

# ASTLEY HIRE

access

# NEWS

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## *Astley Hire Ltd goes Stella*

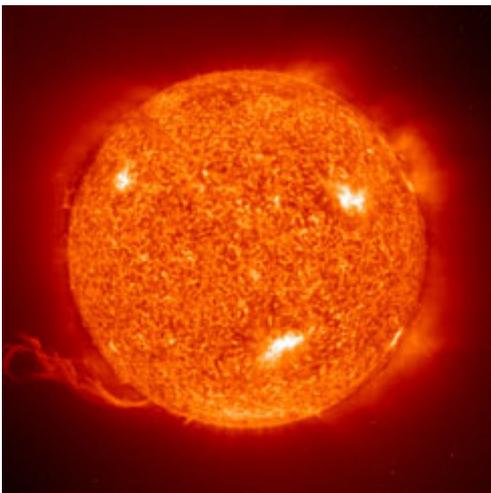
Astley Hire supplied a Nifty HR15N Height Rider Access machine and operator to UCLan (The University of Central Lancashire) to help install a giant screen so fantastic images of the sun could be projected to the public in great detail

**The machine and operator were on site during the whole project to ensure it went smoothly.**

From 4 days during May, passers-by were able to see spectacular close-up images of the Sun projected onto one of UCLan's giant solar trackers; images that are equivalent to ten times the quality of high definition television and which are being continuously beamed to UCLan by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO). The stunning light show took place on Adelphi Street, Preston, on each night for approximately 30 minutes starting at 9.15pm.



The event showcased a double first for the University: UCLan is the only UK institution to be collaborating closely with NASA and its international partners to investigate, store, manage and ultimately share the images with the European scientific and academic community. UCLan was also the first UK University to install solar trackers during 2009 that rotate and follow the motion of the Sun.



Tripping the light fantastic on this unique event, the Sunbeam Digital Projection Project, was digital artist Chris Meigh-Andrews, Professor of Electronic and Digital Art at UCLan and the University's Reader in Solar Physics at the Jeremiah Horrocks Institute, Dr Robert Walsh.

Professor Meigh-Andrews commented: "The solar image projection will bring together a number of my interests and concerns as an artist as much of my art work features the harnessing of renewable energy systems - both within the gallery and at outdoor locations.

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*Astley Hire Ltd goes Stella cont..*

"In this project the Sun is both the energy source and the subject of the image. It is being used to highlight the numerous strands of significant research that take place at the University in science, technology and art and the ways in which they interact, support and complement each other. The project allows UCLan to utilise its standing as the only UK education institution that has access to these high definition images and combine it with our innovative solar panel trackers to provide this unique and fascinating experience."

Astley Hire, a local independent hire company, was really enthusiastic about the project. Not only did they supply the perfect type of Access equipment for this unusual application, they supplied an operator as well. In such a public space safety was a paramount concern. Astley hire is also IPAF Powered Access Training centre and their personnel are amongst the most highly qualified professionals in the country. Normally the Access equipment is supplied without an operator however they made a very welcome exception to support this fascinating event.

Professor Meigh-Andrews added "It was relief to find a local supplier with ability and enthusiasm to help make the event such a success. They gave us all the support we needed to make the working at height aspects of the event safe. Their knowledge and practical advice was invaluable. Thanks to Astley Hire we could concentrate on the technical and artistic details of the show "

*Astley Hire provides a number of Hire Services via its dedicated divisions. In Addition to Powered Access, Scaffold Towers and the associated IPAF and PASMA Training, they supply Heating and Cooling equipment and a wide range of tools to companies across the North West from their depot in Leigh, Lancashire. For more information please visit [www.astleyhire.co.uk](http://www.astleyhire.co.uk) or call 0500 608822.*

The Sunbeam project is funded by the Contemporary Arts Development Group at UCLan.

Images Courtesy of UCLan.



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