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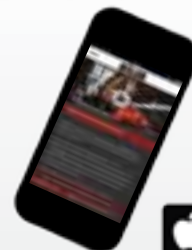


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As we went to Press, there was a measure of relief as Secretary of State James Brokenshire unveiled an 'emergency' budget for Northern Ireland in the absence of any progress at Stormont. With funding in place now, the industry is relatively safe and on a sound footing for the immediate future, but real political progress has to be made to provide lasting stability. Here's hoping that a New Year will bring a new resolve.

That said, the construction industry here in general isn't doing too badly. The latest Ulster Bank PMI report shows that output and employment are growing at a rate not experienced for quite a while.

This positivity is reflected in this, the last issue of the year of Plant & Civil Engineer, and what a busy 2017 it has been across many sectors of our industry, celebration of which was marked at our recent annual Plant & Civil Engineer Awards at the Ramada Hotel in Belfast; our next issue will bring you all the news of who won what and why, though in the meantime you can check out the winners on our website at www.plantandcivilengineer.com.

The Plant Hire industry appears to be going from strength to strength if reports from the organisers of the Executive Hire Show 2018 event due to be held in February are anything to go by. The team recently held its annual exhibitor 'Kick off' meeting at the Ricoh Arena Coventry where we learned that an impressive 156 exhibitors already signed up for the 2018 Show!

Meanwhile, congratulations are in order for Construction Information Services (CIS) as it celebrates 45 years since the 1st issue of the CIS Report was produced. You can read all about it in this edition, as you can about our new 'first lady' of the construction industry, Margaret Conway of McAleer & Rushe who was recently named as 'Construction Manager of the Year,' the first woman to ever win the title at a prestigious UK Awards event.

Well done, too, to the project team for the Holywood Sewerage Infrastructure Improvement Project which has been awarded the 'Achieving Excellence in Partnering' award from the Construction Employers Federation; the team incorporated NI Water, Geda, White Young Green and McAdam Design.

Also in this issue, we turn the focus on Compact Equipment, Wheel Loaders and Tiltrotators, while our 'View from the Cab' features a Bobcat T650 compact tracked loader currently earning its keep with McCormick Contracts, and we also carry a review of the record breaking National Ploughing Championships in Co Offaly.

As this is our last issue of 2017, may we take this opportunity to wish you all the very best over the festive season, thank you for your continued support and may 2018 live up to your aspirations and expectations. In the meantime, remember, you can keep up to date by logging on to our website at www.plantandcivilengineer.com.

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Plant & Civil Engineer is the journal for plant, quarrying, municipal and civil engineering management. It is circulated on a controlled basis to managers in the following industries; access equipment, agricultural contracting, building, civil engineering and highways contractors, civil engineering practices, commercial vehicle distributors, concrete production, municipal and government authorities, plant dealers and operators, plant hire companies, plant manufacturers, quarrying, scrap processors, spare parts suppliers. For those outside the terms of control, Plant & Civil Engineer is available this year at £30 per annum subscription.

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McAleer & Rushe's Margaret Conway wins UK Construction Manager of the Year

Margaret Conway of McAleer & Rushe has won both her Gold category medal and the coveted overall 'Construction Manager of the Year Award' (CMYA) at a prestigious UK Awards event. The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) has been running the awards for 39 years, with Margaret beating 84 finalists and 8 other gold medallists to take the coveted title, the first woman to ever win the title.

Margaret's achievement is all the more remarkable because it was her first role as a construction manager, working on the £22m nine storey office block at 9 Adelaide Street in Belfast City Centre which McAleer & Rushe both developed and constructed. Working with the client Belfast City Council, Margaret delivered considerable cost savings of over £1m by reducing the height of the building and adapting the existing raft foundations for the new superstructure, as well as completing the 80-week project two months early with a clean



Winners Paddy Connolly, Margaret Conway and Michael Yohanis.

health and safety record and an Excellent BREEAM rating.

McAleer & Rushe dominated this year's CMYA which was held in the Grosvenor House Hotel in London by picking up two further medals with Michael Yohanis and Paddy Connolly winning Gold and Silver respectively within the Leisure and Retail category. Michael won the Gold medal for his work on the

construction of the £20m Adagio Royal Mile hotel in Edinburgh with Paddy winning the silver medal for his work on the £25m Holiday Inn in Manchester.

Margaret's success follows that of her colleague Paul Marlow who was the youngest ever CMYA winner in 2016 for a £29 million student accommodation project in Stratford, East London.

CIOB President Rebecca Thompson said: "Margaret is a true inspiration for anyone thinking of entering this exciting and challenging industry. As well as remaining in control of the immense technical and logistical challenges of her day job, her inclusive style has encouraged young people to get involved in construction. Our sector badly needs a more diverse workforce and Margaret shines out as a young leader who is making a genuine difference. We will watch her career with great interest."

Commenting on the team's achievements, Martin Magee,

Managing Director, McAleer & Rushe said, "The success of Margaret, Michael and Paddy at this year's CMYA is truly outstanding. These Awards demonstrate the diversity, inclusivity, commitment and expertise of our employees and our teams and we are immensely proud of their achievements. Investing in our people, developing their experience and nurturing them in their areas of interest and expertise is at the heart of our success and central to our back to back CMYA wins.

Martin Doherty, Belfast City Council Project Manager added, "9 Adelaide Street was a challenging scheme in terms of programme, site logistics and budget. Margaret was intuitive to Belfast City Council's needs, always focused on delivering the scheme on time, whilst never losing sight of the importance of safety or quality. Her ability to communicate all issues and foster a real sense of teamwork set a benchmark for the project."

Martin Magee concluded, "For McAleer & Rushe it is very rewarding that over the last number of years our project work across Office, Hotel, Student Accommodation and Residential sectors of the construction industry has received UK wide recognition. Indeed, it is no coincidence that our Award winners at the 2017 CMYA have been recognised for their work on projects in Belfast, Edinburgh and Manchester. After 50 years in business this shows our growing reach and the talented skill base we have to service it."

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McCloskey Global Dealers Prepare for Further Growth

Washing specialists, McCloskey Washing Systems (MWS), is continuing to grow its international dealer network, working with existing McCloskey dealers to expand their product range.

As part of the support that the company offers, a training session was held in Ireland and attended by dealers from over 16 countries on 4th October 2017 to learn more about the latest McCloskey innovations and product development. The dealers had the opportunity to get comprehensive training and practical

experience offered by Craig Rautiola, Technical Sales & Applications Manager, North America.

Craig provided the dealers with detailed technical information paired with insight from practical experience. New product introductions and updates rounded out the program, which was well received by the attendees.

Sean Loughran, Director of McCloskey Washing Systems, commented, "It was really important for us to run this session in Ireland and help push our dealers into new and innovative growth areas. Our aim is to

provide our dealers with constant support for them to grow their businesses profitably.

"By discussing detailed technical washing applications, our dealers were given all of the information and tools needed to help them strive in a competitive marketplace".

Craig Mr. Rautiola, added, "The training was well received by both the dealers and employees. The training day was a great success for McCloskey Washing Systems; we had the opportunity to meet dealers and introduce them to our product ranges of modular, mobile and static washing systems and water treatment plants.

"Our goal is to help develop our dealers' technical knowledge and provide the tools needed to succeed in the marketplace. This will ultimately drive business growth and success for our dealers around the globe."



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Ecocem Ireland launch first hybrid weather resistant bag

High performance, low carbon cement producer Ecocem Ireland have announced their new product development for the bagged cement market in Ireland and the UK.

The upgraded offering sees the traditional paper bag being replaced by a stronger, more durable weather resistant hybrid bag. The company made the announcement at their state of the art facility in Dublin Port.

Micheál McKittrick, Managing Director of Ecocem Ireland Ltd commented: "The purpose of the product enhancement is to provide our customers

with a bag that maintains excellence in product quality across the many working environments our customers operate in, whether that is on the farm, on the building site or at the home."

Specified by engineers and architects throughout Ireland and the UK, Ecocem bagged cement is a technically advanced product which has a significantly lower carbon footprint (approximately 45% lower) than standard bagged cements on the market.

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CATERPILLAR UNVEIL THREE 'GAME CHANGING' NEXT GENERATION EXCAVATORS

The Caterpillar Malaga Demonstration & Learning Centre located on 106 ha on the Costa del Sol in sunny southern Spain, provided the ideal backdrop for the unveiling of three 'Next Generation' excavators, as Plant & Civil Engineer's Justin Carrigan reports.

Spread over the course of three days, we heard from a series of Caterpillar specialists, including Vice President of Global Construction & Infrastructure, Damien Giraud whose global responsibility for sales and marketing encompasses areas such as Earthmoving, Excavation, Forestry and Load & Haul.

He told a gathering of the world's trade press that the new 20-ton class machines would 'transform the excavator industry worldwide and keep Caterpillar at the number one spot.'

And added Global Marketing Manager Herwig Peschl: "This is a game changer - up to 45% efficiency improvement for the operator, up to 25% reduction in fuel consumption, and up to 15% maintenance cost reduction.

"Game changing is what we're about. We keep investing into our products and services to make sure our customers get what they have been asking for."

The three Next Generation excavators - the 320 GC, 320 and 323 - offer unique combinations of purpose-built



features designed to match customers' productivity and cost targets.

The new Cat 320 and 323 boast the industry's highest level of standard factory-equipped technology to increase productivity. Both models are equipped with integrated Cat Connect Technology, which increases

operating efficiency by up to 45 percent over traditional grading operations.

Offering guidance for depth, slope and horizontal distance to grade, the Cat Grade with 2D system helps operators reach desired grade quickly and accurately. Using the system's E-fence feature enables the





machine to work safely under structures or near traffic by preventing any part of the excavator from moving outside operator-defined set points. The standard 2D system can be upgraded to Cat Grade with Advanced 2D or Cat Grade with 3D.

Standard Grade Assist automates boom, stick and bucket movements, so operators stay on grade simply and effortlessly with single-lever digging. Cat Payload on-board weighing, integrated on the Cat 320 and 323 at the factory, delivers precise load targets and increased loading efficiency with on-the-go weighing and real-time payload estimates without swinging to prevent truck over/under-loading. Cat LINK hardware and software connect jobsites to the office and provide customers with machine-critical operating information.

Power Ratings

Durable Cat engines provide duty-matched power ratings from 90 to 121 kW for the three new excavators. The efficient Next Generation machines consume up to 25 percent less fuel than the previous, corresponding models.

New Smart mode operation automatically matches engine and hydraulic power to digging conditions, optimising both fuel consumption and performance. Engine speed is automatically lowered when there is no hydraulic demand to further reduce fuel usage.

More efficient than single-fan systems, the new cooling system employs multiple electric fans, which independently monitor hydraulic oil, radiator and air-

to-air aftercooler temperatures to deliver the exact airflow required.

With a new hydraulic system built for responsiveness and efficiency, the Cat 320 GC, 320 and 323 feature a new main control valve that eliminates the need for pilot lines, reduces pressure losses and lowers fuel consumption. Fewer hydraulic lines on the excavators result in 20 percent less oil required, lowering long-term operating costs.

Maintenance costs

Offering extended and more synchronized maintenance intervals, the new Cat excavators do more work at a lower cost

and reduce maintenance costs by up to 15 percent over the previous series. Featuring higher dirt capacity, the new Cat hydraulic return filter boasts a 3,000-hour service life, a 50 percent increase over previous filters.

A new Cat air filter with integrated pre-cleaner and primary and secondary filters extends service life to 1,000 hours, a 100 percent increase over previous designs, while a new fuel tank cap filter extends service life to 2,000 hours. The three fuel system filters each offer a 500-hour service interval.

All daily maintenance checks for engine oil, fuel water separator, fuel tank water





and sediment, and cooling system level are performed from ground level, making the routine faster, easier and safer. Consolidated filter locations reduce service time.

New cab

All Next Generation Cat Excavator cabs come equipped with standard features like keyless push-button start, large standard 203-mm touch screen monitor with jog dial keys for control and sound-suppressed rollover protective structures (ROPS) to offer the next level of operator comfort, safety and quiet operation.

Programmable joystick buttons for response and pattern allow the operator to dial in productivity settings. New advanced viscous mounts reduce cab vibration by up to 50 percent over previous models to reduce operator fatigue.

Equipped with a choice of Comfort, Deluxe or Premium cab packages, the new spacious cab features a low-profile design and large front, rear and side windows to enhance visibility to the front and side of the excavator.

Optional 360-degree visibility combines images from multiple machine-mounted cameras to enhance the operator's sight-lines in all directions. Automatic climate control maintains internal cab temperature settings, regardless of external ambient temperatures. A Bluetooth integrated radio with USB ports for connecting and charging phones bring creature comforts from the home to the operator's office. A tilt-up console for the Deluxe and Premium cab designs affords easy cab entry and exit.





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Considerate Constructors Scheme reaches major 100,000 milestone

The Considerate Constructors Scheme - the national Scheme to improve the image of the construction industry - has reached a major milestone in UK construction history by registering its 100,000th site.

The Infrastructure and Project Authority's Head of Construction, Dr David Hancock, welcomed this achievement and the Scheme's role in helping to improve the image of the industry.

The site registration was made by one of the leading UK's contractors - Mulalley - for the Chauncey Residential Development in Ware, Hertfordshire.

Mulalley are working with housing association Network Homes - a Client Partner of the Considerate Constructors Scheme - to deliver this £8.6m project of 18 semi-detached houses and 29 apartments, with associated car parking and amenity space, delivering much needed affordable homes in Ware.

In addition to this site being the Scheme's 100,000th registration, it has also been recognised as an Ultra Site - the highest level of attainment with the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

Registering its first site in 1997, the Scheme has firmly established itself as the major force for good in helping to improve the image of the construction industry - for the benefit of the community, workforce and environment.

It is highly regarded throughout the UK construction industry as the 'go to' organisation to support construction sites, companies, suppliers and clients in raising their standards and best practice above and beyond statutory requirements.

One of the very few organisations to monitor the industry's progress and share best practice on the ground, the Scheme undertakes around 14,000 visits to sites, companies and suppliers per year.

Considerate Constructors Scheme Chief Executive Edward Hardy said: "We are delighted to celebrate the registration of the Scheme's 100,000th site with Mulalley, who have been registering sites for nearly 20



years and are a founding Scheme Partner. This is a truly momentous milestone for the Considerate Constructors Scheme and the industry, and is made even more special with this being the 20th year of the Scheme.

"It is with huge thanks to the continuous hard work, commitment and dedication from an increasingly growing proportion of the UK, and more recently the Irish construction industry, that the Scheme has gone from strength to strength since it registered its first site in 1997. At the very centre of this success has been true collaboration across our industry.

"As a Scheme, we continue to grow and engage with an ever-increasing number of contractors, suppliers, companies, clients and other construction industry-related organisations to continue to promote the benefits to the industry in looking after our workforce, site neighbours and the environment.

"Whilst it is important that we celebrate this phenomenal achievement, it is also important to remember that much more still needs to

be done to continue to improve the image of our sector and to encourage the industry to continually raise its standards and share best practice throughout the supply chain. It is only through an ever-improving image that our industry can continue to attract the very best to work in our fantastic sector.

"As one of the few people who have been involved with the Scheme from its earliest days, I am incredibly proud of what the Scheme has achieved. I am also hugely grateful to the construction industry for the way in which it has embraced the concept of considerate construction, and how it continues to challenge itself to attain even higher standards."

Considerate Constructors Scheme Executive Chairman Isabel Martinson commented: "This is a huge achievement for the industry. By reaching such a significant milestone, the Scheme is clearly demonstrating its ongoing importance in driving higher standards to improve the image and reputation of construction."

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RTD CRAWFORD TAKE ELECTRIC FUCHS MATERIAL HANDLER FROM BLUE MACHINERY IRELAND

RTD Crawford was originally set up in 1978 by Ronnie Crawford with the business making wooden windows and staircases located at Lisbellaw Co. Fermanagh.

Over the years the business has evolved with the main function of the company as a Timber Importer and Machine Timber Specialist.

Today both of Ronnie's sons, Mark and Garreth, have joined the company which still works from that original site as well as a further site in Belfast, specialising in Waste Wood Recycling.

It was for this site in Belfast that the team at RTD needed a material handler, in order to pre-sort the waste wood deposited, and feed the shredding and processing plant, ultimately creating their portfolio of products including Bio Heat Logs and a range of different wood chip.

Mark looked into a number of options, including both new and used equipment, and from a number of different suppliers, however decided upon the Fuchs MHL820 Electric machine from Blue Machinery Ireland.

Compact

This particular wheeled, 20 tonne material handler is both compact and agile, offering a reach of up to 10.4m and the four point stabilisation, which improves safety for both staff and visitors, as well as other equipment on site due to the simple and smooth grab and rotate process.

High torque and a power output of 97.5kW gives this machine a clear advantage over its competitors and the electric component means instant response and no refuelling when powered by the cable. A further



advantage of the electric material handler is the low noise pollution, meaning not just a quieter environment, but also a safer one. And of course there are no exhaust gasses for improved working conditions.

Impressive

Mark Crawford highlighted why this particular machine was right for RTD, saying, "We were really impressed with the machine's capabilities and the electric aspect really does make a lot of sense. Service costs are going to be lower and the machine is likely to do 20,000 hours without the issues of its Diesel counterparts."

The material handler will be working with 10,000 tonnes of wood per year, meaning it is clearly an integral part in the process at the site.

Added Mark: "One of the main reasons we decided on the Fuchs was because of Ronan at Blue Ireland. He has worked with us for a number of years on some used equipment, always looking to do a deal that would be right for our business as much as his."



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MIDDLE EAST SHOWS THE WAY IN CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE RECYCLING

As CDE is expanding its global footprint with an increasing number of wet processing plants dedicated to the recycling of construction, demolition and excavation (CD&E) waste, the GCC is taking steps to curb the increase in waste going to landfill every year.

As Frost & Sullivan was reporting last year that in 2020 the GCC would be generating up to 120 million tonnes of waste per year - a stark jump from the already staggering figure of 94 million in 2015 - the region's countries are becoming recycling-savvy in order to lead the way to a greener and more profitable future for the construction industry.

Due to the highly variable nature of construction, demolition and excavation waste each plant CDE designs is built according to the specific requirements of the project. Differing levels of contamination, fines content and variability of input materials (excavation waste, railway ballast etc) require an individual approach to each and every recycling plant for construction and demolition waste.

CDE, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2017, has been developing CD&E wet processing waste recycling solutions across the world for 12 years. Each plant is co-created with the customer for an exact fit both in terms of footprint but also in terms of product quantity and quality requirements.

For instance, CDE installed the largest bespoke CD&E waste recycling solution in the world in Norway in 2014 for quarry company Velde Pukk AS. Processing 300 tonnes per hour of CD&E materials diverted from landfills, the company recycles 600,000 tonnes of waste per year thanks to CDE's wet processing technology. Waste is converted into two grades of sand -0-2mm and 2-4mm. A range of washed aggregates are also being produced in the form of 4-11mm, 11-16mm, 16-22mm, 22-90mm and an oversize +90mm aggregate.



Velde are also utilising the dry cake output from the filter press, which contains +80% of dry solids for use in the creation of embankments.

Recycling solutions

Ruchin Garg, CDE Regional Manager for MENA, said: "Most operators still rely on dry crushing and screening to recycle C&D waste; this method only produces low-value aggregates with limited applications and does not allow for the recovery of -5mm material, representing 20% to 25% of incoming waste, which ends up in landfills. With CDE wet processing solutions, operators can produce high value sands and aggregates with gradings adapted to a large range of applications, and enjoy the added bonus of recovering and transforming -5mm material into a saleable product.

"The CDE recycling technology allows operators to increase their production of high quality sand and aggregates by recovering and treating materials that are no longer waste but saleable products, preventing the diversion to landfill of up to 90% of incoming waste.

"A typical CDE plant consists of modular units that are combined to create a complete solution offering capability and performance, above all customised to meet the client's needs. This enables the customer to benefit from excellent value for money. Each of these unique modular units is pre-assembled and pre-wired at the CDE assembly facilities in Northern

Ireland. Before consignment, they undergo a series of tests before dismantling into sub-assemblies, thus simplifying their transport and reassembly on site. They require a minimal amount of civils and ensure a substantial reduction in assembly and commissioning costs. The plants are operational in record time, which contributes to maximising their return on investment."

How system works

A typical CDE CD&E waste management system is fed by excavator, allowing the operator to remove obvious large or problematic objects. Feed then passes through a vibrating head over the feed hopper before being conveyed to a rinsing screen. This unit separates minus 5mm slurry which is passed to the compact sand plant. This sand washing plant accurately removes silts and clay below 75µm, via the integrated cyclone, to offer a consistent and sellable dewatered sharp sand product.

Managing waste water and clay / silt is one of the key challenges for this type of system. When a CDE AquaCycle high-rate thickener with integrated polyelectrolyte dosing station is added to the wet processing plant, fine contaminants rapidly settle to form a dense sludge which can be pumped away to a remote settling area. Clean water then overflows the thickener to an adjacent water storage tank after being filtered to remove any residual floating contaminants. From here water

can be readily recirculated to the washing system.

Aggregates and clay-bound particles pass directly from the rinsing screen to the CDE Rotomax logwasher. This is equipped with twin shafts fitted with chromomolybdenum blades. Highly attritioned material is then discharged from the front of this unit to a dewatering screen below. This recovers liberated fines and water which are then passed back to the rinsing screen via a ground sump and pump, encouraging initial fluidisation of the feed material whilst reducing the fresh water requirement. Light contaminants including organic elements such as wood and grass are actively floated off from the rear of the specialist log washer. This is then passed to a trash removal screen which recovers water and fine particles to the sand washing unit.

The dewatered aggregates are then conveyed to a dry screen for final size classification. The system can produce up to five washed products at the same time.

Ruchin Garg, Regional Manager for CDE in MENA, says: "The wet processing of construction, demolition and excavation waste materials can add much greater value and open up new markets for the products than more conventional dry screening processes. It also releases additional products including commercial sand.

"In addition, using the latest washing technologies means that water availability and waste fines management is no longer a significant barrier to efficiently processing even the most difficult materials.

"In countries where the preservation of the environment is vital and at the core of a well thought strategy for industry growth, CDE's high-tech solutions for construction, demolition and excavation waste recycling are perfectly adapted to quarries and construction companies wishing to diversify their offering whilst making a fast return on investment."



CDE

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CITB NI: Helping to improve Skills and Training in local Construction Sector

Learning new skills, refining old skills, updating existing skills and maintaining skills are vital in today's construction industry.

Whilst the CITB NI forecasts predict minor growth in the sector outside influences on a political and economic scale will have a major impact on the industry. Training is so important within all sectors but particularly construction as it is the industry that builds our homes, hospitals, hotels which are central to other sectors. CITB NI are focused on driving investment in skills and training that a growing construction sector requires and offer key initiatives to help the industry train. CITB NI has launched a campaign to encourage 100 new apprentices into the local

construction industry in an effort to meet a demand for an average of over 700 additional people per year over the next five years and to address the skills shortages in traditional trades such as bricklayers, joiners and roofers. CITB NI has enhanced apprenticeship grants available to CITB NI registered employers meaning that an employer can gain £4000* during the 3 year cycle of training an apprentice plus an additional £1500 from the Department for the Economy for employers who take on apprentices from the very start right through to completion of NVQ Level 2 and 3.

For more information on the grants and other support available log on to <http://www.citbni.org.uk/Apprenticeships.aspx>

Training on the Move

CITB NI's Mobile Training Unit (MTU) provides training on site to all registered in-scope construction employers. It is a convenient way of meeting training requirements with minimum disruption to site work whilst also helping employers meet their legal responsibility.

As long as you are based in Northern Ireland, the MTU can come to you. The unit travels across Northern Ireland delivering short duration health and safety courses such as confined spaces, excavations, manual handling and working at heights encouraging the industry to build safely.

In the 2016/2017 training year registered in-scope employers can book the Mobile Training Unit Free of charge. A cost of £300/day will be applied to those who are registered but do not pay a levy.

Booking is easy, you can contact Des on 07801 598 520 / 028 9082 5466 and we can facilitate your booking and answer any queries you have. Alternatively you can email desie.hegarty@citbni.org.uk

CITB NI also continue to support training through, Scaffolding Courses, VET 360 virtual environment training and will continue to focus on providing the support and services needed to ensure local businesses have the right skills. Through a mix of Grant funding and Direct Training Interventions CITB NI will help develop the workforce to meet client needs and grow their business.

For further information on what we can do to help you and your construction training log on www.citbni.org.uk, like us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/CITBNorthernIreland> and follow the discussion on Twitter @CITBNI and LinkedIn <http://linkd.in/1GBeyLf>

Short Training Courses Leadership in Construction – Short Course Programme

Having a pipeline of leadership talent is critical to ensuring that businesses are sustainable no matter their size. It is important that leaders and managers are given the opportunity to develop themselves to help deliver the highest standards of quality across the construction sector.

CITB NI has developed a short course programme that will further develop the skills

of those in middle to senior management positions within the construction businesses and would also benefit those aspiring to become leaders in the near future. If you are working in the construction industry, looking to hone your leadership skills and gain the knowledge and confidence to transition quickly and effectively this course could be the one for you.

There will be a series of short courses ran at different times throughout the year.

The next date will be: **Leading Change for Growth - Monday 27 November 2017 9.00 am – 4.30 pm**

All courses delivered at CITB NI, NCTC. Places limited to 15 per workshop

For more information on the above courses including content, cost contact: Lorraine. fisher@citbni.org.uk Tel: 028 90824202



Business Improvement Events

It is the start of the new training year which brings a whole new range of Business Improvement Events for the local construction sector.

Bookings for these events can be made via the events section of the CITB NI website <http://www.citbni.org.uk/Events.aspx>

Please note there is a charge of £25 to attend the 'Tendering in the Public Sector Construction Market' Workshop. All other events are FREE to registered employers and £25 for non CITB NI registered attendees. Refreshments will be provided on arrival.

Topics	Date	Venue
Tendering in the Public Sector Construction Market Workshop (in partnership with InterTradelreland)	Mon 13 Nov 2017	CITB NI, Crumlin
Recruiting Apprentices and Training Needs Analysis (in partnership with InvestNI)	Wed 17 Jan 2018	Lodge Hotel, Coleraine
Digital Marketing & Social Media Workshop	Wed 21 Feb 2018	Seagoe Hotel, Portadown
Tendering in the Public Sector Construction Market Workshop (in partnership with InterTradelreland)	Fri 23 Feb 2018	Innovation Centre, Derry/Londonderry
Credit Control & Cyber Security	Wed 21 Mar 2018	CITB NI, Crumlin
Recruiting Apprentices and Training Needs Analysis (in partnership with InvestNI)	Wed 18 Apr 2018	Canal Court, Newry
Digital Marketing & Social Media Workshop	Wed 23 May 2018	Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh
Tendering in the Public Sector Construction Market Workshop (in partnership with InterTradelreland)	Fri 15 Jun 2018	Canal Court, Newry
Credit Control & Cyber Security	Wed 20 Jun 2018	Everglades Hotel, Derry/Londonderry
Tendering in the Public Sector Construction Market Workshop (in partnership with InterTradelreland)	Mon 1 Oct 2018	CITB NI, Crumlin

McAleer & Rushe Group celebrate 50 Years in Business

McAleer & Rushe, which is one of the UK's largest design and build construction and property companies, is celebrating 50 years in business and has hosted events in London and Cookstown to celebrate the key milestone.

The events marked McAleer & Rushe's journey from small beginnings in Cookstown where it was formed in 1967 by Seamus McAleer, and where its headquarters are still based, to its standing today as a brand that has its construction footprint in cities throughout the UK and Ireland.

With regional offices in London, Dublin and Belfast the company reported Profit Before Tax (PBT) of £10m in 2016, a 100% increase from the previous year with turnover in 2017 expected to exceed £350M. It currently employs 330 people across its operations. The company is jointly owned by Seamus McAleer, Founder and Chairman and Eamonn Lavery, Chief Executive, who together have been the driving force behind the business.

The business made its name in the early years by delivering large scale social housing projects before moving into commercial construction and development. The company would be recognised as the leading Hotel Design & Build Company within the construction sector. It has constructed over 20,000 hotel rooms, 2 million square foot of office space, over 10,000 houses and 7,500 student housing units across the UK and Ireland.

Comments Seamus McAleer: "Our principles, which are based on hard work, a strong team ethic and ambition, are those that we set out 50 years ago when we established our base in Cookstown and remain the cornerstone of our business today. We are fortunate to have such great staff, working hard for the company and sharing in our successful journey."

McAleer & Rushe has dominated the UK wide 'Construction Manager of the Year Award' (CMYA) with one of their local Project Managers Margaret Conway being the first ever female winner (in the 39 years of the Awards) - winning the coveted title in September for her work on the £22m nine storey office block at 9 Adelaide Street in Belfast for Belfast City Council. This followed the success of her colleague Paul Marlow who became the youngest ever CMYA winner in 2016 for a

£29 million student accommodation project in East London for UNITE.

Added Eamonn Lavery: "2017 represents a very important milestone for our business and after gaining 50 years' experience in the acquisition, design, development, construction and management of a variety of property types we are looking to the future with increased confidence. We have an extensive portfolio of work, a growing client base with a number of important projects in the pipeline and we are looking forward to the long-term growth of our business throughout 2018 and beyond."



Paul O'Connell pictured with Seamus McAleer, Chairman and Eamonn Lavery Chief Executive at an event in the Landmark Hotel London to celebrate McAleer & Rushe's 50th year in business.



CITB NI

As an Industry Training Board and Sector Skills Council our role is to encourage the adequate training of those employed or intending to be employed in the construction industry and to improve the skills and productivity of the industry in Northern Ireland.

We provide advice, courses and grants for training to help construction companies improve their skills to increase their competitive edge.

To find out more contact us

028 90825466

www.citbni.org.uk



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FIFTEEN TA300S SHIFT SAND IN DORSET

G Crook & Sons, a family-run business, is putting a fleet of Terex Trucks' 28-tonne articulated haulers to work at its sand and aggregates quarry in Dorset.

Operating in a 50-mile radius within Dorset, G Crook & Sons has premises in Dorchester and Poole. One such is the Redbridge Road quarry, where the family-owned business is using four of Terex Trucks' TA300s to transport sand from the pit to the stockpiles. Fitted with the Scania DC9 five-cylinder 9.3-litre engine, the 28-tonne (30.9-ton) capacity articulated haulers work a minimum of eight-hour shifts daily.

Established in 1972, G Crook & Sons was founded by George Crook with a primary focus on plant hire. Alongside his son Barry, George grew his operation, which initially began with an old tractor, trailer, and a digger, to become one of the largest privately owned plant and machinery hire companies in West Dorset.

"Over the last 45 years we've expanded the business significantly and gone into different ventures, such as stone and aggregate quarries, pubs and hotels," says Simon Crook, director and workshop manager at G Crook & Sons. "We've got multiple sites, tyre depots, and we've even got an agricultural centre as well – where we sell all our tractors into the farming industry."

Trusted ally

G Crook & Sons became first-time Terex Trucks customers in 1995 with the purchase

of a TA30. Having never looked back since then, the company now owns a fleet of 15 haulers which are a mix of TA30s and TA300s, with its most recent four acquired in spring 2017. Supplied by Terex Trucks' UK distributor, TDL Equipment, the reliability of the Motherwell, Scotland built machines have steadily impressed G Crook & Sons.

"The quality of the dumpers are unmatched," says Simon. "The trucks are extremely reliable and that's why we've not only got them in the aggregate quarry hauling the sand out of the pit but we also use them for the muck away shifts, roadworks, and general tasks."

"Also, the way we see it that Terex Trucks and TDL have formed a great partnership. If there ever is an issue we get a speedy response. With some of Terex Trucks' competitors we might not get a reply from them for two days, whereas with TDL it's very quick."

Built to perform

Terex Trucks' TA300 is a proven design which has the proficiency to overcome the most demanding conditions and move material as quickly as possible due to its excellent traction and effective power-to-weight ratios. The machine offers minimum cost of operation and maximum productivity. With independent front suspension as standard, tyre/ground contact is maintained on tough terrain, increasing tractive effort and reducing cycle times, while also providing operators with a comfortable haul. Created



to work harder for longer, G Crook & Sons' haulers have stood the test of time, with some running past the 10,000-hour mark.

Covering approximately 150 acres, the Redbridge Road quarry is host to some of the finest sand available in Dorset. To recover the raw material, the articulated haulers travel along a muddy clay-like landscape to descend below the earth where it is then loaded with heaps of sand. Helping G Crook & Sons meet the demands of its customers, the TA300s work around the clock shifting the sand, which is known to prove quite troublesome for the trucks.

Simon explains: "The quarry can be aggressive and hard wearing on the machines because of the sand as it ingresses into the components and they wear much quicker than they normally would. But it's not a problem that we've had to worry about with our Terex Trucks machines because they're pretty robust."



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GDG add top consultancy skills and experience to their London team

Geotechnical engineering consultancy, Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions (GDG), with offices in Dublin, Belfast, Edinburgh and London, recently acquired SE England based consultancy Applied Geotechnical Engineering (AGE).

Paul Doherty, Managing Director at GDG, said, 'the acquisition is another step towards realising our ambition of building a consultancy to provide the highest level geotechnical services throughout the UK, Ireland and further afield'.

The acquisition will strengthen GDG's market position throughout the UK but especially in the London area, where GDG is very active. While strengthening GDG's strong knowledge base in its existing business sectors, it will also allow GDG to expand its consultancy service offering into the area of geoenvironmental engineering.

The AGE principals and associates bring a wealth of experience and are particularly highly regarded as geotechnical engineers. Founding directors, Neil Smith and Mike Turner, both bring a lifetime of geotechnical



Pictured here (l-r) are Gerry O'Sullivan (GDG UK Director), Paul Doherty (GDG Managing Director), Neil Smith (AGE), Mike Turner (AGE).

experience, a huge level of knowledge and a high-level of comfort to their existing client base. Through this acquisition, long-established AGE clients will now benefit from access to the wider resource pool at GDG, which comprises a team of highly-skilled engineering staff that can assist in

providing an enhanced service. Conversely, existing GDG clients will benefit from the wealth of experience within AGE. GDG provides geotechnical engineering consultancy mainly to the infrastructure, marine, renewable energy and the commercial/industrial building sectors.

Kubota UK Shares Future Vision and Stage V Strategy At Engines Conference

Over 50 key independent dealer and distributor customers recently attended Kubota UK's 2017 Engines Conference, held at Mercedes Benz World, home of the famous Brooklands racing circuit in Surrey.

The conference entitled 'Kubota – The Answer', gave Kubota UK's Engines Division the opportunity to share its future vision and the plans that the world class manufacturer of industrial diesel and dual fuel engines has put in place to surpass Stage V emissions standards, due to come into force in 2019/20. Delegates learnt more about Kubota Corporation's commitment to being a global major brand at the conference and gained a deeper understanding of Kubota's drive to be a great company

to do business with through its 'Customer First' strategy. Thirteen countries from around the globe were represented at the event, highlighting the investment and dedication Kubota UK places on its dealer and distributor network and the significant value of its "One –Team" working partnership approach. Daniel Grant, Kubota UK's Business Development Manager – Engines, said: "Stage V engine emission regulation is one of the biggest challenges facing the industry. 'Kubota – The Answer', our key theme for this year's conference, was all about communicating Kubota Corporation's global position on Stage V and how we can support our dealer and distributor customers on a local level. "As a business, we are at the forefront of technological advancements in the diesel

engines market and invest heavily in research and development to bring the most innovative solutions to the market that improve fuel consumption, meet legislative standards and add value to our customers." At the conference, Kubota showcased a host of new Stage V ready engine solutions, including its new 5.0 litre capacity V5009 engine model, which had previewed for the first time at ConExpo, the international trade show in Las Vegas, in March 2017. The new 09 Series, with mass production starting in 2020, pushes Kubota into the 200hp class for the first time – opening up new markets for the company to target. Following the conference, guests had the opportunity to test drive top of the range Mercedes vehicles on the racetrack, off-road circuit and skid pan at the Brooklands racing circuit. They

also had a once in a lifetime opportunity to take on Perry McCarthy, BBC Top Gear's original Stig, in driving simulators to beat his fastest lap, before an evening reception where the original Stig provided a fun and entertaining after dinner speech. Dave Roberts, Managing Director of Kubota UK, commented: "Kubota Engines have a global reputation for precision engineering so Mercedes Benz World, a brand renowned for its quality and excellence, was a fitting venue for our conference. "This was a fantastic opportunity to share our strategy and future vision with our key distributor and dealer customers, so on behalf of everyone at Kubota UK, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone that attended and we look forward to working hand in hand together to achieve continued success."

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ConveyorTek Receives Recognition for Newly Launched Metal Detector

Lisburn-based ConveyorTek Ltd has received the prestigious 2017 Materials Handling Engineers Association (MHEA) 'Innovation Excellence Award' for its newly launched conveyor metal detector.

The company, which designs and manufactures bespoke conveyor solutions and metal separation technologies, was among five winners at the awards function in Eastwood Hall hotel in Nottingham. The awards ceremony took place as part of the annual BulkEx technical conference and exhibition.

ConveyorTek won the Innovation Award for its high-performance conveyor metal detector that can self-calibrate and, uniquely, can ignore steel cable belts and rip detection systems, while still detecting rogue metal pieces.

According to ConveyorTek, it has been many years since a new conveyor metal detector has appeared on the UK market that has been truly innovative in its electrical technology, programming and housing materials.

Working with an expanding team of in-house and external specialists, this product has been developed over the last two years and has recently launched into the market. The product is completely manufactured at the company's facilities in Northern Ireland.



ConveyorTek's Phil Trimble receives MHEA Excellence in Innovation award at BulkEx17.

The metal detector uses a 'pulse induction technology' which is generated by creating a pulsing magnetic field with a series of sealed sense coils and excitation coils. The housing has been designed with a very innovative assembly procedure allowing customers to install the detector in under 40

minutes. It comprises of adjustable sensitivity; engineering and performance diagnostics; a series of extra alarm options and notifications; and is arguably the most robust metal detector in the UK bulk handling market.

From the initial design concept to a series of working prototypes, the metal detector is now delivering excellent performance results and the company is currently beginning to establish a global distribution network for its sales representation. Indeed, the company has just secured its first large order with one of the industry's leading quarrying applications for a 2000mm wide system that will be installed in November of this year.

Philip Trimble, Managing Director of ConveyorTek, had this to say: "We believe that the competitive price, fast assembly procedure, extremely robust frame and high detection capabilities will, in time, make this metal detector the new industry benchmark."

The MHEA, which works to support the interests of companies supplying and using bulk handling equipment around the world, explained that "the awards were conceived to recognise and reward the talent and creativity of the association's members and the world-class capabilities of its member companies."

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KCME launches online fanshop

Following the popularity of its fanshop at BAUMA 2016 and SaMoTer 2017, Kobelco Construction Machinery Europe B.V. (KCME) has launched its brand new webshop.

Fans of the Kobelco brand can now purchase official apparel, gifts and scale models, including the recently launched collector's edition Hybrid scale model (1:50), directly from the online fanshop at www.kobelcofanshop.com

KCME has offered branded merchandise to its dealer network since 2014. However, demand from Kobelco customers and other construction enthusiasts led to the debut of a public fanshop on the manufacturer's stand at BAUMA. The popularity of the shop and sell-out success of many product lines, including scale models and clothing, drove the development of the new online resource earlier this year.

As well as a complex European dealer network, Kobelco has a huge worldwide consumer fan base, including over 64,000 fans on Facebook. The arrival of the new online fanshop, which is available in five languages, marks a huge step forward for Kobelco, which has previously sold all its products exclusively via authorised dealers. The webshop will give customers access to an extensive range of high quality Kobelco products as well as other important benefits including competitive prices, exclusive promotions and fast delivery.

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view from the cab

BOBCAT T650

EFFICIENT, VERSATILE & COMPACT

Bobcat compact track loaders are said to have built a reputation as the industry's most powerful, comfortable, and versatile, at home in all sorts of terrain including in soft, sandy, wet or muddy conditions. But what's the reality? Plant & Civil Engineer's David Stokes has been finding out from one local contractor.

Based in Ballycastle, family run civil engineers McCormick Contracts, headed up by Garreth McCormick, operate a substantial fleet of plant and machinery, and recently added a Bobcat T650 compact tracked loader to their operation.

Supplied by Hillsborough headquartered Northern Excavators, the two-speed T650 is currently being employed at Mallusk outside Belfast on the grading of a new storage area ahead of concreting.

Indeed, its grading capabilities was what initially attracted the contractors to the machine. Bobcat, of course, manufactures what are regarded as the most productive box blade and grader attachments in the industry.

McCormick Contracts opted for an automatic laser-guided system which significantly enhances efficiency and

productivity. It's as simple as clicking a button on the loader controls to activate the automatic system.

"Once set up, it automatically enables us to achieve more accurate grading results, within 5mm tolerances, and more quickly and more efficiently," says Garreth. "It's a one man operation, too, as we don't need others to be continually checking grade on the site, so we save on labour costs."

It also means, of course, that the operator will be less stressed as he can focus on operating the machine's travel, rather than the blade's position.

Working Environment

Another appealing aspect of the Bobcat noted by Garreth is the roomy cab, which provides an excellent working environment. No matter your height, it's easy to find a comfortable operating position with multiple adjustment points; it's also easy to enter and exit the machine, thanks to its generous door opening.

The cab also offers plenty of storage spaces for your bits and pieces. With storage bins throughout the interior, you can place items wherever it's convenient – on your right or on your left.



As any contractor working on a busy site knows, noise can be a daily frustration, but not with the Bobcat. It includes sound dampening features that keep the cab quieter. The operator's environment also benefits from an efficient air conditioning system, which comes into its own on a cold winter's day.

Fingertip Operation

Control is everything when you work long days on tough jobs. That's why the Selectable Joystick Control (SJC) on the T650 is another feature that attracts Garreth and his team to the machine.

Fingertip switches enable you to easily control numerous machine functions without letting go of the joysticks. You can, for example, easily operate a planer, trencher or tree spade with ease or control the angle functions on the soil conditioner, angle broom or grader. Selectable control pattern gives you further flexibility to choose between ISO or H-Pattern, satisfying different operators with the flip of a switch.





Controls are exactly where you expect them to be: at your fingertips. Plus, joysticks can be adjusted separately from your seat, making operation comfortable for any operator. Because there's only one convenient foot throttle, you can also enjoy increased legroom inside the cab.

There's also a drive response mode which allows you to choose how the drive responds to joystick movement. Three different settings put you in control: choose a higher mode for quicker drive response, or select a lower drive mode for smooth, responsive operation.

McCormick Contracts' machine also features a very useful two-speed travel option. When you boost your speed in high range, you'll reduce travel time across your jobsite or between jobs, and consequently, your productivity all day long.

Suspension

McCormick Contracts also opted for a Roller Suspension system, which provides

a better level of comfort, plus there is less wear and tear on the tracks.

Being solid-mounted, hoses, meanwhile, are better protected from snags, vibrations and rubbing during operation.

Bobcat drive motor hoses are intentionally hidden so they're not exposed to normal debris, such as mud and sticks that are kicked up during operation. Better protection of these hoses means, of course, more uptime.



"Although we are currently only using the grader on the machine, we also have a rock hammer, bucket and forks which increases its versatility. We will be adding more attachments; the list of attachments available is virtually endless, enabling us to use the machine in many different applications," says Garreth.

"This is our first Bobcat and we are very happy with its performance to date, as we are with the support and aftersales service we get from dealers Northern Excavators."

Dedicated Product Specialist Set To Break New Ground At Miller

Miller UK has recently expanded their business development team with a dedicated breaker specialist, David Leadbeater.

In his new role, David will take care of the relationship between Miller and their current and potential breaker customers



Cheryl Prior.

by providing comprehensive and specialist advice to anyone who may be considering purchasing one of Miller UK's award-winning breakers in the future.

David is no stranger to the industry, and joins Miller with nationwide sales experience from a world-leading, global forklift truck manufacturer. In his previous role he was a crucial part of the sales team, securing new business opportunities and signing a number of significant contracts, all of which have contributed to his success.

"I'm excited by the challenge that this role has to offer," said David. "The Miller Hydraulic Breaker is a fantastic piece of equipment with such a strong reputation, and I am looking forward to meeting with key clients to discuss their needs and requirements."

In addition, and to support the growth of the sales team, Miller has recently appointed Cheryl Prior as a Marketing Executive.

Having worked in Dubai for the last decade as a Marketing Manager for an events company, Cheryl brings many years of experience which will be essential when planning and delivering Miller's global attendance at industry exhibitions. In addition, Cheryl will be tasked with overseeing the digital marketing strategy as well as supporting the team on Miller's e-commerce launch.



David Leadbeater.

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Tilt Warning System for Construction Machinery

Emolice Technology, a leading manufacturer of Position Measurement Technology, has launched its Si-1 Tilt Warning System, designed to help address the mounting number of deaths and serious injuries caused by forward tipping dumper trucks overturning on construction sites.

Comprising an integrated dual axis tilt sensor, the Emolice Si-1 slope indicator measures the operating angle of construction machinery in realtime for both pitch (front to back) and roll (side to side).

The realtime tilt measurement is shown on two high intensity LCD screens that are visible in both low light and bright light conditions.

The maximum working angle of the machine is programmed at installation in the range of 0 to 45 degrees. The buttons used to configure the device are locked and protected following installation to prevent the operator from changing settings. Whilst the machine is in use, the operator will receive a



visual (orange LED) warning when the operating angle of the machine reaches 75% of the maximum working angle. When the maximum working angle of the machine is exceeded, the operator receives a high intensity audible alarm and visual (red LED) warning. An optional relay is also triggered which can be used to sound additional horns or lights, or to cut electrical power. Design for the rigours of site use, the Si-1 is manufactured from anodised aluminium and its waterproof design will withstand pressure washing and even temporary immersion. The Si-1 can be easily fitted to new machines, or retrofitted to in-service machines, with installation taking as little as 10 minutes.



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CDE builds up young women in construction

Brick by brick, women are building influence in the NI construction sector and CDE, the Cookstown-based international design and engineering wet processing equipment company, is determined to support them in this endeavour.

Recently, a 15-strong group of young leaders who work in the local construction materials industry, under the umbrella of Quarry Product Association NI (QPANI), visited CDE to learn from the company's approach to diversity issues and to feed into its drive for solutions. The group included young women poised to become the new diversity champions of the local construction materials industry.

Claire Colvin, Talent Director at CDE, became involved at an early stage and welcomed the interest of the group in the company's diversity ethos: "Despite enduring misconceptions, gender in construction has become irrelevant. CDE's message to our visitors today is that there should be no barriers for young women to becoming successful professionals in the engineering and construction materials industry, where the shortage of skills to cover demand gives them an opportunity to impose themselves as a vital part of its future."

"Today's construction materials industry offers wider-ranging career opportunities than ever before. Aside from requiring site and factory staff, CDE is always on the lookout for experts in environmental technologies, electrical engineering and many other fields. This increasingly diverse job offer presents opportunities to both young men and women who wish to embark on technical degree courses in the knowledge that there will be equal job opportunities after graduating."

Catherine Keenan, Company Solicitor and Manager at Creagh Concrete Products Limited, participated in the group visit to CDE. She reflected: "CDE is an inspiration in as much as our visit has demonstrated that young people who choose a career in construction materials can think big, reach high and achieve a fulfilling career in the industry field of their choice, regardless of gender."

"Over the years our company has worked closely with CDE on a number of projects and we have always been impressed by their diverse range of staff and expertise."

Gordon Best, Regional Director, QPANI, added: "60% of CDE employees are aged under 29 years old and as such the company provides an exciting opportunity for the Young Leaders' group to be inspired by its dedication to encouraging and nurturing graduates."

"On this trip, the group opted for a focus on the gender gap in the construction materials sector. There is still a long way to go for professional women to impose themselves in the construction industry but going by today's dynamic and optimistic discussions, the future is bright."

"At QPANI we have made it our mission to promote gender diversity as an essential part of the Northern Ireland construction materials industry's success and we were delighted to support today's visit to CDE. The next step is to identify champions who will represent the industry across different platforms such as Women's Tec, the largest quality provider of training for women in non-traditional skills in Northern Ireland."

Claire Colvin concludes: "CDE has become extremely successful thanks to its focus on innovation. We focus on recruiting talented and creative individuals who can make a difference to the industry. Our staff is typically a combination of experienced professionals and young graduates who we nurture throughout the course of their career development."

"Women are an essential part of this balance of expertise and bring a vital perspective to our work that helps us stay on top of our field."

"All the way back to 1811, a woman patented the design for the Clifton Suspension Bridge's piling foundations in Bristol; Sarah Guppy proved that women have their place in the construction industry and at CDE we are determined to continue engaging with women and help them reach their professional ambitions on an even keel to men."



Gordon Best,
QPANI Regional Director

QPANI seek meetings with local Councillors

The Association has written to all councillors in Fermanagh Omagh, Derry Strabane, Mid Ulster and Causeway Coast and Glens Councils to highlight concerns over their attitudes to Minerals development.

QPANI believe that despite information that it has sent to councillors and presentations to Councils by the Geological Survey there are still misunderstandings and lack of appreciation that the local sand and gravel and quarry industry is deemed under legislation as "Minerals".

Given the ongoing debate and opposition to mineral exploration relating to possible future valuable minerals extraction such as gold, silver, zinc and platinum in the Sperrins and its hinterlands and the subsequent negative comments about "Minerals" and support for widespread areas of mineral constraint in some of the Councils, QPANI want to engage and debate some of the issues it raised in its response to the each of the council's consultations on their Preferred Options Papers.

"Our local quarrying and sand & gravel industry has been providing jobs and essential materials for many years and many of the companies operating in the council areas are well known names," says QPANI Regional Director Gordon Best.

"We also want to highlight the increasing number of companies who have been and continue to work with and support community groups and environmental NGOs on restoration projects and work that both protects and enhances biodiversity in the area."



Catherine Keenan, Company Solicitor and Manager at Creagh Concrete Products Limited, Northern Ireland, and Kieran McGurk, Assembly Technician at CDE.

Industry Urges Agreement On New Executive

The Quarry Products Association NI who represent the majority of construction material suppliers in Northern Ireland, employing over 5000 people, is urging and encouraging local politicians to go the extra mile and reach agreement on re-establishing a working and sustainable Executive.

Gordon Best, Regional Director QPANI, said: "It is no exaggeration to say that most people in the business community are frustrated at the political vacuum we are in. However, we must do all we can to encourage our politicians to consider the realities and the significant repercussions for jobs and the NI economy for failing to reach agreement on re-establishing the Executive and the Assembly.

"The absence of locally accountable Ministers making decisions, and local MLAs scrutinising them from the Assembly, is already having a devastating effect on people here. As a result of recent decisions on health care cuts, delayed school building projects, new health estate infrastructure and more recently the ending of roads maintenance funding from the end of September our politicians must realise the real impacts on people and local businesses as a result of the ongoing failure to reach political agreement."

The QPANI recently met with senior officials in the Department of Infrastructure to highlight its concerns regarding the halt in roads maintenance funding.

Added Gordon Best: "We do not doubt the Department of Infrastructure's commitment to protect the highly skilled workforce that delivers and maintains our road network. We recognise the fact that they can only do what the budget they have will allow them to do. The reality is that without further allocation of funding to maintain our strategically important roads network over 500 skilled jobs could be lost.

"The shortfall in funding for this 2017/18 financial year is around £95 million. That equates to 68,000 lorry loads of asphalt. If you consider the number of workers it takes to manufacture the asphalt, to transport it and to lay it on the roads the numbers above are no exaggeration.

"We believe capital money is there at present due to delays in many construction projects that were due to start this year. We only need an Executive and local Ministers to free it up and get work moving."

Level 3 Certificate for the Extractives and Mineral Processing

The Regional Director recently met with Ken Logan of HSENI who noted his disappointment with the take up of registration for the Level 3 Certificate

in Safety, Health and Environmental Knowledge for the Extractives and Mineral Processing.

QPANI would encourage members to attend and highlight

that competency is currently a key priority for HSENI.

The Institute of Quarrying, supported and endorsed by QPANI and HSENI, will be offering a new Level 3

Certificate in Safety, Health and Environmental Knowledge for the Extractives and Mineral Processing Industries.

Those who should consider attending are up and coming managers/ supervisors looking to promote their development in readiness for future leadership roles.

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BRIGGS DELIVERS ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT TO IFS GLOBAL LOGISTICS

Briggs Equipment has worked closely with IFS for the past year with the latest instalment of materials handling equipment delivered onto site in October 2017.

IFS, based in Carrickfergus, is a global logistics company operating freight services over air, sea and road. They specialise in importing and exporting internationally as well as to and from the UK and Ireland. They are experts in freight forwarding, warehousing and customs clearance.

Included in the latest delivery from Briggs Equipment are 5 Yale reach trucks, 3 Yale counterbalance forklifts and 3 Yale MP16 powered pallet trucks.

These machines will aid in the day to day operation of IFS and are also fitted with pedestrian warning lights to indicate where the trucks are at all times.

This is another extra feature that can be added to the materials handling equipment supplied by Briggs to suit each customer's individual application.

New Acquisition

Meanwhile, as part of the company's 5 year growth strategy, the acquisition of Irish Lift Trucks by Briggs Equipment was finalised over the summer.

Based in Dublin, ILT is a long established dealer of the Hyster range of materials handling equipment serving the Republic of Ireland. This acquisition represents a very exciting opportunity for both Briggs



Equipment and ILT to build on the experience and customer base that ILT possesses.

Being part of a larger Hyster dealer will allow ILT to grow and expand its offering more quickly than on a standalone basis, providing customers with a broader solution underpinned by Briggs Equipment's market-leading service levels.

This acquisition opens up a wider potential for commercial and industrial businesses across Ireland to achieve their objectives through improved efficiency, greater productivity and the flexibility to adjust their contract-hire assets in response to the changing needs of their operation.

Peter Jones, Managing Director of Briggs Equipment commented: "We are delighted to have acquired Irish Lift Trucks. The market that Irish Lift Trucks serves so well is an ideal new market for the proven and successful Briggs Equipment proposition. The versatility of our offering means we can have tremendous scope to build on existing relationships and develop new ones."

The Briggs Equipment site based in Mallusk will work closely with the new site in Dublin during this early stage of the acquisition. Any queries regarding Sales, Service, Hire, Parts or Training please contact 028 9084 2537.





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FROM THE DESK OF:
GORDON BEST, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, QPANI



Gordon Best, QPANI

BUDGET BRINGS SOME CERTAINTY & STABILITY

The Budget that the Secretary of State James Brokenshire announced recently has at least given us some sort of certainty going forward for the rest of this financial year. The budget basically puts into law the indicative budget produced by Civil Senior Servants some months back. In terms of infrastructure there is a 1.1% in capital budgets for 2017/18. So no real change.

As I mentioned in the last edition QPANI had real concerns over the current levels of the 2017 /18 structural maintenance budget and the fact it would be exhausted by the middle of September. I am pleased to say that following significant lobbying from QPANI and working closely with Department of Infrastructure officials additional funding was found that should see continuity of work and retention of the current skilled work force well into January of 2018.

I recently attended the annual Institute of Quarrying Stonecrushers Ball in Belfast and certainly while most of the talk was about the lack of political progress and the need for our MLAs to get back into Stormont and start earning their wages there was a great deal of positivity about the current levels of business in the local construction market.

One just has to look around the centre of Belfast with its 29 tower cranes to see the evidence. This optimism is also reflected in the recent Ulster Bank PMI report that reported, *"the construction industry reporting much-improved business conditions. Output, new orders and employment also grew at faster rates in the sector, with employment growing at its fastest rate in 41-months."*

The PMI report goes on to highlight that the Northern Ireland private sector remained firmly in growth territory during October, despite rates of expansion in output and new orders easing from the previous month. Firms continued to take on extra staff at a solid pace. At a UK level ONS data suggests that construction activity fell by 0.7% in 2017Q3, the second consecutive quarter of contraction. Annually however, construction was up 4.8% in the 4 quarters to 2017Q3, driven by private housing and commercial construction.

The Construction Products Association expects subdued economic growth, rising inflation and falling real wages to result in construction output up 0.7% in 2017, and remaining flat in 2018, with any growth in 2019 reliant on government's delivery of infrastructure projects. In a recent Irish Times report it stated Ireland is on course to be the fastest growing economy in the euro zone for a fourth straight year, according to Davy Stockbrokers.

In its latest economic outlook the firm predicts that gross domestic product (GDP) will grow 5 per cent in 2017, up from a previous forecast of 3.7 per cent. This is well ahead of the current consensus forecast for 1.7 per cent growth across the euro area as a whole. This positive news from both our neighbours is good for our Northern Ireland based construction material exporters and their quarry product supply chain.

Women in Construction

The Association recently launched a major news article on 'Women in Construction Materials' featuring 14 ladies currently working in different roles within the quarry

products sector here in NI. To view it online go to <http://www.northernbuilder.co.uk/women-in-construction-campaign/>.

Also MPQC, with the support of the local Institute of Quarrying and QPANI, intend to support and roll out the new and exciting "Inspiring Futures Initiative" in Northern Ireland. The QPANI Young Leaders Group will play an important role in this as we seek "Industry Ambassadors" to go out to speak with young people in schools and colleges and other forums about the exciting careers that are available in the World of Construction Materials and Minerals.

Age Profiling

QPANI have recently circulated a new "Age Profiling Survey" to all our Members to access if the Industry is getting older or younger and what we need to do to improve the image and diversity within it. We would appeal to everyone to assist and complete the survey as soon as possible.

On another front, QPANI and PASMA, the International Association for the mobile access tower industry, have joined forces to complain about the non recognition of UK Construction Qualifications by the ROI authorities, particularly SOLAS.

Recently Diane Dodds MEP received confirmation from the EU Competition Commission announcing that Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs will enquire with the Irish authorities to understand better the situation and will closely monitor this area should there be an indication of a wider problem of bad application of EU law.

QPANI and PASMA have sent detailed information to Hubert Gamms of the Directorate General GROW / E5 Unit who are investigating this matter.

Recently I, along with Craig Chisholm of Northstone and Chair of our Health and Safety Committee, attended a meeting in Dublin along with PASMA representatives to meet with Bearing Point who are carrying out a review of SOLAS.

Best Wishes

As this is the last Plant and Civil Engineer edition before Christmas can I wish all readers, and particularly QPANI Members a very Happy and Healthy Christmas and thank you all once again for your continued support throughout 2017.



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FIRST UK OPEN DAY SHOWCASING MWS NEW PRODUCTS A HUGE SUCCESS

Washing equipment specialists, McCloskey Washing Systems (MWS), held their first UK Open Day at Crown Aggregates Ltd, Birmingham, recently. The event highlighted new washing and classifying equipment for both quarrying and recycling applications.

Crown Aggregates Ltd, West Midlands' leading recycling company, based in Nuneaton, Warwickshire, took delivery of the first new McCloskey wash plant in the UK supplied by Max Innovate, MWS dealer for the UK.

McCloskey Washing Systems hosted a live working demonstration of their ground-breaking products, SandStorm 516 and AggStorm 150, working in tandem as a shared solution. Together, they process quarry scalplings with a high clay content to produce three aggregates and two sand products. The open day marked the launch of the new modular AggStorm 80 and 150 range.

The AggStorm Modular Log washer range is designed to operate as stand-alone units or to integrate with the SandStorm range of wash plants.

The unique and innovative AggStorm modular wash plant brings together rinsing, screening, scrubbing and sand washing capabilities on a single transportable chassis. Primarily designed for the processing of construction & demolition waste, the AggStorm can produce up to three grades of aggregate. In this application, the customer is making 10mm, 20mm and 40mm aggregate.

The modular wash plant SandStorm 516's unique features deliver exceptional results,



producing 0-2 and 0-5mm grades of sand while producing plus 40mm rinsed stone. The sand plant also has the capability to blend all or some of the fine sand into the coarse sand to maximise the required grading.

MWS UK dealer Max Innovate is a leading provider of material processing & handling equipment, specialising in the waste and aggregates industries. They have proven expertise in delivering best-in-class products and solutions for these industries. Fintan McKeever, Managing Director at Max Innovate, said, "The initial interest in the open day was phenomenal, and we quickly realised that we were going to have to spread the event over two days to accommodate all those who wanted to attend.

"The wash plants provide Crown Aggregates with clean in-specification material that they could not achieve by dry screening; this will increase their sales and grow their customer base. The SandStorm and AggStorm received lots of positive feedback with many visitors impressed with their innovative compact size, with maximum access to serviceable areas and the quality of the product produced."

Fintan added, "The tours impressed upon the visitors the attention to detail and pride that everyone at McCloskey takes in what they do, and it made me proud to be part of the same group of such a market-leading company. As I have come to expect from the team at MWS, the open day spoke volumes





for the company's ethos, as well as to serve as an indicator for future growth plans.

"The SandStorm and AggStorm modular range is revolutionising the wash plant market by introducing innovative solutions and continuing to serve our customers' needs and demands around the world. The team at MWS invest a significant amount of time on product development and have teamed up with key suppliers to bring new technologies to the washing industry. The decision to hold the open day was simple - to show customers, new and exciting products in the industry and how they could use them to grow their businesses."

The two-day event was a huge success, with a strong turnout of 150+ end user customers attending from across the UK. Throughout the open day, a highly knowledgeable team of McCloskey Engineers, Sales and Applications Managers were on hand to give informative guided machine tours and application discussions.

Attendees had the opportunity to inspect the machines after the demonstrations and learn more about the features and benefits.

Commenting on the success of the open day, Ben Frettsome, MWS Sales and Applications, Manager said, "We are delighted with the turnout and to have the chance to showcase our impressive product range in the UK. The Open Day proved to be another successful breakthrough for MWS. Reaction to the plant was exceptional and we received immediate orders as a result. Customers walked around the machines, watched them in action in a demonstration show and discussed the features and benefits."

Added Sean Loughran, McCloskey Washing Systems Director. "It is great to see so

many people taking time out of their busy schedules to see what MWS can offer. We have invested heavily in our new washing equipment over the past year and it is exciting to show this equipment working efficiently in it's true working environment.

"We are thrilled that the open day was such a success and we extend our sincere thanks to all at Crown Aggregates and to everyone who joined us. Open days give customers real insight into the McCloskey brand, its heritage and the expertise behind our machines. We will continue to develop our products and capabilities as well as our industry leadership."

McCloskey dealer for Northern Germany, Christian Schlicht, of Teufelsmoor Baumaschinen, commented, "McCloskey continue to be innovative and responsive

to the growing demand for high-spec products. We are excited by the innovative designs they are bringing to the market and their can-do attitude."

Christian added, "Seeing the machines in action has given us confidence in the level of quality and attention to detail McCloskey provides. They have demonstrated that it is easy to install, maintain and operate. I am optimistic that the equipment will drive lower cost of production, lower cost of ownership and a solid return on investment."

Following the huge success of this event, McCloskey Washing Systems will be hosting another UK Exclusive Open Day event in London at the beginning of 2018. Further details about the event will be revealed soon.



INDUSTRY TRAINING SERVICES CROWNS DONACLONEY WORKER 'PLANT OPERATOR OF THE YEAR'

A worker from Donacloney has been named the first ever Northern Ireland Plant Operator of the Year by leading training provider Industry Training Services (ITS).

The Portadown-based firm launched the search to find the best operators of excavator and telehandlers from across Northern Ireland, in association with Plant and Civil Engineer.

The company is the region's leading provider of health and safety training solutions to the construction, civil engineering, utilities and manufacturing sectors and beyond.

After negotiating a round of heats, finalists took to ITS' specially designed course on its 10-acre site to take part in a series of timed challenges.

Alexander Campbell (24), who has been driving plant machinery for six years and works for Colin Campbell Contracts in Dromore, was the overall winner on the day.



ITS Managing Director Brendan Crealey said: "As Northern Ireland's leading provider of tuition in the safe usage of plant and machinery, we already knew that the local industry was home to a

wealth of talent among both excavator and tele-handler operators.

"It was no surprise therefore that the standard of entrants on what was a highly competitive Finals Day was exceptional and we were delighted to have named



(L-R) Leo Laverty (runner up), ITS Managing Director Brendan Crealey, winner Alexander Campbell and Plant & Civil Engineer's Justin Carrigan.



Alexander Campbell, the inaugural ITS Northern Ireland Plant Operator of the Year. "The competition was designed as a fun event, but the precision required

to complete the tasks in as fast a time as possible, illustrates the same level of expertise required to operate safely under normal work conditions."

Alexander Campbell received a £500 cash prize while the runner-up Leo Lavery (30), from Downpatrick, who works for DPH Construction in the town, was awarded a break for two at the Roe Park Resort, Limavady.

Since its formation more than 15 years ago, ITS has provided training across a variety of plant and machinery, and delivers a range of industry-recognised schemes including CSR, CPCs and NPORS.

Brendan added: "Plans are already under way for next year when the ITS Northern Ireland Plant Operator contest will return, larger than before, as we seek once again to showcase the best in the industry."



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DAF'S CF AND XF OFFERS MORE PAYLOADS AND BETTER FUEL EFFICIENCY

DAF's new CF and XF range is now complete. The manufacturer has added 11 tractor and rigid axle configurations to its new line up; eight 2, 3 and 4 axle rigids and three 3 and 4 axle tractors, as Plant & Civil Engineer's Garfield Harrison has been learning on a recent trip to sunny Barcelona in Spain.

The new trucks are up to 7% more fuel-efficient, are at least 100 kg lighter which enhances payloads, have integrated body builder modules to shorten body building time and provide best in class jobsite performance.

The new rigid chassis benefits from the ultra-compact EAS of the new CF and XF. The EAS can now be fitted in its entirety (i.e. as one single unit) between the first and second front axles (in the 8x4 FAD). This makes it possible to use the free space for the addition of crane legs, toolboxes or extra (fuel) tanks and results in increased frame layout options and extra payload, thanks to its 50 kg lower weight.

One of the most important innovations within the new CF and XF program is the new trailing axle for both tractors and rigids that facilitates maximum manoeuvrability.

The new trailing axle incorporates a newly developed EHS (Electric Hydraulic Steering)



system which is 30 kg lighter, resulting in extra payload. The steering is very precise because the EHS continuously calculates the optimal steering angle for the rear axle wheels on the basis of speed and wheelbase.

The resulting benefits are most noticeable when driving through urban areas and manoeuvring the truck. The minimising of friction losses, and the fact that the steering pump is only activated while steering, results in an additional 1% reduction in fuel consumption.

At speeds of over 40 km/h, the axle locks itself in the straight forward position and guarantees maximum vehicle stability and supports excellent fuel efficiency. In addition, the trailing axle steering system contains significantly fewer components, which supports first class robustness and reliability.

Off Road

For vehicles that regularly drive off-road, DAF is presenting a new double-driven tandem with hub reduction (HR1670T). This axle set boasts a completely new





cast-iron axle housing that provides an extra weight reduction of 60 kg.

In order to achieve the highest possible fuel efficiency, even faster final drive ratios (3.46, 3.61, 3.76:1) are available. These ratios allow the engine to operate at even lower revs. To ensure the lowest possible operational costs, oil-change intervals for the new tandem set have been raised to 3 years or 450,000 kilometres.

The new dual driven tandem with hub reduction is available on 6x4 and 8x4 tractors and rigids for heavy duty applications. This range includes the FAD 8x4 rigid with two steered front axles commonly used in the transportation of sand and gravel. In this model the SCR unit is no longer integrated in the vertical exhaust. Instead it is in the new EAS unit, which thanks to its compact dimensions can fit entirely between both front axles. This redesign results in a 115 kg reduction in weight and more chassis space.

LF Series

Meanwhile, DAF Trucks is also introducing a large number of innovations to its new LF series aimed at reinforcing the truck's industry leading position in the 7.5 to 19-tonne class.

One of the major innovations introduced into the LF is the new 3.8-litre PACCAR PX-4 engine which is available for the 7.5-tonne

version in two power ratings: 115 kW/156 hp and 127 kW/172 hp with maximum torque of 500 and 600 Nm respectively between 1,200 and 2,000 rpm. The new engine is specifically for its LF City for light, urban distribution applications.

For higher outputs, the 4.5-litre PACCAR PX-5 (135 kW/184 hp to 157 kW/213 hp) and the 6.7-litre PACCAR PX-7 (172 kW/234 hp to 239 kW/325 hp) engines are available. These engines were enhanced at the end of 2016 with new software and optimised heat and air management.

DAF offers a selection of manual and automated 5, 6, 9 and 12-speed transmissions in the new LF series. In addition, fully automatic gearboxes are available and now the Allison automatic transmission can also be selected on the most powerful versions of the PX-7.

The fact that DAF's new LF can be configured for any individual use is also attested by the wide range of wheelbases with lengths of up to 6.90 metres. This allows body lengths of more than 9 metres for maximum load capacity. Moreover, the long wheelbase enables fuel tank volumes of up to 1,240 litres. This is a unique LF capability. It gives the LF an even longer operating range, optimises

vehicle availability and enables the driver to refuel where fuel prices are at their lowest.

DAF is also introducing innovations to enhance the new LF's bodybuilder-friendliness. These include the new 'Body Attachment Modules', which facilitate the easy attachment of bodywork or equipment. In addition, there are now available specific preparations for the attachment of a box body with tail-lift, a tanker with sub-frame or a tipper.

Safety Features

The new LF (from 8 tonnes GVW and with rear air suspension) comes standard with Advanced Emergency Braking System (AEBS), Forward Collision Warning (FCW), Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) and Lane Departure Warning System (LDWS).

AEBS and FCW prevent collisions in an emergency situation by automatically applying the brakes if necessary.

ACC automatically adjusts the speed of the truck to match the speed of the vehicle it is following and, as a result, a safe distance is maintained between the two vehicles. This enables cruise control to be used as much as possible, which provides a fuel economy benefit. LDWS works with a camera mounted on the windscreen and if the truck unintentionally strays from its lane, the driver is given an audible warning.



Institute of Quarrying Celebrates Centenary at National Conference



James Thorne (CEO of Institute of Quarrying) looks on with the international Presidents while Miles Watkins (President of IoQ) cuts the tape for the official opening of the quarry garden at the National Arboretum.

Four Northern Ireland Branch members of the Institute of Quarrying travelled to the Belfry Hotel and Country Club for the centenary celebrations. The theme of the conference was 'Inspiring for Generations.'

The morning session concentrated on men's health with health professionals outlining common health problems including stress and mental health amongst men, particularly those in the "middle age" demographic that typifies the quarry industry. This was followed by examples of programmes initiated by industry companies. Ben Williams of EPC-UK outlined their "Commit to be Fit" programme and John Mawer of Tarmac gave an overview of the initiatives they have implemented. Both speakers emphasised a tangible benefit for individuals and the company. Colin Jenkins chaired a question and answer session with the International Presidents from Australia, Asia, Malaysia and New Zealand. The common theme was that the industry internationally experiences the same problems as the industry in the UK, geotechnical failures, health challenges, an aging workforce and difficulty in recruiting young people at both managerial and operative level. Colin Mew, Principal Inspector of Quarries (HSE), delivered a paper on industry performance since the millennium. He recognised the work that had been done through the 'Hard Targets' and 'Zero Harm' initiatives in reducing accidents but gave a very clear warning that the figures had not plateaued but were in fact rising with 3 fatalities this year to date. Colin urged the industry to reflect on the past and current performance and to re-double its efforts to ensure a safe and healthy working environment. A feature of his paper was the HSE "Working Well Together" programme and encouraged attendees to look at the HSE website and make use of the resources available. The afternoon session focussed on environmental issues starting with an overview of the success of the Quarry Garden which won 3 major awards at RHS Chatsworth. The garden has now been relocated to the National Arboretum as a testimony to the skill and products of the industry. Aggregate Industries, Dr Carolyn Jewell, presented a paper on how the company manages the environment internationally and has contributed to preservation and creation of habitats to the benefit of the local community around the world.

Sapphire, a subsidiary of Tarmac, presented a paper on carbon reduction and waste initiatives within the industry to recover energy from waste and recycle products. An interview panel made up of young professionals from the industry gave accounts of how they got into the industry, their impressions of it and their hopes for the future on a personal and company level.

IQ Pledge

The conference ended with several companies signing up to the IQ Pledge. The pledge set out targets for membership growth, improving health, safety and environmental performance and creating opportunities for young people within the industry and developing a recruitment drive for the future.

In the evening a gala dinner included presentation of awards to University of Derby students followed by awards for the President's Trophy to the North East Branch. This award is presented to the branch who promotes the Institute to its members including engagement and encouragement to young members.

Four individuals were awarded a President's Centenary award for individuals who had given outstanding contributions to their local branch. Amongst these was David Johnston of Northern Ireland Branch.

Olympian

The guest speaker for the evening was Helen Glover, double gold medal Olympian in rowing. Helen gave an inspirational speech outlining how she was selected from a group of talented athletes at the age of 21. Rowing was completely new to her. She outlined the dedication and perseverance required for the training programme, the need for support from coaches, psychologist, physiotherapist etc. and how both medals were the culmination of a team effort.

Helen highlighted the importance of working relationships in achieving her medal success and that it was the highs and lows of the journey and the people around her that mean most to her.

James Thorne (CEO of Institute of Quarrying) looks on with the international Presidents while Miles Watkins (President of IoQ) cuts the tape for the official opening of the quarry garden at the National Arboretum.



Northern Ireland Branch Field Trip

Twenty three members of the Northern Ireland Branch of the Institute of Quarrying enjoyed a very successful field trip which included a visit to Dalradian Gold mine, followed by a trip to Aughey Screens in Monaghan.

Brain Kelly and his team hosted the group on Sunday 10th September. The visit commenced with an introduction of his team and overview of the history of the site from initial exploration in the 1980's to the present day. Results of recent exploration, details of on-going exploration and a current planning consent were presented. Brian confirmed that results of recent exploration were very encouraging and there is no doubt that the mine is a financially viable enterprise based on yields in other gold mines in other parts of the world.

The group was split into two to allow a visit into the mine and the surface site. The planning and execution of health, safety and environmental design and capability to cope with extremes of weather and safety was very evident.

The following day, the group were entertained by Barry Aughey and his team. Barry outlined the history of the company and its long association with the branch. A tour of the factory with the opportunity to closely observe the screen cloth manufacturing process was given.

Our Northern Ireland branch is based out of Antrim.

Please contact any of the following for more information about the activities of the Northern Ireland branch:

Chairman: Sam Eccles
sameccles3@btinternet.com

Vice Chairman: Roy Wallace
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BRIGGS EQUIPMENT CORPORATE GOLF DAY 2017

Briggs Equipment Northern Ireland hosted their second corporate golf day at the start of September. This year the event took place at the fantastic Lisburn Golf Club.

The day was attended by both suppliers and customers with a fantastic turn out for the event. Evening entertainment was from Gene Fitzpatrick followed by prize giving and a fundraiser for charity.

This year Briggs Equipment raised money for both Macmillan Cancer Support and Northern Ireland Children's Hospice through this event.

On the night was raised a total of £770.00 during a game of Head and Tails. Added to the total of Briggs NI's fundraising efforts this year each charity was presented with a cheque for £3,696.50.

"Thank you once again to all the sponsors of the event and for all the donations to the charities and prizes we received from generous suppliers and customers."



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Construction Excellence Award for NI Water's Hollywood Sewerage Infrastructure Project

The project team for the Hollywood Sewerage Infrastructure Improvement Project has recently been awarded the "Achieving Excellence in Partnering" award from the Construction Employers Federation (CEF). The team incorporated NI Water, Geda, White Young Green and McAdam Design.

This "Special Judge's Award" is a bonus award, which is given to the entry which displays the best approach to partnering in the delivery of a project, demonstrating collaborative working, good relationships throughout the supply chain and demonstrating measurable targets for health and safety, design quality and sustainability.

This was a challenging project, which was aimed at reducing ongoing odour issues, delivering environmental improvements and improving water quality in Belfast



(L-R) John Coalter Geda Construction, Paul Harper NI Water, Ernie Spence White Young Green, Paul McElroy, Ciara Bradley and Tania McCartan (all Geda Construction). Back row: Fergus Kerr McAdam Design, Grahame Millar NI Water, Michael Turley, Maurice McNulty, Eugene McKenna (all Geda) Mark Sefton NI Water and Mark McGuigan from McAdam Design.

Lough coastal waters in the area of Hollywood and Kinnegar.

The project was completed earlier this year and involved the construction of sewers and tunnels in the vicinity of the

A2 Belfast / Bangor Road and railway line, whilst diverting wastewater overflow discharges to a new waste water pumping station adjacent to Kinnegar Wastewater Treatment Works.

NI Water's Project Sponsor, Grahame Millar said: "NI Water is delighted that the project team has received this prestigious award, which demonstrates an excellent approach to partnering in the delivery of the scheme and best practice project management.

"This award also recognises the efforts made to minimise disruption to the public, whilst delivering essential improvements to the sewerage infrastructure and reducing odours."

The Hollywood scheme is one aspect of an extensive programme of investment by NI Water aimed at significantly improving the security and quality of the water/wastewater infrastructure. By 2020, NI Water are planning to invest £3 billion that will reduce leakage levels, reduce the risk of flooding and improve water and wastewater quality.

One Big, Bad Dozer Turns 40

Forty years ago, Caterpillar rolled off of its production lines 10 pilot models of the world's largest, most powerful dozer, destined to leave a lasting legacy on the industry. The Cat D10 dozer's radically different design, high weight and horsepower, and resilient undercarriage answered the growing calls from large mining and big heavy construction operations for a more powerful dozer.

"We bucked conventional wisdom with the D10 and tinkered with a centerpiece that was a part of the Caterpillar product line since the company was formed in 1925," says George Alexander, a retired Caterpillar engineer who served on the D10 research team and one of four individuals named on the patent for Caterpillar's elevated sprocket design.

The result of the team's out-of-the-box thinking was a machine with no rival for weight, power or productivity. Offering 50 percent higher productivity than Caterpillar's largest dozer of that era, the D9 dozer, the D10 weighed over 190,000 lb (86 180



kg) and measured 15 ft (4,6 m) tall, 12 ft (3,7 m) wide and slightly more than 31 ft (9,4) long. Power was supplied by the 700 hp (522 kW) D348, V12 diesel engine.

Radically Different

A changing industry in the late 1960s and early 1970s stretched the D9 to its productivity limits, and the mining industry led the charge for a dozer with more and more horsepower. Contractors working in predominantly hard rock applications also demanded

a design that improved track longevity and durability.

"The D9 dozer was the best track-type tractor of the day," adds Alexander. "It worked great for dirt operations, but interstate and heavy rock applications were hard on the solid bottom tracks that were a part of all dozer designs of that era."

The pilot D10 dozers built in 1977 were immediately embraced by Caterpillar customers. Their ripping and pushing capabilities made a significant

impact on the mining industry, as studies showed the cost/yard to move material using the D10 was comparable to that of larger draglines. The resilient undercarriage with elevated sprocket conformed to the ground better than solid tracks, helping to improve machine pushing power and undercarriage life and enhancing operator comfort.

The original big and bad Cat D10 legacy lives on today with thousands of Caterpillar elevated sprocket dozers operating around the world. The elevated sprocket track concept has been expanded to today's Cat D6N and D6T medium dozers and the D8T, D9T and D11T large dozer models as well as the current D10T2 model.

"After I retired in the 1990s, I gave my presentation on the development of the elevated sprocket design, and a person afterwards said to me, 'Wherever you go, you will see the results of your work,'" recalls Alexander. "He was right. No matter where I traveled in the world, I saw dozers with the elevated sprocket design, and it made me proud to be a part of the original research team."

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Many Happy Returns As JCB Loadall Marks 40 Years In Production

JCB has celebrated a major milestone in its long record of innovative machine design – the 40th anniversary of the Loadall telescopic handler.

First launched on October 20th 1977 the machine mechanised lifting and loading tasks on building sites more usually carried out by a small team of men.

The potential for the Loadall in agriculture was also quickly harnessed and it went on to revolutionise materials handling tasks on farms, stacking bales, loading muck and shovelling grain, replacing rudimentary tractor mounted hydraulic loaders.

JCB has sold more than 220,000 Loadalls to date, generating more than £7 billion in sales - £4.5 billion of which has been from exports.

Today daily output of JCB telehandlers at the World HQ in Staffordshire is currently at its highest level since the launch, with the number of machines built expected to increase by 25% by the end of the year compared to 2016. Such is the success of the product that one Loadall rolls off JCB's Rotherham production line every six minutes. The business making the machines today employs more than 1,200 people.

Commented JCB Chairman Lord Bamford: "When we launched the Loadall in 1977, we sold just 64 machines that year but we were very confident that the telescopic handler would grow in popularity simply because it made jobs so much easier on construction sites and on farms.

"The concept soon took off and the faith we put in the telescopic handler four decades ago has been repaid. It's wonderful to celebrate 40 years of success of the Loadall with production hitting historic levels.

"I'd like to congratulate everyone around the world who has contributed to this success over the past 40 years. We must



JCB Chairman Lord Bamford leads the cheers to celebrate the JCB Loadall's 40th anniversary.

now look forward to the next 40 years and build on what has been achieved so far."

Fascinating Facts

- There are 34 base models and over 1,000 individual configurations.
- Welding during Loadall manufacture consumes more than 14.5 million metres of wire per year.
- Each Loadall takes around 35 stages to produce and 8 hours to assemble.
- Loadall manufacture consumes more than 35,000 tonnes of steel a year.
- A recent £1 million investment brought new precision laser and plasma cutting equipment.
- A 650-tonne steel press forms the telescopic boom box sections.
- On average, it takes 45 minutes to make two sides of the heavy-duty chassis.
- Robots handle 70% of chassis welds – but skilled operators tackle hard to access welds.
- Preparing and painting booms, chassis and stabilisers (on construction models) takes two hours.
- The painting facility uses 73,000 litres of primer and 50,000 litres of gloss paint per year
- Every Loadall spends 13 minutes at full speed in a roller test booth to calibrate the driveline.
- Every Loadall must hold a test weight with the boom fully raised and extended for 10 minutes.

New code of practice for recording data on underground utilities

BSI, the business standards company, has launched a new code of practice to transform the way data on underground utilities – such as water pipes, telephone lines, and fibre optic cables – is captured, recorded, maintained and shared.

Accurate mapping of underground utilities – also known as "buried assets" – is vital for those undertaking excavations in order to maintain service, minimize costs and comply with health and safety legislation.

There are in excess of 3 million highway excavations each year – yet there is scant industry guidance for asset owners on how they might best manage and maintain these data records. This results in unnecessary excavations, causing needless environmental disturbance and inconvenience for the public.

'PAS 256, Buried assets – Capturing, recording, maintaining and sharing of location information and data – Code of practice', was created to address the variable quality, reliability and availability of existing data.

Sponsored by the Institution of Civil Engineers, the PAS provides recommendations and guidance to improve the capturing, recording and maintaining of data related to buried assets, and the security-minded sharing of asset information relating to utilities', local authorities' and other providers' infrastructure.

Ant Burd, Head of Market Development for Built Environment at BSI, said: "Needless digging wastes time and money. PAS 256 was created to make it easier for organisations to capture,

record, maintain and share the location of their excavation work. Access to data is a win-win for the industry, the environment, and local residents subjected to repeated digging outside their homes or businesses."

PAS 256 is intended to be used alongside PAS 128, Specification for underground utility defection, verification and location. PAS 128 applies to active, abandoned, redundant or unknown underground utilities and the location of their associated surface features.

It specifies requirements for the detection, verification and location of existing and new underground utilities.

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TEREX | FINLAY “ROCK” BALTIMORE WITH TRIO OF CRUSHER INTRODUCTIONS

Hundreds of dealers and customers attended the recent Terex | Finlay 2017 Americas customer open days in Baltimore, Maryland; the event and product demonstration were hosted by Reliable Asphalt at their Waugh Chapel hot-mix facility on the outskirts of Baltimore.

At the event Terex|Finlay unveiled three brand new mobile crushers, each one being the first production units to reach American shores - J-1160 jaw crusher; J-1170 (direct drive) jaw crusher; and I-120RS impact crusher.

The TC-80 tracked conveyor was also demonstrated at a live customer event for the first time in the Americas following its introduction in early 2017.

In total thirteen Terex|Finlay machines were on display in the different working demonstration zones and static display area. The onsite demonstrations featured eight Terex|Finlay machines in three working demonstration zones and one machine on static display.

“It was a huge pleasure to welcome so many customers and dealers to another successful Terex|Finlay Americas open day. We’re customer-driven, we start by listening to our customers and then work backwards. This is our key focus and the mantra that drives our business. To see our customers’ reaction and receive such positive feedback on our latest new products is gratifying and a real testament to our new product development and engineering teams who constantly deliver world class products for the global marketplace,” commented Alan Blyth, Global Business Development and Sales Director.

“To our hosts, Reliable Asphalt, ‘Thank you so much.’ Working with you was a pleasure from start to finish, and we feel so honored to have had access to such a great site. Thank you for making our open day, the success of the event was in large part due to you guys and your committed colleagues.”



Jaw Crushers

The Terex Finlay J-1170 is an aggressive tracked primary jaw crusher. The heartbeat of the machine is a robust direct driven Terex jaw chamber which provides high capacity with large reduction ratios. The jaw chamber configuration can be set up specifically for quarrying applications or processing construction demolition debris using the hydraulic release chamber option. The J-1170 features a heavy duty variable speed VGF and integrated prescreen giving excellent production throughput in quarrying, mining, demolition and recycling applications.

The Terex Finlay J-1160, meanwhile, is a compact and aggressive tracked mobile primary jaw crusher. Incorporating the Terex Jaques JW40 jaw crusher a heavy duty VGF feeder and an integrated prescreen system the new Terex Finlay J-1160 gives optimum production in quarrying, mining, demolition and recycling applications. Its compact size, quick set up times, ease of transport and user friendly operational features make the Finlay J-1160 ideal for all sized operators.

Impact Crusher

The third machine unveiled was the new Terex Finlay I-120RS impact crusher.

This new generation impact crusher with redefined style and advanced technological design gives improved material flow and production capabilities in quarrying, mining, demolition and recycling applications. A key component of the machine is the on-board innovative quick detach 3.66m x 1.53m (12' x 5') two deck screen. For applications not requiring recirculation of materials for further processing or stockpiling the complete screening and recirculating system can be quickly detached from the machine.

Conveyor

Also on show was a TC-80 tracked conveyor, a self-powered 80ft tracked stockpiler with impressive features and conveying capacities. The intelligent design allows the machine to be folded small enough to fit inside a 40ft container and be shipped cost effectively globally. The track in and out design lets operators simply track the machine out and fold into working position and start conveying material upon arrival on site. Hydraulic angle adjustment and belt speed adjustment ensure optimum performance in every application. A maximum discharge height of 10.5m (34' 6") and capacities of up to 400tph position the TC-80 as a leader in the industry.



Introducing the NEW Terex® Finlay J-1170 Jaw Crusher.



J-1170



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The machine incorporates the Terex® 1100mm X 700mm jaw crusher that can be configured with hydraulic assist for quarrying applications or hydraulic release for recycling applications. An innovative feature we have developed for the machine is the reversible unblock feature that maximizes machine uptime. All new build Terex® Finlay crushers are fitted as standard with our revolutionary T-Link Telematics system.

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McKinstry Keeps Productive With Expanding JCB Fleet

Up until four years ago, McKinstry Skip Hire, had never bought a JCB. Now, it runs a fleet of 14 – all supplied by local dealer BC Plant.

Sourcing a large fleet of materials handling machines from a single supplier helps McKinstry to maximise productivity at its growing operations. This is not only because the machines are designed to handle the waste and recycling environment but also, McKinstry need only turn to one source for support to maintain uptime for its entire fleet.

The latest additions to its materials handling fleet include a 437 wheeled loading shovel, two Wastemaster Loadalls – a 560-80 and a 531F-70 – and a JS131 tracked excavator. Another recent acquisition was a JS20MH material handler. With this excavator, which has a 20,720 kg maximum operating weight, the operator can gain greater visibility over a site and high piles of waste thanks to its hydraulically-raised cab.

As manager of McKinstry, Mark McKinstry points out: "JCB offers a good range of waste-spec machines."

McKinstry specialises in waste management and recycling, skip hire, waste services, biomass, quarry products. From its plants in Nutts Corner, Belfast and Portadown it provides cost effective and efficient waste solutions to both the public and private sectors. It is a specialist in the collection and recycling of dry waste and all construction and demolition waste streams.

Seven JCB machines work at the Nutts Corner facility, which is McKinstry's main site and where it has made significant investments in its Material Recovery Facility (MRF). With the company striving towards achieving zero waste to landfill, it is playing a significant role in the development of sustainability in Northern Ireland.

A decade ago, 90% of all the waste collected by McKinstry from across Northern Ireland went straight to landfill. That's been reversed with over 90% of waste now being recycled –



Mark McKinstry.

with a broad variety of waste streams leaving its MRF for destinations across the globe.

"We are very busy with a throughput of 250-300 skips per week – and that's just the skips part of the business," says Mark. The company also happens to be Northern Ireland's biggest producer of Biomass. "We receive a lot of waste from third parties and are contracted to biomass through Stobart Biomass."

Commingled waste received by McKinstry is loaded into a shredder, using the JCB JS20 material handler, to give a consistent size. A variety of recovered recyclable materials are exported worldwide and the residual waste is processed into clean, dry one-tonne square bales of RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel), which Stobart then delivers to consumers.

The materials handling machines are vital in keeping all of McKinstry's operations productive, as Mark explains: "Our JCB machines are very reliable; they are powerful and we have good service and back-up so there's no down time – that's important."

Among the waste-spec features on JCB's machines that Mark highlights as being advantageous for working on the company's sites are the maintenance-free solid tyres, which are a big contributor to uptime. He also cites the safety reversing cameras, immobilisers and ground clearance that allows the machines to drive over waste easily.

The company is also keen to keep the fleet operating at optimum productivity by not racking up the hours on the hard working machines.

"We have a programme to replenish our JCB machines because we don't want to put a high number of hours on them – some of our machines can have up to 7,000 hours on them," says Mark. "We now want to replace our machines after 2500 hours, which is the secret to running efficient machines."

And with JCB taking care of this efficiency, McKinstry is free to focus on continuing its successful growth.



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in focus

LATEST HITACHI EXCAVATORS DELIVER FOR THE CAB GROUP

The County Down based CAB Group is one of the fastest growing civil engineering companies in the UK and Ireland; its fleet of plant and machinery equipment, employed in its Newton Ground Engineering division, is impressive and expanding.

Along with experienced operators and supervisors, the fleet includes 13-70 tonne excavators, bulldozers, dump trucks from 25 tonne to 40 tonne, as well as loading shovels and rollers. It also has a number of crushers and screeners, integrated soil stabilisers, rock hammers and other attachments and auxiliary equipment

The company's latest acquisitions include a number of Hitachi excavators, acquired from dealers TBF Thompson. They are currently being utilised on projects in Craigavon, Saintfield and Dundonald on the outskirts of Belfast.

CAB have been providing innovative solutions in civil engineering projects across the UK and Ireland for over 20 years, during which time it has built up a strong reputation for problem solving and as a firm that gets things done, the right way, on time and within budget.

Its services include Soil Stabilisation, Demolition, Remediation and Earthworks - and its ground engineering solutions and expertise can turn even the worst sites into prime development ground.

It was on just such an enabling works project for a new housing development in Craigavon where we were able to see one of the new Hitachis - an ZX350LC from TBF Thompson - in action.

"We've always had some Hitachi machines in fleet," says CAB Group Director Chris Blair.

"They have a great reputation for reliability, they hold a good re-sale value and our operators like them, too. Availability was also a deciding factor as, of course, was price - and the support and aftersales service we get from TBF Thompson is always dependable and prompt, helping us to

keep the potential for any downtime to a minimum."

As we mentioned, the ZX350LC is being used to clear a 30 acre site for housing in Craigavon. Fitted with a mulcher head little can stand in its way - trees and bushes are easily shredded into a more manageable size for mixing with soil to be returned to the ground rather than being dumped in landfill or burned. Nothing is wasted on the site, making the whole process that much more environmentally friendly.

Versatility

And talking of attachments: rotary tilt and tilt modes have been added to the attachment support system on the ZX350LC. These and nine other modes can be registered on the monitor for the easy fitment of attachments to increase versatility.

The flexibility of the ZX350LC clearly makes it a versatile player, ideal for a wide range of construction applications. Capable of providing a smooth, fast and precise operation, as well as high levels of productivity and fuel efficiency, it is among the most popular Hitachi excavator models.

Enlarged track guards are fitted to the ZX350LC, which help to prevent potential damage being caused to the track link and enhances the excavator's reliability.

Working on busy sites as they do at Newton Ground Engineering, visibility takes on even greater importance,





and the Hitachi doesn't disappoint, with the operator enjoying a good all-round view as blind spots are kept to an absolute minimum, thanks to a new hood design paired with a wide expanse of front, side, and overhead glass and mirrors.

The cab itself on the Hitachi excavator is both spacious and comfortable, providing a great working environment for the operator, with plenty of storage areas for the operator's bits and pieces. Not only does it have a fully adjustable seat that can slide together or independent of the joystick console, it also features easy to master ergonomic controls - and an advanced music system, meaning operators can work to the music they prefer, either on the AM/FM radio, which is accessible from the monitor, or via an auxiliary socket for devices such as MP3 players, which is linked to the sound system.

The multi-language LCD monitor and rotary dial provide intuitive access to machine info and functions. Just turn and tap to select work modes, monitor maintenance intervals, check diagnostic codes, and set cab temperature.



Fuel Efficient

The environmentally friendly Isuzu engine delivers fuel-efficient and reliable performance. Fuel pressure, timing and volume are precisely regulated by electronic control for efficient combustion with Isuzu's common-rail fuel injection system.

The pressurised fuel system improves fuel injector operation, and the fuel recirculation system helps prevent fuel gelling in cold weather, so you can maintain maximum productivity - and auto-idle, which reduces engine speed when hydraulics aren't in use, and auto-shutdown also contribute to fuel efficiency, as well as reduce noise levels, exhaust emissions and CO2 levels.

The tried-and-tested power-boost feature has 10% more capacity, for example, than the ZX350LC-3, increasing the capability of the ZX350LC-6 to deliver an enhanced level of excavating performance and lifting power.

The engine compartment and other components are easily accessible for routine maintenance thanks to the engine cover, which can be opened up fully from the platform. The covers on the platform walkway have been reinforced and a disconnect switch helps to avoid electrical accidents during maintenance.

Extended warranty

Incidentally, every new Hitachi Zaxis-6 model is covered by a full manufacturer's warranty. For extra protection - due to severe working conditions or to minimise equipment repair costs - Hitachi dealers offer a unique extended warranty called HELP (Hitachi Extended Life Program) and comprehensive service contracts. These can help to optimise the performance of each machine, reduce downtime and ensure higher resale values.



hire news

Three new Liebherr cranes for Kavanagh Crane Hire

Ireland's largest provider of lifting solutions, Kavanagh Crane Hire Ltd, has taken delivery of three new Liebherr LTM model mobile cranes over the last six months. An LTM 1090-4.1, LTM 1500-8.1 and an LTM 1130-5.1 have all been recently delivered.

Established in 1973, the company operates from four depots, which are located in Dublin, Wexford, Carlow and Waterford, and has a fleet of over 55 cranes. In the last six months, the company has expanded its fleet with the addition of three new mobile cranes from Liebherr.

Kavanagh Crane Hire has taken delivery of a four-axle LTM 1090-4.1 mobile crane with fly jib and VarioBase. Compact dimensions and speed-dependent rear-axle steering maximise this crane's manoeuvrability and the crane has a 50 m telescopic boom with high load capacities over its entire working range.

Kavanagh Crane Hire also recently added its largest crane to the fleet when it took delivery of an LTM 1500-8.1 mobile crane. This joins the heavy crane division alongside an existing Liebherr LTM 1300-6.2, which the company took delivery of in 2016. The new LTM 1500-8.1 has been specified with the 91 m luffing lattice jib TN, Y-type guying system, a spacer to increase lifting capacity on the luffing lattice jib in conjunction with the Y-type guying system and an eccentric to increase lifting capacity on the fixed lattice jib in conjunction with the Y-type guying system.

Also recently delivered to the company was an LTM 1130-5.1 mobile crane. This crane, which was shown at Vertikal Days, has a standard specification including a 60 m telescopic boom, 19 m folding fly jib and VarioBase. Outstanding lifting capacities,

which are optimised with full and partial ballast, compact dimensions and top-of-the-range technology make this crane a highly useful addition to the fleet.

Paul Kavanagh said: 'We are delighted to add these new Liebherr cranes to the Kavanagh Crane Hire fleet. The addition of the LTM 1500-8.1 increases our capacity to 500 tonnes and we have already tried and tested the LTM 1090-4.1 and LTM 1130-5.1. Both these models have proved themselves over the last few years with their great reliability.'



Kavanagh's LTM 1500-8.1 assisting with the launch of a 115 tonne fishing vessel, Diligent Jo, at Arklow Harbour, Co. Wicklow in Ireland.

inspHire Hire Software Now Integrates With Xero

Xero integration is now available with market-leading hire management software, inspHire. Businesses who use Xero alongside inspHire will be able to dramatically reduce administrative duties, as

financial data entered into inspHire will automatically be posted to Xero.

Also, they can automate month end procedures and rapidly produce thousands of invoices, speeding up and streamlining the cash flow process.

Commented Managing Director of inspHire, Graham Dobbs: "Xero is a popular accounts package.

Through our Wishlist, some customers had requested the ability to integrate with Xero and we frequently took new

enquiries from businesses that were already using it. Therefore, to ensure our software continues to help streamline processes and make managing every aspect of a hire business easier, we made the decision to develop integration with Xero."



Brian Jones, President of the Construction Plant-hire Association

New President for Construction Plant-hire Association

Brian Jones has been elected to the role of President of the Construction Plant-hire Association for the next five years.

Brian had served as Chairman for six years, and his new role will enable him to work alongside the new Chairman Steve Cormack, Chief Executive Colin Wood and the Council to shape and ensure the continuing success of the CPA.

Brian said: "CPA is the UK's leading trade association in this sector, and my first task as President will be to help prepare the Association for the next phase in its development. Our Chief Executive Colin Wood

has made a decision to step down from the position at the end of the first quarter of 2018, and we will begin the process of recruiting a new Chief Executive immediately. We intend to build on the excellent work that has been done by Colin and his team, and to continue to support our Members and the plant hire sector to face the challenges that lie ahead."

Meanwhile, long-standing CPA Council Member Danny Griffin has been made a Life Member, while Bob Collins of Stokeley Plant takes the role of Immediate Past President, with Steven Mulholland of Mulholland Plant Services being elected to the position of Vice-Chairman.

Executive Hire Show 2018 A Sell Out

The Executive Hire Show event team recently held its annual exhibitor 'Kick off' meeting which took place at the Shows' established home at the Ricoh Arena Coventry – in the heart of the Midlands. Hosted by Show Director, Craig Donovan, the event was well attended by many of the EHS's exhibitors both old and new.

Craig Donovan announced that the Show (7th & 8th February 2018, Ricoh Arena Coventry) was well ahead of schedule in terms of sales than at this point in previous years with an impressive 156 exhibitors already signed up for the 2018 Show within the Main Hall & Atrium.

At the 2017 Executive Hire Show a new area was launched - the 'Hire Show Hall' - over 93% of all visitors to the event went into this new area and the feedback from visitors was how well connected it was to the Main Hall.

Commented Craig: "With such positive feedback we had no hesitation in including this area for the 2018 Show and we are now taking bookings. We have renamed the area Hall 2."

The task of mobilising and exciting hirers to leave their depots and travel hundreds of miles to Coventry has always been a challenge. However, this is something that the EHS team have been passionate about since the Show's conception.

The EHS team has already begun its National Visitor Campaign, working for the fifth year in partnership with Hire Supply Co, utilising the expertise of Steve McKenzie, who will be travelling the country visiting Hire Depots to mobilise and excite hirers to attend the 12th annual event. EHS will also be working with Altrad Belle for the 3rd year running. The Altrad Belle team will also be visiting hire



depots country wide to drum up visitor support for the show.

Added Craig: "For the 2017 event the teams travelled over 26,000 miles in their efforts to attract relevant hire visitors to the Show. This incredible mileage led us to visit over 700 hire depots throughout the UK & Ireland.

"Daniel Pinder and the Belle team will be covering London & South East, the South West and North-East areas. Steve McKenzie from The Hire Supply Company shall be covering the Midlands, North West and Northern & Southern Ireland."

Innovation Trail

Back by popular demand is the Innovation Trail, first launched in 2013, as innovation continues to be an integral part of the Show. Al-Ko, a manufacturer of chassis systems has already confirmed that the company will be sponsoring the trail once again.

The innovation trail concept is simple, ahead of the Show, all exhibitors are given the opportunity to submit details of a new, innovative product that they will be showcasing at the Show, where ten would be selected by a third-party judging panel including independent hirers, and the EHS will highlight these products with a floor tile outside their stands so visitors can actively follow on their visit.

For the 2018 event the EHS team will introduce 'The Innovation Trail – Live!' where selected Innovation Trail products which Judges consider to be particularly outstanding will be exhibited on a specially branded stage area in Hall 2.

Executive Hire Show's Alan Guthrie explained the concept: "Each chosen 'Innovation Trail – Live!' suppliers will be given a dedicated 10-minute slot to present and explain their product, and talk to the audience through the products innovative qualities. These individual sessions will take place on the hour from 11am to 3pm during the two days of the Show.

"Paul Hutton, a radio, podcast and YouTube channel presenter, has agreed to host Innovation Trail – Live! He'll interview each company's representative live on the stage.

"We have decided not to announce an Innovation Trail Winner for 2018, since the products are so varied and often aimed at different hire markets. However, we will ask our special guest Paul Hutton to present each "Innovation Trail - Live!" candidate with a commemorative trophy to mark their achievement."

Road Shows

As part of the Show's visitor campaign the EHS Regional Road Shows initiative, which

began over three years ago, will continue. The Road Shows are designed as a 'taster events' leading up the main show. The EHS will be hosting three Road Shows between now and Christmas, covering the London & SE area, the North West and the West & Wales areas - more details can be found on the EHS website.

"This Road Show initiative together with the personal visits ensure we continue to drive quality hirers to attend the Show in February."

New Website

The user hits on the EHS website have increased exponentially over the past few years and now over 50% access it through tablets or smart phones. Over the summer period the EHS have now successfully completely redesigned the whole Show website to make it more compatible with smart phone and tablet browsing.

The new look 2018 EHS website is where visitors and exhibitors will find the latest news about the Show which will be updated on a regular basis between now and the February event.

Visit www.executivehireshow.co.uk. Put the 7th and 8th February 2018 in your diary - it's one Show in the 2018 exhibition calendar a hirer can't afford to miss!



VIRTUAL REALITY

TO TRANSFORM HAE SAFETY TRAINING



Hire Association Europe (HAE) is investing in state of the art virtual reality (VR) technology to improve the safety of staff operating equipment - offering members and their clients a vivid and realistic learning experience that can be accessed from the safety of the office, or even the home.

Being able to use the training off-site is just one of the benefits for HAE members, who will be able to access the series of VR safety guidance modules at no cost to them or their clients, just access to the Samsung Gear VR and paddle. Modules will focus on experiences such as how to operate equipment safely, basic maintenance and advice on occupational health.

It is anticipated that immersing workers in a virtual world, akin to playing a video game, will give them visual and practical understanding of the issues involved and how to mitigate risk more effectively. Virtual reality safety training is a much more exciting and engaging alternative to printed guidance leaflets currently provided by equipment, plant and tool hirers; which often don't get through the supply chain to the right person.

The technology was trialled at the Trade Fair & Convention held at Coventry in October. Following enthusiastic feedback from the show, HAE is initially planning to roll out up to 20 of the modules in the summer of 2018 including occupational health related to dust, noise and vibration.

Whether it's driving a mini digger, operating mobile access equipment or tackling dust issues, providing the opportunity for workers to practise offsite their "moves" and responses to potentially dangerous situations, will help operators of machinery to minimise onsite risk and improve engagement in health and safety matters at all levels.

Just like in gaming technology, there will be different stages that the user will have to successfully finish before going to the next level. At the end of the exercise there is a multi-choice questionnaire which will also have to be completed as evidence that the training has been effective.

HAE managing director, Graham Arundell, said: "We wanted to give our members a learning tool that's more immersive than traditional e-learning. Our V-Hire programme is a more inventive way to engage hirers so that they are more likely to recognise the safety issues associated

with operating equipment, and have the opportunity to improve their skills and knowledge before they even make it onsite.

"VR means we can also do assessments in a remote environment. For example, some of the training can be done from home as they work their way through the different levels to reach a safe standard of competence, improving safety and minimising risk all round."

Tool, plant and equipment hire in the UK is mainly confined to these shores and is worth over £7billion to the economy, though the public will usually relate the equipment they see operating on infrastructure projects, construction sites and motorway works with the main contractor rather than the hire companies.

The hire sector is a vital component in enabling the delivery of economic activity, commercial and public, in the UK and globally. HAE members facilitate and provide the equipment for major entertainment, sporting and exhibition events. It is also enabling resource and capability behind much public and commercial investment: in land and buildings, infrastructure, national and international events and corporate hospitality.

A26 DUALLING IS COMPLETED ON TIME AND BUDGET

The Department for Infrastructure (DFI) recently completed the dualling of a 7.8 kilometre stretch of the A26, including the highly environmental sensitive section through the iconic Frosses trees.

This route forms part of the Northern Key Transport Corridor which links the capital city, Belfast, with Antrim, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Londonderry. It is used by up to 18,000 vehicles per day, and it is anticipated that demand will continue to grow.

This £55m project has extended the existing dual carriageway from Glarryford, near Ballymena, to the A44 Drones Road junction. Officially opened in June 2017, the project was delivered on time and to budget by an integrated delivery team consisting of the client, DfI Roads, the employer's representative, Arup, and the contractor, which was a joint venture, BAM McCann.

This team utilised a partnering approach which proved to be effective in the development of timely and efficient solutions to challenges throughout the design and construction of this scheme.

One of the project's key challenges was managing soft ground conditions encountered along significant stretches of the route. The earthworks included removal of 225,000m³ of peat and the soft alluvium uncovered was subsequently surcharged to reduce the risk of differential settlement. Extensive monitoring of embankments was undertaken using settlement plates and piezometers and this was critical to demonstrate completion of the consolidation process before surcharge material was removed for reuse in the permanent works.



The project incorporates a new roundabout at the A44 Drones Road and three flyover junctions. Approximately 27km of drainage pipe has been laid, 32km of new fences were installed and in total 24,000 tonnes of concrete was poured.

An innovative Journey Time Monitoring System was deployed to monitor vehicle movement using Bluetooth technology to track the rate of flow through the traffic management zone. This gave the site team early warnings of potential traffic build up which allowed early interventions to be made to minimise the impacts of the works on the travelling public. The completed scheme has already provided a significant benefit to the thousands of

motorists using this stretch of the A26 daily as it is estimated that it has halved the journey times during peak periods along this 7.8km stretch of road by removing traffic queues.

The reduction in driver frustration will improve safety on the route and in the longer term the upgrade will also have positive impacts on the local economy and contribute to wider economic development of the region.

The Department is also delivering significant improvements to the A6 between Randalstown and Castledawson, at a cost of about £160M and is currently out to tender for the scheme between Dungiven and Drumahoe, which is estimated to be worth over £200m.



Generac | Mobile Products Delivers a New Frontier in Controllable Mobile Lighting

Generac Tower Light has launched the market's first dimmable and ultra-thin external mobile disk light as it continues to lead and redefine mobile lighting solutions.

The new products are focused on understanding the importance of light in assisting productivity and supporting Health and Safety with anti-glare lamp heads and portable tower.

Available on road tow or on a trolley platform, the Generac Tower Light MT1-UFO model

provides an impact resistant and robust entry level lighting tower suitable for rail and infrastructure projects.

The curved opal cover of the MT1-UFO creates a thin and strengthened disk which provides total 360° strong, but soft light, powered by 400W LED lamp heads incorporating a unique passive cooling system. The passive cooling technology creates a maintenance-free lamp head due to an aluminium element which dissipates the heat.

The lamp head provides two solutions in one with complete 360° light and the ability to tilt to provide directional light. The MT1-UFO was designed with safety in mind and offers a safe alternative to balloon lights or temporary onsite soft lights.

The MT1 Yanmar engine delivers performance for up to 34 hours of operation at full capacity and provides light up to 25m. The



Generac Tower Light MT1-UFO model.

lights are dimmable from 1 to 100%, without compromising on quality, making it suitable for track and road side maintenance in busy urban areas or on high traffic flow road networks as there is no glare produced.

Anniversary Coincides With Launch of Ultra Small Tracking Device

Gary Stockton, Founder and Managing Director of asset tracking company AMI Group, is celebrating 20 years in the electronics tracking and telematics industry by announcing the impending launch of an ultra-small tracking unit which is roughly five times smaller than the original tracking device that Gary brought to the UK market back in 2004.

After working as Sales and Marketing Director for a tracking manufacturing company, Gary formed AMI Group to provide telemetry and tracking systems, primarily for the construction and plant sectors.

Gary introduced the original MTrack system which was revolutionary at the time and utilised GSM (Global System for Mobile Frequency) and RF (Radio Frequency) technology to locate stolen plant equipment. In 2008 Gary went on to link up with a Danish



Gary Stockton.

telematics supplier, to become the only UK distributor of their products and technology. Gary said: "The tracking industry and associated technology has evolved at a rapid

rate over the years. The MTrack unit was the primary tracking unit in the UK when it was first introduced and several of our former resellers have gone on to build their own tracking units and form their own companies.

"Innovation keeps us at the forefront of the market and we are particularly excited about the forthcoming launch of a new AMI unit which will utilise GPS, GSM and RF technology. Unlike its predecessors, it just comprises a small board which is completely hidden within construction machinery so it is disguised as part of the machine. In effect there is no device to trace and no actual unit to find, making it even more difficult for thieves to realise that equipment is tracked. When it is launched to the market, it will be the smallest device in the industry but with double the power. We believe that these type of micro-units will reflect the future of the equipment tracking industry."

Steelwrist launch Qplus technology

Steelwrist has launched a series of automatic couplers, tiltrotators and adaptors fully compatible with OilQuick's OQ couplers.

As the products now enter serial production, Steelwrist introduce "Qplus" coupling technology, still compatible with Oilquick, but with significantly higher oil-flow. "Our product launch has been received extremely well by the market", says Steelwrist CEO Stefan Stockhaus.

"For us 100% compatibility has been very important since the other option for Steelwrist would have been to launch a

proprietary system incompatible with anything else. The world does not need another coupling system, instead, the excavator owner needs a cost-effective standardised solution to easily change work tools. Therefore, we focus on making the product even better while maintaining compatibility."

The demand for automatic oil connections continue to increase in all markets. Steelwrist automatic oil connection couplers follow the internationally expanding Symmetrical Standard, a wedge lock system according

to ISO 13031:2016. In addition to complying with ISO 13031, Steelwrist couplers and tiltrotators also include the patented Front Pin Lock technology, which increase safety as the operator does not accidentally drop work tools.

"What's really interesting is what we have done with Qplus inside the couplings. As we are going into serial production, we have further developed the couplings to significantly increase flow capacity.

Depending on coupling size, the flow area is increased by up to

37%, and we also introduce a completely new sealing method.

"In addition to higher oil-flow, the benefit to the customer will be longer up-time as time between sealing replacements increase. Another advantage is that the replacement method is much faster than before - and without the need for special tools", says Steelwrist Development Manager Markus Nilsson.

"We are now increasing production capacity to meet demand, and Qplus is now standard in all SQ deliveries," says Stefan Stockhaus.

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HILL ENGINEERING'S TEFRA TILT IS A STRONG CONTENDER IN ATTACHMENT MARKET

Newry based attachment manufacturer Hill Engineering introduced its TEFRA Tilt in 2014, designed for customers who need the full functionality of a Tilt bucket but see the versatility of having the 180-degree tilt function on all of their attachments with a standard pin grabbing system.

Most tilt rotate systems are designed with dedicated attachments, which comes with a high level of investment. Hill Engineering sales and marketing manager Oliver Phelan said, "The TEFRA Tilt represents a very strong middle ground. The product itself has really taken off. We are selling more and more as the months go by. We have seen a 60% growth in sales of the Tilt over the last year and it's still growing."

Hill estimates that a Tefra Tilt in comparison to its equivalent in a tilt rotator is approximately 30% of the cost. So, it's the ideal 'inbetween' product where it gives the operator the majority of the functionalities they need but at a fraction of the price.

The Hill TEFRA Tilt hitch was born from the innovation of the TEFRA which was originally brought to market in 2011. This tilt system allows operators greater flexibility in the way they use their machines and turns each and every attachment into one that can be used at up to 180 degrees. Hill engineering have used the award winning TEFRA system as the core of the product and introduced the hugely reliable tilt motor from HKS of Germany to achieve the 180-degree tilt function.

Oliver added, "Operators' are now demanding more from their machines as they enter into new markets. The quality associated with the Hill and TEFRA brands, coupled with the unrivalled back up services for our clients, means the TEFRA tilt is fast becoming an essential tool in any operators' kit bag."

George Burns, managing director GBSS Civil and Plant Hire, specified a Hill TEFRA Tilt for a recently purchased JCB JS160W wheeled loader.

"We decided on the Hill TEFRA Tilt as with competitors hitches there are too many parts and on the hydraulic tilting buckets there are too many rams which fail - whereas the TEFRA Tilt has an actuating motor arrangement and no wearing parts - so it's practically maintenance free. It also has a heavier motor on it. We would definitely order a TEFRA tilt again if the application demanded it."

Robert Buchanan is a machine operator with GBSS and has been using the JCB JS160W wheeled excavator machine fitted with the Hill Engineering TEFRA Tilt system.



He says, "This was the first time I had used the tilt - previously I had only used a traditional hitch and bucket. I really am impressed with the TEFRA Tilt - it's a cracking bit of gear. I can work with better angles with this attachment and it's a real time-saver and you can get the job done far more quickly. It's able to pick up standard buckets with ease and is very reliable. I would definitely recommend the TEFRA Tilt to other operators."

About the TEFRA Tilt Hitch

The award winning TEFRA coupler and the HKS Extra Tilt Power Actuator have been united to provide users with two market leading technologies that, according to Hill Engineering, will transform the productivity of the users excavator. With a tilt angle of 180 degrees on all models, this ground-breaking product will enable users to increase the versatility of their attachments in multiple applications.

Robust & Simple Design

Hill Engineering say that the simple and robust design of the TEFRA Tilt sets this product apart from other suppliers. The TEFRA comes with just three moving parts and has been proven

to be the most reliable quick coupler on the market today. Additional to this, the HKS XtraTilt Power Actuator is self-lubricating and essentially maintenance free, so that users are able to concentrate on the important tasks. There can be no damage to tilt cylinders and failure of their connecting parts, such as fastening bolts and bushes, because the Power Actuator has none of these.

Key Features

- Award winning TEFRA coupler
- Simple & robust design
- Tilt angle of 180 degrees
- Single cylinder operation, removing complexity
- HKS Extra Tilt - essentially maintenance and wear free
- Exceeds current and expected global safety standards
- Available for excavators 3T-20T

CYLINDER-LESS DESIGN FOR MORE+ADVANTAGE

Quite simply, the advanced innovations behind the **nox** Tiltrotator range mean more benefits for you. No cylinders, continuous 360° rotation and a tilting angle of up to 55° on both sides make it a highly efficient addition to any construction site. Optimally engineered to suit excavators with an operating weight from 3 to 25 tonnes – save time, save money and tilt competitive advantage firmly in your direction.

NOX+Compact design

Narrow trenching and working in confined spaces is made easier and more profitable without cylinders

NOX+Powerful operation

Elliptic Rotary Actuator delivers smooth, constant power through the entire tilting angle

NOX+Smart control system

NOX Prop smooth, fully-proportional controls reduce operator fatigue and offer multi-user profiling

NOX+Durable construction

Robust build quality and an oil-immersed rotation unit maximises output and lowers maintenance

NOX+Increased versatility

Large range of attachment options available for greater productivity and maximum cost-effectiveness

ELLIPTIC ROTARY ACTUATOR
Patented drive unit with no hydraulic rams, help deliver larger, flexible tilting angle.

CAST BODY

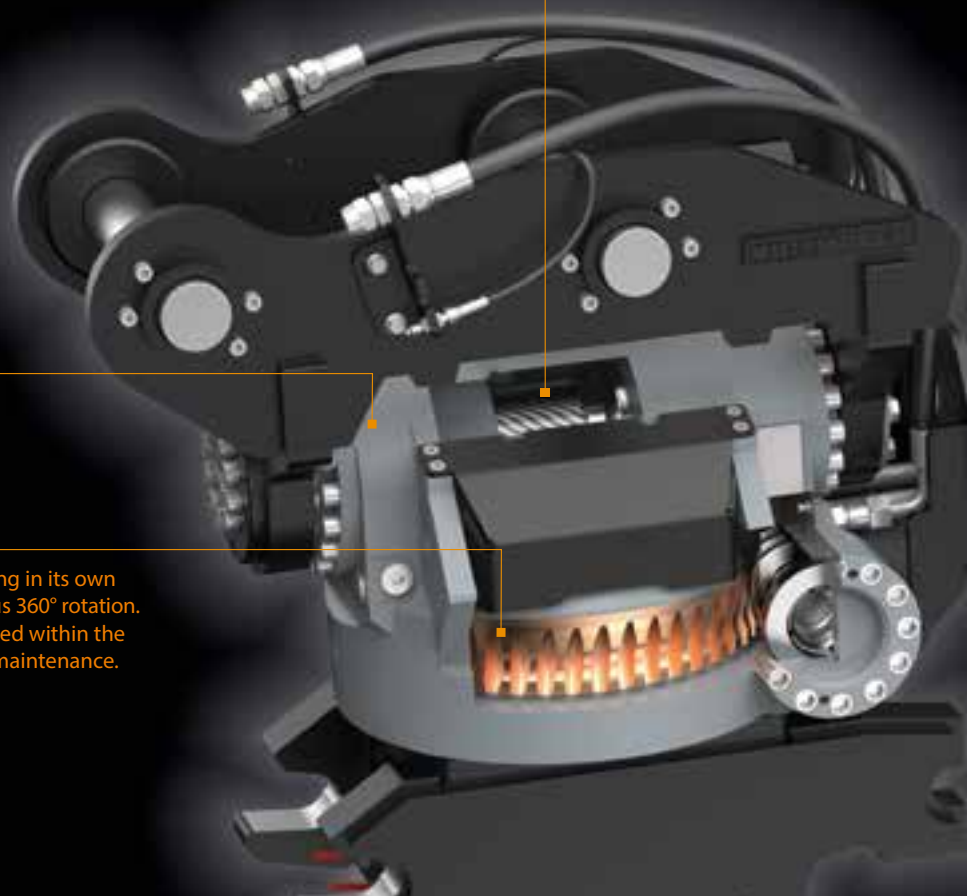
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GREAT TURN-OUT FOR KINSHOFER NOX OPEN DAYS

Kinshofer recently held several open days to give potential customers the chance to see the NOX-Tiltrotator, one of the most advanced tools for excavators, up-close and working with a range of attachments.

It also gave those attending the opportunity to learn more about the benefits direct from NOX-Tiltrotator owner operators themselves, as we have been finding out from Andrew Little, Kinshofer UK National Sales Manager, Excavators.

"We believe there's a lot of interest out there for a ram-less product and we felt the best way to demonstrate the unique benefits of the NOX was to let people see and hear for themselves," he explains.

He added: "The open days took place at our sister company's site, Auger Torque Europe, near Cheltenham. It provided the perfect facility to safely host large machinery, with plenty of space to showcase a wide range of our products, as well as product ranges from Auger Torque. At the same time, it gave us the option of laying on catering and generally networking in a relaxed environment."

What did the open days involve?

"A wide variety of on-site activity, but the focus was really on two owner operators and their expertise in handling the NOX and who were willing to share their considerable knowledge and experience.

"We were able to secure Steve Bennett from groundworks specialists Utcheter Plant, based at Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, who runs a CAT 432 BHL, and Shaun Price from Earthworx UK based in North Devon, who runs a JS130. Both guys are involved in general contracting, groundworks and landscaping and have really enjoyed the difference the NOX has made to their businesses.

"Steve had a TR10 fitted to his backhoe loader back in June and has still been able



to use his existing set of attachments, as the NOX is so adaptable in terms of the range of manufacturers it's able to accept. He carries out a lot of work in confined spaces, so finds the cylinderless design of the NOX such an advantage as it's particularly well suited to operating in narrow trenches or where access is difficult. He's also a big fan of his specialist Gripper cassette and GAF8 fork set as they've enabled him to take on a much wider range of jobs. Visitors to the Open Day were able to see all this in action at close quarters, with each attachment being put to the test through a variety of groundworks based tasks. "Similarly, Shaun from Earthworx UK had a TR14 fitted to his machine and just seems to be going from strength to strength. Fortunately for us, he researched the

market heavily before deciding to buy a tiltrotator, so we're obviously delighted he opted for a NOX at the end of the day. His productivity has seen significant improvements and we hear he's very happy with the way the NOX has been set up and tailored to suit his individual needs.

"In fact, installation and after care is another important reason why the NOX seems to be so well received. We've called on the services of Summit Equipment, who are premium installation specialists, with a wealth of experience in all things hydraulic. They also attended the Open Day and were on hand to offer technical advice, guiding people through typical installation and set-up procedures, personalisation and advising them on general maintenance.

"Alongside this, we had additional support from Franz Jaud, the Global Product Manager for the NOX from Kinshofer Group in Germany and Marko Ojala, Service Manager from Kinshofer Finland, who further supported customer questions with specialist technical and application advice."

Who attended? How many people?

"There was plenty of local interest with potential customers also coming in from Wales, the Midlands and across the South West, not to mention a contingent from Kent who certainly had the longest trek.





We also wanted a family day for staff on the Saturday, which proved a great way of getting people who work behind the scenes at both companies to interact with the products and discover more about what they actually do. All while sampling the delights from the burger van of course!"

What was the reaction to the open days?

"We were delighted with the reaction we've had across the board. It takes a lot of effort to put on events such as this and it's made all the more worthwhile when you see the reaction from potential and existing customers who see the benefits, appreciate the innovations we've made and show a genuine passion for the product. A picture tells a thousand words – but an open day answers a million queries!"

What feedback have you received on the back of the open days?

"It's all been very encouraging, and we have plenty of work now to follow up the interest that's been generated."

How do you think the Kinshofer NOX has been received in the UK since launch?

"Judging by the reaction we've had so far it's been incredibly positive, especially as the concept has been in the making for some time - after a successful development phase over the last year or so. We know the market is a competitive one, with plenty of quality and choice out there – so introducing another tiltrotator to the UK means bringing something new to the table. "The benefit of no cylinders and a clean design that won't get caught or break

when you're digging a trench has given us an interested audience to engage with straight away. Add in the performance aspects, the versatility, the durable construction, the NOX Prop joystick control system etc and you begin to see why the level of interest is what it is."

What are the benefits of this kind of event? Will you more in the future?

"It did take a lot of planning to successfully host the event, but the positive feedback has made it well worth the effort. We intend to turn this into an annual event, so people will look forward to seeing regular innovations from us. "We also want to hold an open day for our friends further north, as we've had a number of requests from people who weren't able to travel down this time round, so that's another thing to look out for next year."



NORDIC INVENTION THAT IS LIKE A SWISS ARMY KNIFE FOR DIGGERS



The tiltrotator has been in use in the Nordic countries for decades, however in the last few years its appeal has started to spread around the world. Today Engcon has established itself in several overseas markets such as Germany, France, the Netherlands, the US, Canada and the UK. And it's the UK that has proved to be one of the markets that is currently the fastest to embrace the Swedish excavation invention.

"Being able to work faster and more flexibly using an Engcon tiltrotator is a win-win for my business and for my customers," enthuses Jon Matthews who runs Oakland Tree Services in Wisley, Surrey, UK.

Jon recently purchased a second-hand Komatsu PC27 digger, fully equipped with an Engcon EC02 tiltrotator, S30 Hitch and DC2 control system. He says the investment has transformed his business and the way he works.

Although his company specialises in tree surgery and woodland management, Jon also takes on general excavation work. Before his recent purchase he had one Kubota digger with a range of attachments but felt this was rather limited.

"I suppose I wanted a digger that was more like a Swiss Army Knife," jokes Jon. This led him to look at tiltrotators and whilst searching

online he noticed that Engcon's name turned up more than any other manufacturer.

He decided to check out Engcon's website for a second-hand system but the one he fancied had gone before he had a chance to buy it. Luckily, Eddie Warrener, a well-known UK Engcon enthusiast, told Jon that Shaun Gratton, an owner/operator in Staffordshire, was selling a Komatsu PC27, complete with an Engcon tiltrotator. This time Jon didn't hang around and bought Shaun's system without even going to see it!

Time saving

After using it for just a few weeks, Jon says he wouldn't be without his Engcon system as it saves him so much time on site. Previously, he had used his digger with a grabber to feed his wood chipper. Now, with a tiltrotator attached, the grabber is much more flexible and he can get a job done in less than half the time.

"The customer gets their job done quickly and efficiently and I make more money for less work!" says Jon with a smile. Having a tiltrotator has also improved productivity – and profitability – when he's doing excavation work. He refers to a recent project to dig footings for a developer in Surrey: "I had two days to complete the job but finished in less than one - allowing the developer to get the concrete poured a day early, which was a great result all round."

Access all areas

Another benefit of having a tiltrotator is the ability to operate in confined spaces – a real advantage for Jon when he's working on sites in south west London where access can be tricky. Greater flexibility on site has also meant that he often doesn't need to hire a second excavator as he can do so much more with the one he's got.

In order to maximise the time he's been able to save since getting an Engcon system, Jon has decided it's time to switch from charging a day rate to project pricing.

"I'm absolutely delighted with my tiltrotator and so are my customers because I can work faster and price more competitively. Word is already getting around and more work is coming in all the time!"





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A DAY OF TRIUMPH FOR THE HEROES

Winner's day in the competition #excavatorhero, arranged by Rototilt, was a real hit for four very satisfied participants.

"Every member of Rototilt's staff stood outside the factory and surprised us with cheers and a red carpet. They treated us really like heroes!" said Paul Østre Bergly from Norway, one of the winners.

The winners were collected by limousine and were made to cover their eyes with blindfolds. Completely unaware of events to come, the winners were welcomed to the Rototilt facility with a mighty cheer from around the factory. In addition, during the day the heroes sat down together with the design manager, product manager and marketing and sales manager to express their views about the products.

"I had really been looking forward to the workshop. I work a lot on the railway and have many ideas about how the work can be improved. This is a company that listens to its users," says Hannu Saukko from Finland. The entire visit was rounded off with an overnight stay in



the unique tree huts at Granö Beckasin outside of Vindeln. Those chosen came from four different countries: Sweden, Norway, Finland and Ireland. All had been declared winners in the social media contest

#excavatorhero, where participants had to post a picture of themselves with their Rototilt tiltrotator. The aim of the competition was to highlight the real heroes who build our common future.

"What surprised me was the immediate contact we established with each other. Discussions about working methods, equipment and the type of work we do was something we just wanted to carry on", said the Swedish hero Richard Haas.



ROTOTILT TAKES AUTOMATION TO ANOTHER LEVEL

Automation and "smartness" are two concepts at the heart of Rototilt's product development work. Utilising Rototilt's ICS control system and tiltrotator to allow excavation systems to automatically handle the tilt angle is an obvious step in the integration with the excavator.

"In our product development, we always attempt to simplify and improve the user's daily life. Automation is an exciting and natural part of the innovation surrounding our products," explains Sven-Roger Ekström, Product manager at Rototilt.

The automatic tilt function permits excavator operators to be even more efficient in their daily work.

"What this means in practice is that we give the excavator operators completely new possibilities in combination with the control system, machine coupler, tiltrotator and tool."

Three years ago Rototilt was first on the market through the launch of RPS (Rototilt Positioning Solution) and the ICS control system to enable excavation systems to gather the exact tilt and rotation angle of



the tool. Integration was a huge success and today the majority of all excavators are equipped with Rototilt's tiltrotator with ICS control system and RPS. Now it's time to take the technology to the next level with automatic tilt function. Automatic Grade Control is a function included in the RPS.

"It adjusts itself and I just keep an eye on the height." These are the words Mikael Holmström, one of the operators who benefits from the RPS function, used to describe the large time savings he makes.

"This is brilliant. It means I can work much faster and can keep an eye on the work

rather than on the screens in the cab. With RPS, I see the bucket position and angles in the excavation system and manually adapt the tool according to these. While Automatic Grade Control automatically adapts the tool according to the model of excavator system.

"As a result I don't need to control the bucket or the tool that I'm working with, these adjust themselves and I only need to keep an eye on the height. Which is perfect when working in a trench. It's so easy to excavate."

Technically, it's a matter of sending signals from the tiltrotator and control system to the excavation system.

"We work with all the leading manufacturers of excavator systems and Leica Geosystems is the first to offer this to their customers," adds Sven-Roger Ekström.

Automatic Grade Control is supplied with RPS and Rototilt's ICS control system (version 2.10.3 or later) as well as Leica's excavation system adapted for the function. Automatic Grade Control was supplied with RPS from late August 2017.

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Piletec extends its piling attachment range

Piletec, specialist supplier of piling and foundation equipment, can now offer its customers an even wider choice of piling attachments with the introduction of two new EMV's that will help to reduce time and costs.

A division of Groundforce, Piletec has a strong reputation for introducing industry leading products including ones that have made significant contributions to site safety.

These latest new products include the E5FM, a robust, quality engineered piling hammer with a driving force of 20 tonnes and the E7FM a low frequency model and more powerful than other EMVs currently available in the UK.

The EMV, specifically designed as an attachment for excavators, is a cost efficient way of driving sheet piles and

tubes. Mounted on the boom of a standard hydraulic excavator, the unit's powerful vibrating action enables large sections of sheet pile to be driven into tough, cohesive ground with minimum effort and minimum disturbance to surrounding structures.

Bill Gorton, Piletec Director, comments about the range extension: "Our decision to increase the range to include more powerful EMVs was in response to our customers needing to drive longer sheets in stiff ground conditions. This can only be achieved by using larger 35-40 tonne excavators and therefore a more powerful EMV to accommodate the larger excavator. This combination of larger excavator and EMV can also save the contractor the cost



of cranes and leader rigs, the traditional way to drive or extract longer sheet piles."

The extended EMV range also includes a new Gooseneck Extension which is mounted on the jib of the excavator to extend the reach and height of the excavator. This attachment is ideally suited to drive longer piles in soft ground conditions. The E5FM and E7FM are compatible with all of Piletec's associated equipment including its VibroSafe quick hitch adapter, Pre Auger, trench sheets and Larssen sheet piles – up to 10m in length and any profile.

Donseed saves GCL 10-15% on labour costs with biometric timesheets

Groundworks specialists GCL switched from paper time sheets to a Donseed biometric time and attendance system in 2007 and have seen a significant reduction in labour costs.

Trevor Diviney, Managing Director at GCL, said: "Within GCL we have nearly eight hundred people working for us onsite. We offer large scale groundworks and intrinsic quick frame packages across London and the home counties. With the growth of the business things had to change,

we had to find a different method of doing things."

GCL now use Donseed, who provide cloud-based biometric time and attendance systems to innovative construction companies. The Donseed solution utilizes fingerprint clocking-in recognition to collect important project information and record accurate time and attendance data for workers. The system is assisted by GPS to track the location of sign-ins and sign-outs and is deployed on a range of temporary, mobile and

permanent workplaces across the construction industry.

GCL's Finance Director, Graham Payne, commented: "Donseed gives us a huge amount of information; who was on site, exact hours they worked. We can then apply wages to those hours to see where exactly we are spending money and compare that to the budget."

Graham added: "I would say that Donseed saves us 10 – 15% on the labour costs, which would equate to about three million pounds in a year."

"The system has a range of potential benefits for construction companies," said Donseed's Marketing and Strategy Director, Kev Dendy. "As well as providing powerful and accurate time and attendance reports, the system can also help monitor your health and safety compliance. The technology prompts workers to confirm that they have the correct equipment for the job they are undertaking, together with their qualifications, and automatically alerts head office of any issues."

Lift-off for €15m Shannon Airport Runway project

Shannon Airport and Lagan Asphalt Group have completed a €15m resurfacing project on Ireland's longest runway eight weeks ahead of schedule.

The refurbishment work on the main Shannon runway, which commenced in May of this year, included the full rehabilitation of 2,400m of runway surface, the replacement of runway edge and centre line lighting with energy efficient LED lighting, ducting and other associated works.

Lagan Asphalt Group was appointed by Shannon Airport as the main contractor on the project following a successful bid under an EU tender process. A team of 90 people and 70 vehicles worked on the runway at night to avoid disrupting flights to and from Shannon Airport. At the peak of construction project, the Lagan Asphalt

group laid the equivalent of a football pitch of refurbished runway surface each night.

The project is part a €15 million investment programme at Shannon Airport and was financed through a loan secured from the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund.

Discussing the project, Matthew Thomas, CEO, Shannon Group said: "The runway is the main artery of Shannon Airport and has been one of the most important pieces of infrastructure in the South-West since its construction in 1961. It provides a crucial link to the global community and has facilitated the growth of Irish tourism and business in the region for over 55 years.

"When working on such a vital project, it is really important to work with a partner you trust with a proven track record of meeting challenging briefs on time and within budget. I am pleased to say that

Lagan Asphalt have done exemplary work here in delivering this hugely important project that will serve the customers of Shannon Airport for the next 25 years."

Added Brian McManus, Lagan Asphalt Director and Project Manager: "This project presented us with some unique challenges in terms of scale and time-management. Our brief was deliver a large scale, world-class refurbishment project on a runway that was effectively still in use. In order to allow flights to land, we worked in four-hour shifts at night, laying a new section of surface in time to allow for a 90-minute health and safety inspection ahead of the first aircraft arriving on the runway. Using this process, we laid approximately 60,000 tonnes of asphalt during this project."

Kevin Lagan, Chief Executive and Chairman of the Lagan Group, said: "The Lagan Group has worked on a number of large-scale projects at various airports in recent years and we have been able to bring the value of our experience to bear on this project. I would personally like to congratulate our crew on a job well done in delivering this crucial piece of infrastructure for the people of the South-West region."



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compact equipment

McSharry Bros & Kobelco: Mini-Excavators Focused on Excellence

Since taking on the Kobelco dealership, McSharry Bros say they have increasingly come to appreciate what they call 'the immense value' that comes from the fact that the manufacturer is solely focused on producing excavators, big and small.

"The fact that 100% of their design budget goes into designing 1 - 200 ton crawler excavators is unique amongst manufacturers. We believe that they can arguably claim to be the excavator experts," comments Niall McSharry.

Since relaunching in 2014 Kobelco's biggest selling model in Europe is the SK55SRX model, their 5.5 ton mini-excavator. They will soon be adding a new SK10SR and SK17SR to their line-up, which should help increase market share in the mini market going forward.

Kobelco, of course, continue to add innovative design features to their mini-excavators, one being their iNDR – Integrated Noise and Dust reduction – system. Initially it was standard in medium sized SR models. It is now standard in all SR mini-excavators from SK28SR – SK55SRX models, as well as SK75SR and SK85MSR.

What does this mean? In terms of dust reduction, there is a removable fine wire mesh filter in front of the radiators which almost entirely reduces dust from getting on the



cooling system. This filter is easy to remove, clean in seconds and refit. This system also delivers amazingly quiet operation with air intake at the front of the machine and exhaust underneath. This translates to a very quiet and comfortable operator environment, as well as easy and simpler maintenance in terms of dust reduction.

Adds Niall: "We also believe we have some of the largest and most comfortable cabin designs for mini-excavators. In particular, customers can't believe the space afforded in the SK45SRX and SK55SRX models which also allow wide access in and out of the machine. For any operators who are above average size and need to get in and out of their mini during the daily operation, this is a huge advantage. The same applies to the SK75SR and SK85MSR models which have the same cabin as the SK140SRLC; so essentially these are the most spacious cabins in their class."

Kobelco's big promise on all machines is fuel saving and while mini-excavators may not be as thirsty as big machines, Kobelco customers appear to be benefitting from the best results on fuel. When switched to S mode, the new range of Kobelco minis lower fuel consumption by up to 25% over previous models. The pump flow and pressures, along with the integrated-flow pump system which takes from the third pump also ensures solid digging performance when you need it.

"The feedback we always get from customers who experience operating a Kobelco is how smooth the hydraulics are. This ultimately leads to improved accuracy and increased productivity in getting work done. Obviously, we would like to see more and more customers experience the benefits of Kobelco mini-excavators, just like the bigger models."

The new SK10SR and SK17SR models are already in production in Japan and McSharry Bros expect to have them in stock in the New Year.

"We have already sold our full range of mini-excavators through Ireland. The SK55SRX and SK45SRX models are very popular for utility, demo and hire work. We are also delighted about the relaunch of SK10SR and SK17SR, perfect for small jobs and always in demand with hire clients," adds Niall

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JCB Unveils New Compact Solution For Pothole Repair

JCB has launched a brand new compact machine to designed to tackle the nation's pothole nightmare – the 3CX Compact Potholemaster.

With the UK's pothole problem worsening and local highway authority budgets under increasing scrutiny, the compact new machine has been developed specifically to give local councils and road contractors a single machine solution to costly pothole repair work.

Some 35% smaller than the iconic JCB 3CX backhoe loader, the revolutionary new 3CX Compact Potholemaster offers a rapid, mobile and safe solution for tackling the

growing road maintenance challenge. Its compact dimensions and manoeuvrability enable operation on narrow country lanes or congested urban areas – so it can repair pothole damage with less disruption to the public and in restricted locations which would be challenging for larger equipment. Equipped with a dipper-mounted patch planer and a sweeper shovel located on the front loader arms, the 3CX Compact Potholemaster is 1.9m wide and 2.74m high – with a turning circle of just 5.8m – yet capable of rapid travels speeds of 40km/h with hydrostatic transmission. This offers local councils and road contractors a fast,

self-deployable machine that can cover significant territory. Its extreme versatility and the fleet management functionality of JCB's Livelink telematics system also allow local highways authorities to tangibly demonstrate more effective plant utilisation, a reduction in standing time and increased resource capacity within existing budgets. A further benefit of the Potholemaster design, is that when not being used for road repair duties, it is possible to remove the attachments and operate the 3CX Compact as a high powered backhoe loader. Councils will have a machine that is capable of loading grit and clearing snow in the winter months, or helping with flood prevention and other duties in the summer. This ensures that the customer can achieve maximum utilisation, without having to have additional machines that are only used on a seasonal basis.

New One Tonne Minis Weigh In With Machines For All Sectors

JCB has launched three new mini excavators engineered to meet the needs of individual industry customers.

With operating weights of 1.6-1.8 tonnes, the line-up includes the rental-specific, conventional tailswing 16C-1 and JCB's first zero tailswing 1.7-tonne model, the all-new 18Z-1, which is

designed to meet the changing requirements of mini excavator users in all industry sectors. Completing the line-up is the conventional tailswing 19C-1, ideal for contractors looking for the ultimate performance from a premium compact excavator. The three machines share common design DNA, boasting improved durability with

robust construction and ease of maintenance, to minimise downtime and to boost productivity for the customer. They have been engineered from the ground up to deliver reduced total cost of ownership and improved ease of use.

A common undercarriage is used on all three models, with

machined faces for improved fit and extended component life. Sloping track legs reduce material retention, making it easier to clean the machine between hire periods. The 16C-1 is available in both fixed and retracting undercarriages, with the retractable track frame offering widths of 980-1,330mm. A revised idler design delivers improved ride quality and reduces track stalling in loose material. Short-pitch rubber tracks come as standard, with a steel track option available on all three models.

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Bobcat Launches New T870 Compact Tracked Loader

Bobcat has launched a new version of the company's top-of-the-range T870 compact tracked loader featuring a new torsion suspension undercarriage, replacing the previous T870 model with a roller suspension system.

Introducing a completely new undercarriage design to Bobcat compact tracked loaders, the torsion suspension undercarriage features torsion axles that dampen vibration, combining

the comfort of roller suspension and the stability of a solid mount undercarriage with other new features to provide a tracked loader that outperforms all other machines on the market.

The new T870 torsion suspension machine offers 10% more lift capacity than the previous roller suspension model. The new T870 model is available with a wide range of standard and optional features and in a range of configurations to match emissions and

specification requirements for all European, Middle East, Africa and Russia and CIS markets.

The new T870 provides a more comfortable and relaxed environment in the cab – achieving a new level of comfort without sacrificing work performance. The torsion suspension improves not only ride quality, it also absorbs stresses and vibrations encountered on the job. The result is reduced wear and

tear, and improved component life, throughout the machine.

The 5-link torsion suspension undercarriage minimises rocking when lifting a load high or when performing grading tasks. With the new Bobcat undercarriage, there is no trade-off between comfort and performance. An additional link on the rear axle stabilises the system to decrease rocking or bouncing and increase productivity.

The T870 loader is intended to run the most powerful attachments from Bobcat such as wheelsaws to cut trenches for cable/pipe laying (including the WS32 wheelsaw providing an 80 cm dig depth) and the highly productive forestry cutter attachment.



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compact equipment

Compact Ranges Performing Strongly at Glendun Plant Sales

With an excellent range of compact equipment for a wide range of industries - from telehandlers, dumpers and access platforms to compressors and lighting towers - Glendun Plant Sales has quickly become a 'one stop' shop for a growing number of contractors across the Province.

Not surprisingly, then, the Dungannon based full line Wacker Neuson dealer covering Northern Ireland and the border

counties has enjoyed another strong year with its varied compact product portfolio.

Consistently popular in the Wacker Neuson range are the 4m 1.2 tonne TH412, EZ28 & EZ38 mini excavators and 6 – 10-ton cab dumpers.

"Wacker Neuson was the first manufacturer to offer a full ROPS/FOPS cab dumper and they are increasingly becoming the norm," says Glendun Plant Sales' director, Dermot Cunnie. "There is a definite move

towards operator and site worker safety with cab dumpers and we are already ahead with the range we keep in stock.

"We have also enjoyed recent success with the line-up of Wacker Neuson rollers. The 80 and 120 models are particularly popular now and complement the light equipment range of vibrating plates, rammers and saws for which we are the number one choice with utility and construction customers."

Niftylift

As the only official dealer for Niftylift in Ireland, Dungannon based Glendun Plant Sales is also seeing volumes increase. Most popular in the range is the Nifty 120TPE, a 12m bi-energy (petrol & battery) powered trailer mount, which delivers maximum reach performance from the most compact chassis possible. By utilising its versatile telescopic upper boom, it delivers unrivalled working outreach, especially at lower levels where it's needed most.

Recent sales of tracked booms, including 12m and 15m TD120 and TD150 have also added to the success with as well, are Niftylift's innovative bi-energy HR12 4 x 4 and HR21D 12 & 21m self-propelled booms. These offer the benefits of low overall weight, good manoeuvrability and excellent reach performance, coupled with an environmentally conscious bi-energy power system that reduces emissions and fuel consumption without compromising on performance.

Skyjack

Meanwhile, Glendun Plant Sales range of the world renowned Skyjack scissor lifts has also been performing well. Says Dermot: "The Skyjack has been designed to be easy to service and maintain, and it is not only reliable, but it is extremely simple to service



and maintain, which is a big attraction for rental companies."

Among the most popular models are the diesel powered SJ6832RT, a compact and manoeuvrable rough terrain scissor lift, offering a working height of 11.75m, the SJ3219 electric scissor lift with a reach of 7.79m and the SJ3226 electric scissor that offers a working height of 9.92m.

Kaeser & TRIME

The recently added TRIME range of site lights has hit the ground running with several multiple orders placed with local rental and contractors. Long running fuel performance and LED lights are the main features of these units. Kaeser, the German built range of portable compressors is also enjoying a healthy run of recent sales, particularly in the 150cfm to 230cfm range.

Service & Support

While product quality and reliability are vitally important, equally so is a high level of service, which customers appreciate. "In today's competitive market, customers cannot afford the luxury of unnecessary downtime, which is why we place a great deal of emphasis on after-sales support and why we have invested considerably in our facilities and in staff training," adds Dermot.

Being centrally located in Mid Ulster, of course, means that Glendun Plant Sales can easily service its customers no matter where they are in the territory, while availability of equipment is exceptionally good, with high levels of stock to call on.



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niftylift



CASE upgrades skid steer loaders and compact track loaders

CASE Construction Equipment has added performance with increased operating capacity, and upgraded emission standards of its four most technologically advanced skid steer loaders and compact track loaders.

Technical updates mean that all four 90 hp compact loaders achieve Tier 4 Final compliance and that CASE now offers the most powerful skid steer in the company's history and the largest radial-lift skid steer on the market.

A number of detail enhancements have also been made across the range of nine skid steer loaders and four tracked loaders. By offering such great versatility and reliability, these vehicles will be found working on landscaping, highway, and construction projects throughout the world.

CASE was the first construction equipment manufacturer to offer both selective catalytic reduction (SCR) and cooled exhaust gas recirculation as solutions towards meeting stringent emissions standards. SCR improves fuel efficiency, keeps exhaust temperatures down, removes the need for exhaust gas recirculation, and eliminates the need for diesel particulate filters and their associated maintenance. Now this SCR-only technology is being brought to the upper



end of the compact loaders' range with the so-called Compact High-efficiency SCR.

The 90 hp Compact Hi-eSCR engines, designed and manufactured by CASE's partner company FPT (Fiat Powertrain Technologies), have higher combustion efficiency. Combustion efficiency enables lower heat rejection and a reduction in the exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) rate from 25% to 10%, the lowest on the market.

One operational benefit of these changes is better load response, enabling the engine to react more quickly to sudden demands for increases in torque, which happens quite often during the operation of a skid steer.

Another real-world advantage of these upgraded models is their outstanding bucket breakout force, which ranges from 38.6 kN on the SR270 up to 42.4 kN on SV340. All these models also have one of the industry's widest cabs, with 360-degree visibility, making the operator's job easier and safer.

New model numbers have been introduced to reflect the significant advances in operating capacity. The radial lift SR270 and vertical lift SV340 skid steer loaders replace the previous top-of-the-range SR250 and SV300 models. The radial lift TR340 compact track loader replaces the TR320. The vertical lift TV380 track loader also achieves lower emissions, but because its operating capacity is unchanged it retains the same model name.



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JCB Finance pledges its support to SMEs

JCB Finance is launching a campaign to provide additional support for SMEs in the construction sector when taking out external funding.

The campaign comes after new research commissioned by JCB Finance revealed that more than a quarter of respondents who had bank loans or overdrafts did not believe they had the potential risks to personal assets explained to them when borrowing from the banks.

JCB Finance has therefore pledged to help SMEs access more secure funding to finance capital equipment without unnecessary security of personal assets, and is preparing to launch a number of exciting new services.

Paul Jennings, Managing Director of JCB Finance, commented: "We know from experience the importance of providing our customers with reassurance and understanding, and importantly tailoring our services to meet our customers' needs.

"Unlike big banks, who have in some cases withdrawn funding from small businesses when they needed it most, JCB Finance has always gone out of its way to support customers with asset finance, using hire purchase and leasing to help small businesses secure the resources they needed while protecting their working capital.

"Such options give customers a regular and fixed payment schedule as a secure alternative to payment on demand loans,

something which the research highlighted as a top priority, with 89% of those surveyed stating that managing working capital is important to their business."

The research also highlighted the variety of preferences when it comes to how customers would like to arrange finance facilities. More than half prefer a face to face meeting whilst a quarter would rather talk over the phone, 14% like to arrange finance at the point of purchase and 10% prefer to arrange finance by email. JCB Finance therefore offers a range of on and offline communication channels tailored to meet its customers' needs.

In addition, the survey identified that 41% of small business owners find it difficult to find time in conventional office hours to arrange finance and when it comes to cyber security, more than half of those surveyed said that they worry about exchanging information and attachments by email.

JCB Finance is therefore delighted to announce the forthcoming launch of its Online and Sign Online platforms. Scheduled to launch in October 2017, they will enable the convenient and secure signing of finance agreements, without the need for printing, scanning and emailing. It will also enable customers to access their agreement details, any related correspondence and plan their cash flow more easily.

The survey showed that 82% of customers who use JCB equipment would be happy

to arrange finance with their dealer or salesperson. JCB Finance is therefore proud to offer its services nationwide via its trusted and accredited dealer network or through its personal field sales team, to help best meet the needs of individual customers.

Adds Paul Jennings: "We remain as committed to our customers, new and old, as ever. As a people orientated business, we always aim to treat our customers fairly and provide a secure and stable route to additional credit lines.

"In fact, we have been providing asset finance and supporting business growth in the construction, agriculture and industrial sectors since 1970 so we understand the kind of challenges our customers may face. And with our latest service announcements, we believe that we are best placed to support SMEs with their asset finance needs over the forthcoming months and years."

Richard Mann, Director of Mann Plant Hire and Lamanva Training Centre, commented: "JCB Finance has done us proud for nearly 40 years - from starting out with just one digger to refocusing the business on training, they have always provided a reliable and great value service.

"They know us and understand the needs of the business very well, which means they're able to offer the support, advice and service we need."





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Future of Agriculture to be Showcased at Spring Farm Machinery Shows in 2018

Ireland's largest farm machinery shows are returning in early 2018 to kick start the agricultural calendar and offer an insight for the year ahead for new products and innovations to businesses and visitors alike.

The four annual shows, sponsored by Q8 Oils, cover both the North and South of Ireland, with the first show taking place in the prestigious Green Glens Arena, Millstreet, Co. Cork on the 17th & 18th January 2018.

Having run for over 10 years, the Millstreet show is extremely popular with visitors and exhibitors and has established itself as a must attend in the agricultural calendar.

Following on from Millstreet will be the original Spring Farm Machinery Show which will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the show. It will take place in the Ecclesville Centre, Fintona, Co. Tyrone on the 24th & 25th January 2018.

The organisers are introducing a brand new two day format, as well as regular talks and demonstrations taking place across the two days. Spread across 9



halls filled to capacity with leading agri brands across the industry this show attracts thousands of visitors annually.

The Cavan Equestrian Centre is the third of the four Spring Farm Machinery Shows sponsored by Q8 Oils. Taking place on the 31st January & 1st February, this show continues to grow year on year, with 2017 recording it highest turnout to date, set to increase further in 2018.

To round off the Spring Farm Machinery shows, is the newest of the four shows at the Eikon Centre at Balmoral Park in Lisburn on the 21st & 22nd February. Ideally located just off the M1, visitors and exhibitors are guaranteed to see the very best in farm and construction machinery as well as agricultural and business developments.

The Spring Farm Machinery Shows provide both exhibitors and visitors with a fresh opportunity to embrace the latest innovations for the year ahead with new product releases happening throughout the four shows.

By bringing together a wide range of exhibitors from across the agricultural board allowing exhibitors to form key relationships and generate significant business from the four shows.

If you are interested in exhibiting in any of the Spring Farm Machinery Shows or would like further information please call 028 (048 from ROI) 8225 2800 or email info@ajspromotions.com. Check out social media pages for regular updates.

<p>Q8 Oils</p> <h2>SPRING FARM MACHINERY SHOW</h2> <p>THE FUTURE OF FARMING</p> <p>THE GREEN GLENS ARENA MILLSTREET, CO. CORK</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 17TH & THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY 2018</p> <p>12NOON - 10PM</p> <p>MUNSTERS LARGEST FARM MACHINERY SHOW</p>	<p><i>20th Anniversary</i> Q8 Oils</p> <h2>SPRING FARM MACHINERY SHOW</h2> <p>THE FUTURE OF FARMING</p> <p>ECCLESVILLE CENTRE FINTONA, CO. TYRONE</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 24TH & THURSDAY 25TH JANUARY 2018</p> <p>12 NOON - 10PM</p> <p>IRELANDS LARGEST ANNUAL FARM MACHINERY SHOW</p>
<p>Q8 Oils</p> <h2>SPRING FARM MACHINERY SHOW</h2> <p>THE FUTURE OF FARMING</p> <p>CAVAN EQUESTRIAN CENTRE CAVAN, CO. CAVAN</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY & THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2018</p> <p>12NOON - 10PM</p> <p>ALL LEADING MANUFACTURERS & DISTRIBUTORS IN ATTENDANCE</p>	<p>Q8 Oils</p> <h2>SPRING FARM MACHINERY SHOW</h2> <p>THE FUTURE OF FARMING</p> <p>EIKON EXHIBITION CENTRE, BALMORAL PARK, HALFTOWN RD SPRUCFIELD</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 21ST & THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2018</p> <p>12 NOON - 10PM</p> <p>IRELAND'S PREMIER FARMING AND CONSTRUCTION SHOW</p>

Q8 for more information contact: 028 8225 2800 www.farmmachineryshow.co.uk

McHale Plant Sales To Represent Komatsu Forest Equipment In Ireland

McHale Plant Sales has further expanded its range of activities through its appointment to represent Komatsu Forest equipment in Ireland, north and south.

The appointment sees McHale assume responsibility for all aspects of Komatsu Forest sales and after-sales.

Owned by Komatsu of Japan and headquartered in Sweden, Komatsu Forest manufactures and markets a complete range of machines and attachments used in the timber harvesting industry, a field in which they pioneered the development of mechanised logging equipment.

In their distinctive red livery, the Komatsu Forest machinery range includes harvesters, used for the felling and preparation of timber for processing, and forwarders, used to transfer the cut timber within the forest for onwards transportation to the sawmill.

Serviced through its two centres in Birdhill, covering the south, mid-west and west, and Rathcoole, covering the east, midlands and N. Ireland, the appointment is one that brings McHale into an expanding and successful industry that has enjoyed significant growth in Ireland over recent decades, whilst



The Komatsu wheeled harvester – one of the high-profile models in the Komatsu Forest machinery range to be marketed in Ireland by McHale Plant Sales.

building also on the company's long-standing relationship with the Japanese manufacturer.

McHale Plant Sales managing director, Michael McHale said: "Our appointment to represent Komatsu Forest in Ireland

is one that presents a host of exciting challenges and opportunities, not least our shared determination to consolidate Komatsu Forest's position as number one choice for forestry machines in Ireland".

Alan Milne Tractors
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Mulchrone Brothers makes impact in groundcare market with Kubota UK

Mulchrone Brothers Ltd is gaining significant traction in the West Ireland groundcare market following the recent extension of its partnership with Kubota UK.

Over the last 40 years, the family dealership has been an established name throughout the mid-western counties of Ireland, renowned for providing first-class machinery and aftersales support to both the domestic and professional markets. Having supplied Kubota's agricultural solutions for 14 years, it was an obvious step for the dealership to start offering groundcare machinery following an increase in customer demand. Speaking of the partnership, Dominic Mulchrone, Co-Owner of Mulchrone Brothers Ltd, said: "Continuously adapting to the ever-changing requirements of our customers, whether they may be local authority or private farmers, is crucial to our success. Having supplied Kubota's wide range of agricultural machinery for many years, we

know first hand the durability, reliability and sustainability that its vehicles offer."

Regional customers can now purchase a range of Kubota's groundcare machinery including the L Series, B Series and STW Series compact tractors, along with the RTV range. Kubota's high-powered GR1600 ride-on mower has already become a best seller for the dealership due to its manoeuvrability and reliability, along with its G2120 counterpart, together with the professional G/F Series range.

Adrian Langmead, Groundcare Business Development Manager for Kubota UK, said: "This announcement is all about strengthening our product and service offering in this key region. Kubota's partnership with Mulchrone Brothers goes back nearly 14 years based on the quality and performance of our machines and the first class service Dominic, Joe and their staff provide. It's an exciting development and one which we are delighted to announce to the market."

Kubota UK Top of the Class

The top educators in the agricultural machinery sector chose Kubota UK to host their annual conference, ensuring they are up to speed with the latest machinery and technology offered by the manufacturer.

The Association of Lecturers In Agriculture Machinery (ALAM), whose members boast academic staff from top colleges across the country, including Harper Adams and Hartpury College, were treated to a host of lectures and workshops covering Kubota's global business heritage, its product offering and plans for the future, whilst also getting hands on experience with Kubota machinery and visiting local dealers from Kubota's network.

Ian Coleman, Chairman of ALAM and lecturer at Hartpury College, said: "The function of ALAM is to keep up-to-date with the latest technologies and to disseminate current practices and focuses to our members, ensuring that what we teach our students across the country reflects the modern industry. Holding our conference at Kubota UK this year has filled us with confidence that we are up to speed with



technological advances, trends for the future and updating our knowledge on Kubota's product portfolio, from horticulture right the way through to agriculture.

"Technical updates are vital for both ALAM and our students, so another advantage of working with Kubota is that we can look outside of the standard agricultural box into other sectors, giving us a rounded view and ensuring that we have our finger on the pulse of the industry as a whole. The three days were hugely beneficial and demonstrated the clear advantages of networking between colleges, colleagues and manufacturers."

Keith Miller, Service and Training Manager at Kubota UK, added:

"For Kubota, the relationship with all the UK agricultural colleges is really important. We understand that communicating the essential principles of machinery and their operation to the colleges makes a real contribution to the future learning of the students and the sector as a whole, injecting a high number of skilled engineers into the industry.

"It's for these reasons that we put so much effort into the ALAM conference, with a rigorous itinerary that included getting hands on experience with a number of machine models, including the new Kubota M7001

series, plus visiting two of our leading dealers, Lister Wilder and George Browns, to give insights from their perspective too. We really wanted Ian and the whole ALAM team to get as much out of the three days as possible and the feedback we've had has been very positive."

Dave Roberts, Kubota UK Managing Director, closed by adding: "It has been a great pleasure welcoming ALAM to Kubota UK for the team's annual conference. There's a real synergy between our organisations, not only in the agricultural machinery we manufacture, but also in the need for all stakeholders in the industry to work together to ensure that we are all aligned in promoting the best practice for agricultural and horticultural engineering. This is essential in keeping the full and sustainable availability of quality engineers to support the market, which is increasingly complex and diverse.

"The visit has given us the opportunity to showcase our latest innovations, not only in the agricultural machinery arena, but in our engine technologies. The visit demonstrated how Kubota, with technology such as autonomous tractors, is pioneering for the future."

John Deere expands Gator range

Offering the company's quietest ever cab, more room for both driver and passengers and an extremely efficient heating system, John Deere's new full-size Gator utility vehicles are designed to maximise year-round productivity and comfort.

Available from UK and Irish dealers in early 2018, the brand new petrol XUV 835M and diesel XUV 865M models are being preceded this autumn by the restyled HPX 815E, XUV 560E and XUV 590M Gators, which feature new model numbers and several specification updates.

The 54hp XUV 835M and 23hp 865M offer power steering, a CVT transmission and a top speed of 37 or 31mph (60 or 50kph) respectively, plus a tight turning circle and optimal weight distribution for superior off-road performance. For extra versatility, these Gators can be fitted with a wide range of over 90 attachments from snow blades to winches, and feature a large 42-litre fuel tank to keep the vehicle running longer between fill-ups.

The spacious, pressurised cab can accommodate three people, for off-road use only. This new cab incorporates noise isolation and sound dampening components, making it the quietest yet available on the Gator range. It also offers year-round



weather protection and the heating system includes a windscreen defrost feature.

Both these new, sleekly styled XUV Gator models feature ample legroom and a tiltable steering wheel to help reduce driver fatigue during long working days. The versatile and durable cargo box has a load capacity of 454kg, while towing capacity has been increased by a third to 907kg and total payload capacity is 680kg.

The diesel powered HPX 815E Gator utility vehicle shares its new styling with the XUV 855M model, which replaces the 855D.

The 815E's updated cargo box also has a load capacity of 454kg and both the sides and the tailgate, which has a pick-up style one-handed latch, can be easily removed to provide a flatbed-style load bay if required. The durable composite construction of this industry leading cargo box makes it dent, rattle and rust-resistant.

Additional changes to this model include a new digital dashboard, powerful LED headlights and a restyled front bumper, to improve handling and operation particularly in challenging terrain.

RECORD BREAKING NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS



The total attendance figure for the 86th National Ploughing Championships at Tullamore in Co Offaly came to a record breaking 291,500 over the three days.

With exhibitors and visitors alike thoroughly enjoying themselves, this marks the most successful National Ploughing Championships to date.

From farming to fashion, artisan foods to top-of-the range machinery the very best of what Ireland has to offer was on display for people of all interests to enjoy.

Speaking at the close of business, NPA Managing Director Anna May McHugh said: "Despite experiencing a wet Wednesday during the three day festival, the overall mood for this year's Ploughing has been incredibly buoyant and positive. With so much for visitors to enjoy from quality livestock and serious machinery to fashion, celebrities and sports stars galore there was something for every member of the family to enjoy."

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar congratulated the NPA on another successful year, and he paid tribute to Ms McHugh, the NPA staff and the several hundred volunteers required to host an event of its scale and scope.

President Michael D. Higgins officially launched the event after he visited the ploughing plots to examine the conditions and meet with the Under 28 conventional competitors and Horse Ploughing competitions. Having witnessed the competitive conditions and chatted with the county representatives, he then attended and visited several exhibitors to experience and witness all that the Championships has to offer.

An extended Trade Arena saw the return of the popular Tented Trade Village with demand necessitating the biggest Arcade ever "the Dome", with up to 116 exhibitors displaying in the one arena plus hundreds more located in additional specialist Pavilions.

Winners All

In the ploughing competition Eamonn Tracey from Carlow won the overall Conventional class, while Wexford man John Whelan won the Reversible Ploughing competition. Both men will again represent Ireland at the World Ploughing contest in Germany next year.

The highly anticipated and prestigious Machine of the Year competition result was also announced with congratulations going to the highest horse-power high cylinder Valtra tractor. The judges Melvin Bailey Brofi International, UCD's Kevin McDonald and Wilfried Wolf from DLG were extremely impressed with the strength of the entries in this inaugural competition.

Jack Nagle, a 16 year old student from Kerry, was the popular winner of the Enterprise Ireland, NPA, FJ Innovation Arena "People's Choice Award" with his Tractor Safe Lock initiative.

Edward Roe from Tipperary beat off some stiff competition to be crowned the winner of the inaugural Macra Safe Driving competition.

The hotly contested National Brown Bread Baking final took place in the Aldi tent in front of an audience of several hundred. The overall winner in first place was Mary Conway from Sligo, who was absolutely delighted with her win.

The ever popular Most Appropriately Dressed Lady & Gentleman Competitions were hotly contested in the dedicated Fashion Show Marquee. Tasha O'Connor from Limerick beat off stiff competition from the ladies to take the top prize and secure an exclusive break in the famous G Hotel & Spa in Galway worth €3,000. The Most Appropriately Dressed Gentleman, sponsored by the Bridge House Hotel, went to Gordon Maxwell from Tyrrellspass Co Meath. He took home a beautifully tailored suit by the award winning tailor and a weekend away in the Bridge House Hotel in Tullamore.

Fact File

- Visitors to the Championships spent just under €36.5 million; this spending resulted in a tax take of over €6.6 million for the National Exchequer
- 80% of attendees at the event were not local
- Gender profile is 37% female, 63% male
- Machinery is the main attraction in the Trade Exhibition
- Personal shopping accounted for over €7 million
- Trade purchases were in excess of €9.6 million
- Food expenditure accounted for €9.5 million



national ploughing championship review



Blue Group Appoint Adrian Murphy as CEO

Blue Group, a supplier of world leading material handling equipment for a wide range of industry sectors, have appointed Adrian Murphy as Group Chief Executive Officer.

Working closely with the four owner Directors, Adrian will initially look to bring increased coordination across the various businesses within the Group as well as develop a strong growth strategy. 2016 was another record year for Blue in terms of sales, with a combined turnover in excess of £100M, putting the business in a strong position for continued expansion.

Adrian has previously worked in a number of senior leadership positions in the capital equipment market, most recently as CEO of Hewden, but also as Chief Operating Officer of Speedy and MD of Hilti for the UK and Ireland. He also has service and manufacturing experience both domestically and internationally.

Having been in the role from September 1st Adrian is quickly learning the ropes,



Adrian Murphy.

commenting, "The first few weeks have been a sharp learning curve, but what has been clear from the beginning is the customer focused ethos of the business. For example, we have recently implemented new service software, which will help make our engineers

and service departments more efficient through improved information transfer. We are also rolling out the SAP business system across the various Group offices, again to ensure more coordination to ultimately help us support our customers better."

Blue Group supply world leading equipment brands such as Powerscreen, Doppstadt and Terex Fuchs across the UK and Ireland. The business has eight strategically located offices throughout the territory, supplying capital equipment as well as spare parts via its dedicated facility in Warrington, Cheshire.

Adrian will assume responsibilities across all offices, strategically developing the company's product portfolio and service package in order to further support Blue's loyal customer base.

Commented Group Chairman and co-owner Pat McGeary: "This is a really exciting time for Blue Group as we look to the next stage in our development. The appointment of Adrian is a signal of our ambition to grow and develop the business to another level and we would like to welcome Adrian to our Board."

Remote pressure testing hits new heights with Stopper Specialists

A unique remote pressure testing system which is user-friendly and instantly advises the customer of test passes or an issue should one arise has been launched by Stopper Specialists.

The introduction of the next-generation Remote Pressure Testing package makes the leading pipe testing and flow control specialists from Groundforce the only Type II test provider to offer an app that delivers results in real time and direct to the operator.

The addition to Stopper Specialists' product portfolio comprises a logger-integrated app and JointManager website to complete and report on the New lay pipelines (PE and PVC) – Type II Test – the Pressure Decay test to check the integrity of newly-laid pipes.

The new Bluetooth logger connects to the pipe to detect the pressure and to the app so the data can be accessed. These have been developed in conjunction with Control Point, specialists in providing real time inspection and monitoring equipment to the industry.

The test process begins with the pipeline being filled with water and the air being removed. The pipe is then taken up to the required test pressure, the test left on for a pre-determined period of time which is based upon the time taken to achieve test pressure and the pressure loss recorded and decay plotted. The data is then filtered through the app's algorithms which indicate whether the pipe has passed or failed. A certificate may be produced.

The app monitors the pipeline pressure and calculates the volume of water required to fill the pipeline, with warnings if theoretical static head or volume is exceeded, as well as air content, and any leaks during decay. There are also options to save the test from the app to the logger for long-term testing. Any smart phone with the app loaded can resume the test.

All the test data is then sent to the JointManager website, where it can be reviewed by an authorised user, ready for export to a third party system. Any borderline status can be updated manually after being reviewed by an engineer.

The benefits of Stopper Specialists' Remote Pressure Testing system are that it produces a simple pass or fail

direct to the operators with no plotting drawing required.

A potential fail can be identified at an early stage, giving the operator the option of restarting the test. Alerts for potential fails include texts or emails to the user and managers, reducing the downtime typically associated with test fails. A reading every 10 seconds automatically irons out abnormal spikes, such as a lorry parking on a pipe.

In addition, multiple users can log into the logger to view the test results. There are also digital records of all passes, fails, pipe material data and personnel who performed the works, to give ownership of the test and traceability of the pipe for the future.

Stopper Specialists' Remote Pressure Testing system features GPS accuracy to five metres and is deliberately low-powered so the battery lasts a long time, with Bluetooth only enabled to send data to a phone.

IPS Ireland expands its team

IPS Ireland, the access platform parts specialists part of Dromad Hire Group, is expanding its team in their Dundalk based office, to further enhance their support network to customers.

Susan Gernon has taken up her new role as 'Sales Support & Office Administrator' within the team this week.

Susan has extensive experience in administration and customer support in Multi-National

Corporations, she brings with her a strong work ethic and immense attention to detail.

She will take charge of running the IPS office along with offering sales support directly to Gary Power - IPS Ireland Sales Manager. According to, Gary Power "Susan has already hit the ground running, her past experience and proactive approach will be a huge asset to the future development of IPS Ireland, we would like to take this opportunity to wish Susan great success in her new role".



IPS Ireland's Susan Gernon - Sales Support & Office Administrator

TRACKER COMES TO THE RESCUE

Did you know 95% of plant and agricultural equipment is stolen every year and never recovered? This wasn't the case for Alistair Dobbin of Carryduff, who had his new New Holland T5.115 worth £40,000 stolen. It was returned within 24 hours.

A TRACKER plant device was installed in his Alistair Dobbin's New Holland tractor earlier this year that allowed the £40,000 asset to be tracked when thieves broke into his yard in Co Down.

He reported the vehicle stolen and the PSNI used their vehicles with TRACKER installed receivers to locate the stolen tractor, identify it and recover the tractor the same morning.

Earlier this year, a new Farm Watch initiative was launched by the Mid and East Antrim's Community Safety Partnership, the PSNI and Ulster Farmers Union, working together to reduce the threat of crime on rural communities and spread safety advice.

PCSP Chair Cllr Brian Collins said, "With almost two thousand farm related businesses across the Borough, we have a significant rural community to protect. This partnership is extremely welcome to help maintain those livelihoods that not only prop up our economy, but make up our fantastic communities here in Mid and East Antrim.

"Farm Watch will see the rural farming community working closely with Council, the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs, the Department of Justice and Police. This collaborative working approach helps us build stronger, safer communities."

With the estimate of stolen plant and machinery equipment calculated at £70 million every year and as stated previously that 95% of equipment is never recovered, it's clear that tracking plant and machinery with the correct tracking product is vital.

A swift recovery is also greatly beneficial as it means the likes of Alistair Dobbin gets back to work faster, minimising disruption and loss of earnings.

Alistair came across TRACKER at the Balmoral Show where he met Pauline Nelmes, who has worked with TRACKER products for over 25 years. There, he was able to see, first hand, how the device works.

Pauline can be contacted on 07775 773806 or email: pauline@dfctracker.co.uk.



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Rural Crime Partnership



ULSTER FARMERS UNION



Hanson Aggregates purchases UK's first two Liebherr L586 XPower wheeled loaders

Hanson Aggregates has purchased the first two Liebherr L586 XPower wheeled loaders in the country and has put them to work on the aggregate production side of its quarry where they are impressing thanks to their fuel efficiency, increased load over height and operator comfort.

Hanson Aggregates is one of the UK's largest producers of construction materials producing aggregates, asphalt, ready mixed concrete and cement from over 300 locations across the UK. The Padeswood cement works in North Wales and many of the concrete batching plants in the area are supplied with material won from the company's Cefn Mawr quarry just outside Mold in Flintshire which has been operational for over 100 years.

The aggregate production side of the quarry, managed by Phil Davies, has recently invested in the first Liebherr L 586 XPower wheeled loaders in the country.

Launched at bauma 2016, the XPower range of loaders employs Liebherr's version of the Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) to provide a fuel efficient and durable driveline alternative to traditional mechanical driveline systems.

The system combines a split driveline that is both mechanical and hydrostatic. The hydrostatic drive is most efficient in short loading cycles whilst the mechanical drive is used for long distance driving or climbing gradients. The transmission automatically manages the interaction between the two drive types and is adjustable and continually mixing the ratio of the two drives without interrupting traction. The hydrostatic portion of the drive is higher when starting the loader and during loading duties. The mechanical element is greater at higher travel speeds.

The combination of CVT transmission and Liebherr Power Efficiency (LPE) software allow for potential fuel savings of 30% over comparative models. The LPE software continuously monitors the engine, transmission and hydraulic system, as well as driver input, to ensure the loader is constantly running at optimal performance.



The XPower range has also benefitted from the introduction of new Tier 4 Final emissions compliant engines with the L 586 being fitted with a six-cylinder Liebherr engine, which delivers 354 HP at a maximum of 1800 RPM with maximum torque coming at a mere 1300 RPM.

Unlike many designs of wheeled loaders, the Liebherr range does away with a large counterweight instead relying on the positioning of the engine to balance the machine. This has allowed Liebherr engineers to streamline the rear canopy and allows for simple and easy access to all major components. The large and hydraulically opening bonnet also doubles up as a sturdy working platform when accessing the engine compartment. The repositioning of the engine and lack of a large transmission has allowed the cooling pack to be moved to a location in front of the engine and away from potential sources of contamination.

Access to the redesigned Liebherr cab is via an angled ladder underneath the nearside of the cab. Situated adjacent to the auto greasing system and the screenwash reservoir, the steps provide safe and easy access. The cab's redesigned structure gives far greater forward vision thanks to the new windscreen which incorporates fully glazed lower corners.

The adjustable steering column allows the operator to position the wheel to their exact liking and this, coupled with the fully adjustable seat and joystick

pod, can accommodate whatever configuration suits the individual driver.

Whilst the Hanson machines are equipped with a steering wheel, Liebherr also offers a proportional joystick steering option. Liebherr's full colour touch screen has been fitted to a sliding rail that allows the operator to position the unit wherever they want on the cab pillar. The screen shows all machine functions, gives an intuitive route for the operator to tailor the machine's operation and relays the image from the bonnet-mounted rear-view camera. The radio and all other switch gear is mounted neatly in small panels above the front windscreen. Storage space is ample with cup holders, oddment bins and a space behind the seat to store larger items. For those wanting an open window when operating, both the door and offside window have sliding sections fitted.

Regular operator of one of the L 586 XPower loaders, Richie Shawcross, commented: "It is a lovely machine to drive and much more comfortable than any other machine I've driven. The controls are smooth and there is plenty of power at all times. The touch screen allows me to do my daily fluid checks without having to lift the bonnet."

The Liebherr joystick, which is built into the operator's seat, allows all working and manoeuvring operations to be performed with a high degree of precision and sensitivity. The new electro-hydraulic system allows the operator to programme the lift arm and bucket positions from the cab. The tipping speed for crowding and dumping the bucket can be regulated individually and quickly via the touch screen display.

The two wheeled loaders have been specified with longer loader arms and give approximately 450 mm more reach and lift height over the standard versions. The higher lift arrangement has been chosen as the machines will occasionally need to load one of the site's fleet of 65 tonne capacity dump trucks. "Our previous machines struggled to do this," explains Phil Davies, "But the new Liebherr's have plenty of clearance over the skip."



LEEDS UK

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29th, 30th November & 1st December 2017 @ 8:00am



2013 Doosan DX225LC



2008 CAT 320DL



2014 JCB JS130LC



2010 Takeuchi TB175W



2013 Hyundai Robex 80CR-9



2008 Volvo ECR88



2015 Hitachi ZX29U-3 CLR



2015 Case 2050M c/w Ripper



2008 CAT 140M - choice



05-07 Volvo A30D - choice



2007 CAT 966H



2016 JCB 3CX P21 ECO



13-15 CAT TH417C - choice



13-14 JCB 535-140 HI VIZ
- choice



2010 Manitou MT1440



07-08 Bobcat S220 - choice



2015 Bomag BW213DH-4I



2013 Ausa D1000APG Swivel
Skip



2007 Genie Z80/60 - choice



2009 Volvo Titan 6870

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UK Government to end MOT exemption for HGV-mounted MEWPs

The UK Government has announced the end of the current exemption for HGV-mounted Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) from annual MOT inspections, following a wide-ranging industry consultation.

The announcement, made by Jesse Norman MP, minister for Roads, Local Transport and Devolution, warns that the current exemption for specialist vehicles mounted on a HGV chassis will be removed from May next year.

MEWPs mounted on a Heavy Goods Vehicle based chassis with a Gross Vehicle Weight up to 44 tonnes will be required to undertake road worthiness inspections at an approved MOT inspection site. This will also affect the requirement for these vehicles to be submitted to Whole Vehicle Type Approval before being registered for the first time.

The Goods Vehicles (Plating and Testing) Regulations 1988 will be amended and will come into force from the 20th May 2018. Larger MEWPs which come under STGO rules will continue to be exempt for practical reasons. Further information will follow from the DVSA on the planned approach and timing for bringing these vehicles into testing.

The International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) was one of the key respondents

to the initial consultation, and has also worked in close conjunction with machinery operators, rental companies and other industry bodies including the Construction Plant-Hire Association (CPA) to formulate its response and to vocalise issues and potential problems concerning the proposal to remove the exemption and its implementation.

During the consultation operators and owners of lorry-mounted MEWPs pointed out that current technical guidance requires a strict inspection, maintenance and thorough examination regime that means HGV-mounted access equipment is constantly being assessed and therefore already subject to more stringent testing in terms of safety and roadworthiness than the current HGV MOT regime requires.

There were also concerns raised surrounding the practicality of testing machines annually during a set month in line with MOT expiry and renewal dates, when in many cases the vehicles will be on-hire and away from home depots, in some cases for months at a time. Moving vehicles off-site to fulfil an annual MOT inspection will be a cause for major expense and inconvenience, and may force often very large vehicles to travel on the highway to a test centre before returning on site to continue with contracted work.

There were concerns that many testing centres will not be able to handle the very largest and heaviest vehicles, some of which are mounted with MEWP equipment that can extend to 90 metres in height; some operators queried whether it may therefore be possible to build in an MOT-compliant roadworthiness certification into their existing regular inspection, maintenance and thorough examination regimes.

Rupert Douglas-Jones, Technical & Safety Officer at IPAF, comments: "We are continuing to work with the Department for Transport to fully interpret the proposed lifting of the MOT exemption for HGV-mounted MEWPs and to minimise the impact for owners and operators of this specialised equipment. As soon as further information is available from the DVSA on the planned approach and timing for bringing these vehicles into testing; we will let all UK members know.

"The exemption has not been lifted for all categories of HGV-based specialist equipment. There may still be some flexibility in the way these changes are applied and phased in to minimise disruption to normal business operations; we will continue to convey the concerns and suggested solutions IPAF members express when it comes to complying with the revised legislation."

Successful Trials Confirm Mobile Solar Lights Carbon Potential

A smart technology development that has assured the year-round reliability of mobile solar-powered lighting for infrastructure and building contractors could significantly reduce UK construction industry greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.

Trials of a clean, silent, solar lighting technology conducted with Tier 1 contractors since early 2017 have successfully demonstrated its carbon and air quality benefits as an alternative to temporary diesel lighting towers.

Managing Director Chris Williams says: "Diesel tower lights are ubiquitous on infrastructure projects and construction sites. We estimate there could be 12,000 in use annually in the UK. However, not only do diesel generators have a carbon and air quality impact, they are costly to fuel and need regular manpower for refuelling and servicing.

"We believe the technology could also have national significance. If 20% of the estimated fleet of 12,000 diesel lights used in the UK were replaced by solar lighting, an annual saving of 15,000 tonnes of CO₂ could be achieved or, if all the diesel lights in the UK were replaced, around 75,000 tonnes of CO₂ could be saved."

The smart technology has won a 2017 Green Apple Award for Environmental Best Practice. The technology has been pioneered by a Somerset-based manufacturing company to deliver year-round solar lighting and optimise winter performance, even through short days and long 12 hour nights.

Prolectric was the first company to introduce permanent solar-street lights to the UK market in 2011 and now, with more than 3,000 units installed nationally, it is the market leader. In 2016 Prolectric directors Chris Williams and Tim Brooks decided to apply their expert knowledge to developing a zero-carbon,

low-cost temporary solar light as an alternative to diesel.

"Solar lighting is completely silent, clean and can be left to run for months without the need for any human intervention on-site. We applied our experience in solar street lighting, to develop a trailer light with a 1,320W capacity – three times that of any other solar light previously available. We incorporated intelligent technology so the unit's on and off times could be controlled automatically off-site, as well as providing data on charging, power usage and carbon savings.

"We spent more than 12 months developing and testing a light that can operate reliably all year round, even in challenging winter conditions – something we believe no other manufacturer has achieved."

In early February 2017 the first deployments began of the ProLight lighting tower for Costain Skanska JV on the A14 and Hinkley Point, M1 Smart Motorway and for Scottish



Southern Electric. To date there are 26 units on site with Tier 1 contractors who have welcomed the cost and manpower savings of the technology.

More opportunities to buy and sell plant machinery at Ritchie Bros.

Heavy machinery auctioneer Ritchie Bros. will be holding its next live unreserved auction in the UK on December 14th, with a broad range of plant machinery and trucks going to the highest bidders.

For equipment buyers, these auctions are an interesting place to find what's needed and get good deals. There is a lot of choice, items can be expected up front on the viewing days and everything is guaranteed to sell on the day.

For heavy equipment owners that need to sell there are compelling reasons to work with Ritchie Bros. The company is picking up the pace, offering a higher frequency of disposition opportunities to its UK customers.

Not only with regular live unreserved auctions at the company's Donington Park site, but also through monthly online-only auctions and an online marketplace on IronPlanet, a recently added buying and selling solution from Ritchie Bros.

Through its range of disposition channels Ritchie Bros. can connect supply with global demand and help businesses transcend



local market conditions. Especially in current times with the GBP exchange rate it makes a difference to have bidders from North America, Europe and other regions join the bidding. At an average Donington Park auction, bidders from around fifty countries join in person and over the internet.

Construction businesses, rental companies, dealers and others are now adding items

to the Donington Park auction inventory, which is steadily building up until auction day. On the day, everything is guaranteed to sell without reserve prices.

For more information about Ritchie Bros. upcoming auctions and other selling and buying channels, visit rbauction.co.uk or phone the UK office at (+44) 01332.819700.

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Increased Performance And Comfort For 403 Compact Loader

JCB is introducing a compact wheeled loader that combines outstanding powertrain components with a new cab design, control features and layout. The JCB 403 is a 2.5-tonne articulated chassis wheeled loader, capable of working efficiently in confined locations.

With parallel lift, hydraulic attachment pin operation and joystick hydraulics and transmission control all as standard, the new 403 is a very well-equipped compact loader. It is powered by a fuel-efficient Kubota diesel engine, delivering 26kW (36hp) and 92Nm torque. The hydrostatic transmission offers two speed ranges to suit different applications and situations.

High torque and fine speed control are the main characteristics of the 'low' transmission range, essential for digging into materials and for precision control and placement



of loads. Maximum acceleration to a top speed of 20kph – or 30kph as an option – is provided by the 'high' range, for moving around site and travelling to the working area.

An inching control, operated by the brake pedal, enables the operator to draw on the loader's hydraulic power to breakout and lift materials without causing unnecessary

wear to the braking system and transmission. On the move, power and torque are channelled through robust ZF axles with open differentials, or optional manually-operated differential locks front and rear for machines frequently used in difficult ground conditions.

Customers have a choice of loader arms – the standard design provides a good all round combination of breakout force, lift capacity and a load-over height of 2.6m, while the extended arm option provides 2.8m of lift height, for stacking and loading into high-sided bins or trailers. Both provide true parallel lift, ideal for handling with pallet forks and to minimise spillage of loose materials from a bucket. A range of quick hitches are available with hydraulic pin locking for attachment change-over from the driving seat, while a two-stage electronic isolation system prevents inadvertent release of attachments.

JCB Innovation Sees Launch of JCB Teleskid World First

JCB has launched the world's first skid steer and compact track loader with a telescopic boom.

The JCB Teleskid is a revolutionary new product that can reach 60% further forward than any other skid steer on the market and - in an industry first - it is the only skid steer in the world that can dig below

its chassis to an unparalleled depth of around one metre. In addition, this innovative new machine can reach 8% higher than any other skid steer.

The JCB Teleskid has an unrivalled forward reach of 2.4 metres. It can do the work of four machines - a telescopic handler, masted forklift, compact loader and a skid steer, all in

one easily-serviced machine.

The telescopic boom will allow operators to load trucks without a ramp, reach over kerbing and dig below ground, all with clear visibility of the attachment.

The JCB Teleskid will be on the only skid steer on the market which is able to combine vertical and radial lift capability. A unique bucket-positioning

levelling system allows the bucket level to be set and maintained throughout the boom's range of movement.

The JCB Teleskid will feature a fully enclosed cab that is 33 per cent larger than industry average, and JCB's myCHOICE software, allowing control responsiveness and joystick sensitivity to be tailored to suit operator preferences. A 74hp/55kW JCB Ecomax engine will provide high torque at a low RPM and ensure compliance with Tier 4 Final / Stage IIIB emissions standards.

Kubota sizes up with new wheel loader

Kubota UK has strengthened and expanded its market leading range of compact construction equipment with the launch of its new R082 wheel loader.

Specifically designed with the optimum balance of size, power and comfort, Kubota's R082 delivers maximum levels of productivity and efficiency, allowing operators to tackle a wide range of loading, lifting and moving tasks with ease.

Powered by a robust 47.3 PS Kubota diesel engine, world renowned for its reliability and low fuel consumption, the rugged and durable R082 is one of the most cost-effective in the Kubota range, enabling users to get more done in less time.

Adrian Mann, Kubota UK's product manager for its Construction Equipment Division, said: "The launch of the new R082 further strengthens our range of high quality construction machines. It's a powerful machine that features excellent breakout force and superior maneuverability and

stability to deliver outstanding performance and productivity."

The R082 has a long dumping reach and high dumping clearance to make all types of loading jobs fast and efficient whether using a bucket or pallet forks. A key feature of the loader's functionality is its arm's tilt/parallel movement, keeping loads upright when raising or lifting the arm, as well as its differential lock system, which gives the operator the ability to engage both the front and rear wheels for slip free traction. Performance is enhanced further with a simple AUX hold switch, which sets and maintains the hydraulic oil flow for implements.

In addition to the performance of the machine, the R082 has also been designed with complete user comfort in mind. The loader's operator station offers all the functions and amenities users need to keep



working in comfort all day long. Its intuitive digital display panel, adjustable suspension seat, multi-function operating lever, tilt steering, and adjustable right wrist rest provide the ideal cabin environment for users to work long hours with minimal effort.

With a high visibility cabin, the machine provides improved views from all directions. The rear of the cabin features rounded glass corners that, when combined with its sloped bonnet, provide excellent visibility when reversing. Up front, a wide view and redesigned Z-bar linkage configuration allows for unobstructed views of the pallet fork tips.



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Institute of Quarrying celebrate at Stone Crushers Ball 2017

The Northern Ireland branch of the Institute of Quarrying's annual Stone Crushers Ball took place recently at Belfast's Europa Hotel.



John & Sinead Francis, Joan & Brendan Morris (President of the IMQS)



Roy & Janice Wallace, Stephen & Janet Robinson



Sam Eccles



David Johnston, Brendan Morris, Sam Eccles & Andrew Gillen



Clive Grudgings, Sam Eccles, Paul & Tracie Adamson



Gene Fitzpatrick, Jill & Clive Grudgings, Sam Eccles



Gene Fitzpatrick



Stephen Robinson, Sam Eccles & Gordon Best



Andrew Gillen & David Johnston



Andrew Gillen (Chairman of the Scottish IOQ), & James Thorne



Gene Fitzpatrick & Sam Eccles



Doreen & Dennis McKenna



Eileen Johnston & Kate Gillon



Beverley & Colin Emerson

Sisk celebrates centenary of Mayo church construction

John Sisk and Son Ltd ("Sisk"), with extensive operations across Ireland, the UK and mainland Europe, recently celebrated 100 years since the building of St. Patrick's Church at Newport in Co. Mayo.

The occasion was marked with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Tod Nolan PP at St. Patrick's Church, followed by a reception at the Castlecourt Hotel in Westport.

Speaking at a reception in the Castlecourt Hotel in Westport, Hal Sisk, whose grandfather John V Sisk built St Patrick's, said: "When Sisk built this magnificent church overlooking Newport 100 years ago, Ireland was a very different place. Nowadays the major contracts are motorways, bank buildings, massive pharmaceutical plants, and cloud data centres. So, it is great to celebrate Sisk's presence in the West and the enduring craftsmanship displayed in such churches, and none more so than St Patrick's of Newport."

Stephen Bowcott, CEO of John Sisk & Son, added: "Today is also about celebrating our more recent activity in the West of Ireland, including achievements going back 30 years such as the original Allergan Factory in Westport, the Coca Cola plant in Ballina, and other big names like Hollister, Baxter, as well as the hospital in Ballina, the Ice House hotel and many more. Today we are currently working on the fit out of new Allergan facilities and recently completed work in Eyre Square in Galway. The West of Ireland has always been an important region for our business and will continue to be so in the future."

"I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Sisk staff over the past one-hundred years in delivering projects across Ireland, especially in the West of Ireland. John Sisk & Son is indebted to their decades of service which has contributed to the success the business has achieved over many years."



Pictured from L-R, are Owen Sisk, Stephen Bowcott, Thomas O'Connell, Hal Sisk and JP Sisk.

Construction Information Services Celebrates 45 Years in Business

This year represents a milestone for Construction Information Services (CIS) as it celebrates 45 years since the 1st issue of the CIS Report was produced. Since then it has become the cornerstone of the Construction and Related Industries, providing comprehensive, reliable, timely and verified business opportunities and intelligence.

The first edition of the CIS Report was published on the 19th May 1972, a date lodged in the memory of the company's founder Paddy Hayes. He saw a business opportunity in creating a report of pipelined construction projects, by obtaining key

information from Planning Office files and produced a hardcopy Report to sell to top construction companies at the time at just £19 for a 3-month subscription. The first customer of the CIS Report was John Paul Construction Limited, based in Windy Arbour, Dublin, who remains a valued customer to this day.

CIS has well outperformed the average business life expectancy for an SME. It has witnessed much change over this period in both the industry and business environments. The major reason for CIS's continued success is its ability to adapt to change, to innovate and take advantage of the many opportunities it encountered on its journey thus far.

Today, through continuous investment in their Online Service providing Real-Time advance information on activity in the Construction Industry on an All-Ireland basis, they are also developing new channels and links for distributing their factual and verified information. CIS recently launched a number of exciting new developments including 'Mapping', which plots the GPS co-ordinates of each project and 'Company Connections', which allows customers to identify who their competitors and potential customers are working with.

Last year they opened an office in Banbridge and are now the only company to have researchers on the ground in Northern Ireland.

As part of their ongoing strategy they have a new service called CIS Insights, which currently provides bespoke research for various companies, government departments and organisations including the Construction Industry Federation on construction activity analysis and project monitoring.

In 2012, CIS acquired its main competitor in Northern Ireland and in 2015 opened its Northern Ireland office. The company's head office is in Beacon Court, Sandyford. It now has customers from over 100 business categories including Professionals, Contractors, Sub-contractors, Financial Services and Suppliers of goods and services. CIS now employs over 20 people and is commonly referred to as the 'The Bible of the Industry'.



The new SR-95 is Lagan Plant Director, George Taggart and FK Lowry Piling Director, Niall McGill.

Lagan Plant invests in 2nd SR 95 Piling Rig in 6 months

Lagan Construction Group's Plant division, Lagan Plant, have acquired a second state-of-the-art Soilmec SR 95 dual purpose Rotary Bored Piling Rig this year.

The £1.2 million rig will be operated by the group's piling division, FK Lowry Piling. This brings the total plant investment by the group to almost £6 million this year.

The new 100 tonne Rig was immediately deployed to the A6 Randalstown to Toome Dualling Scheme in Co. Antrim.

Niall McGill, FK Lowry Piling Director, commented: "The new plant investment continues FK Lowry Piling's strategy of having the most modern fleet of dual purpose piling rigs in the UK."

George Taggart, Lagan Plant Director, added: "Lagan Plant are delighted to acquire this new rig to the existing fleet and to enable FK Lowry Piling to expand their works in the UK & Ireland market".

The Practicalities of Upskilling

With the industry skills gap still widening many companies are looking to find a suitable and sustainable solution to the skills shortfall, says Philip Burgess of the Construction Equipment Association's Skills Advisory Panel.

As we know, the extent of the skills gap is such that only a small fraction of the number of new engineers and technicians needed each year across UK industry can be expected to be met by new graduates and through apprenticeships. More shorter-term measures are needed and the upskilling of existing employees is increasingly being regarded as the having the greatest potential to achieve this.

But how can we further enable and encourage people to retrain and upskill through their working lives when practical tools and case study examples showing solutions for effective upskilling are few and far between and hard to find?

The onus should be on each industry sector to define upskilling as an issue for itself and to seek to address it in practical terms; and the CEA Skills Advisory Panel is about to take on this challenge for the construction equipment industry. We aim to better understand the working relationships between employers, their employees, further education training providers, universities and

communities at the local level which upskilling and lifelong learning demand. From this the intention is to provide succinct advice on upskilling measures drawn from our members' experiences of what has worked well and what has not.

Upskilling an employer's workforce is a long-term investment that improves business in a number of ways. The most notable benefits are boosted morale, higher valued work and a more adept and versatile workforce; all leading, in theory, to greater productivity, competitiveness and profitability. Although training can be costly, it doesn't have to be the financial drain that many employers fear it to be.

As a precursor to the provision of guidance specific to our sector, here are some practical, generic and cost-effective training methods for employers to bear in mind.

Online courses

Some online training courses are free, while others may cost money but require no additional expenses. The only requirement to embark on an online course is an internet connection, which is paltry compared to the costs incurred from travel and accommodation for face-to-face courses, but employees still gain essential knowledge and training. Some virtual lectures and

seminars offer almost the same experience as live attendance.

Mentoring

This method of upskilling is completely free. Taking on a junior employee as a mentee is a big commitment, but it can be best way to teach someone. Your experience is one of your most valuable assets, so joining a mentoring programme, or just committing some spare time towards enriching a junior employee's skillset can be highly effective. Decision-making, problem solving, critical thinking and other essential skills can be learnt and honed through mentoring.

Government and privately funded

For employees who want to engage in more costly training, it can be subsidized with government funding. The Education and Skills Funding Agency supplies business with funds to upskill their employees in a variety of ways. If an employee wants to embark on a more intensive form of training such as a degree or an apprenticeship, there are bursaries and grants available that can be attained with your guidance and support.

Encourage education

Training doesn't always have to follow a formal process. To be the best in any field, learning should never stagnate. Fostering an environment of education can help employees



Philip Burgess

take education into their own hands both outside and inside of the workplace. Continual learning is the only way to stay current and relevant, so positive reinforcement can help with this.

In addition to providing upskilling opportunities as referenced above, employers can hold meetings and seminars promoting self-education. Incentives for learning targets can also encourage self-studying.

It is often said that training differentiates a successful company from a floundering one and that keeping employees trained in current practices is essential to business success. If budgets are making this difficult, then there are always options that are more affordable.

Motivating employees to keep up their self-learning is important both for the technical and practical skills gained by it and for the increased productivity and morale that should follow.

Topcon Launches Three New Technology Updates For The Built Environment

Following an official launch at Intergeo 2017 in September, Topcon GB & Ireland has announced three new software system updates designed to simplify and streamline monitoring, road and mass data applications.

This includes the unveiling of a new web-based service, MAGNET Collage Web. Offering a sleek platform that is accessible through a web browser, the service integrates with the existing MAGNET Collage Office software to give professionals an easy and quick way of sharing their mass data maps in a 3D web-based environment.

MAGNET Collage Web also features fast loading point cloud visualisation as well as unique rendering capabilities so that users can view precision data on demand.

Topcon also announced an upgrade to its cutting-edge data collection software, RD-M1 Collect 2.0, for the SmoothRide road resurfacing workflow system.

The updates include a new-look interface for more straight forward use as well as a status bar that indicates the recommended speed for collecting road information based on the specific project in hand. In addition, users will now be able to add messages onto their data maps by using the software's new memo feature, as well as import predetermined routes for more thorough surveying.

Rounding up Topcon's product announcements is the update to the Delta Deformation Monitoring System. Launched at Intergeo's 2016 show, the Delta Deformation Monitoring System

combines powerful hardware and intuitive software under one complete workflow.

This latest update brings new configuration options to the system's Delta Watch monitoring software, meaning that users can now collect data from levelling sensors as well as GNSS and robotic total stations and process this under one network. The system also now includes a new optional rail monitoring module to visually show rail height measurements as well as track alignment and displacement.

As part of its launch, Topcon is currently providing free access to its MAGNET Collage Web service and inviting users to try their hand at flying a 3D point cloud model directly from their desktop browser.

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Takeuchi TB235 delivered to J Hanna in Kilkeel Co Down by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



2 no ammman 5920 Compaction plates for CP HIRE from Crumlin Plant Sales.



The Gibson Paving Team with their new Manitou MI30D.



BJT Plant Hire, Irvinestown, new bi-energy Niftylift HR12 4 x 4 boom lift supplied by Glendun Plant.



Another New Yanmar SV18 For NMG Utilities from Crumlin Plant Sales.



A new Truxta B450-G for Kenber Developments from Ballyward Plant Services.



Hire Depot collecting two Genie Z45 boom lifts from Sleator Plant.



New rubblemaster Rm 70 that you visited in Nuneaton sold to lite cast concrete products by RK6 plant.



New messursi TCH07 Supplied to Bann Hire From Crumlin Plant sales.



James and Desmond Brown from Cloughy Co Down receiving the keys of a new Dieci Agri Plus 40.7 PS from Matt Hogg of Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



CP mv84 sold by SME Plant Sales.

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A new Giant SK251D for R Anderson from Ballyward Plant Services.



New Xcentric XR20 sold to Tullyskerry Plant by WAG McCandless onsite at New Ross bypass.



Nigel Smyth with a new Hyundai R35-9 delivered to McAlister Builders - with logo .



BJ Toal from JB Hire in Dungannon with their new Manitou 160 ATJ.



A New Hurlimann BX 100 Max and a second hand Ford 7610 leaving our yard.



A new Truxta B450-G for M Conin from Ballyward Plant Services.



Kubota KX71-3 sold by FJS Plant.



A Takeuchi TB210 delivered to G Sutton in Mulhuddart Dublin by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



Two Takeuchi TB290 being delivered to Clonmel Ent Naas Co Kildare by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



Fifteen Genie machines sold to Simon at Height Access by Sleator Plant.



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3 x Takeuchi TB230 ready to be delivered to Kellys Bros Point Hire) in Warrenpoint by Alan Milne Tractors Newry copy.



New Kubota M7151 and New Kubota KX057-4 Sold to Armco Civils UK Ltd by D.A Forgie.



Graham Construction - 2 Wacker Neuson RT remote control compactor rollers supplied by Glendun Plant.



Colin Millar of Bellair homes with his new Manitou MT1840 - with logo.



Takeuchi TB240 and TB250 delivered to McKearnan Construction in Cookstown by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



Another Genie Z45 boom lift for Boles Hire.



2 Kubota U48 diggers sold to GCU UK Ltd Derry by D.A Forgie.



Michael O'Brien & Steven Mackey of DSB Contracts - with logo.



Kubota KXU27-4 SOLD To AMG Contracts Swatragh by D.A Forgie.



New Yanmar VIO25 Heading to Dromad hire Dundalk Supplies by Crumlin Plant sales.



A new Giant V4502T xtra for Down Hire centre from Ballyward plant services.

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New Atlas Copco SB152 recently delivered to Campbell Contracts by WAC McCandless.



A new Giant V6004 tele for H&R Cunningham from Ballyward Plant Services.



HAMMER hs700 Sold to david Wright cork by SME Plant Sales.



Genie's Ireland revolution continues with two Genie GTH 3007 telehandlers loaded and ready for delivery straight to site for new owner.



JB Plant Hire, another new bi-energy Niftylift 120TPE trailer boom handed over to BJ Toal from Glendun Plant.



Kubota KX027-4 sold to CP Hire by D.A Forgie.



Dieci Agri Pivot T70 getting tready to be delivered to Ballinroe Transport in Co Tipperary from Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



Rotair MDVN26K compressor heading for KC hire from Crumlin plant sales.



922e Liugong sold to Austin Machale, Machale plant hire by FJS Plant.



CP Hire - Andrew Hutchinson taking delivery of 2 of 4 Wacker Neuson DW90 9 ton cab dumpers from Glendun Plant.



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LiuGong 939 sold to BLR by FJS Plant.



Second pic is hammer sb150 Sold to halquar by SME Plant Sales.



Takeuchi TB230 delivered to D Nichola in Moneymore Co. Londonderry by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



New Atlas Copco SB152 recently delivered to Paul Kirkpatrick by WAC McCandless.



AG Wilson - Derek Wilson and Richard Chambers with their new TRIME X-ECO led lighting towers from Glendun Plant.



Kellys Point Hire - Ronan, Leonard and Gary Kelly taking delivery of several Wacker Neuson cab dumpers from Glendun Plant.



new KX027 kubota diggers sold to CP hire by D.A Forgie.



A new Giant D337THD for Lowry Construction from Ballyward Plant Services.



New Generac lighting towers for Graham Construction sold by Sleator Plant.



Mr Tony Keane (left) of Ballinroe Transport Tipperary receiving a new Dieci Pivot T70 from Matt Hogg of Alan Milne Tractors Newry.

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Eugene with Pat Rogers the driver of Eastwoods latest HX220L.



Takeuchi TB216 delivered to E. Hopkins in Naas by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



Another New Yanmar SV18 For Cullmac contracts from Crumlin Plant Sales.



A new Giant V4502T for R McCann from Ballyward Plant Services.



Marley Hire - Tony Marley talking delivery of another new Skyjack scissor from Dermot & Lewis from Glendun Plant.



Annett Landscapes' new Terex TA3sh dumper.

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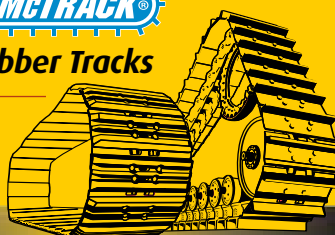
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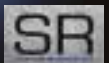
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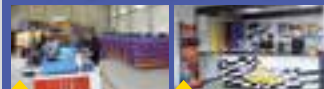
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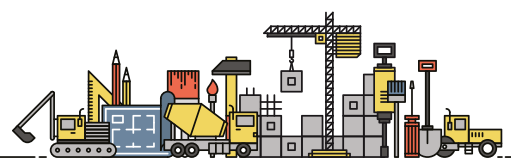
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