

FREE WALL
PLANNER ENCLOSED

AERIAL VIEW

ISSUE 16 | OCTOBER 2009

AFI

U P L I F T

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AFI REACHES HIGHER

In the last issue of Aerial View we reported on our substantial investment in 75 small and compact machines – we are now delighted to announce a further major investment, this time to serve the needs of the high end of the market.

We are purchasing two 32m (104ft) Hollandlift Megastar scissor lifts, which are some of the largest available in the UK.

At the same time we are continuing our investment in smaller machines by purchasing 20 of the new BoSS X3 Youngman machines, with a platform height of 2.55m (8.3ft).

We are making these substantial investments in response to customer demand at both ends of the working at height spectrum (**Page 6**).

As part of our commitment to the environment, we have started the process of achieving ISO 14001:2004 environmental management systems accreditation. AFI already has ISO 9001 which incorporates much of the quality policy required for ISO 14001.

Our environmental management systems include monitoring the performance of our company vehicles and drivers from both an environmental and safety point of view.

We are also looking at using electric vehicles at our new

Leyton depot, which is close to the Olympic Park (**Page 6**), and we are placing increasing emphasis on recycling paper and cardboard.

Our activities at Leyton, together with a number of other major projects, now come under the remit of John Robertson, who has been appointed as Major Projects Manager, encompassing both a commercial and an operational role (**Page 7**).

One of the major projects John is involved in is 'MediaCity:UK', at Salford Quays, Manchester, where we are the preferred supplier of powered access equipment.

The project recently celebrated the second anniversary of work starting on site (**Page 3**).

AFI has also passed an NQA ISO 9001 reassessment audit with flying colours and this follows on from our achieving Building-Confidence reaccreditation and Safe Contractor accreditation.

Pictured on the right is the Hollandlift Megastar scissor lift. With a platform height of almost 32m (104ft) it is one of the largest available in the UK. This is one of a number of machines purchased by AFI to provide high access.



AFI MACHINES

MACHINES HELP TO PROTECT STEELWORK

AFI boom and scissor lifts were hired by contractors to help them carry out work to protect the steelwork of a new galvanising plant being built in Cambridgeshire (pictured below).

JPV (Painters) Ltd used the five boom lifts and one scissor lift from the AFI fleet to reach high level steelwork and apply an epoxy coating to protect it from the vapour created during the plant's galvanising processes.

JPV treated the whole of the 5,500 square metre steel structure over a six-week period, with up to seven staff working on the site at any one time.

The AFI boom lifts specified for the contract have working heights ranging in size from 20m (66ft) to 26m (85ft) and the scissor lift specified was a Skyjack 9250, which has a maximum working height of 17.2m (56ft).



BOOM SHINES FOR CLEANING CONTRACT

When you're faced with the annual task of cleaning nearly one thousand windows and giving a sparkling finish to the exterior of a three-storey building you definitely need a helping hand!

That's why facilities management company Masterclean UK hired an AFI boom lift over a 10-day period to help their operatives clean the fascias, cladding and glazing at the St John's House Government building in Liverpool.

Masterclean UK used an AFI Haulotte H26PX boom to its full 26m (85ft) working height and also made use of its 14m (46ft) outreach to provide quick, easy and safe access.

Mark Jones, Managing Director of Masterclean UK, said: "AFI advised us on which machine was best suited for the job and trained our operatives in the safe use of the equipment. All this enabled us to complete the job safely, efficiently and cost-effectively. The articulating jib on the boom was particularly helpful because of the flexibility and manoeuvrability it provided, especially near the roof area where there was an overhang."



MACHINES IN ACTION



A STATELY SETTING FOR AFI MACHINE

When building services personnel at an 18th Century stately home needed to carry out inspection and repair work they hired an AFI boom lift to give the height and flexibility needed to complete the task.

AFI's Wakefield depot supplied a Genie S85 machine to the Castle Howard Estate in North Yorkshire to inspect and repair masonry and lead work as part of their on-going programme of essential maintenance and restoration work.

The Genie S85 has a working height of 27.70m (91ft) and, with its vertical jib rotation, 4x4 capabilities and all terrain tyres, it was an ideal machine to gain access to all areas of the vast estate.

Castle Howard Estate Assistant Agent Neil Swain said: "We hired the boom lift from AFI for several months and it was invaluable in enabling us to reach areas of the roof which would otherwise have been inaccessible."

The Castle Howard Estate, which featured in the TV and film production of 'Brideshead Revisited', comprises almost 200 listed buildings and monuments.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MEDIACITY:UK

To mark the second anniversary of work beginning on the 'MediaCity:UK' project at Salford Quays, Manchester, Bovis Lend Lease organised a cake with a number of preferred suppliers, one of which being AFI – their preferred supplier for powered access equipment on site.

Topped with an edible scissor lift, plant machinery and site images, the cake was shared out amongst the 1,500 contractors who are working on site. MediaCity:UK is a 200 acre development for the creative and digital industries.

Bovis Lend Lease are the management contractors for Media City:UK, which is being developed and managed by Peel Media, a division of the Peel Group, with the support of partners including the Northwest Regional Development Agency, Central Salford Urban Regeneration Company and Salford City Council.

Pictured at the cutting of the cake are (left to right): AFI General Training Manager Brian Parker, Director Graham Osmond, Account Manager Darren Kesterton, Bovis Lend Lease Project Director John Hyne and Construction Director Dick Mulholland.

NEW WORKING AT HEIGHT COURSES

AFI have introduced three new working at height training courses which are available throughout AFI's depot network, on site or at a customer's own location, subject to suitability.

MANAGEMENT OF WORKING AT HEIGHT: This one-day course provides delegates with a thorough understanding of the Work at Height Regulations 2005, dangers associated with this type of work and how to implement the regulations and safe practices in the workplace.

ROOFTOP SAFETY INCLUDING SAFE USE OF HARNESSES & LADDERS: This one-day course enables delegates to be competent when working on roofs and to safely and correctly use harnesses, ladders and steps. The course also gives them an understanding of the need for safety, the legislation and the dangers associated with working at height.

SCAFFOLD SAFETY INSPECTION: This two-day course provides awareness of the various types of scaffold, their uses and construction, faults most commonly encountered, and to carry out statutory inspections and completion of reports.

To find out more about these courses contact AFI Training on 08707 871 511.

GETTING THE MOST FROM A

Most site breakdowns or down time on battery powered access machines are due to lack of maintenance or incorrect use by the hirer of the machine – yet a little care and maintenance can help you save time and money, and ensure optimum safety and productivity.

POINTS TO NOTE

When requesting an electric machine, think about the power requirements of your site. As a minimum, most machines will need a minimum charging facility of 2.5 KVA continuous power supply transformer, a minimum cable size of 2.50mm and an extension lead no longer than 10m.

Also it is very important that the lead is not wound onto a drum or reel as this can cause the cable to fail or catch fire.

Ensure that you have the space allocated for charging the machines in a safe area. When a machine is delivered, the battery will no longer be fully charged due to loading and unloading, and to get maximum use out of the machine it will need to be placed on charge to recharge the batteries.

Remember that the lower the charge in a battery the longer that it will need to fully recharge. If you regularly fully discharge batteries without allowing them the correct amount of time to recharge they will eventually fail.

Before using the machine, always check to see if it is fully charged. Some machines will have a series of LED lights and others will have analogue

meters that display the state of charge. Make sure the charging lead has been removed from the machine and isolated from the power supply before using the machine.

Never attempt to operate the machine whilst it is charging or plugged in. This will invariably cause the charging system to burn out. Plan your work so as to get the most out of the charging time that you have available and, if possible, place the machine back on charge when it is not in use, inspecting the batteries on a regular basis.

Avoid carrying and lifting unnecessary weight in the machine and driving it great distances. Try and keep work cycles short.

INSPECTING BATTERIES

Always wear the correct personal protection equipment – with eye protection and appropriate gloves being the minimum. Batteries should be inspected on a daily basis.

When checking the battery electrolyte, remove the vent caps one at a time and look down into the cell. The electrolyte should cover the plates by no more than 10mm but should not be full to the top.

Check all connecting leads on batteries, making sure they are both clean and tight. If not, please contact AFI-Uplift.

PROVIDING COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE UK

Birmingham

Tel: 0121 525 7226
Fax: 0121 525 5547

birmingham.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

East Midlands

Tel: 0115 975 3064
Fax: 0115 975 5387

eastmidlands.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Hull

Tel: 01482 341 799
Fax: 01482 345 099

hull.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Leyton

Tel: 0208 521 2595
Fax: 0208 509 2090

leyton.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Liverpool

Tel: 0151 545 2190
Fax: 0151 545 2199

liverpool.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

London East

Tel: 01277 812 976
Fax: 01277 814 568

londoneast.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

London South

Tel: 01732 781 034
Fax: 01732 887 425

londonsouth.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

London West

Tel: 01753 783 744
Fax: 01753 650 808

londonwest.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Manchester

Tel: 0161 707 7895
Fax: 0161 707 7896

manchester.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Milton Keynes

Tel: 01908 670 237
Fax: 01908 669 408

miltonkeynes.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

BATTERY POWERED MACHINE



CHARGING YOUR BATTERY

Always charge the machine in a well ventilated area that is free from any naked flames and any well-used walkways. Never check a battery's level when it is on charge or immediately after it has come off charge.

When a battery is charging it gives off hydrogen gas which is highly flammable, and the smell given off by a charging battery is similar to rotten eggs. Hydrogen gas is heavier than air and can collect and get trapped in any low areas, hence the need for good ventilation.

If you think that you can smell this pungent aroma, disconnect the power supply at the mains, if possible and safe to do so, and call an engineer. Keep any charging leads as short as possible; this will aid both charging and avoid any possible trip hazard.

Make sure that any leads have been PAT tested and are in good condition. Check that plugs are in good condition and fit correctly.

When connecting the charging lead, make sure that it is in fact connected to the charger to charge the machine and not to the machine's power-to-platform plug.

Check the battery charger's indicator to ensure it is charging. When the battery is fully charged, for safety reasons remove or isolate the machine from the power supply first then disconnect the lead from the machine.

TOPPING UP YOUR BATTERY

Top up with distilled water – never add acid to cells. Before charging the batteries, only add water if the plates are exposed. Add just enough distilled water to cover the plates, then charge the batteries.

Once fully charged, and after leaving for a short period of time to allow gases to disperse, add distilled water to the correct level. After adding distilled water, secure vent caps back on batteries.



AFI apprentice gains national award

Andrew Bracegirdle, an apprentice service engineer at AFI's Manchester depot, beat a strong field of entrants to gain the National Construction College's Plant Mechanics Access Platforms Award.

Andrew received a trophy, plaque, cordless drill and £50 of High Street vouchers from the National Construction College, together with £250 worth of tools from AFI.

Andrew is one of 17 AFI members of staff who are either currently going through their apprenticeship or have qualified and are now working as service engineers with the company.

Andrew is pictured being presented with his award by television personality and explorer Monty Halls.

North East

Tel: 0191 419 0757

Fax: 0191 416 5513

northeast.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Peterborough

Tel: 01733 206 638

Fax: 01733 205 791

peterborough.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Preston

Tel: 01772 709 731

Fax: 01772 759 488

preston.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Scotland

Tel: 01698 844 655

Fax: 01698 748 036

scotland.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

South Wales

Tel: 01656 767 456

Fax: 01656 657 361

southwales.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

South West

Tel: 01278 446 580

Fax: 01278 445 951

southwest.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Southampton

Tel: 08701 126 833

Fax: 08701 126 844

southampton.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Wakefield

Tel: 01924 224 380

Fax: 01924 891 032

wakefield.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

**AFI RESALE
MACHINES
FOR SALE
SEE PAGE 8**



LEYTON DEPOT NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL

AFI's new Leyton depot, which is within just 1.7 miles of the Olympic Park, is now fully operational.

This new dedicated local depot facility is in a prime position to offer training within easy walking distance of the Olympic site.

With AFI being a major IPAF training provider, the company is confident that there will be strong demand for training and as a result it is looking at operating the depot 24 hours a day should this be required.

The AFI Leyton depot will be available to all contractors working at the Olympic Park who want to take advantage of AFI's machines, training and service facilities.

Located at Unit 1, Forest Business Park, Argall Way, Leyton E10 7FB, the depot offers a fleet of boom and scissor lifts which are ready for short-notice hire. We will also be providing service engineer back up to minimise any down-time.

AFI representatives operating from the new depot include Alec Ullmer, Regional Sales Manager, and Account Manager Steve Holland.

To contact the Leyton depot telephone 0208 521 2595.

MEETING DEMAND AT BOTH ENDS OF THE WORKING AT HEIGHT SPECTRUM



AFI Managing Director Richard Saunders is pictured (above) receiving the two Hollandlift Megastar scissor lifts from Alan Russon, MD of Russon Access, who are Hollandlift distributors.

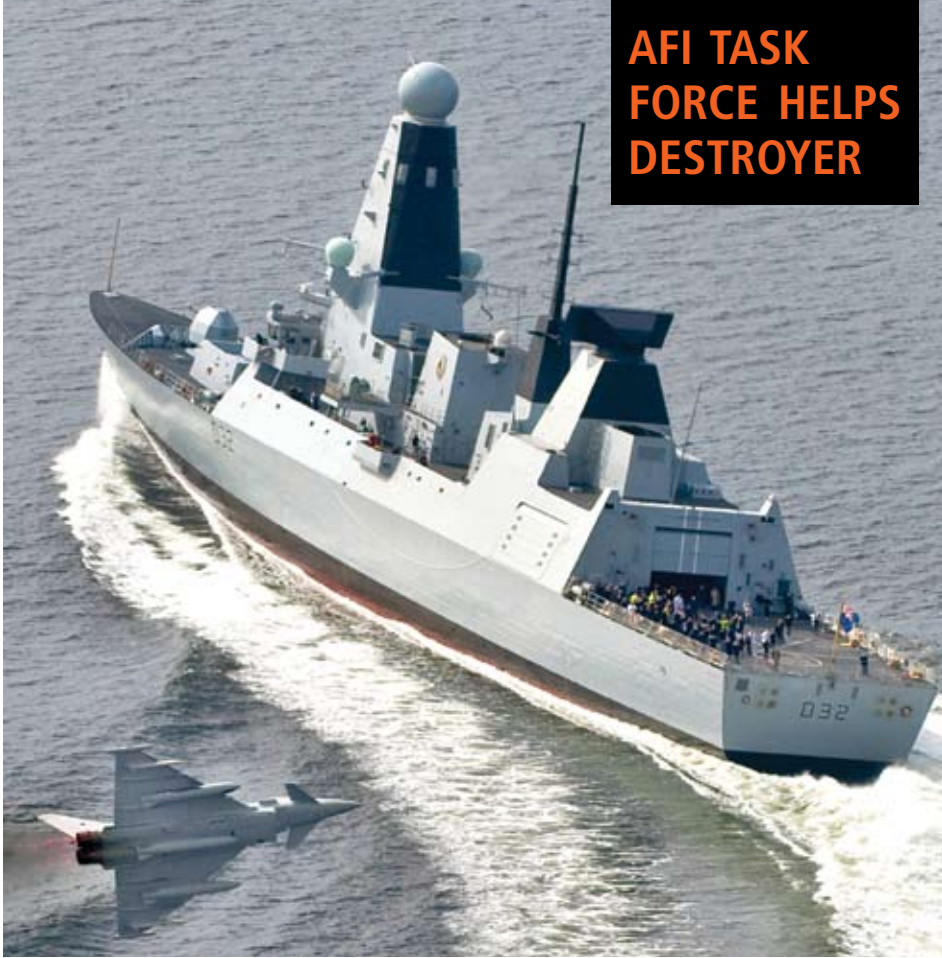
On the right is a much smaller new addition to AFI's fleet – the Boss X3 from Youngman, which has a platform height of 2.55m (8.3ft).

The BoSS X3 is a new, tough, manually propelled micro powered access platform. Designed for a multitude of tasks including general maintenance, cleaning, painting and fit and strip out work.

The BoSS X3 has a tilt sensor as standard, so no stabilisers are required. The heavy duty powerpack provides a 12 second ascent and provides over 430 lifts and descents per charge (based on an 80kg (176lb) platform load and full battery charge). The BoSS X3 fits through standard doorways and into passenger lifts. It has a stowed height of 1.80m (6ft) and a stowed length of 1.23m (4ft).



AFI TASK FORCE HELPS DESTROYER



AFI put together its own task force to come to the aid of a new Royal Navy destroyer shortly before its commissioning ceremony attended by HRH the Countess of Wessex.

Everyone wanted to make sure that the Type 45 destroyer HMS Daring would be looking its best for the commissioning – but a very noticeable mark had been spotted 20m up its mast.

The mark was on the side of the ship facing out to sea, making access very difficult, and the Haulotte HA32PX boom and Ocean Clean, the contractors who had been cleaning the ship, had moved onto another job at the Portsmouth Naval Base.

Andy Harris, AFI's Southampton depot delivery driver, came to the site, relocated the machine and although it still did not reach, he was able to work out the best position for it to get within a few metres of the area to be cleaned.

Steve Waters, AFI's Southampton depot engineer, then operated the machine for Ocean Clean, allowing them to get close enough to remove the offending mark by using an extendable pole. The job was completed well in time for the commissioning ceremony.

Duncan Savage, Maintenance Manager from the Type 45 Joint Project Team, thanked AFI for 'going above and beyond' the call of duty on the HMS Daring job.



NEW POSITION

AFI-Uplift have appointed John Robertson as Major Projects Manager – a new position which covers both sales and operations roles.

He is currently overseeing projects including BVT Surface Fleet Support at HMNB Portsmouth, Terminals 5C and 2B at Heathrow Airport, and establishing AFI's new Leyton depot, close to the Olympic Park. He also regularly liaises with the project team at 'MediaCity: UK' in Salford Quays to ensure best practice, and any innovations are rolled out across all of AFI's major projects.

Mr Robertson has been with AFI for six years, working in both sales and operational roles. He started as an Account Manager at the London West depot and progressed through Operations Manager and Regional Operations Manager roles in South Wales and the South of England.

He began his career at the sharp end of the powered access industry 12 years ago – working as a truck mount operator before moving into field sales.

AFI RESALE USED MACHINES FOR SALE

AFI's Resale team have a number of used machines for sale, categorised in Bands A or B.

Band B machines are fully LOLER tested and serviced. Band A models offer the same benefits. They also have new batteries and have been repainted. Some examples are given below. Go to www.afi-uplift.co.uk/resale for more offers.



Upright SL30, Yr: 2000
Diesel, Band A, £7,000

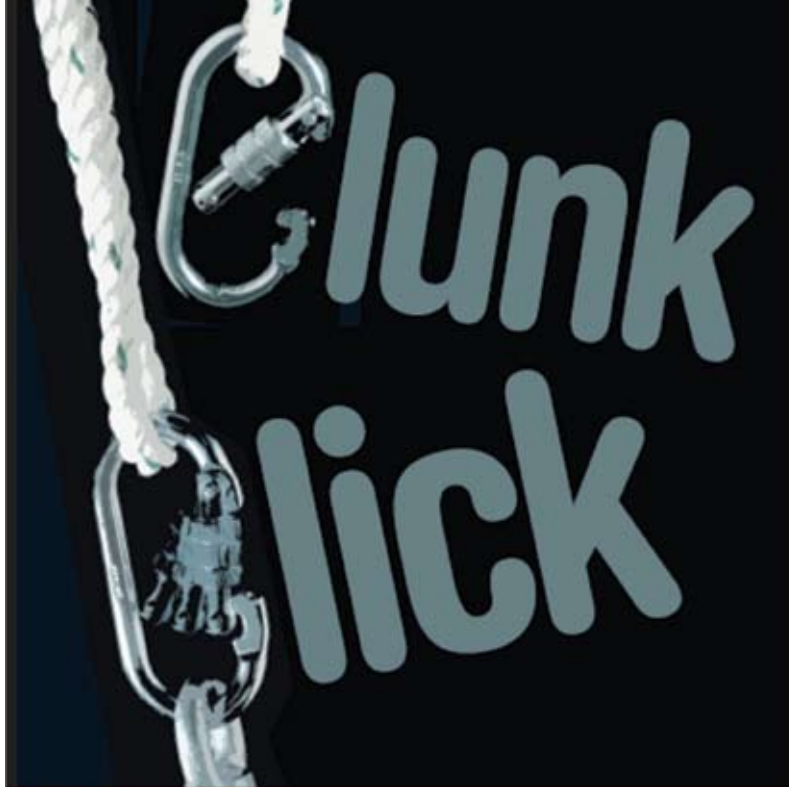


Upright XRT33D, Yr: 2001
Diesel, Band B, £3,565



Genie Z45/25DJ, Yr: 1999
Diesel, Band B, £7,750

www.afi-uplift.co.uk



Wear a full body harness
with a short lanyard
in boom type platforms

To find out more about the correct use of harnesses in boom type platforms and the wide range of training courses offered by AFI call:

08707 871511

or email: training@afi-uplift.co.uk



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Tel: 08701 126 833

SOUTH WALES ...
Tel: 01656 767 456

SOUTH WEST ...
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WAKEFIELD ...
Tel: 01924 224 380

NATIONAL HIRE LINE 08707 511005