

# Moving experience

Although aimed primarily at commercial vehicle operators, engineers and technicians, the CV Show offers useful opportunities for those whose careers span the fixed and moving plant divide. Brian Tincham reports



**T**he Commercial Vehicle Show 2012, Britain's premier road transport operators and workshops event, runs at the NEC from 24–26 April – and plant engineers concerned with maintenance and operations may find a visit more informative than they think. Although aimed primarily at transport engineers and technicians, the CV Show provides an opportunity not only to see what's new, in terms of tools and equipment around mobile plant, but also to evaluate specialist vehicles, and health and safety thinking around, for example, lifting and fork lift trucks.

It's also your chance to discover areas of common interest, particularly for those whose work spans both the plant and the transport engineering camps. Indeed, tyre specialist Bridgestone is running a series of free seminars on topics ranging from wheel security (looking at the costs of good practice and the consequences of failure) to the future of fuel efficiency and how to save money by improving tyre maintenance.

## Learning opportunity

"These seminars ... are part of our drive to help fleets reduce costs and improve efficiencies," explains John Folliss, Bridgestone's commercial sales and marketing director. "They cover some of the biggest issues facing the industry over the next 12 to 18 months." If you're contemplating a change of career towards transport, here's a golden opportunity.

Beyond seminars, though, there should be much on the exhibition floor to get your teeth into. On lifting, for example, names to watch out for include Penny Hydraulics and Maxon Lift. The former makes the point that cranes and platform lifts are among the most popular items to be installed on commercial vehicles – and hence its latest developments.

The company's SwingLift FV995 was introduced to provide a fully hydraulic vehicle-mounted crane, with near one-tonne working load. Demand has come from operators that do not want the cost or complexity implications of the incoming EN12999 legislation, which stipulates that cranes having a

maximum working load of 1,000kg or more must have sensors and interlocks. By modifying one of its designs, Penny Hydraulics says it has devised a highly reliable lift that offers precision and control, and is simple to specify for handling a wide range of loads safely, simply and economically.

Other innovations include uprated versions of the firm's StepLift, LoadLift and Single Wheel Lift platform lifts, with maximum working loads of 500kg.

Meanwhile, Penny Hydraulics also promises to demonstrate its MezzLift goods lift for handling loads up to 500kg between floors in workshops, warehouses and retail areas.

Elsewhere, Maxon Lift says it will be revealing three tail lifts. First up is the Max15S – Maxon's level ride, retractable lift, with several innovations. One is SmartStow, which ensures that, with the touch of a button, the lift accurately and safely deploys or stows beneath the truck.

Next, Max10/15R features in Maxon's new Railift. This features two vertical cylinders, as opposed to one horizontal unit with chains or pulleys, as has been industry practice. Finally, MAX15T is the company's high-end tail lift from its Tuk-A-Way range. This device features a steel/aluminium, or all-aluminium platform up to 1,420mm in depth. The Max15T includes grease fittings at all critical rotation points and works for bed heights from 1,016mm (laden) up to 1,370mm (unladen).

Moving on, Axtec will be showing its range of axle weighing equipment, as used by VOSA (the Vehicle and Operators Services Agency) since 1996 for the national enforcement network of 67 roadside weighbridges. Among show products will be its 4000 dynamic weighbridge, claimed to be the most accurate device of its type in the world. Axtec On-Board is the other big one: the unit can be retrofitted to vehicles from 3.5 to 18 tonnes gvw, as well as larger trucks with air suspension. Sensors fitted to the axles determine axle and gross weights, displayed to the driver on a dash-mounted screen.

With such a large show, there is too much to mention in detail. Suffice to say there will be displays of everything from safety and security equipment – with, for example a debut for the Global Live CCTV security system, which is a joint development between Cobra UK and Global Vehicle Systems – to telematics systems, for instance, from Trafficmaster, with its Smartnav satellite navigation, and the Teletrac Fleet Director fleet management system. **FE**



Maxon's new tail lift: one of many innovations at the Birmingham CV Show, 24–26 April 2012

