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Scaffolding accidents up by more than a quarter

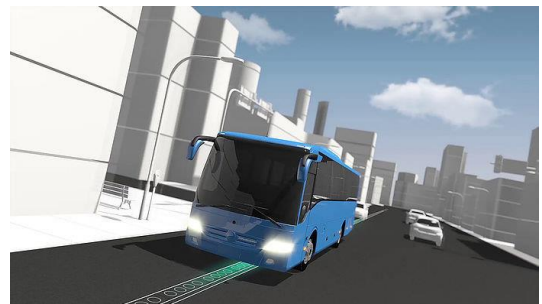
NASC, the national access and scaffolding confederation, has published its annual safety report showing a 27% increase in the number of workplace accidents and injuries among its membership in 2018.

On the plus side, there were once again no workplace fatalities among operatives for the sixth consecutive year. In fact, there has only been one site death among NASC members since 2005. NASC's *2019 Safety Report* documents and analyses accident and injury statistics for its full contracting members – representing more than 16,700 UK scaffolding operatives – in 2018. There was a 27% rise in the number of incidents, from 89 in 2017 (which was an all-time low) to 113 in 2018. This was the highest it has been since 2012. The frequency rate, defined as the number of reported accidents multiplied by 1000 divided by the average number of hours worked, was 0.35 in 2018, up from 0.28 in both 2017 and 2016. This was also the worst result since members are required to submit a detailed accident return as a requirement of membership. Analysis of the 2018 returns shows that the most common cause of accident and injury was 'slips, trips and falls on the same level' – representing more than 43% of all accidents reported. There were 22 falls from height, up from 14 in 2017, and four falls of materials, down from 12 in 2017. 2012.

Sweden

The winning team has been chosen in a tender for a Swedish 'electric road' system designed

to test the charging of vehicles while they are moving. The Swedish Transport Administration, Trafikverket, has announced that the Smart Road Gotland team won the final round of the tender. Electreon will lead the project's next phase. The project is aimed at demonstrating the potential for dynamic wireless mobile power transfer to vehicles. The trials, based on Electreon's technology, will carry out inductive charging of an electric truck and a bus while in motion. The Smart Road Gotland consortium will deploy a fully functional public shuttle service and test bed through a 1.6km-long electric road as part of the total route of 4.1km between the airport and city centre of Visby on the island of Gotland.



The electric truck will be test-driven by a professional in varied seasonal conditions to ensure that the system is ready for large-scale projects on highways. After acquiring relevant demonstration results from the project, the Swedish Transport Administration can evaluate the potential for larger scale electric road investments

Schoolboy commended in RIBA bridge design contest

When the Royal Institute of British Architects holds an international design competition, it normally expects entries **from the likes of**



Norman Foster or Ove Arup, not a 10-year-old schoolboy from Tamworth. William Tonks with his parents and Network Rail chairman Sir Peter Hendy RIBA and Network Rail issued a challenge last year for designers to come up with a fully accessible footbridge that could be used across Britain's rail network.



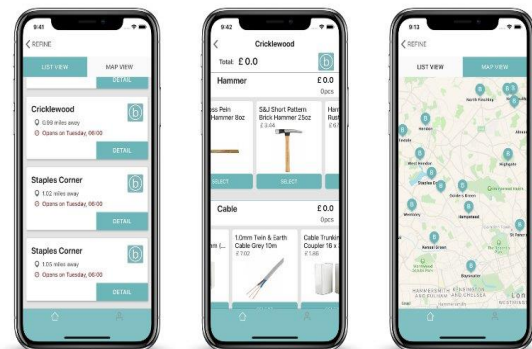
There were 120 entries from 19 countries. The winner was Gottlieb Paludan Architects, whose design has now been added to Network Rail's new catalogue of improved station footbridge designs. A surprising entrant, however, was 10-year-old William Tonks from Tamworth, whose design impressed the judging panel with its imagination and innovation. During February William and his parents were invited to the winners' exhibition at the RIBA in London, where his concept was showcased to around 100 guests, including Network Rail chair Sir Peter Hendy. William Tonks, Stuart's father, said: "I'm really proud of William's entry."

Obviously, we knew he was unlikely to win, but we wanted to encourage him to follow his passion for bridges and engineering. The feedback we've had from the judges has been really helpful and has only strengthened William's desire to pursue a career in engineering in future." Network Rail chair Sir Peter Hendy said: "It's wonderful to see somebody as young as William with the enthusiasm and ability to successfully enter the footbridge competition, and we are all delighted to see his design showcased at the exhibition. We hope he goes on to become a railway engineer – we need him and many others in the future."

Handy Builders Merchant App

A mobile app is now on the market to let

A mobile app is now on the market to let builders know how close they are to the tools and materials that they need to purchase. Buildiro provides a live database of builders' merchant inventory, although initially only in London Buildiro provides a smart directory of local builders' merchants and what they have in stock; type in 'plasterboard' and the app will direct you to the nearest source. The app was conceived by Luke Polach two years ago when he managed a small construction firm in north London. On one job, he needed materials and used his phone to search for a local merchant. Google Maps told him the closest store was six miles away. But while stuck in traffic, he spotted a smaller merchant just a mile from the job site. Not only did this local supplier have everything Mr Polach needed, the products were actually cheaper than the larger retailer. The idea for Buildiro was born. Buildiro is now available in Google Play and Apple App store. The first phase covers Greater London only, where Buildiro is working with merchants to help them connect inventories to the app's database. The aim is to roll it out to other cities later in the year.



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