also been included on ground assessment, medical fitness and protection against fumes.

The revised publication can be downloaded free of charge from: www.cpa.uk.net/crane-interest-group-publications-guidance

