

LEADER

Thoughts about little things

Steve Jordan, Editor



The start of the new year has us all looking towards the future. Some might be contemplating a new venture, others might be planning retirement or wondering how to hold the business together for another year. But I started thinking at a much smaller level.

You see I recently heard a report by James Burke, the scientist and octogenarian broadcaster, about nano technology. That's technology using atomic-sized particles. Nano technology is not science fiction, it's current technology. Nano particles are used to create self-cleaning windows, clothes that don't need washing, cosmetics, new materials and all kinds of other intriguing things.

But James let his mind wander into a world where nano manufacturing was the norm not the exception. In theory, if it were ever possible to manipulate elements at the atomic level, it must be possible to make anything. What's more, the elements needed are all around us in the air, sea and ground – for nothing. Solar power too to provide the energy. If you put two atoms of hydrogen with one of oxygen you will end up with water. In the same way, if you put the right bits together at an elemental level, you could make a cheese sandwich, a table, a pint of beer or a pair of shoes.

To do this you'll need a nano factory which should be able to construct anything you want – including another nano factory. That done, it's easy to ship them anywhere in the world and make more nano factories (or maybe just beam them around). Just as we all have personal computers now, in the future perhaps we'll have little factories in our garden sheds to make stuff.

Sounds wonderful but, faced with the ability to make anything we like, from nothing, what do we all do? People become useless, money is irrelevant, unbridled abundance gives us everything for free and nobody has any purpose in life. At least there'll be no crime, as everyone will have everything anyway. But it will be the end of the moving industry, that's for sure.

But it is just fantasy isn't it? Well, no, not quite. The thing is, it's already been done. The technology is in its very early stages of development but the principles have been established and the process works. And we thought the Internet was a game-changer! The future will be stranger than we can ever imagine.

Steve Jordan



● Visitors from Mondial Movers at the show.

Dutch delegation visits The Movers & Storers Show

A delegation from Dutch moving company Mondial Movers paid a visit to The Movers & Storers Show in November to help keep abreast of the latest developments in the industry. As well as enjoying the impressive display of trucks, members of the group found the new technology for video surveys particularly interesting and also attended a number of presentations in the Seminar Theatre.

Mondial Movers has 27 family-owned branches in The Netherlands, some of which have been in business for over 100 years. The company carries out moves within The Netherlands as well as internationally.

Visit mondial-movers.nl.

Ekeri side-loader widens service scope for Alexanders Removals

Alexanders Removals and Storage has taken delivery of a side-opening 18-tonne vehicle from Finnish manufacturer Ab Ekeri Oy. According to Alexanders, the new truck will improve loading flexibility and speed up handling times.

The rigid-sided body comes with six doors, which open along the body length on the kerbside and are centrally locked for added security. For secure loading, there are lashing straps to the floor and on both walls. The Ekeri body allows access to any part of the load from the side or rear, which saves time and avoids having to manoeuvre items around one another or off-load through the rear.

The GRP-skinned body is also equipped with side and rear ramps for easy access. "We can load 20 pallets or five of our large storage boxes through the sides and rear," said Alexanders' General Manager David Ross. "As there are no posts in the way, we have

unrestricted access with a loading length of 8,150mm and a height of 2,740mm."

"We provide a comprehensive removals and storage service for domestic and commercial customers throughout the UK and abroad," added David. "Given the wide variety of items we carry, it's essential to have a vehicle which enables fast, secure and flexible loading. All in all the Ekeri body's combination of loading flexibility, high security and speedy handling widens the scope of the service we provide and goes a long way to making sure we can provide the very best service – whoever the customer, whatever the job."



● Alexanders' new Ekeri side-loader truck.