

INNOVATION OF THE YEAR

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WINNER

POCHIN Concrete Pumping

The 'Steady Hose' was developed by POCHIN and its primary hose supplier, Putzmeister AG, to address the problem of operators being struck by concrete-delivery hoses that whip around violently when temporary air blocks are released. The risk could not be ruled out via simple mechanisation or automation, as operators have to physically place the concrete in various, specific locations.

Physical theory and improved technology in rubber-hose manufacture were used in the development of Steady Hose, and extensive field trials took place before the final design was decided upon.

Before the introduction of the Steady Hose, POCHIN was experiencing around four to six hose blockage/release incidents a year that resulted in injury or incident to operatives. Since its introduction in mid-2007 to every vehicle in the company's mobile fleet, there have been no reports of incidents – that is across more than 21,000 separate hires, and involving the pumping/pouring of more than 1 million cubic metres of concrete.

The judges said this product's innovation lies in the fact that it very effectively addresses a widespread problem in the industry.

"We look forward to seeing this device more widely adopted across the concrete pumping and pouring sector"



HIGHLY COMMENDED

The Design Best Practice Alliance

The Design Best Practice Alliance and associated website – www.dbp.org.uk – not only

provides a platform for sharing best



practice but also raises the profile of the CDM Regulations, said the judges. The project was set up to improve the level of understanding of the Regulations among designers and design organisations, so that hazards can be designed out or mitigated at source. The initiative has also resulted in demonstrable benefits in terms of time, cost, quality and safety.

Glazesafe

The Sashmate was developed by Glazesafe as a safe way of carrying out window repairs. It avoids the need for ladders or scaffolding, and minimises the risk of a window sash being dropped from height. The Sashmate also allows a single window-fitter to carry out repairs safely without having to

take unnecessary risks. It is fully adjustable and can be used on uPVC, aluminium and wooden windows, and can be fitted to small top vents and large openers above and below transom bars.

Halcrow

Assistant engineer Robert Davies was on secondment to Carillion when he had the idea of installing an external light on plant machinery to show that their height limiter is functional when working near to overhead electricity cables. The device allows supervisors and other workers to tell at a glance that operatives in control of plant are working safely.

The idea was subsequently adopted for all Environment Agency sites in south Wales. The

use of the height-limiter and light system also became part of the daily permit to work issued by Carillion.

Semmco

Semmco's variable-height, lightweight aluminium steps incorporate a height-adjustment mechanism that is recognised worldwide for the improved safety it provides for airline engineering staff. The steps facilitate safe working at height for those carrying out inspection and maintenance on aircraft. The steps were designed and manufactured in the UK by Semmco, in conjunction with British Airways, BMI and Virgin. The variable-height concept will be adapted for rail, road, and other industries.