



# access all areas

Planet Platforms Newsletter: Issue 5, December 2010



## Welcome

### to the Planet Platforms' Christmas newsletter

Welcome to the Planet Platforms' Christmas newsletter summarising our activities over 2010. We're pleased to say that this year has been better than anticipated, with a positive order book and increased performance. However, this calls for continued diligence by the team to keep sales consistent, if not better. With increased lead-times, we must get it right for customers not just for the 'first time' but 'every time', and not give them the opportunity to look elsewhere.

Our focus must also stress on pulling together as a team without letting external pressures affect us negatively. Let us do what we do best – Develop innovative work at height solutions for our customers, and increase our profile within the industry.

We would like to thank you for all your efforts in 2010 and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Employee of the Month/Year



Are you next?

We are introducing a new scheme that rewards your hard work and contribution as 'Employee of the Month/Year'. Printed leaflets with a tear-off nomination form will be placed in all the main areas of the building for all staff to use to nominate. You can nominate a colleague, who you feel has made a real difference to the department within which you work to win Employee of the Month. In addition, an overall Employee of the Year will be chosen from the twelve Employees of the Month. An award of £50 is proposed for the Employee of the Month and £100 for Employee of the Year. The successful employee will be presented with a £50 voucher and certificate by Peter Pemberton.

## Team Christmas Party

The staff Christmas party will be held on the 16th of December at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. We will be part of the Mardi Gras Carnival Nights' event, which is one of the best Christmas parties in Leeds. There will be a red carpet reception, welcome drink on arrival, four-course banquet meal, music and dancing. We're sure it will be a night to remember!



# Sponsorship of the Winshill Under 14s Football Team



We sponsored the Winshill Football Club U14s girl's team to support their annual Charity Football Day. The team was provided with new uniforms as part of the sponsorship.

The Charity Football Day was held on the 5th of September at the Shobnall Leisure Complex in Burton-on-Trent. The under-14s girls' team provided the opposition for the day. The football Day helped raise money for the Restoration of Hope Charity in Burundi, Africa. All players of the day were provided with a sponsorship form to raise funds for the charitable cause.

## Planet Out and About

**BAE SYSTEMS**

We attended the BAE Partnership for Success conference on the 21st and 22nd September in Manchester, which was a good platform to market the company. We saw a lot of interest in our products and overall service offering.

## Brand New Website



Planet Platforms' has a new website - with a completely dynamic administration system, the website can be updated in real-time with all the latest projects, news and events. So, we can make sure that everyone at Planet AND our customers know exactly what's happening in the world of access and safety.



Remember our previous offices in Ossett? What started off as a straightforward order (of INSTANT and PROdeck products) with Wakefield Hire company Plant and Tool Solutions (PTS) turned into a deeper relationship as the company also purchased the old office premises and workshop that used to belong to Planet Platforms.

The former premises in Ossett are now home to PTS' shiny new workshop and office space. PTS is a national hire business to supply various types of plant and tool hire including diggers, dumpers, telehandlers, cabins, mesh fencing, generators, lighting towers, scaffolding hire, powered access, power tools, heating, cooling and air conditioning.

# Keeping a Cool Head About Working at Height

Using a combination of Spandeck and Alutec, we have installed an innovative access solution for Cool Technologies. The completely custom solution is installed at EDF energy, a client of Cool Technology and will be used for the maintenance of the cooling systems installed at the EDF Energy training centre at Risby, Suffolk.

Using a combination of Spandeck and Alutec, the work at height solution allows access to all 3 sides of the cooler units enabling maintenance to be conducted on them. The access system has been designed to also allow access to the edge of the roof. Additionally, handrails and a vertical roof ladder make this a safe way to work at height.



## 84 metre Spandeck Rail Solution



One of our recent projects was to design and build a maintenance solution for the rail sector. One of the largest we have done, the solution is used for maintenance and accommodates two types of carriages - the class 319 and 377. The solution was constructed using steel supports and beams to give an overall platform height of 3.2 metres. The 84-metre-long steel skeleton was then clad with the Spandeck walkways (single width on both sides). It also features inclined steel access steps at the end of the platform run.

The upper platform levels are used to gain access to the roof areas of the carriages and the lower level allows access to the carriages themselves and also to the glazed sections. On the upper sections of the carriage are two specific areas across the Panwell Bay (The area on top of the vehicles where the air-conditioning units and pantographs sits) where access is needed: The pantographs (the "arms" that connect to the overhead power source) and the H-Vac air-conditioning units.

# CHAS Accreditation



We have been accredited by the Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme (CHAS). Established as the market leader for health and safety pre-qualification in the UK, CHAS is dedicated to completing health and safety pre-qualification assessments to a nationally recognised and accepted threshold standard.

The CHAS accreditation is extremely useful to buyers of health and safety as it assesses standards of all suppliers, and buyers can reduce the time consuming and duplicating exercise of assessing each supplier separately.



## Nuclear 'Puddle Pipe' Solution

Our innovative access solutions see no bounds! We have recently designed and installed a bespoke work at height solution to help nuclear power stations reduce the planned outage for inspection and maintenance, thereby saving money.

Puddle pipes are used to draw in and release water used by nuclear power stations to produce electricity. The interior lining of the pipes needs to be inspected during planned outage sessions, which previous to Planet's solution was a time-consuming task. The solution comprises a lightweight aluminium cage suspended from a fabricated steel frame.



## Wheel Well Staging

We designed and installed a mobile work at height solution for the aviation industry, to safely access various components in and around the landing gear of the aircraft. At just over three metres platform height, the bespoke access equipment is built with a combination of steel and aluminium, is robust enough to be towed, whilst not being too heavy to manually position and deploy the attached inclined ladder.

Mark Arnold from Planet Eastern explains more about the project: "Inspection of the landing gear is often a time-sensitive and space-restrictive task, as there might be a limited time frame to undertake all checks before the aircraft has to take off again. The inspection area is confined, and needed a narrow work platform. Pipes and hydraulic tanks also presented a requirement for an up-and-over reach."

The custom unit by Planet caters for all the work at height challenges posed by the inspection area. It can be quickly and easily towed into position and features adjustable ladders to cater for access to different heights of the inspection area. Spring-loaded jacks are used to lock the unit off once it has been wheeled into position, as they are quicker to engage in comparison to wind-down jacks.

## Get in touch



If you've got a newsworthy story to share with your colleagues at Planet, please get in touch on:

[info@planetplatforms.co.uk](mailto:info@planetplatforms.co.uk)  
or speak to someone in the marketing team.

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