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Where did the summer go? Did it ever arrive? The weather has been a bit like our local politics – lots of dark clouds with just a glimmer of hope that gets quickly dashed.

While there are some silver linings across our industry sectors, almost eight months on since the collapse of the Stormont Executive, there is an underlying concern that if political progress isn't made soon, and especially with Brexit looming large on the horizon, there may be consequences, and not of the good kind.

On another front, although the recent CPA State of Trade Survey for 2017 Q2 revealed construction product manufacturers experienced growth in sales and activity for the 17th consecutive quarter, higher input costs and rising uncertainty has dampened manufacturers' views for the near-term future. While the survey showed that among heavy side manufacturers, 7% anticipated a rise in sales in the next quarter, that is quite a decline from the 68% who anticipated a rise when asked in 2017 Q1.

However, as we said, there are some silver linings, not least in the rental sector, with confidence within the equipment supply chain remaining positive, according to some recent reports; the rental sector is estimated to account for over 60% of supply to the UK market, and here in the north and south of Ireland it is also a steady if not growing sector.

To other matters now, and in this, yet another bumper issue, we turn the focus on the Attachments market; it's buoyant and it's busy, and there are lots of new products and innovations to report on. Working from Height is another area we cover extensively this month, and we also carry a preview of the forthcoming National Ploughing Championships in Co Offaly where more records are expected to be broken.

We can't sign off without mentioning our recent Masters Golf Day at the Lough Erne Resort. By all accounts everyone who participated both on the course and off had a great day out, as our comprehensive pictorial coverage of the event demonstrates -and we plan to do it all again next year.

Before then, of course, we have our annual Plant & Civil Engineer 'Plant, Construction & Quarry' awards to look forward to. Entries have been rolling in over the last few months, but with the deadline looming you need to put pen to paper pretty soon if you want to be a part of what promises to be a great evening; you'll find all you need to know elsewhere in this issue.

Well, that's all for now. In the meantime, you can keep up to date by logging on to our website at www.plantandcivilengineer.com.

Justin Carrigan
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Generac Announces BFM as Exclusive Dealer

Breen Farm Machinery (BFM) in Southern Ireland has been named as an exclusive dealer for Generac Mobile Products in 2017.

As a principle dealer for the Generac | Tower Light brand, BFM will expand its range of lighting towers and introduce the new V20 mobile lighting tower to the agriculture, plant hire and construction markets.

The new Generac V20 tower light was launched earlier this year, to celebrate the company's long-standing reputation as the leading lighting tower manufacturer since 1997.

Designed by engineers for engineers, this latest mobile lighting tower from Generac UK offers contemporary design with powerful performance and practicality.

The iconic gull-winged doors, not only give this lighting tower a modern look but are practical, giving solidity and complete 360 access to the engine for easy maintenance, whilst the back door provides access to the control panel, located away from high voltage components.

The quietest lighting tower on the market, with just 58 db(A) at

7-metres noise level, the Generac V20 can offer up to 180 hours of operation by harnessing fuel efficiency from the Kubota Z482 engine and instant 4 x 300W Generac branded LED lamp heads.

The GTL-01 control panel which has been exclusively designed by Generac, and includes proprietary software, allows operators to work the lighting tower and lamp heads from a single smart switch and download performance information in multiple languages.

Andy Thompson, Sales Manager for UK and Ireland, said: "We are delighted to work with a well-established and progressive family business which has such a loyal and strong customer base.

"Ireland is a key territory for us and this move allows us to enhance and grow our profile whilst also supporting our existing customer base with local service and availability from a company they know and trust."

BFM was set-up in 1977 exporting and importing leading brands to the agriculture sector. The company

since then has undergone significant expansion and attracted loyal customers from the agri sector but also in plant hire and construction, operating out of two depots in Ennis and Cashel, County Tipperary.

Conor Breen, Sales Manager, said: "We wanted to expand our portfolio of brands and products so we can continue to grow our business and offer our customers the latest products. The V20 was the ideal fit due to its fuel economy, high performance LED lights and compact size."

The V20 is the latest addition to the growing Generac Mobile Products portfolio which already includes the LED CUBE+ and a range of Hybrid models. The company based in Milton Keynes offers a complete power portfolio for a range of sectors including hire, construction, rail and events.



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Group Sustainability Manager Appointed at Ecocem Materials

Susan McGarry has been appointed Group Sustainability Manager for Europe's fastest growing cement manufacturer Ecocem Materials.

A civil engineer, Susan has spearheaded the sustainable operations of the Ecocem Group having implemented quality, environmental and health and safety standards across the group facilities around Europe. Susan previously held the positions of Environment Manager and Technical Development Manager with the firm.

Completing her Masters in Engineering Management in UCD, a LEED green assessor and Concrete Technologist Susan will produce the group's first sustainability report in 2017. The Irish cement company has been transformed into



Susan McGarry

a sustainable manufacturing organisation due to Susan's commitments to the environment and passion for global sustainably in manufacturing.

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Groundforce's Super Mega Brace helps with marine conservation

Groundforce has supplied its new Super Mega Brace hydraulic frame system to Sorensen Civil Engineering, who along with their Joint Venture Partner EPS are undertaking a DBO (Design, Build, and Operate) project for Irish Water, in partnership with Cork County Council in Youghal.

With a population of around 7,000 the town of Youghal is currently served by a number of untreated foul sewer outfalls to the Blackwater estuary. This project which is part of the wider Youghal Main Drainage Scheme, aims to augment and upgrade the wastewater management system in the town and provide a new wastewater treatment plant that will treat all of the towns foul flows and discharge the treated effluent to sea through a new marine outfall pipe.

Sorensen, along with specialist M&E partner EPS, was awarded the €12 million DBO contract in 2015. The construction element is two years and the operation contract runs for a further 20. The project is on course to achieve its completion date of January 2018.

A major element of the project is the design and construction of an upgrade to an existing underground reinforced concrete pumping station and associated building at Dunn's Park. This pumping station is located in a residential area to the northern end of the town and it will function as the only feeder pumping station to the new 16,000PE wastewater treatment plant.

The upgrade works involve the construction of a large underground in-situ reinforced concrete tank next to the existing pumping station, as well as an extension to the existing pumping station building that will largely sit on top of the new 16m x 16m x 6.5m deep tank. There are existing large diameter incoming and outgoing pipes that require diverting as part of the works.

The pumping station site is low-lying and susceptible to flooding, with challenging ground conditions comprising slightly sandy gravely silt and the ground water table at 1m below ground level.



Sorensen approached Groundforce to explore options for temporary support of the cofferdam as given the depth of the excavation, silty ground conditions and high water table, a cantilever sheet pile solution was not feasible.

Groundforce proposed two options of temporary support – 1) a heavy-duty mega brace hydraulic frame with 150-tonne MP150 hydraulic prop knee braces and 2) the super mega brace hydraulic frame, believed to be the largest proprietary system available in the market with a fabricated section of 575mm x 622mm.

The first option was lighter and less expensive but would have resulted in the knee braces clashing with the formwork during the construction of the tank walls due to the restricted nature of the site. Subsequently, Sorensen opted for the Super Mega brace which allowed them to excavate and pour the walls of the tank without obstruction.

Sorensen director John Wallace said: "The main challenge facing Sorensen Civil

Engineering was constructing a cofferdam that would safely retain the ground to a depth of 6.5m in extremely difficult ground conditions, surrounded by a network of existing services whilst maintaining an opening of 18m x 18m.

The chosen solution involving the Groundforce Super Mega brace allowed this clear uninterrupted opening which in turn permitted us to complete the steel and concrete works in a safe and timely manner."

Groundforce General Manager Joseph Lenihan comments: "We were delighted to get involved with Sorensen on this challenging element of the project and with Irish Water now starting to tackle deficiencies in the country's water and waste-water treatment infrastructure, deep tank construction like this will become more common".

"This is only the second time that this brace has been used in Ireland since coming to the market in 2015 but with clear opening-potential of up to 23m x 23m, I believe this system will become more popular".

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Topcon Agriculture: Precision technology that grows along with the farmer

Topcon Ireland are delighted to be returning to the ploughing championships again this year; what has now become a permanent fix in its events calendar it continues to grow its presence at the show annually.

Topcon helps the farmer to address the challenges of modern agriculture from planning and field preparation to harvest with an open architecture platform, flexible to meet the varying needs of farmers today, easily upgradable to maximise efficiency and lower cost.

Precision farming saves 7-10% on crop inputs, another 10% with precision guidance and control, and even more with water management, digital weighing and tracking solutions. Topcon also provides unmatched data management during and after the season –allowing the farmer to plan for higher profitability in the season to come.

Whether the strategy is cost reduction, yield increase or both, the Topcon modular approach to precision technology offers solutions that allow the customer to add more advanced functionality with a minimal number of devices, including plug-and-play compatibility with many existing brand components.



Whatever field types, crop types, or vehicle types, Topcon offers precision tools to meet the needs of a growing world, season-to season.

The key to any precision farming solution is the correct accuracy for the job at hand. Topcon pioneered multi-constellation GNSS positioning and has supported the global industry standards and ISOBUS protocol. Pick

the accuracy you need based on your field applications and/or crop types and the Topcon modular platform technology will let you get the job done quickly, easily and for less cost.

Topcon Agriculture offers a full-season precision farming platform, based on modularity of systems and components, bringing along Digi-Star, NORAC and RDS Technology solutions.

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Construction equipment sales show 6% growth in the first half of 2017

In the first 6 months of 2017, sales of construction and earthmoving equipment showed a 6% increase compared with the same period in 2016.

Sales in the first quarter showed an 8% increase on the previous year, but slowed to 4% in the second quarter, in terms of a year-on-year comparison.

Equipment sales in the UK market have shown a distinctive seasonal pattern in the last few years, "peaking" in Q2, and then "bottoming" in Q4.

Confidence within the equipment supply chain remains positive this year, particularly within the rental sector, which is estimated to account for over 60% of supply to the UK market. Growing demand from major infrastructure projects and a buoyant housing market have underpinned demand in the first half of the year.

Positive sentiment within the industry was demonstrated at the Plantworx exhibition held at Bruntingthorpe in Leicestershire in June, which is held every two years, and attracted a record number of exhibitors.

Equipment sales within the UK market have been relatively strong since 2014, with levels of sales in the last 3 years at their highest since the market crash in 2008. The most popular machine types in the UK are mini and crawler excavators, which find significant usage in the house building market, and account for over half of total equipment sales.

In 2017, the construction equipment statistics exchange has been taken over by Systematics International Ltd., a specialist data processing company. The scheme is run in partnership with the Construction Equipment Association (CEA), the UK trade association. This partnership will allow regular quarterly bulletins to be issued on equipment sales in the UK market for the first time.

A photograph of four yellow concrete mixing machines from the brand 'rapid' in a large industrial warehouse. In the foreground is a large, octagonal drum mixer with a red motor on top. To its left is a smaller, similar drum mixer. Behind the large mixer is a rectangular drum mixer. To the left of the large mixer is a yellow control cabinet with a control panel and a coiled cable. The 'rapid' logo is visible on the side of each machine.

rapid

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RAPID INTERNATIONAL: LOCAL COMPANY WITH A GLOBAL REACH

As one of Northern Ireland's unsung success stories, Rapid International has expanded year on year since it was first established back in 1969. A relatively small company with a big reputation, its reach today is global, as Plant & Civil Engineer's David Stokes has been finding out.

Rapid International's ever growing success is down to many things, all coming together to create a company that continues to expand and to innovate. Its people have drive and determination and its dedicated network of dealer representatives have a product range to promote that is the envy of many.

With a presence in around 30 countries worldwide, and the only company in Europe manufacturing an entire batching plant from start to finish under one roof, Rapid is a trusted partner to a diverse range of customers - from multinational construction groups to small concrete producers.

It is a company that really cares about its clients, listening to and acting on their feedback, striving always to meet their individual requirements with products that don't overpromise and under deliver.

We've been talking to the people behind the scenes whose teamwork has become one of the company's major strengths in an ever demanding and highly competitive marketplace.

From the initial design phase to testing and production and from marketing and sales to customer care, it's a process that has been steadily and systematically developed and refined over the years to ensure the highest levels of product quality, professionalism and after-sales support.

Operating out of a 50,000 sq ft production facility on the outskirts of Tandragee in



County Armagh, the company's road to success has indeed been rapid. Originally founded by the late Bertie Pickering and Jim Lappin as Craigavon Engineering, its first products were for the agricultural market. By the early 1970s it had moved to bigger and better premises and over the years diversified into the manufacture of plant and equipment for the concrete, construction and environmental industries.

Sales & Marketing

Having seen off recessions of the past, the company continues to go from strength to strength; its new financial year has got off to a solid start.

The market for Rapid International's products is varied and broad, and in many cases sales are 'project led.' Sectors covered include road construction, ports and airports, landfill sites and even windfarm infrastructure.

The vast majority of the company's products are manufactured in-house from scratch; it's all about having as much control over the supply chain as possible, with quality of product and customer service being of paramount importance.

"Sales across our home and export markets are equally split, and some markets which have been relatively flat in recent times, such as Australia, are beginning to pick up again, as is the USA which represents about 25% of our export business annually," comments Sales and Marketing Director Jarlath Gilmore.

As with any business, Rapid International cannot afford to stand still. "We are continually exploring new markets, with recent successes in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania," says Jarlath. "We are also developing new sales channels outside the commodity type sector, for example on the environmental side where there are slightly different applications."



“We are always striving to be innovative to meet the changing needs of our customers, working hand in hand with our Research & Development team.”

Duncan Wilson
Design Office Manager



A case in point is the company's new Trakmix, a remote controlled track-mounted continuous mixing plant understood to be the first of its kind brought to market. The product has just been commissioned by an African client who operates a gold mine where it will be used in a paving application inside the mine. Bringing new product to market, of course, is vital. “We launch a new product about every 18 months or so, and at the moment we have two new products in the pipeline scheduled for launch over the next year; one is aimed at the concrete piling sector, the other, a revamped version of an older product that featured on ‘Tomorrow’s World’ at one stage, will be ideal for concrete reclamation.”

Looking over the years, there has been a consistent flow of new products. Rapidbatch, a high capacity mobile batching plant, was unveiled in 2009, followed by a re-design of a product launched in the 1990s, the Rapidmix, a super mobile continuous mixing plant suitable for semi-dry mixes, which offers full weighing capabilities in real time. This was followed a year later with the introduction of Transbatch, a more compact version of the popular Rapidbatch. The most recent was the Trakmix.

Rapid International operate via both direct sales, primarily in the home market, and an

extensive dealer network, covering countries such as the USA, Australia, Europe, Middle East and Africa, with service and support representatives in many other countries.

The company may be relatively small – it employs around 55 people in total – but it has a big reputation around the globe. “We have to punch above our weight as we compete against some very large organisations across the world, so it is very satisfying to know that our name and our brand are widely known and respected everywhere we go – from Las Vegas and the heart of mainland Europe to the depths of Africa and the remotest areas of Russia,” says Jarlath.

Production

Continual investment in the business is key. The factory and its facilities have expanded substantially over the last four decades; one of the latest investments was in a £2 million paint booth and shot blasting facility.

“This,” says Production Manager Mervyn Cordner, “has given us full control in-house of every aspect of the production process.”

He adds: “With the scale and weight of products also growing – any one item today can weigh up to 25 tonnes – there’s also been a need for bigger overhead cranes. A 16 tonne crane was installed several years ago, and another crane is currently on order to further increase the facility’s lift capacity.”

Although some 60% of the company’s product range falls into the ‘standard’ category, the remaining 40% is bespoke, being specifically built to a customer’s individual requirements, and that can provide its own challenges.

“However, we enjoy a challenge and there is great satisfaction in being able to

produce a product that is different from the norm,” comments Mervyn, who has been with Rapid since graduating from Queens University, gaining an immense wealth of experience which has held him – and the company – in good stead.

“We have a highly skilled and dedicated production team around us here and like me, many have been with us for a very long time, giving us a depth of experience that is probably unrivalled.”

Design

It all starts, of course, in the design office where manager Duncan Wilson, can call





on a six strong team of highly qualified engineers using premium in-house equipment as well as the latest 3D design software.

"It's a busy department where we are always working on new designs or refining and improving others; every day is different, and every day brings its own challenges," says Duncan whose responsibilities also encompass project management. "We are always striving to be innovative to meet the changing needs of our customers, working hand in hand with our Research & Development team."

To that end, the design department is in regular contact with clients, working along with them to ensure their individual requirements are satisfactorily met.

"Our work takes us to customer sites where we can assess their particular needs on the ground and sit down with the client to discuss the most effective and efficient way forward," explains Duncan, whose experience with Rapid International extends to over 20 years.

"It can be a long process from the drawing board to actual production, but it is very satisfying taking something from the design stage right through to reality. Every project is different. In recent times we have been involved in the offshore windfarm sector, and a more unusual project involved developing a more effective way of transporting iron ore.

"Moisture content in iron ore makes shipping the material quite challenging, as boats are liable to sinking under the weight, so we devised a plant that could mix a type of plasticizer into the ore to solidify it, thus making it more manageable to transport."

After Sales

Rapid International's high quality, robust products are built to last. The very first mobile continuous mixing plant produced by Rapid International some 20 years ago, for example, is still earning its keep for an operator in Florida, and because there are many 'one generation' customers on its books, after-sales service and support play a major part.

"This is a vital part of our operation," says Spare Parts Sales Manager Graeme Lyttle. "We realise customers cannot afford unnecessary downtime, so to be able to respond quickly to any parts request is essential."

He adds: "We have parts being despatched from the factory every day, and it helps that we have our own machine shop where we manufacture most of the spares in-house, so stocks are always maintained at a high level to cover all our product ranges."

With so much of the company's output destined for export markets, it is also essential Rapid International's service partners and dealers around the globe are also kept fully stocked with parts.

"That means no matter where our customers are based in the world, they can be assured that parts will be readily available to service their needs," comments Graeme, who has been with Rapid for almost two decades.

That long service record – as many other of Rapid's management team have built up – has its benefits, as continuity of personnel means customers are able to establish lasting working relationships. "We are on first name terms with many of our clients," says Graeme, "and they know the service and support we offer can be relied on."

Currently, work is progressing on creating an online service for clients. The new spare parts website will further enhance the company's after-sales support. It will also enable the company to offer parts for products other than those manufactured by Rapid.

Product Portfolio at a Glance

Trakmix – a track-mounted mobile continuous mixing plant specifically designed for applications where all types of binders or neutralising powders are required in the mixing process, including road construction, road paving, ground works/ civil engineering, environmental stabilisation projects, aggregate recycling and many more.

Rapidmix – a super mobile continuous mixing plant suitable for semi-dry mixes, which offers full weighing capabilities in real time.

Rapidbatch – a fully-mobile batching plant that is ideal for projects in remote areas as concrete is mixed on-site reducing transport and installation costs.

Transbatch – a compact mobile batching plant suitable for remote location projects and construction projects such as, but not limited to, road building, wind farm bases and warehouse flooring.





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CITB NI Invests To Encourage Apprentices Into The Construction Industry

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.

The initiative comes as factors such as skills shortages and an aging workforce are putting the industry at risk, creating opportunities to encourage growth amongst employers and apprentices within the sector.

With this in mind 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.

Barry Neilson, Chief Executive CITB NI said, "Construction Employers in Northern Ireland are not taking on enough apprentices to help sustain the future of the industry. The recent £400m investment from Government for



infrastructure will give a well needed boost to the sector in the short term but employers can help develop the growth of the workforce by taking on much needed apprentices.

"That's where CITB NI comes in. We want to help employers realise the importance of apprenticeships, their value and make sure they know how to go about taking on a young person in an apprenticeship role. We have ring fenced £100k for 100 new apprentices in the next training year.

"We want employers to make a difference, retain the apprentices beyond level 2 and potentially make them an overall part of the workforce. Apprenticeships help nurture and develop a skill, that is why we have boosted the grants funding to help improve the apprenticeship uptake within our sector.

"Apprenticeships can provide on-the-job training and a chance to learn vital skills while earning a wage. There is a wide variety of careers in construction which can involve working in a whole range of different locations and workplaces and many construction managers and other construction professionals started their careers as apprentices. Undertaking an apprenticeship is only the first step to a long and professional career."

Over the next few months CITB NI will showcase the importance and benefits of construction apprenticeships to employers and the youth market and highlight the next steps in order to bridge the impending skills gap and help attract more than 100 much needed apprentices into the industry.

For more information on this initiative log on to www.citbni.org.uk

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demo day

CULLION PLANT SERVICES DEMO DAY A HUGE SUCCESS

Cullion Plant Services held a very successful demo day recently at their premises on the Killycolpy Road in Dungannon to promote its range of Rototilt tiltrotators and attachments.

The event proved to be a great opportunity for people interested in what a tiltrotator can do for their business to get up close and personal with the range.

Comments Cullion Plant Services' Aiden O'Neill: "The event, our first ever demo day, attracted interest from all over the country - from as far away as Sligo and Wexford - and exceeded our expectations.

"Over the past year we have had a lot of interest in the Rototilt with people wanting to see it in action, so the day was an ideal way of doing that. We had tiltrotators

fitted to three separate machines, a three tonne and nine tonne Wacker Neuson and a 13 tonne Case, which basically covered the whole range.

"People were able to try the Rototilt, get a feel for it, see what it can do... it's certainly something we will consider staging again sometime in the future."

Another highlight of the day was a first showing in Ireland of the new iDig system, a real time grade control tool for excavators.

Thanks to radio transmission between components, solar cells powered sensors, "fast-fit" fixing plates, installation can be made in no time by the operator himself. Grade calculations are immediately shown and information given to the operator in the cab on a coloured LED indicator. Simple

removal and attachment allows easy transfer of the sensors to another machine.

"We have the agency for all of Ireland for the iDig and see great potential for it. Indeed, some people came on the day just to see it in operation," comments Aiden.

"I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support for the event and to all those who helped out before, during and after the day itself."

Plant & Civil Engineer magazine was also there to capture the day's activities on camera...





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Concrete Society Elects New President

The Concrete Society, at its Annual General Meeting at its Headquarters in Camberley, Surrey has elected William Doherty of Creagh Concrete as Society President for a two year term.

He takes the reins from outgoing President Martyn Fear of Specialist Precast Products. Martyn commented, "I have really enjoyed my two years' presidency. I have been constantly impressed with The Concrete Society and would like to thank both the staff and the Regional Network of volunteers for their energy in offering a broad range of technical and social activities to Society members and non-members in the UK."

The newly elected President paid tribute to Martyn, who has served The Concrete Society for many years before his presidential term.

"It has been a pleasure to work with Martyn during the past six years that we have been on Council together." William added, "The President and Council are reliant on the MD and staff for the day-to-day running of The Society, and I look forward to working with them during my two-year term."

He assured attendees that he will visit each Region at least once during his term in office, with hopes to attend one technical and one social event per Region.

Further changes to senior officers; Former Treasurer, Andrew Bourne of SIKA was elected President Designate, and Council member Deiniol Williams of FOSROC was elected as Treasurer.



William Doherty of Creagh Concrete takes the over the helm from outgoing President Martyn Fear.



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Images courtesy of
Chris Nealy, Modafoto



INAUGURAL PLANT & CIVIL ENGINEER GOLF MASTERS AT LOUGH ERNE A HUGE SUCCESS

The fabulous Lough Erne Resort just outside Enniskillen was the venue for the first ever Plant & Civil Engineer Golf Masters where 84 golfers teed it up.

Golfers arrived from all over the island of Ireland with the Briggs Equipment team picking up the Plant & Civil Engineer Claret Jug with a fantastic display of team golf.

The individual winner was Dorothy Stewart with an impressive 39 points from the Road Trucks team.

Over 120 guests attended the evening dinner with the prize presentation hosted by the BBC's Adrian Logan. Many guests stayed overnight so the Blaney Bar in the Hotel was very busy into the wee small hours.

With the fantastic success of the event, we look forward to doing it all again in 2018.



Briggs Equipment



Chris Budd, Colin McNeely, Andrew Neill and Wayne Sloan.

Atlantic Bitumen



Ken Hood, Damian Fitzpatrick, John Shannon and Dermot McCharty.



Ciaran McCreanor
Dalradian Gold

Fitzroy Group



Ian Montgomery, Barry Harrison, Alan Harrison and Ian Harrison.

Dalradian Gold



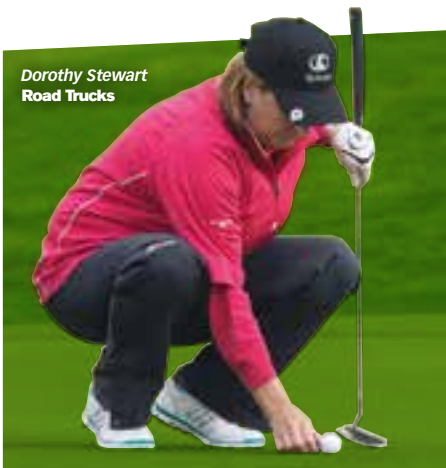
Keith O'Flynn and Ciaran McCreanor.

McCauley Trailers



Noel Kelly, Veronica Kelly, Dermot Shaw and Kevin Kidd.

Dorothy Stewart Road Trucks



Ridgeway



George Deane, Gary Hunter, Ryan Smyth and Damien Kelly.

P&CE Guests



Garfield Harrison, Malcolm Morgan, Clive Kelly and Mickey McSharry.

P&CE Guests



Kevin Cromley, Aaron McCaul, Bill McShannock and Stephen Neeson.

Love Contracts



Gerald Love, Malcolm Sloan, Richard Heap and Ruairi Sweeney.

Hi Power/CDE



Liam O'Neill, Peter Doherty, Raymond McNicholl and Mark Spencer.

Starplan



Trevor Hewitt, David Wilson, Alistair Hamilton and Alan Cathcart.

IMQS



Brendan Morris, Paul O'Doherty, Sean Finlay and Kieran Feighan.

Granco Team 2



Brian McManus, John Crilly, Rob Ireland and Peter Dunn.

Granco Team 3



Neil McAneney, Peter Fitzpatrick, John Faulkner and James Morgan.

FMB



Gavin McGuire, Diane Moffitt, Ian Chung and Willie Moffitt.



*Aaron McCaul
P&CE Guests*

Lagan Products



Des Morgan, John Chambers, Darren McMillan and William McLaughlin.

Tenants Bitumen



Paul Brogan, Robert Peden, Johnny McQuillan and Steven Caldwell.

Road Trucks



John Marks, Elaine Marks, Dorothy Stewart and David Bonnes.

Mercedes Benz Truck & Van:



Rodney Allen, Jonathan McCabe, Don Weeks and Neil McKibbin.



*Garfield Harrison
P&CE Guests*

QPANI:



Gordon Best, Michael Boyd, Steven Kelly and Gus Vaughn.



Kevin Cromley



Neil McKibbin



Malcolm Sloan and Ruairi Sweeney



Ciaran McCreanor



Don Weeks



John Marks



Noel Kelly and Dermot Shaw



Stephen Neeson



Rob Ireland



Steven Kelly



Mark Spencer



Steven Caldwell, Paul Brogan and Robert Peden.



Sam Thompson, Kubota with Neil McKibbin



Gordon Best



Damian Fitzpatrick



Clive Kelly



Rodney Allen



Keith O'Flynn



Peter Dunn



Stephen Neeson



Brian McManus



Wayne Sloan



Bill McShannock



Gerald Love



McCauley Trailers



Gus Vaughn



Diane and Willie Moffitt, with The Federation of Master Builders.



Kevin and Angela Cromley, of Cromley Construction.



Noel and Veronica Kelly of McCauley Trailers.



Lough Erne Resort Executive Chefs Stephen Holland and Noel McMeel with camera man Albert Kirk.



Trevor Hewitt and Alistair Hamilton, with Garfield Harrison of Plant & Civil Engineer.



Keith O'Flynn and Ciaran McCreanor of Dalradian Gold with Phil Eaglestone of Plant & Civil Engineer.



Aaron McCaul and Billy McShannock with Justin Carrigan of Plant & Civil Engineer magazine.



John Faulkener of Granco with Liam O'Neill and Mark Spencer of Hi-Power.



Helen Beggs of Plant & Civil Engineer with Patrick Grant and John Crilly of Granco.



Ruairi O'Neill of Newton Group Engineering and Brendan Morris of IMQS.



Cheryl Chambers and John Chambers of Lagan Cement.



Rob Ireland of Dennison Commercials with Gordon Best of QPANI.



David Forgie and Maria Forgie with Justin Carrigan of Plant & Civil Engineer magazine.



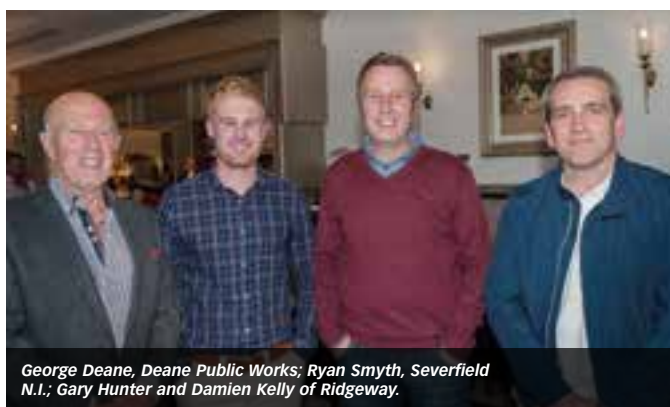
Stephen Caldwell of Tennants Bitumen, and Paul Brogan of John McQuillan Contracts.



Kubota Dealer Manager Sam Thompson and Malcolm Morgan of Morgan Industrial Ltd.



David Wilson and Alan Cathcart, Starplan.



George Deane, Deane Public Works; Ryan Smyth, Severfield N.I.; Gary Hunter and Damien Kelly of Ridgeway.



Wayne Sloan, Chris Budd, Colin McNeely and Andrew Neill, of Briggs Equipment.



1ST TEAM PRIZE



4 Briggs Equipment: Andrew Neill, Colin McNeally, Justin Carrigan, Chris Budd and Wayne Sloan

2ND TEAM PRIZE



Road Trucks: Adrian Logan, David Bonnes, Dorothy Stewart, John Marks, Elaine Marks and Justin Carrigan.

3RD TEAM PRIZE



QPANI: Gus Vaughan, Steven Kelly, Micheal Boyd, Justin Carrigan and Gordon Best.

1ST INDIVIDUAL PRIZE



Dorothy Stewart: Adrian Logan, Brian McManus, Dorothy Stewart and Justin Carrigan.

2ND INDIVIDUAL PRIZE



Andrew Neill 2nd individual prize with Phil Eaglestone.

3RD INDIVIDUAL PRIZE



Adrian Logan with Gordon best 3rd individual prize and Helen Beggs.

HOLE IN ONE



Andrew Neill Hole in one prize with Sponsor Sam Thompson of Kubuto.

NEAREST TO THE PIN



Ryan Smyth winner nearest to the pin with sponsor Neil McKibbin (Mercedes Benz NI).

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Chris Budd winner of sponsors night golf academy with Garfield Harrison and Adrian Logan.

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Garfield Harrison and Don weeks Winner of the Faldo Challenge.



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



Gordon Best, QPANI

GROWING CONCERNS ON A NUMBER OF FRONTS

At the time of writing it seems inevitable that we are moving toward some form of Direct Rule from Westminster given the failure of the DUP and Sinn Fein to reach an agreement that would see the restoration of the Executive and Assembly. It is now over 7 months since the Executive collapsed and the number of decisions across Government Departments needing Ministerial sign off is in the hundreds.

As construction material suppliers the priority areas we want to see decisions made on are a local Brexit Plan, Infrastructure, Energy and Skills.

I recently met with the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure to highlight our Members concerns that initial 2017 /18 structural maintenance budget would be exhausted by the middle of September and that further additional funds were urgently required to ensure continuity of work and retention of the current skilled work force.

The seriousness of the situation was well recognised and the senior DfI officials at the meeting shared our wish for longer term, ring fenced maintenance budgets delivering better planning, better quality, better health and safety and certainty of long term sustainable skilled jobs.

QPANI continue to make our views known on Brexit through the development of a NI Business Forum paper to put forward pragmatic solutions to the customs challenges facing Northern Ireland as a result of Brexit. The foundation paper is intended to assist policy-makers, politicians, customs authorities and business in working together to find practical and workable solutions and avoid a damaging trade border between Northern Ireland and Great Britain or on the island of Ireland.

The Business Groups view is that leaving the Customs Union as anticipated by the EU is not compatible with a 'soft' or 'frictionless' border; that 6-7 favoured border crossings, mobile patrols, green lanes, spot checks etc. which have been suggested by some as best case scenarios would present serious challenges in terms of the investment required, business and community compliance and transaction costs,



all of which threatens to damage business competitiveness by adding complexity to already complex supply chains, ultimately resulting in reduced trade and fewer jobs.

We are concerned that much of the commentary and speculative proposal-making, up to this point, has been focused on how to make a border on or between these islands work. Our view is that it should not be accepted that a solution should be a choice of either controls along cross border road routes between NI and RoI or indeed at GB ports of entry. Both are unwelcome and damaging.

We believe that it is essential to continue to focus on solutions which ensure there will be no delays, hindrances, costs or over-burdening complexity which would threaten the future of businesses particularly those which trade between NI and GB and across the border, in agri-food, manufacturing and services.

SERIOUS RISK

The NI economy has been transformed by peace and peace is secured by a strong and vibrant economy. As Business Groups we recognise that imposing restrictions on the movement of people and goods across or between these islands for many is an existential issue and disrupting this presents a serious risk of politically destabilising consequences beyond those of trade and the economy. In that context, we believe it is important to retain membership of the

Customs Union at least in the interim, or committing to replicate the EU's Common External Tariff on a transitional basis. Securing a Customs solution which matches the current arrangements is essential for business and will benefit us all.

We all welcome the fact that Northern Ireland is at the top of the agenda of both the UK and the EU as these exit negotiations continue. We need to not only harness that goodwill, but to turn it into workable solutions to the benefit of both business and the community of Northern Ireland.

The recent UK Government position paper on how to manage the Irish Border post Brexit is to be welcomed even though it is very vague on how the Border is going to be managed.

The paper proposes that there be no customs posts on the border and argues that small scale businesses should be allowed to trade freely, but that larger ones would be subject to monitoring, thus attempting to respond to fundamental fear felt by many living along the border who rely on trade and travel for their livelihood, as well as needing cross-border access to hospitals and ambulance services. Similarly, the paper emphasises protecting a single energy market on the island (to lower energy costs), viewed as essential for businesses. We await the final agreement!!

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DIESEL DEBATE

THE CHALLENGE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY

Faced with ever more-stringent environmental legislation, the construction equipment industry has retained its faith in the trusty diesel engine. And for good reason, according to CEA consultant, Alex Woodrow.

As an independent consultant with over 20 years in the automotive and related industries there has never been a dull moment, with a constant ebb and flow of technology, mergers and acquisitions and other challenges to face. One of the constant factors over the 20 years, however, is the continuing pressure on OEMs in all the segments - light vehicle, commercial and non-road mobile machinery to reduce emissions and fuel consumption.

Working for stakeholders throughout the industry, focussed on powertrain and emissions related technologies, we're very much in favour of an environmentally friendly automotive industry and related sectors, from powered two wheelers, passenger cars, light commercial vehicles, heavy commercial vehicles, buses, construction equipment, agricultural vehicles, and materials handling.

In many of these segments all electric, or hybrid is practical, cost effective, and will lead to improved air quality. However, the future isn't all electric, at least not yet and it's not all internal combustion engine, each fuel has its place. For industrial segments, where the end-users are concentrated on productivity, 'clean' diesel should, and will, remain the dominant fuel for the foreseeable future.

It should be said as well that these diesels aren't the diesels that emit black smoke and high levels of NOx, which is invisible, until it forms smog with other pollutants. They aren't even the 'clean' diesels that were heavily promoted by a number of passenger car manufacturers, whose actions will have negative consequences for the broader industry for some time.

These are cleaner diesels that produce considerably less than 10% of pre-regulated diesels noxious emissions, in machines that on average are at least 15% improved in terms of fuel efficiency, operating in an industry where optimising operating costs means the difference between making a profit, and staying in business, and losing money and disappearing. In essence, they are a productivity tool that makes a positive contribution at all levels of the economy.



IMPACT

So why do we stick with the view that diesel is the fuel for construction equipment, and what have the OEMs done to reduce their environmental impact?

- 1 - R&D spend, even in the most severe recession was between 2 and 4% of revenues. Across the commercial vehicle and Non-Road mobile machinery segments this equated to around \$10Bn per year, of which half on average has been spent on emissions and powertrain improvement, totalling \$50Bn over the past 10 years. On top of that a similar amount has been spent on capital investment in plant.
- 2 - Energy density of diesel is much higher than any other fuel, for the majority of equipment, electric would be impractical. Equally gasoline would be impractical, and unsafe in many job sites. Not only would equipment need refuelling a lot more frequently, increasing cost, reducing productivity, Direct injection gasolines would also require adoption of gasoline particulate filters to clean up the PM 2.5 particulates which a

modern diesel tailpipe already has regulated through its particulate filter that will come as standard with Stage V. For a typical shift, an all-electric mid-range excavator would need a battery at least five times as big as a typical Tesla S model, costing over \$100,000.

PRACTICAL

On a practical level, it also doesn't make sense to compare light vehicle and industrial vehicles in the same way for a number of reasons:

- In the light vehicle segment the Top 20 manufacturing groups account for 90% of the global 92m units produced in 2016, on average 4.6m each. A further 30 accounted for the remaining 10m units, or 330,000 each. In comparison in the CV segment the Top 20 accounted for 82% of the 3.1m units, another 66 accounted for the remainder, 128,000 and 8,000 each respectively. However, in the construction segment an estimated 628,000 units were shared across the top 20, or 31,000 each, and another 100 plus accounted for the remaining 134,000 or just 1,300 units each.

- Many of them don't have their own engines, of the top 10 OEMs the majority have their own engines, but in the Top 20 less than 40% are supplied by in-house, for various reasons.
- Product variety is several orders of magnitude greater. It is not due to competition that the volumes are so low, just that many machines are specialist machines.

So, to some extent it's that volume equation that made it easier for passenger OEMs to 'game' the rules. If we do one, we might as well do them all. In the non-road segment where there is a much greater cross over of engines between OEMs it would be a lot harder to cheat the system.

Hybrids and alternative fuels will come, but in low volume initially. The above doesn't preclude development of electric and hybrid. However, our own detailed assessment of the equipment population, considering load factors, fuel consumption and annual hours suggests that in Europe the below 56kW segment uses around than 15% of the total fuel but accounts for almost 40% of the machine population. Already much of this segment is looking to hybrid and electric so economies of scale are improving, and technology has aided here. However, in the larger machines, over 56kW this is not the case. As machines have become more expensive, mainly due to emissions control, so the rental segment has grown. Across the top machine types in Europe rental is estimated to have a greater than 70% share.

In the lightest segment, where emissions are not regulated until Stage V we expect to see a lot more electric models. In many cases where these are used indoors it makes sense. With either an umbilical or a power unit the power requirements mean that the infrastructure for charging is not extensive. As we get into the higher power segments however the power requirements increase significantly. In the light segment, there is also a cross-over between light vehicle systems and non-road electric and hybrid systems, which will allow more cost-effective electrification. In the heavier segments, the volumes will be much lower, and so there will be limited opportunities. Even in the lighter segments there are challenges in the non-road segment for electrification related to the conditions that the equipment works in, compared to the light vehicle segment, such as dust, vibration, temperature etc.

SO, WHAT ELSE CAN BE DONE?

- Machines have become cleaner in terms of absolute emissions limits and will improve further under Stage V
- Efficiency has improved, so that total kWh has fallen, further reducing emissions, and these competitive trends will continue
- Technology continues to improve, as OEMs get through emissions compliance there will be a focus on Total Cost of Ownership.
- Operators are becoming smarter, job sites are better designed, corporate sustainability is driving end users to specify cleaner machines

- Low emissions zones, and public procurement is driving end users towards cleaner machines
- A well maintained and serviced machine is a more productive machine, telematics shows when machines aren't working to their optimum level, and will also indicate tampering or lack of compliance
- OEMs and their dealers are more actively working with their customers to specify and supply the right machine for the right job, not over specifying a machine

If technology trends follow the CV segment then there will continue to be improvements through the Stage V time period. Many OEMs that didn't have a DPF for Stage IV, but remain within the limits, will be able to benefit from the trade-off between fuel consumption, NOX generation and PM levels, to use higher levels of EGR and reduce emissions further. At the same time, we expect the initial PEMs tests to show that machines are clean across the whole duty cycle, and offer similar compliance levels to those Euro VI trucks, which will continue to show improvements in emissions and fuel consumption. Those Euro VI trucks that were tested, were the first generation. 2nd and 3rd generation truck have added additional fuel consumption benefits whilst meeting stricter compliance requirements under Euro VI part B and C, and we expect a similar pattern in the Construction Equipment segment.

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INDUSTRY TRAINING SERVICES LAUNCHES INAUGURAL 'PLANT OPERATOR OF THE YEAR' COMPETITION

The first ever search to find Northern Ireland's best plant operator has been launched by leading training provider Industry Training Services (ITS).

The Portadown-based firm will host the ITS Northern Ireland Plant Operator of the Year 2017 in association with JCB and Plant & Civil Engineer.

ITS is Northern Ireland's leading provider of health and safety training solutions to the construction, civil engineering, utilities and manufacturing sectors and beyond.

The company is calling for plant operators from across Northern Ireland to compete in a bid to be recognised as the best in their field across excavator and telehandler categories.

Participants at a special Finals Day in October, will also take control of JCB's innovative, Hydradig, its unique four-wheeled excavator.

ITS Managing Director Brendan Crealey said: "As Northern Ireland's leading provider of tuition in the safe usage of plant and machinery, we have seen first-hand the high quality of operators locally.

"The region has a reputation for supplying highly-skilled workers to construction sites across Ireland, the UK and beyond.

"We have designed this competition to provide an opportunity for that expertise to be recognised and rewarded in a fun and sociable way."

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.

Competition entrants will take part in a series of timed challenges, including precision excavation and lifting tasks, during heats taking place on Saturdays commencing 30th September.

A Finals Day in October will see the best entrants compete head-to-head to find the leading driver in each category, with an overall ITS Northern Ireland Plant Operator of the Year being crowned.

Michael Campbell, Operations Director of BC Plant JCB, Northern Ireland's sole authorised JCB dealer said: "The ITS Northern Ireland Plant Operator of the Year offers a tremendous opportunity for

operators locally to get behind the controls of some of the most advanced plant and machinery available on the market.

"We look forward, in particular, to providing entrants with the opportunity to test their skills in the new JCB Hydradig, a first-of-a-kind in its class.

"Considered an engineering masterpiece, the JCB Hydradig features the engine, tanks and ancillaries at the chassis, which means it offers operators unrivalled manoeuvrability and visibility, with sight of all four wheels and a further 1m perimeter."

Justin Carrigan, General Manager of Plant & Civil Engineer magazine, added: "We are delighted to be part of the inaugural ITS Northern Ireland Plant Operator of the Year competition. "Northern Ireland's construction industry is renowned for the quality of its workforce and we look forward to showcasing that talent over the coming months across the pages of Plant & Civil Engineer."

For more information about the ITS Northern Ireland Plant Operator of the Year in association with JCB and Plant & Civil Engineer, visit www.industrytrainingservices.com.



Michael Campbell (JCB/BC Plant), Brendan Crealey (Industry Training Services) & Justin Carrigan (Plant & Civil Engineer) launching ITS's Plant Operator of the Year initiative.

Groundforce are put to the test in Limerick

Poor ground conditions, shallow rock profile and a confined site called for an imaginative excavation support solution during construction for a new university library extension.

Building Contractor BAM Building are constructing the new Gluksman Library extension at the University of Limerick. The building, which will rise to an overall height of 32.2m will accommodate offices on the ground floor with teaching facilities on the first, second and third floors.

The building also comprises a basement which would require temporary ground support at various pinch points of the site.

The ground conditions in the area are challenging with sandy soil, high water table and shallow rock combining to create difficult conditions for temporary works.

The majority of the temporary ground support was carried out by using sheet piles in cantilever in conjunction with local ground reductions, but in one location this would prove impossible.

At the western end, the basement was to be constructed right on the edge of the site boundary with a local access road running immediately adjacent. With a dig depth of

3m and bedrock present at 5m below ground level, a cantilevered sheet pile solution was not an option and since there was clearly no question of reducing the ground, BAM needed to find some way of supporting the full depth of the road during construction of the basement wall. The contractor therefore called in Groundforce to design and supply a temporary works arrangement.

The task facing Groundforce was complicated by a number of factors including the curvature and reducing level of the access road, the intricate shape of the proposed basement wall and the requirement for one side of the support system to remain open to allow for a continuous pour of the basement slab.

The solution developed by Groundforce was to drive interlocking Larssen 603 sheet piles to rock in a series of U shapes and to transfer the load between adjacent sides using walers and hydraulic supports.

"This design used the adjacent ground as a 'shear key' to provide the required lateral restraint," explains Groundforce General Manager Joseph Lenihan. "In this situation, given the poor shear capacity of the sandy soil, the linear meterage of the sheet piles had to be extended to provide an adequate shear



key. Given the presence of services on one of the sides, these extra sheets were required to travel back in the opposite direction from the excavation which is unusual."

Once the blinding slab was cast, the lower level of support was removed allowing the base slab to be cast out against the sheets. Once the base slab reached sufficient strength, the sheet piles could act in cantilever with the top level of support removed and the basement walls cast without obstruction.

BAM Senior engineer Brian Quinlan commented: "Working alongside Groundforce on this complex section of the building was a pleasure from the outset. Numerous site visits by the Groundforce senior engineers to carry out inspections during installation and the overall supply of materials was excellent."

The basement support element of the works took place between November 2016 and February 2017 with the project due for completion in Q3 2017.



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MORE TO JCB'S JZ141 THAN MEETS THE EYE

JCB has launched a 15-tonne reduced-swing crawler excavator that requires no DPF, no AdBlue and no after-treatment to meet current EU Stage IIIB and US Tier 4 Final emissions standards. This has been achieved by installing a 74hp (55kW) version of the award-winning JCB EcoMAX diesel engine, in place of the more powerful 108hp (81kW) found in the previous JZ140.

But as Dan Gilkes reports for Plant & Civil Engineer, there is more to the new JZ141 than a simple engine swap, as JCB's engineers have devised a way of maintaining the hydraulic pressures and flows of the more powerful model, while also delivering major fuel savings.

The EcoMAX is a high-torque, low-rev engine and it has been possible to use that torque to drive larger 130 litre/min hydraulic pumps, but at a lower engine speed, to maintain overall hydraulic performance.

The new machine runs at a maximum engine speed of just 1,800rpm, down from 2,050rpm on the previous JZ140. This contributes to as much as a 20% fuel saving over the more powerful model, along with a noticeable drop in engine noise, with in-cab sound levels down to just 70dB.

The use of this 55kW engine is well proven, as JCB has successfully equipped a number of its larger Loadall telescopic handlers with the EcoMAX diesel. The company also introduced the JS131 conventional tailswing excavator with the 74hp (55kW) engine alongside the standard JS130, which boasts the 108hp (81kW) motor. In both cases customers have found that performance remains strong and there have been substantial fuel and cost savings for end users.

Unlike the conventional tailswing JS131, JCB has dropped the higher horsepower JZ140 in favour of the new excavator. It's fair to assume that most customers will opt for the convenience and lower operating cost of the JZ141, particularly as the majority of sales will be to rental companies.

JCB admits that in an ultimate heavy digging test the JZ141 would be slightly less productive than its higher horsepower predecessor. However few customers will use a 15-tonne compact radius excavator in a mass excavation operation. The machine is more likely to be operated in confined urban site conditions, where outright breakout forces are not a primary concern.

Deciding Factors

The simplicity of the engine installation and the fact that there is no requirement for AdBlue or DPF regeneration, will probably



be far more important considerations for customers than ultimate digging power.

That's not to say that the JZ141 is not competitive though, it has little trouble digging and loading in heavy materials and maintains impressive lifting performance, handling concrete pipes at full reach with ease. Indeed as the JZ141 sits on the same undercarriage as the JS131LC, the machine boasts impressive stability, even with the reduced counterweight design.

The JZ141 comes with a 4.7m monoboom as standard plus a wide choice of dipper arms, including the usual 2.1m, 2.5m and 3.0m lengths. These are joined by a new 2.7m dipper, designed for use with a tilt-rotator, where it provides similar reach to the 3.0m arm.

There are three tipping links available, offering a lifting lug, a hook or no hook, while JCB's latest quickhitch can be supplied from the factory. A full range of auxiliary pipe options is available for varying attachments and the JZ141 can be supplied with JCB's Advanced Tool Select system. This allows the operator to pre-set up to 10 attachment flows and pressures from the monitor in the cab.

The reduced tailswing is 29% shorter than the conventional JS130, allowing the upperstructure to turn almost within the tracks. There is a choice of track widths, from 500mm up to low ground pressure 900mm pads. To work with the optional dozer blade though, you'll need the mid-range 700mm pads for the correct overall width.

Optional

There is a heavy duty undercarriage option, using the track frames from the larger JS160 excavator, but this can only be had

with 600-800mm pads. Customers that fit rubber track blocks to the standard tracks could operate the machine within a single carriageway, in place of a wheeled excavator.

Service and maintenance access and operator's cab size are generally where the compromises have to be made with a reduced swing machine, but not it seems with the JZ141. There are wide opening doors for the cooling pack, air filter and batteries on the one side and to provide access to the remote oil, fuel and hydraulic filters on the other of the machine.

The flat engine canopy provides a good view to the top of the EcoMAX, with a step in front of the engine for easier service access. As there is no bulky exhaust after-treatment to fit in, the engine canopy doesn't intrude on the view to the rear of the machine like some competitors.

JCB has also provided an access hole in the centre of the counterweight casting, covered by a steel plate beneath the JCB logo. You can reach right through from the back of the machine to access the engine, without having to remove the counterweight itself.

The boom foot and dipper mounting pins come with graphite impregnated bushings, permitting greasing intervals of up to 1,000 hours. Engine oil and filters are changed at 500 hour intervals, with the hydraulic oil filter at 1,000 hours. The hydraulic oil itself can be used for up to 5,000 hours.

All daily checks of oil and coolant levels can be made using the in-cab monitor and there is no requirement for AdBlue or costly special oils for the engine. JCB dealers can also recalibrate the EcoMAX engine for export markets with lower grade fuels, potentially boosting residual appeal.



The JZ141 uses the same cab as JCB's larger conventional swing models, with plenty of room to get comfortable and storage space behind the seat for bags and coats. A configurable 7" colour multi-function display screen provides all of the information that you need and acts as a monitor for the rear-view camera. JCB's LiveLink telematics system has been enhanced to offer accurate fuel consumption and operating mode information, allowing managers to see how the machine is being used. Geofencing features will also

be useful for rental companies monitoring unauthorised use of the machine on site. JCB has proven the effectiveness of this 74hp (55kW) EcoMAX engine in its Loadalls, conventional crawler excavators and now in this reduced swing machine. Emissions standards will change again in 2019-20, with the introduction of EU Stage V standards. But for now at least, there should be plenty of customer demand for such a competitive machine with no DPF, no AdBlue and no after-treatment.

- 1: With no complex exhaust after-treatment the EcoMAX engine is easy to get to, with a plate in the rear counterweight for additional access
- 2: There is good access to the valve block and an electric refuelling pump is an option
- 3: The JZ141 benefits from the same full-size cab as the rest of JCB's excavators
- 4: The sturdy dozer blade works best with 700mm wide track pads
- 5: Non-slip steps and treadplates offer security, though the full boxing ring is an option
- 6: Remote engine oil and fuel filters all feature drain taps for ease of service
- 7: The now familiar 7" colour monitor provides a screen for rear-view cameras
- 8: A step in front of the engine bay makes it easier to work on the EcoMAX motor

THE YANMAR SV18: A FIRM FAVOURITE WITH NMG UTILITIES

The team at NMG Utilities are big fans of Yanmar; in fact, currently they operate four Yanmar diggers, supplied by Crumlin Plant Sales, with another two on the way, so Plant & Civil Engineer went along to find out what attracts the contractor to the brand.

Based in Cushendall, NMG Utilities is a family contracting company headed up by Niall McGuigan. Presently they are laying fibre optic cabling for BT in the Greater Belfast area where we were able to get the 'view from the cab' of their latest SV18 Yanmar.

The 1.8 tonne machine is a firm favourite with NMG Utilities, who have three of them, plus a 2.5 tonne model, working on the contract.

"We got our first Yanmars, three V25B models, about six years ago and have stuck with the brand ever since because we find them very efficient and very reliable," says Niall's son Emmett. "They are easy to operate, the performance and handling are smooth and to be honest I couldn't imagine operating anything other than a Yanmar now."

Compact and lightweight, the rubber tracked SV18's stability and power certainly make it ideal for utility projects, and with its spacious and well designed cab, offering plenty of legroom, and its multi adjustable and comfortable suspension seat, the operator can easily work for long hours, free from stress and fatigue. Its large opening door also means getting in and out of the cab is easy.

With winter on the way a pleasant working environment is even more important. As Emmett pointed out, the SV18 is equipped with an effective and efficient



heater, with strategically placed vents ensuring a uniform temperature and preventing the windows from misting up.

Working on utility projects and in areas where space is restricted means that good visibility from the cab is vital. "I have a great all round view from my seat, with three rear and side view mirrors meaning there are no blind spots," says Emmett.

As the long winter nights approach, Emmett's work will inevitably extend into the darkness. The SV18 comes with a standard LED light positioned in the lower part of the boom, where it is protected from shocks.

"It does provide a powerful light, but we will be fitting additional lighting to further enhance our view from the cab," explains Emmett. LED technology, of course, helps cut down energy consumption and also increases the life of the battery.

In Control

From his seat, Emmett is in full control of the SV18, with ideally located levers offering exceptional precision movement.

"For such a compact machine its dipper arm has quite a long reach, and its powerful digging force is certainly more than ample for



view from the cab

our type of work," comments Emmett. "It is also very stable, no matter what the terrain."

The SV18 is equipped with a digital interface which informs him in real time about the status of his machine. Perfectly integrated into the right hand console, the 3.3" screen provides excellent visibility and useful information about important elements like fuel consumption, fuel gauge, coolant temperature gauge, etc. The interface also works as a diagnostic tool in case of malfunction by sending an error code and an information icon on the display.

Moving the machine from site to site is not a problem. A transportation weight of only 1760 kg and a very compact undercarriage enable the SV18 to be transported on a trailer; it has 4 anchor points to help secure it on its journey.

Servicing & Support

The machine is easy to service, too. Rear and side covers, a panel under the seat and a removable floor provide direct access to the service points to reduce the maintenance time and cost.

Unnecessary downtime can be costly for a contractor, so dependable aftersales support is essential. "Crumlin Plant Sales take good care of all our needs," says Emmett. "We have been dealing with them for many years and enjoy a great working relationship with the team there, they are very easy to get on with, and they are always there if ever we need them."





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ENGCON TRANSFORMS BUSINESS FOR IRISH OWNER/OPERATOR

"It saves me so much time and manual labour, I can't imagine life without my Engcon tiltrotator!" jokes Cian Rooney, an owner/operator near Sligo on the west coast of Ireland.

Cian hasn't looked back since replacing his old Skid Steer loader and Kubota mini digger with a Kubota KX057-4 compact excavator equipped with an Engcon E206 tiltrotator, S40 quick hitch and integrated gripper.

Cian's system is also one of the first in Ireland to be fitted with fully proportional control. John Craig, Engcon's service partner at JCC Engcon Group in Stirlingshire, guided Cian through the process of choosing the right system for his needs. Cian comments: "I can't praise John enough for his expert help. He really knows his stuff when it comes to Engcon."

Transformation

Cian finds his Engcon equipment, which also includes a grading bucket, sorting grab and pallet forks, invaluable for tackling a wide range of jobs, from groundworks and landscaping to fencing and agricultural contracts.

"I work mainly on my own and Engcon has helped transform my business. This one machine does the work of my two old ones" he claims. "I now work more efficiently, safer and faster – and that's good for my profits and for my customers because I can do a great job for them in less time. Even simply moving deliveries that have been left in the wrong place is made easy with the pallet forks."

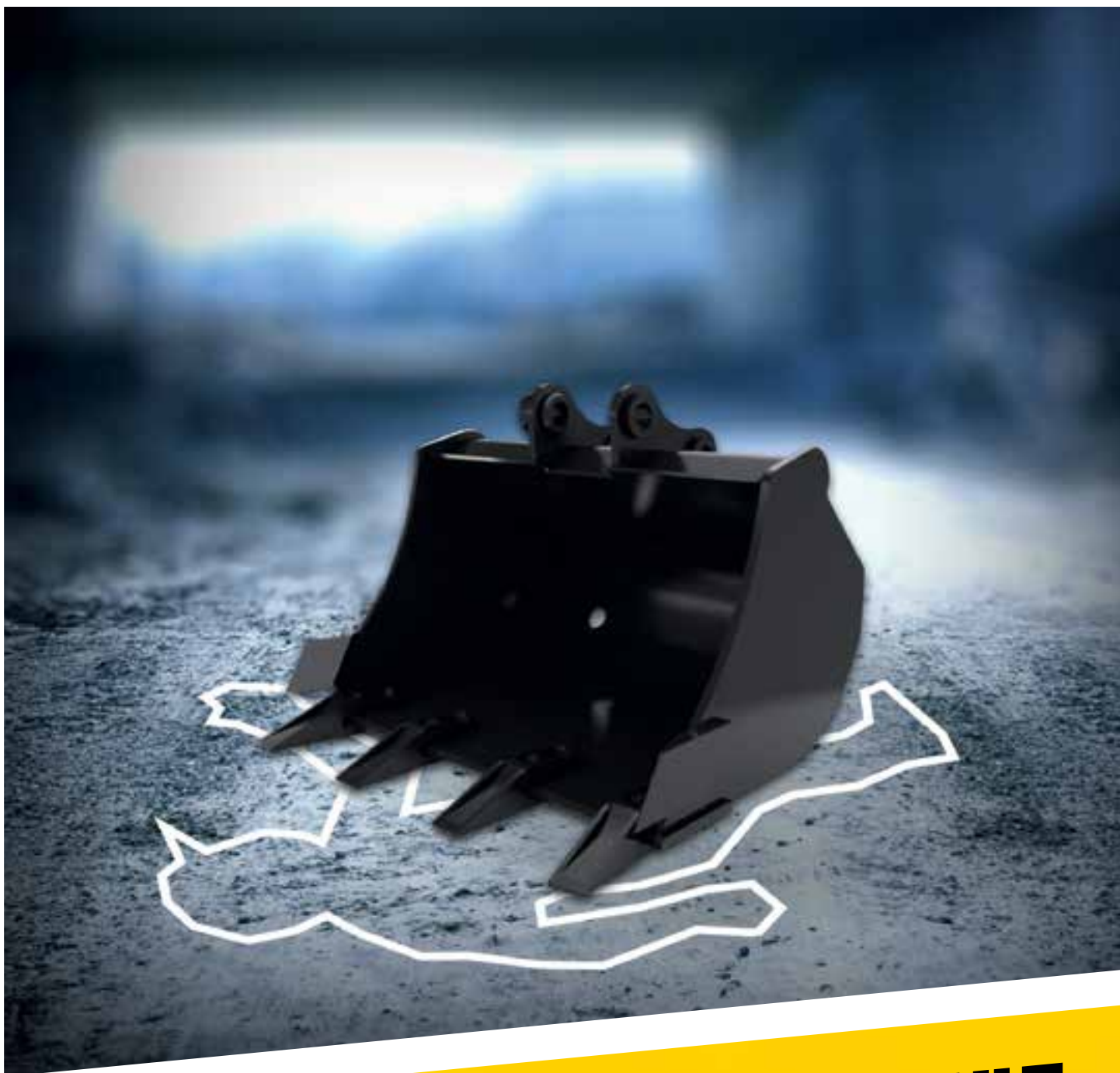


With no previous experience of tiltrotator systems, Cian visited the Engcon stand at Bauma and also used social media to find out what other people were saying about the concept before making an investment. Although posts on Twitter and YouTube videos of systems in action were useful, Cian says he couldn't have done it without John Craig's support. "John made the process hassle-free and I was amazed at how quickly he was able to travel to Ireland and get my Engcon system up and running."

Track steering

Cian's state-of-the-art set-up also includes track steering, fitted by John Craig through the system's hydraulics. This allows Cian to steer the machine from the joysticks rather than using the foot pedals. "This is a huge benefit when you've got muddy boots which can make it difficult to get a grip on the pedals," explains Cian. "Track steering gives me more precise control over machine movements and improves safety on site. It's all part of the many benefits you get when you choose Engcon."





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Inspectec Ireland: Helping Operators Stay Legal

Under legislation all lifting machines must be inspected by a competent person. Inspections also should be carried out on transport vehicles and the report of the inspection must be kept on record and any defects noted must be acted on.

This filing of paperwork and ensuring the inspections are completed on time have caused a headache for safety officers and equipment owners for many years. This is where Inspectec Ireland comes in.

It was founded by construction equipment specialist Dan Daly in 2014. After spending over twenty years working in the Irish construction equipment market, Dan felt that it was an appropriate time to bring his expert knowledge and a handy inspection device to the market.

Inspectec Ireland uses NFC (near field communication) technology, an electronic tag which contains

all the details of the machine and which is affixed to the cab.

If the operator at any time requires to see the machine's inspection certificate all that is required is for a swipe of the tag with a smartphone. The full inspection history and all other relevant data is then easily accessible and can be presented instantly.

The system also allows reports to feature photos of any defects noted during an inspection, as they say a picture is worth a thousand words. All the data and reports are backed up on several servers which the client can access through their own dedicated portal. The system will also ensure inspections never go overdue. The inspector and the plant owner will be notified well in advance of the next due date, therefore ensuring 100% compliance and allowing time to plan and avoid downtime.

We asked Dan how this technology will benefit equipment

owners. "I believe this is a step forward in the right direction ensuring equipment/vehicle operators stay well within the legal requirements. Over the years working in the sector, I have seen many cases where major safety defects were not acted on and that exposed the equipment owner and operators to major risk, risk of injury or death and the real possibility of prosecution and large fines.

"With this latest technology, it tells you instantly what machines require immediate attention and if they are safe to use. We work very closely with our software partners, CGA Technology, and we currently have many well-known companies using the product," he said.

Compliance with legislation is a significant issue for all equipment operators/owners. Under the law, the machine owner is responsible to ensure all plant is inspected and safe to use always. Not only is the statutory report by a competent person required but also a weekly record of the machines condition.

The inspectec system allows the operator to perform their weekly inspections by using their own smartphone and without the need to file away paper reports. This ensures all records are kept safely and ensures less hassle allowing the operator to get the machine working with peace of mind.

The system can also be used by safety officers on site which



means less time sitting at a desk and more time out on the site. All companies want a very reliable safe system of work, ensuring nothing slips through and full compliance is achieved easily.

Dan reckons that Inspectec will be of huge help to organisations who want to achieve that. "What we offer is more than just an inspection, we offer a total package that also allows your employees a NFC card which stores all the details of their training courses, when they are due for renewal and what machinery they are licensed to operate, if required the card can also be used for time and attendance and even if they want to book time off for their well-deserved holiday."

There is no doubt that machinery safety inspections have played a big part in ensuring less downtime and more importantly less accidents. Legislation will also no doubt become stricter in the future as the industry and the authorities strive towards a zero-accident environment. Health and safety has become a very necessary part of the transport and plant hire sector over the years, and Inspectec believe that they offer a solution that will make complying with that legislation a lot easier.

For more information, contact Dan Daly on 00353 87 2353928 or email Dan@inspectec.ie



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Topcon Brings Future of Surveying to Geo Business

Topcon GB & Ireland recently showcased a host of precision technology for construction and geo-businesses at this year's GEO Business event in London.

Experts from Topcon were on hand at the event to explain how their technology and services can deliver increased efficiency across the workflow, improving the way data is collected, managed and shared.

One of Topcon's latest offerings, the Delta Deformation Monitoring System, was showcased at the event. Combining powerful hardware and intuitive software under one complete workflow, the system integrates high-precision measurement technology, software and data to reduce risk and increase knowledge sharing during intricate construction projects and structural surveys. The system includes the Delta Link unit, the Delta Log programme and Delta Watch software package.

Together, these products act as a central management suite that can be used to create detailed, reliable and accurate datasets that can be analysed quickly



and remotely to reduce risk during the full life cycle of any asset.

Also on Topcon's stand was the Elite Survey Suite, a system combining three cutting-edge survey products with a single software solution – designed to give professionals a powerful and integrated surveying workflow. The suite includes Topcon's new GT series of robotic total stations, HiPer HR hybrid GNSS receiver, FC-5000 field controller

and the latest MAGNET 4.0 software programme that seamlessly link together the different stages of the workflow.

Topcon's range of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) also took flight at this year's GEO Business, with the eight rotary-winged Falcon 8 UAS and fixed wing Sirius Pro on show.

Speaking at the event, Simon Crowhen – national sales manager at Topcon GB & Ireland – said: "As an industry, we need to make sure we're evolving our working style to meet the demands of modern construction. Traditional methods of surveying and monitoring just can't deliver the level of data needed on challenging construction and infrastructure projects.

"GEO Business gives us a brilliant platform to show the industry our newest technology and help people find new ways of working that boost their efficiency on site while delivering even more for their clients."

In addition to showcasing a wide range of technology, Topcon also teamed up with partners to bring its technology to life through examples of real-world applications. LandScope presented: "Integration of Topcon IPS3 Data into Survey Workflows", which explored their use of mobile mapping and how they integrated data into hydrographic workflows and mobile GPR.

Rapid Return of Stolen Wacker Plate Thanks to Battery Operated Tracking Device

The suitability of AMI Group's anti-theft tracking devices for the protection of both smaller and large plant equipment has been demonstrated by one of the company's latest recoveries where a Wacker compactor plate was successfully recovered within a few hours of being reported as stolen.

The Wacker plate is owned by AMI's customer, a civil engineering and groundworks contractor, and fortunately it was fitted with the AT5, a self-

contained, wireless, battery operated tracking device which is just 54 x 65 x 37mm in size.

The AT5 has a battery life of up to 20 years and it utilises highly sensitive assisted GPS (Global Positioning System) positioning accurate to within 1 metre with pinpoint street level mapping.

Once AMI's customer realised that the equipment had been stolen from their depot in Worcestershire, they contacted AMI Group who immediately placed the AT5 unit into a 15 minute wake-sleep cycle mode,

meaning that it would report its position every 15 minutes before returning to sleep so that it would remain undetectable.

Once a crime reference number had been obtained, AMI's finder team were dispatched to the last known location and the RF (Radio Frequency) beacon was enabled on the AT5 to aid the recovery of the stolen equipment.

AMI's finder team arrived on-site at 3pm and the exact location of the stolen Wacker plate was identified within minutes. Using a RF wand, AMI's finder team

pinpointed the machine to the back garden of a property on a new housing development and the Wacker plate was successfully recovered and returned to AMI's customer.

The contractor concerned has over 50 items of equipment protected with the AT5 tracking device and said: "The technologies of the AT5 unit have never let us down. We have received a 100% recovery rate with AMI Group and their fast response time always exceeds our expectations."

Introducing the new CASE CX245D SR excavator

CASE Construction Equipment has introduced the all-new CX245D SR minimum-swing radius excavator to its D Series line-up.

Designed to provide increased digging and lifting power in confined work areas, the CX245D SR features a compact counterweight and modified boom placement that minimizes the machine's footprint, resulting in a highly productive and manoeuvrable excavator that's ideal for restricted conditions,

such as road and bridge work, residential projects and urban construction.

With an operating weight of 26 tons and a 160 HP Tier 4 Final/Stage IV engine, the CX245D SR offers more bucket digging forces and lift capacity compared to the previous model.

Each D Series model is built to provide significant operational gains, including decreased cycle times, improved responsiveness and multifunctional controls, and greater fuel efficiency. An electronically controlled hydraulic pump and larger

control and solenoid valves increase lifting capacities and improve responsiveness. D Series models offer more standard features than previous CASE excavators, simplifying the buying process and making them extremely versatile and operator friendly.

The CX245D SR also has best-in-class cab space, excellent visibility, and a pressurised and iso-mounted cab that keeps noise and vibration down.

Each machine is available with a new (optional) LED working light package that provides illumination similar to sunlight – and more than three-times brighter than halogen – allowing contractors to work around the clock. The LED package includes eight LED lights (3 front, 1 on the arm, two rear and one on each side).

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Manitou introduces its latest platform

Manitou has launched two new telescopic platforms to meet increasing demand in the 22 metre segment.

The first, the 220 TJ is light and compact, while the second, the 220 TJ+ has a high-capacity basket fully rated at 350 kg. This capacity holds regardless of the position of the articulated arm or the telescopic extension.

These two products carry forward the design, technology and structural components that have accounted for the success of the 26 metre and 28 metre models.

The structure consists of a pivot and three telescoping elements, giving an overall length of less than 10 metres. Both models are

equipped with a 2 metre pendular arm that folds up, reducing the length of the machine when transported. They can also be slung, with four chains from a single point for easy lifting without extra tools or equipment.

The 220TJ and 220TJ+ telescopic booms are equipped with a 4-cylinder 26 kW diesel engine coupled with a variable speed pump, giving the operator easy and accurate use. As is true of the whole line, these booms are equipped with a system that automatically adjusts the power of the engine to what is needed, thereby reducing fuel consumption and total cost of ownership. The hydraulics provide smooth, rapid movements with

complete safety. The jacks taper off before stopping, giving added comfort and eliminating any risk of jerky movement.

A system patented by Manitou automatically adapts the speed depending on how far out the boom is extended, thereby maintaining constant speed wherever the basket might be.

Both models also have an interface system for communicating with the machine, including diagnostics and maintenance.



The Manitou 220TJ telescopic boom

MEWP fatality rate declines as global rental market grows

The fatal injury rate (FIR) for mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) declined in 2016, despite the fact that the total MEWP rental fleet and the number of rental days worldwide increased significantly over the same period.

The data, exclusively collated and interpreted by the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF), indicate that in 2016 there were 66 reported fatalities involving MEWPs worldwide, compared to 68 deaths reported in 2015. During the same period, the size of the global MEWP rental fleet rose from an estimated 1.17 million units at the end of 2015 to 1.25m estimated at the end of 2016.

In 2015, the number of on-hire rental days was 192.2 million and the number of reported fatalities was 68, giving a FIR of 0.35 per 100,000 operating days. In 2016, the number on-hire rental days rose to 206.1m and the number of reported deaths was 66, giving an effective fatal injury rate of 0.32 per 100,000 operating days. This is equivalent to one fatal incident every 3.2 million operating days.

Of the 66 reported MEWP fatalities in 2016, the main causes were falls from height, electrocution, entrapment and overturn of machinery.

Chris Wraith, IPAF's Safety & Technical Executive, who compiles the global accident and

fatal injuries data, comments: "While it is heartening to see the effective fatal injury rate fall at the same time as the size of the rental market and number of machine operating days have increased significantly, we must not be complacent.

"It is disappointing to see the same main causes of fatalities being repeated year on year, which suggests that the industry as a whole is not learning the lessons from previous incidents – in 2016 falls from height accounted for 38% of the reported fatalities and electrocution 23%. There were fewer fatal overturns (12% of total fatal incidents, as opposed

to 27% in 2015), but entrapments accounted for a higher proportion of the reported deaths (18%) than the year before. In 2015 electrocution and entrapment both accounted for around 15% of the total reported fatalities.

"Investigations show that accidents are most often due to management failings or operator error, which can in almost all cases be anticipated and avoided, or at least mitigated. This is why in 2017 IPAF is pursuing its 'back to basics' safety agenda, reminding operators and managers of the need for good risk assessment, choosing the right equipment for the job, proper training for

users and supervisors, sound technical and safety guidance and a robust incident reporting regime under which lessons are learned and shared across the business and the wider industry."

Tim Whiteman, CEO of IPAF, adds: "It is worth pointing out that MEWPs are still by far the safest way to work at height, and overall it is encouraging that the fatal injury rate declined last year even as the global MEWP rental market increased in terms of size and total operating hours.

"By focusing on good practice, employee training and by reporting on near misses as well as accidents and fatalities, companies can help ensure fewer people are injured or killed when operating MEWPs, and hopefully we will see that fatal injury rate decline again in 2017."

IPAF's accident reporting project, launched in 2012, is compiling a comprehensive record of known accidents. The accident data gathered enables IPAF to improve the content of training programmes, develop technical guidance, target specific high-risk professions or activities, and provide research findings to bodies developing and drafting new industry standards.

All manufacturers, rental companies, contractors and users are encouraged to report any known accidents (not just fatal and serious accidents) involving MEWPs and MCWPs (mast climbing work platforms) worldwide at www.ipaf.org/accident. This information is used to make the powered access industry even safer than it is today.



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SLEATOR PLANT LEADING THE WAY IN CUSTOMER CARE

With sales of Genie access equipment continuing to grow year on year across Ireland, the need for a solid and reliable after-sales service also increases, which is why Sleator Plant, Ireland's official Genie Access Equipment stockist, has invested heavily in providing unrivalled back-up and support.

Stocking an extensive range of access platforms and lifting equipment including smaller material lifts and aerial work platforms, scissor & boom lifts featuring the electric, hybrid and diesel varieties, Sleator Plant has built up an impressive customer base in recent years.

While Genie's global reputation for outstanding design and performance have contributed greatly to that, another factor has also played a part.

Comments Sleator Plant's Aaron McCaul, who heads up the after-sales division: "In the last few years with the legalities and responsibilities placed on companies to ensure staff safety, it was inevitable sales of access equipment would increase. Perhaps that, coupled with a sudden boom in local business, people have an urgent requirement to get that equipment in place. "With Ireland as a whole always having a high proportion of population that likes to own their machine as opposed to leasing or hiring, these customers want to choose

the most cost effective solution. Long gone are the days of when that meant buying the cheapest machine available, people now understand you get what you pay for.

"They want a machine that is robust, easily maintained, and has a good market resale value, and the only answer for access machinery is Sleator Plant & Genie."

'Only Option'

Obviously accidents happen, people make mistakes, things go wrong, and that's where Sleator Plant has changed the market.

Adds Aaron: "I have come from the executive car industry and my focus is always upon providing excellence in aftermarket care for all our customers. We decided just over 3 years ago to ensure aftermarket was centric to the over-riding strategy of the business and have been pleasantly surprised how well that's been received by our customers. Some said at the time we were taking a risk but that risk is now paying dividends.

"With our constantly expanding and heavily invested team of fully trained service advisors, field engineers and parts advisors, I am proud to say of my team, 'we are the only option'."

Sleator Plant's successes in Northern Ireland have also brought it a just reward, as Aaron reveals: "Genie's recognition of our efforts and successes pushed them to expand our territory to now cover the

whole of Ireland. Working with Genie's own Approved Service Providers in the south, we can easily cover this area."

Stock & Parts

Availability of equipment or parts is not a problem. Sleator Plant currently have just over £1m of Genie access equipment in stock, to respond quickly to customer requirements, ranging from the 19 ft GS1932 electric scissor lifts, through to the 32 ft rough terrain Kubota engine powered GS3369RT scissors, right up to the Z62 Deutz powered Articulating boom with almost a 68 ft working height.

Marry that to a large parts stock holding for Genie alone at Sleator Plant, and an emergency breakdown service currently just over three hours response, well below the company's four hour target average for all of Ireland, you can see why this Mullusk headquartered company is the number one choice.

Any emergency parts can also be brought in, or sent direct to site next day, from Genie's European parts centre in the Netherlands.

And adds Aaron: "Whether you want us to provide a fully managed service and repair contract, help with maintaining it yourself, or just parts support, we are always here and happy to help, constantly striving to grow and excel."



The Sleator Plant team at their depot in Mullusk: (Left to Right) Brian Frizzell – Sales Executive, Mark Cobain – Parts Manager, Alan Watters – Engineer, Andy Lowry – Parts Advisor, Joanne Weir – Service Advisor, Carrie Stewart – Accounts, Alister McClintock – Senior Engineer and Aaron McCaul – Aftersales Manager.

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GLENDUN PLANT SALES SCORE ANOTHER 'FIRST' WITH SKYJACK

When CA Hire from Virginia in County Cavan wanted to add to their fleet of access equipment they had no hesitation in opting for Skyjack's latest class leading model, the SJ85 AJ, supplied by dealers Glendun Plant.

In doing so, the plant hire company has become the first in Ireland to be able to offer this new Skyjack model which features an impressive working height of 91 ft (27.73 m), a horizontal outreach of 56 ft (17.07 m) and a superior up-and-over clearance of 34 ft (10.36 m).

"When we first took on the distributorship for Skyjack we knew it had great potential and one year on the model range is rapidly growing in popularity, especially with hire companies, some of whom have been persuaded to switch brands to stock the Skyjack," comments Glendun Plant Sales' Dermot Cunnie.

"The Skyjack has been designed to be easy to service and maintain, and it is not only reliable but it is extremely simple to operate, 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.

"Feedback from hire companies has been extremely positive; they



tell us they are glad to see a scissor lift that is practical, reliable and rugged, a machine that virtually anybody can operate and that doesn't have any expensive ECU's, modules and electronic components," says Dermot.

The recent sale of the new SJ85 to CA Hire is significant in that the rental company opted for the Skyjack after carrying out a comparison with other brands.

As with Skyjack's other articulating booms, the SJ85 design provides SKYRISER™ capability, the company's unique riser design that offers true vertical rise without drifting.

An open-centre knuckle riser design also provides SPEEDYREACH™ efficiency, enabling the lowering of the fly boom to ground level

for re-stocking without lowering the riser; operators will be able to function between maximum platform height and ground level in 60-70 seconds. Operators will definitely notice how much easier it is to get to max height and back down with the SJ85 AJ.

It is that riser design that is said to set it apart from similar machines in its class. There is no need to worry about performing multiple functions to lift the riser. The SJ85 AJ's riser performs the same as all other Skyjack articulating booms – it goes straight up and down.

Another benefit of the SJ85 AJ's open centre knuckle design are its compact stowed dimensions; useful for transportation and reducing tailswing. The SJ85 AJ also features 360-degree continuous turret rotation, and other unique design features found only on Skyjack rough terrain booms.

It is anticipated that the unit will redefine the 80-ft articulating boom class and Skyjack say they are confident that it will offer a great return on investment for rental customers.





Using proven technology and simple design, Skyjack products offer the rental industry's best life cycle value through low cost of ownership, ease of service and maintenance while retaining high residual values.



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GLENDUN PLANT TAKES NIFTYLIFTS TO NEW HEIGHTS

As official dealer for Niftylift in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties, Dungannon based Glendun Plant Sales continues its upward trend as sales of Niftylifts reach even greater heights.

Comments Glendun Plant Sales' director, Dermot Cunnie: "Niftylift was one of the first products we took on when Glendun Plant Sales was established and we are very happy with how sales have steadily grown since then.

"Availability is always good too. We carry good stocks, but Niftylift always pulls out the stops to meet demand and the fact that the products are manufactured in the UK is definitely a big advantage.

"We've also found the support and service from Niftylift to be second-to-none, with spare parts always readily available."

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.

Also popular is the larger Nifty 170TPE, a 17m bi-energy (petrol

& battery) powered trailer mount, which offers a huge working envelope making it ideal for a wide range of applications.

Increasingly in demand as well are Niftylift's innovative Hybrid powered 15m and 21m self-propelled booms, the HR15 and HR21. These offer the benefits of low overall weight, good manoeuvrability and excellent reach performance, coupled with an environmentally conscious Hybrid power system that reduces emissions and fuel consumption without compromising on performance.

Now in its third successful year as a Niftylift dealer, the future is looking bright for Glendun Plant Sales, as it continues to deliver quality powered access equipment to in the shape of Niftylift products.

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Something For Everyone At HAE EHA Trade Fair & Convention

Do you want to find out about the latest industry initiatives for training and retaining staff, empowering women in the workplace and a safer working environment? Then make a beeline for the HAE EHA Trade Fair & Convention at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry on October 11-12 - where you can be informed and entertained by an impressive line-up of keynote speakers.

Being 'sent to Coventry' will benefit delegates as they will benefit from insights from, among others, Derek Redmond, a former Olympic and world champion athlete who will be discussing improving performance and retaining talent, while financial expert Lee Coles, Head of Workplace Education at Jelf, part of Mercer Marsh Benefits, will impart the experiences he has gained during 25 years in financial services to talk about the wellbeing of employees and retirement planning.

Other speakers over the two days are HAE EHA Chairman Andy Martin, who will give the welcome and introduction and Guy Van Der Knaap, Managing Director of MCS. Guy is to deliver a presentation on how to make the best use of mobile devices to improve productivity.

Reality check

Training workshops at the convention include HAE's ILM Level 5 Graduation scheme and the exciting developments in virtual reality programmes in

partnership with the University of the West of England (UWE). How often would you get to control and operate a mini digger indoors? Well you will be able to feel the earth move and dig up roads in a virtual way at the convention as it's just one of the innovative VR training tools that will be featured at the show.

Richard Whiting of Commercial Training at HAE, said: "The training and NVQ programmes we're offering are a far-reaching cradle to grave approach to a career in hire. Virtual reality is an inventive way for us to demonstrate the training available throughout the hire supply chain. In addition to a virtual digger we also plan to have an articulated boom."

UWE representatives Linda Williams and Dr Graham Baker will also be holding a workshop on the second day that will provide an introduction to the Hire Industry Degree Qualification highlighting the advantages for both employers and learners. Education and training to help career development and improve productivity is a strong theme of the convention.

A Woman's Place?

...is wherever a hire career takes her! These days she can be found building a house, managing a company or overseeing an engineering project. The convention will expand on the training programmes and changing attitudes that are helping to empower women and close the gender gap in a

huge variety of jobs available in plant, equipment and hire.

Billy-Jo Davies was the winner in the Hire Awards of Excellence Hire Manager of the Year 2017 awards – a prime example of how HAE is supporting and recognising talented women within the industry. Billy-Jo started her career six years ago as a Business Administration apprentice and rose quickly to be a Senior Hire Desk Manager at AFI Uplift, supplier of access equipment, aerial platforms, scissor lifts and booms.

Delighted to be part of a mainly female team, Billy-Jo commented: "If you're willing to make the effort and get to know the best way of working with engineers, drivers and other colleagues, you can make quick progress."

Safety for Hire

Tackling safety issues is also on the agenda at the Trade Fair & Convention. SafeHire is sponsoring the networking and refreshments area in the Ricoh Arena where anyone can drop by, speak to the team about the benefits of the scheme and book assessment dates to achieve the certification.

The area will have case study information from HAE members who have achieved certification and there will be plenty of examples of the good, the bad and the ugly instances involving safety - or the lack of it.

SafeHire is a BSI private standard offering a robust and in-depth assessment of businesses in the hire industry, with the help and

guidance of the British Standards Institute. It is a continual improvement programme that both sets and helps maintain high standards of operation for HAE members. The standard provides a greater degree of transparency and reassurance to clients, customers and trading standards. It is important for contractors and those responsible for hiring equipment on construction sites and public events to be protected, which is the objective of the SafeHire scheme.

Mark Wilson, Director of CW Plant Hire, said: "SafeHire members can confirm to existing and prospective customers that they run a professional rental operation that has been assessed by an independent third party. I believe that SafeHire is an excellent scheme that represents very good value for money."

To discuss the opportunities for business improvement and the importance of being recognised for supplying safe, quality equipment there will be speaker sessions from construction industry bodies and Government procurement, along with a speaker panel fronted by the SafeHire team plus Build UK.

Register

Delegates to the HAE EHA Trade Fair & Convention register in advance as numbers are limited for catering, workshops and guest speaker sessions. Don't miss out on your place! For more details and sponsorship opportunities go to <http://hireconvention.org.uk>.

Rob Squires Joins the CPA as Training and Safety Manager

Rob Squires has been appointed to the position of Training and Safety Manager at the Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA).

Formerly Training Manager of the National Demolition Group, Rob brings with him a strong training and management background, having previously worked for the Armed Forces and latterly at CITB where he oversaw the staffing and delivery mechanisms for all of the construction-based card schemes including CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme), CISRS (Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme) and particularly CPCS (Construction Plant Competence Scheme).

Rob's key responsibilities include supporting all of the CPA Special Interest Groups and CPA's Training on Plant in Construction Group - TOPIC.

As training and skills issues are higher than ever on the agenda, and with the CITB and its function being subject to review, Rob will work closely with the CITB and other organisations to ensure that CPA Members' training requirements are met, relevant and are effectively delivered. Rob will ensure that grant aid continues to be available and will be seeking new funding opportunities for CPA Members from the CITB and other funding bodies.

CPA Chief Executive Colin Wood said: "I've known Rob for a number of years and I'm very pleased to welcome him to our CPA team and know that he will make a great contribution to the work of the Association and to the plant sector in general."



Rob Squires



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To book tickets and exhibition space visit:
www.hireconvention.org.uk

or call 0121 380 4605 email: hireconvention@hae.org.uk

inspHire Celebrating 20 Years of Hire Software Innovation

2017 marks the 20th anniversary of inspHire hire software. Back in 1997 the very first Windows based hire management solution was introduced to the market and inspHire haven't looked back since.

Twenty years of innovation, research and development has seen inspHire cement its place as the UK's leading provider of software to the hire industry. Although, many things have changed since its launch, one thing has remained the same: to provide cutting-edge solutions that simplify managing every aspect of a hire business.

Mayday Plant Hire has been using inspHire for over 17 years and have experienced first-hand how the software continues to evolve and meet the ever changing demands of the hire industry.

Derek Blow, Director at Mayday Plant said: "Over the years, we have seen and benefitted from



the continuous development of inspHire. Our operations have drastically changed since we first implemented the system, the business has grown alongside our fleet and customer base. Thanks to inspHire's versatility and easy-to-use features we've never had any issues with our systems during our expansion."

Fantastic two-way communication with customers is one of the main contributors to inspHire's continued success.

Graham Dobbs, inspHire Managing Director says: "We

make sure everything we do delivers a benefit to the customer. The best way to do this is by communicating directly with them. We see hundreds of customers through focus groups, user forums and the many customer site visits we do every year."

This was supported by Derek of Mayday, who stated: "We're kept informed of what is on the development roadmap and we've even been able to contribute towards this,

suggesting items that would benefit us as well as other users."

With technology advancing and the way businesses work changing, Mayday are always looking for new processes to introduce that will make them a more efficient operation. Recently, they've made the decision to implement inspHire Mobile across multiple areas of the business.

"We're looking forward to getting up and running with inspHire Mobile; being able to keep track of all of our workshop jobs, deliveries and collections using a hand held device is going to make things so much easier for us and we see this development as the essential next step to the way we provide our service."

Derek keen to say how impressed he continues to be with the level of support he receives from inspHire. "We can rest easy knowing that the system that is critical to the way we run our business is not only robust, but is backed by an incredibly knowledgeable and well-resourced support team. Simply stated, inspHire has always and continues to do everything the we need it to do."

CPA Launches Good Practice Guide on Hydraulic Pressurising Activities

The Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) has launched a good practice guide on the safety aspects of pressurising hydraulic systems using an external energy source for diagnostic purposes.

The publication has been produced following an approach to the CPA by the Assistant Coroner for Warwickshire concerning a fatality caused by a pressurising activity where failure of a hydraulic component from an item of lifting equipment occurred.

The CPA was tasked by the Coroner to relay information about the dangers of this activity and what procedures should be in place to prevent such an occurrence. In particular, the CPA was asked to promote to industry the availability of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) published Guidance Note GS4 - Safety Requirements for Pressure Testing.

Although HSE Guidance Note 4 is a comprehensive publication, technical in content and applicable to all sectors of industry, it is biased towards pressure testing activities where the proof-testing

of components and systems is undertaken at the manufacturing stage. The CPA's publication is based on GS4 but tailored for the plant maintenance sector and has been blended towards an educational rather than technical content, aimed at those carrying out the activity as well as those managing the process.

As with all CPA guidance documents, the good practice guide can be downloaded free of charge from www.cpa.uk.net/safetytechnicalpublications/

MCS launch new website and company branding

MCS has refreshed its company branding, logo and website. (www.mcs.co.uk)

So much has changed since MCS was founded in 1983. It has grown as a company, developed strong relationships with its customers, partners and suppliers and has grown globally too, to become the international business that it is today.

MCS has continued to set the benchmark for rental software by harnessing the latest IT technologies and ensuring

that these add value to its customers' rental businesses. Furthermore, it is looking to grow and recognise its ambitions to become a trusted global rental software supplier.

With a suite of cutting-edge rental software solutions and a commitment to providing excellent customer service, MCS felt that the time was right to refresh the MCS brand.

MCS has updated its strapline to 'Empowering Rental Growth' which provides an insight into

what its software and solutions bring to its customers.

The new MCS brand will allow it to further develop its software and service portfolio, whilst continuing to offer nothing but the highest standards of customer service to its clients.

Guy van der Knaap, Managing Director says: "We hope that MCS' new image and branding will reflect the future direction of our business and help us to reach out to new clients, wherever they may be. The new website is the perfect platform

to showcase our wide range of software solutions and share how widely they are being used."

MCS has spent the past few months working with a dedicated team to revamp its logo, website and brand appearance so that it is now fresh, modern and professional. Its re-launched website is now solely focused on users' needs with access to a whole new resources section which is dedicated to sharing free concise guides and white papers relevant to the hire industry.

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CDE TO PRESENT ITS RECYCLING SOLUTIONS AT THE SIM EXHIBITION



CDE will be presenting its turnkey equipment at the SIM Exhibition in Metz, France, from 18 to 20 October.

In anticipation of the launch of the Grand Paris Express project (GPE), which will see the construction of 200 kilometres of metro transit lines, and of the obligation of recycling at least 70% of construction and demolition waste from the year 2020 (in accordance with the Directive 2008/98/CE on waste), CDE will offer innovative recycling solutions to visitors.

The ethical management of inert waste has now become a key priority for a French economy that encourages infrastructural investments whilst at the same time supporting the efforts of organisations that are developing "green" solutions to reduce the environmental impact of waste.

As a member of the French Syndicat des recycleurs du BTP (waste recycling association), CDE has also been

actively involved in the comparative study commissioned by the Fédération Française du Bâtiment (French federation for the building industry).

This study focuses on the management of inert construction waste in five European neighbouring countries, including the UK, in order to highlight the advantages of recycling C&D waste in the context of a circular economy.

CDE has supplied more than 40 turnkey wet processing plants for C&D waste to companies across the world. These plants treat between 80 and 300 tonnes of construction and demolition waste material per hour and together have enabled a reduction in landfill of 11 million tonnes per year. CDE has also supplied the world's largest C&D wet processing plant, in terms of its processing capacity, to the company Velde Pukk in Norway. This plant treats 300 tonnes of waste per hour.

Marc Sopransi, CDE Business Development Manager for France and for the French-speaking regions of Belgium and Switzerland, explains: "Choosing a CDE plant for C&D waste recycling allows operators to maximise the commercial value of these recycled aggregates. It means that you can treat more of these products, and therefore increase volume, whilst at the same time bringing the recycled final products up to specifications that are increasingly more technical."

CDE has recently installed equipment that provides a solution for the recycling of construction waste in France, for a company that has opted to invest in the recycling of concrete. CDE has provided products such as the AggMax, an all-in-one unit that comprises scrubbing, pre-screening, rinsing and classifying functions on a single chassis, an EvoWash sand washing plant and an AquaCycle water treatment system.





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Ashcroft Plant impressed with fuel economy from Sandvik crushing and screening duo

Cumbrian based Ashcroft Plant Cumbria Ltd have purchased a Sandvik QJ341 jaw crusher and QE341 scalper to cater for their needs in their expanding recycling business.

Established in 1994 Ashcroft Plant Cumbria Ltd. originated as a one man band, founded and managed by Chris Ashcroft. Over the past decade, the company has expanded into a profitable business and has 110 employees, up to 50 subcontractors and a turnover of 10 million pounds.

A key part of the expansion has been the recycling aspect of the business. Ashcroft decided to develop its own recycling yard two years ago and initially brought equipment in on hire to process the recycled material. With the increasing need to supply usable aggregates for their own projects and for resale to other clients, Chris decided to invest in his own mobile crushing and screening plant for his site early in 2016.

Having hired Sandvik equipment previously, Chris Ashcroft was already familiar with the range of equipment offered by Sandvik Mobile Crushers and Screens. He contacted Sandvik and a demonstration was organized of a Sandvik QJ341 jaw crusher and QE341 heavy duty scalper in April this year. Following the demonstration, Chris took no convincing that these mobile units were the right machines for the job and signed the contract straight away. "Sandvik had the right products for our



needs. The salesman was very knowledgeable, understood our requirements and put the right deal on the table," said Chris.

Fuel economy

The QJ341 is the perfect solution for their recycling application. Featuring a 1200 x 750mm C12 single toggle jaw, it has a hydraulically adjustable CSS, and user-friendly PLC control system with colour screen for ease of operation. Fitted with a CAT fixed speed engine, the QJ341 is extremely economical. This back to basics engine brings with it many additional customer advantages, generating more horsepower and requiring no AdBlue or EGR, so is therefore very easy to operate. "We have found the fuel economy to be good," comments Chris. "Production rates are excellent, especially in clean material".

Ideal for their recycling site and for processing asphalt is the reverse crush function.

This feature helps to relieve blockages, which combined with the hydraulically lowering main conveyor is a key benefit of the QJ341 in recycling applications.

Easy to configure

Purpose built for heavy duty recycling applications, the QE341 makes the perfect match for the QJ341. Whether it's working before or after a primary crusher or as a standalone unit, the QE341 is designed to deliver high production with clean separation.

One of the features which impressed Ashcroft is the ability to configure the unit with reversed side conveyors or conveyors positioned on one side, unique in this product category. This proves particularly beneficial in tight confined spaces often found in recycling applications.

Other attributes of the QE341 are the modular frame design of the screenbox and hydraulic jack-up screen facility, both of which enable quick and easy changeover of screen media. This saves time and money when Ashcroft need to change the screen mesh over for processing different material. The machine is currently fitted with a 25mm mesh in the top deck and 6 mm piano wire in the bottom deck for processing topsoil.

The QE341 also comes complete with features designed to improve the experience for the operator. It is equipped with a one-touch sequential start / stop facility with colour-coded numerical push button functions. The power pack provides easy access for maintenance and to help keep operating costs to a minimum, the QE341 is powered by a CAT C4.4 83kW engine with a fuel consumption less than 15 l/h. The model also comes with two speed tracking which helps to reduce travel time between job sites.

Chris Ashcroft has now been using the QJ341 and QE341 for 6 months and they have proven the ideal fit for his recycling and demolition business. He has been very pleased with the performance and reliability of the equipment and aftermarket support from Sandvik. "The QE341 has not missed a beat since the day it was delivered," comments Chris. "Service has been good and any issues we have experienced have been resolved quickly."

Continually expanding, Ashcroft has acquired a larger depot for their head office this year and looking to the future, Chris concludes by adding that Sandvik would definitely be in the running if they were to purchase another machine for his operation.



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QPANI: Quarry Products Association Northern Ireland • IMQS: Irish Mining & Quarrying Society • HAE: Hire Association Europe
IOQ: Institute of Quarrying • CPA: Construction Plant-Hire Association

PLANT & CIVIL engineer

PLANT, CONSTRUCTION & QUARRY AWARDS 2017

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Plant Hire Company of the Year

This Award will be presented to the organisation which offers an extensive portfolio of high quality products, flexible hire options, and respected customer service policies. Entrants should outline how their company provides a level of plant hire expertise that puts them ahead of the competition, eg: product knowledge, distribution network, prompt delivery and collection, equipment options, cost effective hiring and any unique services available. Customer testimonies may also be submitted.

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Innovation of the Year

This category is open to all civil engineering, construction and quarrying companies who have introduced, created or invested within their operations innovative solutions that make their activities more efficient, more profitable and more successful. The innovation can range from the latest equipment and facilities to cutting edge technology or environmental solutions.

sponsor to be confirmed



Excellence in Customer Service

This category is open to all companies in the construction, quarrying, and plant & machinery sectors, including dealers, equipment suppliers, service and maintenance agents and other associated businesses. Entrants need to demonstrate a high level of customer care and support. Customer testimonies will be accepted.

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Construction Company of the Year

This Award will be presented to the company or organisation who has demonstrated over the past year involvement with major or specialist projects throughout the island of Ireland, Great Britain or worldwide which illustrate high levels of skill within project management, innovation, specialist projects.

Customer testimonies may also be submitted.



SCANIA

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Construction Fleet of the Year

This award will be presented to the company operating an outstanding fleet of vehicles ranging from tippers to readymix trucks. Judging criteria will be based on appearance, quality, maintenance programmes, driver or operator efficiency, skill and professionalism. The category is open to all those involved in the construction, quarrying and associated sectors.

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Special Recognition Award

This award, for which nominations are now open, will be presented to the individual who has been outstanding in his or her service to the industry, whose personal achievements, accomplishments or initiatives in the construction, quarrying or plant & machinery sectors deserve recognition.



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Quarry of the Year

This category is open to individual working quarries, whether hardrock, sand or gravel, where the operator demonstrates safe working practices, the highest levels of pollution control, sustainability, biodiversity, and operational efficiency, while offering a strong portfolio of products and services. Customer testimonies can be submitted.

SO HOW DO YOU ENTER?

**IT'S NOT AS COMPLICATED AS YOU MIGHT
THINK. IN FACT, OUR ADVICE AS ALWAYS IS:
KEEP IT SIMPLE**

Here are some points to consider:

The Award categories require short entries stating why you believe your company should win.

Your entry will not be judged on presentation, but make sure it is easy for the judges to readily locate the necessary information.

Any factual information, such as operational, service, financial or personal details, to back up any claims expressed in your entry should be clearly and concisely laid out.

You don't have to be a big concern to enter. You could be an individual, a company with less than 10 employees or a large

national/international outfit. You will be judged on merit, not size.

The judges are looking for excellence, outstanding qualities or contributions, unrivalled service and innovation, individuals and organisations who have gone the extra mile – so demonstrate all of that in your entry; make it stand out from the rest!

If you have faced any difficulties or obstacles in achieving your goals, make sure you note it on your entry.

If you need to provide any additional information to support your entry, keep it as brief and to the point as possible. Feel free to send customer testimonies to support your entries.

ALL ENTRIES/NOMINATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY 15th October 2017

THE CATEGORIES ARE AS FOLLOWS: Tick the categories you wish to enter

sponsor to be confirmed



Fleet Management Company of the Year

This award is open to contractors operating any size of plant, machinery or truck fleet, plant hire outlets or other fleet focused businesses within the construction sector. Entrants should be able to demonstrate how they have employed telematics systems or other technologies to efficiently manage, monitor and protect their assets and operators, both on and off site.

sponsor to be confirmed



Plant / Machinery Manufacturer / Supplier of the Year

This award is for the plant or machinery manufacturer or supplier who can demonstrate their products are of an exceptional quality. Judging criteria will include performance and reliability, driver or operator safety and comfort, fuel efficiency and after-sales support. Customer testimonies can accompany any submission.

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Student of the Year

This category is open to students working in a civil engineering environment or other associated activities within the construction sector. The winning student must demonstrate a high degree of dedication and commitment to the industry, outlining why he or she chose this particular career path and detailing their current and future goals. Employer references can be included in this entry.

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Civil Engineering Company of the Year

This Award will be presented to the organisation who can report on successful involvement within a wide variety of civil engineering projects including planning, construction and maintenance of fixed structures or public works throughout the island of Ireland, Great Britain, or worldwide. The information provided should demonstrate high levels of skill within project management, procurement, innovation and specialist projects. Customer testimonies may also be submitted.

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Health & Safety Award

This Award will be presented to the company who demonstrates best health and safety management practices in the plant, quarry and construction industries. The company must have implemented detailed health and safety measures that incorporate a high level of management and workforce involvement. The company must demonstrate how it assigns H&S responsibilities and maintains competence across its organisation. Customer testimonies may also be submitted.

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Specialist Contractor of the Year

This category is open to contractors involved in any sector of the industry, including Civil Engineering, Highways, Quarrying, Utilities, Construction and Groundworks.

The award will be presented to the contractor who has successfully demonstrated or employed specialist, individual, unique, and/or innovative skills on any project or scheme within the last 12 months.

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High Achiever of the Year

This category is for the individual or company that has achieved outstanding success such as in sales, contract wins, company expansion / development or other areas of business over the past 12 months.

It is open to any individual or company currently active in the construction, civil engineering, quarrying and plant & machinery sectors. The winner must highlight the area in which they operate, level and type of achievement, and outline any relevant factors or reasons that contributed to that success.

ENTRY FORM

HOW TO ENTER:

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.plantandcivilengineer.com

AND FILL IN YOUR DETAILS & SEND ENTRY ONLINE

You can also submit supporting corporate material – brochures etc, including photographs of projects, services or products. You can enter any number of categories but bear in mind, it is left to the judges opinion to reallocate any entry which may be more suitable to another category or an additional category.

The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. All entries are private & confidential. The winner will remain confidential until the event.

All entries/nominations should be received by 15th October 2017 via online submission at www.plantandcivilengineer.com or email to justin@4squaremedia.net or post to 4 SM (NI) Ltd, 12 Main Street, Hillsborough, Co Down, BT26 6AE.

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RYAN ROGAN CONTRACTS: MAKING BEST USE OF ATTACHMENTS

Ryan Rogan Contracts, who operate an eight strong fleet of Komatsu excavators on a variety of projects, is making best use of a range of attachments, his latest acquisition being an XC20 Xcentric crusher bucket supplied by WAC McCandless.

Currently fitted to a Komatsu 210, the crusher bucket is proving to be an invaluable asset to the company headed up by Ryan Rogan, saving him both time and money, as well as opening up additional avenues of business.

Established in 2001, Ryan Rogan Contracts employs a 10-strong team of operatives on a variety of projects across Northern Ireland, so reliability of machines and attachments is vital to eliminate any unnecessary downtime, which is why the company is prepared to invest in the very best.

"The Xcentric is ideal for crushing materials such as tarmac and concrete on site," says Ryan. "It is every bit as effective and probably more efficient as a mobile crusher. We've had it for a few months and it is already making an impact on our business."

So what attracted Ryan to the product? "It was a significant investment for us, but it is earning its keep because it means we can recycle materials on site that otherwise we may have had to dump, or may have had to be transported elsewhere to be processed by a traditional crusher, all of which involves costs.

"For example, if we are called on to demolish an old property to make way for a new home,



Jayme Carvill of WAC McCandless with Micky Darby of Ryan Rogan Contracts.

we can crush and recycle all the brickwork and reuse it on the site. Similarly, when we have to process tarmac or concrete."

There are a number of models in the Xcentric range, suitable for excavators from 18 tonnes up to 70 tonnes, and exclusively available across the island of Ireland from dealers WAC McCandless.

"One of the features of the crusher bucket I particularly like is the fact that it is a simple procedure to switch between crushing sizes in a matter of minutes. If a customer requires a different size, it's just a matter of pulling out a couple of pins to adjust the settings," says Ryan. "It is also easy to resolve any incidences where material might get stuck in the bucket."





Among the many other advantages of the Xcentric crusher bucket is the fact that it can crush when full, whereas other buckets can only do so when half full, meaning their quoted capacity is not as accurate as it could be.

There are no protruding parts outside the width of the bucket, which is manufactured from Hardox 400 steel, while productivity is enhanced by innovative technology that includes a high inertia power train, circular jaw movement and a new and easy anti-stagnation plate, which prevents large shredding pieces from getting stuck in the bucket's mouth, not allowing them to enter the crushing jaws.

Placing the crushing jaws in a cross position, together with its circular motion, also allows the Xcentric crusher to grind wet material. This way, what you get is the movable jaw to "bite" the wet material and together with the circular movement drag it to the outlet, without sticking to the walls of the bucket.

Together with the benefits of long maintenance intervals, lubrication for example is only required every 200

hours, the Xcentric crusher bucket can be reliably worked long and hard, with no fear of unnecessary downtime.

As we mentioned, Ryan Rogan Contracts also utilises a number of other attachments, including Atlas Copco rock breakers, also available from WAC McCandless.

"Initially, I acquired a MB 750 Atlas Copco breaker for one of my 13 tonne machines because of its narrow profile which makes it ideal for our contracts which involve track work; at the time we were working on a three metre dig on a main road and we wanted to minimise the amount of tarmac we had to take out. Last year, we bought a MB 1200 for my 170 and 210 Komatsu excavators, and more recently we acquired two other Atlas Copco breakers for our mini diggers. They really are a super hammer, solid and robust."

As for the service and back-up support the company gets from WAC McCandless, Ryan couldn't have been more complimentary. "We have been dealing with McCandless for quite a few years and the service we get is quite exceptional."



HILL ENGINEERING A PIONEERING SUCCESS STORY

Established in 1994, Hill Engineering has been designing and manufacturing pioneering excavator attachments for 23 years. Its award winning quick coupler, the TEFRA, is designed for excavators ranging from 3T to 120T. Its bucket range includes the TITAN HD (standard) and HDX (rock) buckets from 13T upwards, which encompasses all forms such as trench, grading, riddle and V buckets. The company also manufacture rippers up to 75T and pallet forks up to 20T.

Hill Engineering is best known for its award winning fully automatic hydraulic coupler TEFRA, which has transformed health & safety on construction sites around the world – and has been significant in the company's financial growth and increase in market share. TEFRA has proven itself as the safest coupler on the market today – with only three

moving parts – it has reduced downtime extensively and it allows operators to be more productive in their operations.

In 2014 Hill introduced its TEFRA Tilt, 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."

Oliver added, "There is a big demand for them out there and from a pricing perspective, we are positioned very well. If someone invests in a tilt coupler from us they don't have to invest in new attachments to fit that coupler – they can use any existing



attachment they have for that machine. Some of the markets where we have seen this growth is in the forestry, landscaping and civil engineering sectors such as installation of wind turbines. We have seen similar growth in the construction markets also predominantly in Ireland and Scotland."

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.

Latest Addition

Hill's Thumb is the latest addition to the product range. Commented Oliver, "The 'Thumb' concept is quite a new concept in the UK but in other markets, such as the USA, it's huge – 90% of machines will be fitted with a 'Thumb' in the USA."





"In the Irish & UK market, it (Thumb) has been very well received. We have seen growth in interest in this product and we feel that there is future growth to be had. We've seen progression in the material handling and demolition sectors where rather than just having a grab on the machine, the 'Thumb' allows the user more flexibility where they can some of the functionality of a grab, but also then be able to pick up large bulk material and hold it in securely in the bucket."

He added, "Again the 'Thumb' offers an alternative product at the fraction of the price – it doesn't have all the functionality of a grab but it has a very similar impact when using it. When it comes to the general construction market we feel that over the next five-years we will start to see 'Thumbs' coming into play more often in this sector on excavators - again purely down to the versatility that it offers."

When not in use the 'Thumb' has no impact on the digging functionality or the functionality of the machine and



does not get in the way – when it is in use it adds huge security that when you are moving bulk material or rock that is securely held in the bucket. It also adds safety and efficiency for the operator at a fraction of the cost of a grab.

"Hill customers that have bought a thumb find that they are using it far more than expected – they tend to use it every day – from an excavation point of view customers that have it they tend not to work without it down the line – it adds so much speed and functionality and the operators now feel it's a vital part of their equipment."

Steady Growth

Hill's level of growth in the last three-years has been significant, the company foresees this steady growth continuing until the end of the decade.

"In 2015 we saw a slight dip in the market, however, we continued to experience growth even when market dips were increasing, our client base was growing."

Oliver added, "2014 was an exceptional year for everybody having come out of several tough years and our clients were in a position to renew their fleet. We are now at a point in 2017 and 2018 we are experiencing a similar cycle where three-years on we are starting to see the plant hire companies renewing their fleet after 2-3 years of operation."

Exports and emerging markets

Hill Engineering's products are exported worldwide. The US and Canadian markets are continually gathering pace for Hill following strong levels of industry growth over the past number of years and with a high level of market confidence on





the ground this market is expected to grow significantly in the coming years.

Growing markets for Hill include the Middle East, Africa and China. "We are focused on the markets that we have invested time in however markets such as South America, Russia, Africa and India are continually developing, processes are changing and safety regulations are becoming more and more stringent as the global safety standard ISO13031 becomes embedded takes precedent."

Commitment to Irish market

"While our export markets are very important to us we have never lost sight of the markets that helped us get to where we are today, Ireland and the UK," Oliver said.

Hill Engineering have a significant share of the UK and Ireland market and the company is one of the last few manufacturers based in Ireland. The whole build process including fabrication is completed in the company's factory in Newry.

"We are 100% committed to the Irish market not only from a supply perspective but also from a manufacturing perspective. We make every effort possible to keep our supply chain locally sourced.

"We have recently strengthened and added to our sales team in Ireland with the appointment of William McIntosh who has been with the company for several years and has been brought up through the business in different departments."

Commented William, "We want to significantly increase our market share in Ireland over the next two-years by supplying quality products. The Irish construction market is back in growth mode which is why Hill have committed the people, time and production to meet the needs of this strategic market for us.

"Our products have been used in Ireland from the inception of the company, some of which are still working today over 20 years on! We manufacture to the highest standards and are proud of the quality products we produce for our clients."

R&D and the future

Hill Engineering have a number of ongoing R&D project most of which are still in development. One project that the company can talk about is the new addition to its coupler range – a new 1.5 tonne TEFRA hydraulic Coupler aimed at the ever-increasing mini excavator market – which will be coming onto the market before the end of the year.

Oliver Phelan reported, "We are currently in test mode – the product is being used in multiple environments so we can be 100% confident it mirrors the quality and durability of its big brothers."

On the company's growth, he said, "We have had many client acquisitions in the last year These new clients have switched their allegiance to Hill because of the reliability of the products we manufacture – it's a testament to how they are made and

designed. These companies do not want downtime with their machines. We have other big clients about to make their move to Hill in the near future and we continue to work with the large manufacturers and machine dealerships – again it's down to quality – that's what these clients want – a product that matches the quality of the machines they manufacture and sell."

Hill have appointed John Boyle as general manager, an expert in process management and engineering who has worked in the Irish market for many years. Hill Engineering managing director, Ian Hill said, "John will take Hill to its next phase of development and brings a fresh approach to management, manufacturing and stock control."

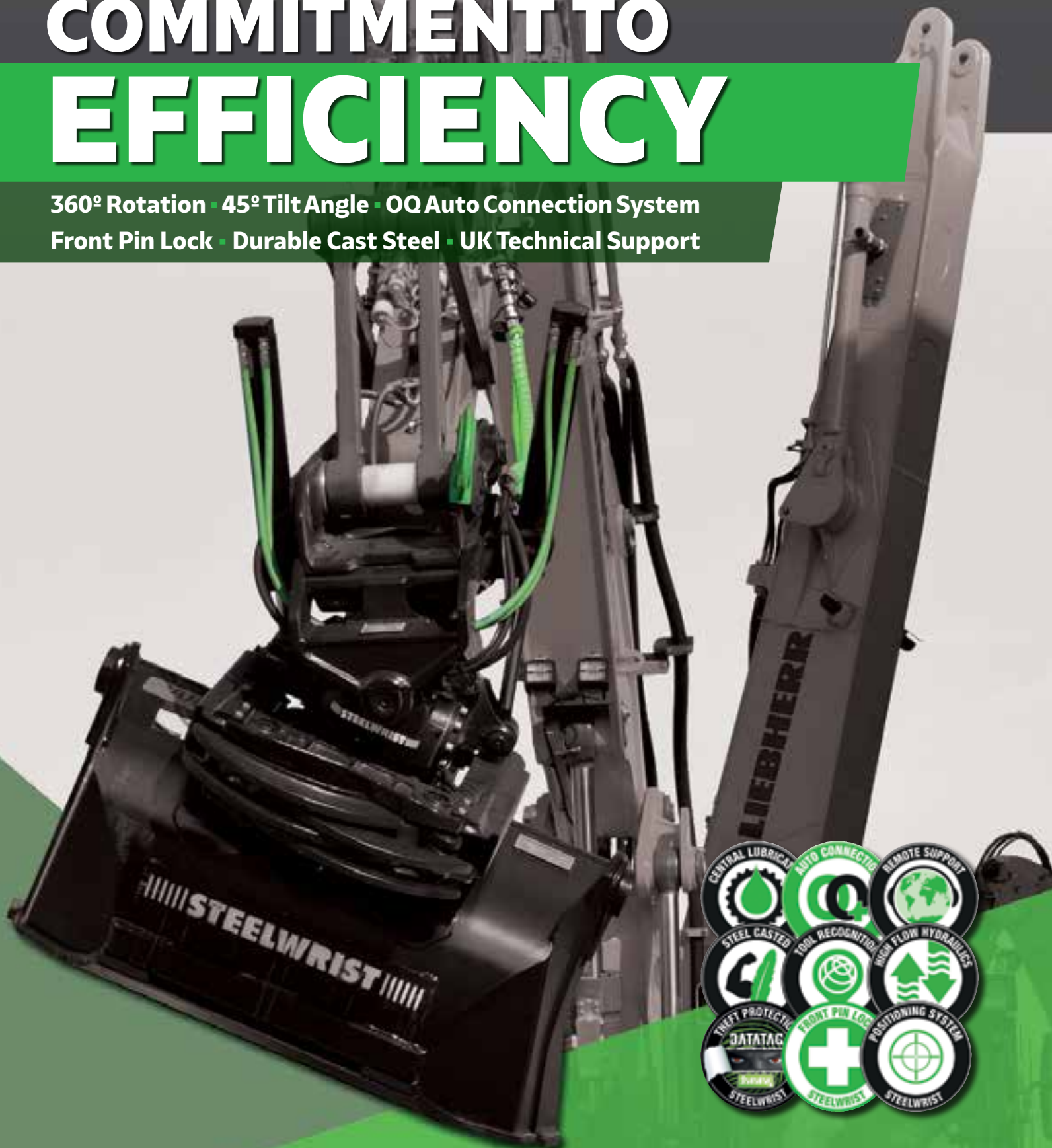
Ian Hill concluded, "Rather than putting more hours in the working day we are looking at the way we work – work smarter not harder. This will be of great benefit to our clients with stock on the ground, more accessibility to our product and reduced lead times, to match the demands that their clients put on them for delivery of machines. We are still a company that's in growth mode, but with the team we have in place right now along with the quality of product we manufacture we are giving ourselves the best opportunity possible to take our business to new and exciting heights."



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STEELWRIST TILTROTATORS MAKE LIFE EASIER FOR FORESTRY CONTRACTORS

When you go from working without to working with a tiltrotator, statistics show that you will never go back. Indeed, according to Steelwrist, they have virtually 100% conversion in all markets where they operate, so Plant & Civil Engineer has been finding out from one contractor how Steelwrist tiltrotators have transformed their business.

The advantages of using a tiltrotator are becoming increasingly more appreciated by contractors across the UK and Ireland. Take Clixbys Land Design, for example. This family run forestry and environmental contractor has Steelwrist tiltrotators fitted to four of their excavators - two X12s, an X18 and an X06.

With over 30 years experience, Clixbys Land Design have gained a reputation for its environmental sensitivity, knowing how to make its work look natural within any given landscape, aided greatly by its tiltrotators, of course, to achieve the ultimate digging, shaping and grading versatility.

One of the company's current projects is at Wharncliffe Woods outside Sheffield where its steep terrain creates an ideal venue for both mountain biking and strenuous walking. It is using an 8 tonne Case excavator fitted with an X12 Steelwrist tiltrotator to clear and improve forest roads and paths.

Another Steelwrist X12 tiltrotator is being used on a JCB Hydradig at work in Wombwell Woods, near Barnsley in South Yorkshire where environmental sensitivity is also important as the forest is an ancient semi-natural broadleaf



woodland with a footprint that dates back to at least the Domesday Book.

Comments operator Leigh Hitchens: "The tiltrotator makes my Case excavator a very versatile and efficient machine, especially for our type of work on forest roadways. One day we could be removing debris and filling in potholes, the next day may see us digging out ditches and shaping edges. Its 45 degree tilt angle makes light work of potentially challenging tasks.

Fitted with a grab, I can also easily lift and reposition rocks and other items."

Indeed, most of his digging work can be carried out from within the cab, without him having to get in and out all the time - and switching between attachments can be accomplished in a matter of seconds.

"It has just become one of those pieces of kit that I would find difficult to do without these days. It makes life so much easier."





Much of Leigh's work involves flattening out large surface areas and for this he finds the tiltrotator fitted with a Grading Beam indispensable.

Conventional methods prove to be extremely time consuming and can often involve a man on the ground within the area of a working machine, a risky place to be and possibly resulting in accidents, but with the Grading Beam this process can be achieved approximately five times faster than with the ditching bucket.

"By using the Grading Beam with the tiltrotator I can achieve a really smooth 'table top' finish in next to no time," says Leigh.

Getting to grips with mastering a tiltrotator can present its challenges, but those operators we have spoken to tell us that after a couple of weeks of using one, it becomes almost second nature.

Advantages

So what makes Steelwrist Tiltrotators stand out? Well, Steelwrist have the most compact, robust design with the highest tilt angle on the market. This higher tilt angle makes you more flexible in addition to being able to perform more operations without moving the excavator.

They are made from cast high tensile steel, making it lighter but keeping the strength. Other manufacturers cast using a type of ductile iron; the disadvantage of this is it is more brittle and very difficult to weld all be it cheaper.



Steelwrist, too, is the only manufacturer on the market that have a symmetrical coupler completely cast in steel, free from welding with large pin contact surfaces and material where needed, creating an extremely compact robust design. In comparison with other brands the build height can differ as much as 40 percent.

Steelwrist tiltrotators also feature a patented Front Pin Lock which ensures that you cannot drop the bucket by accident as long as the front pin is connected. With an FPL quick coupler, you and your colleagues are safe at work.

Compared to other solutions, the Steelwrist FPL works equally well with all types of excavators, both small and large, new and used, and especially with all types of control systems. Steelwrist's Symmetrical Quick Coupler is the only one living up to the new ISO13031 without compromise.

With Steelwrist you have the choice of SVAB L8 Joystick or Steelwrist XC Joysticks; these are the two leading joysticks in the market place. Both joysticks have excellent ergonomics and share the same components. As a rule if you have smaller hands then L8 will fit you better, if you have larger hands then you will likely be happier with the Steelwrist XControl joysticks.

Thefts have increased over the recent years and whilst you can't always prevent it you can make your equipment less attractive to steal. Steelwrist comes with DATATAG as standard. DATATAG is the world's largest marking system for this type of equipment, and is a method for DNA marking of equipment which reduces the risk of theft by 80%.



By using the Grading Beam with the tiltrotator I can achieve a really smooth 'table top' finish in next to no time"

**Leigh Hitchens
Operator**

attachments

The Manitou Group Unveils Two New Models

The Manitou group has introduced its two new rotating telehandler models. The MRT 3050 and MRT 2470 complement a particularly wide range that is suited for high-rise construction work.

The group becomes the first market operator to offer a rotating telescopic machine with a load bearing capacity of 7 tonnes for a height exceeding 20 metres.

To meet the needs of a particularly dynamic European construction market, the group is offering a model that can lift up to 5 tonnes and has a maximum lifting height of 30 metres. The versatile MRT 3050 stabilisers have a deployment length of up to 6.25 metres which increases precision and safety. These are now fitted with a strain gauge system, which ensures more accurate and secure detection of the pressure of the stabilisers on the ground. The user can also check the extent of deployment from a dashboard display. Equipped with a two-

ratio hydrostatic transmission, the MRT 3050 has a maximum speed of 40 km/h.

This model fulfils a particularly strong demand in northern Europe, and has many applications, such as the construction of residential buildings, industries, roofing and structural steelwork. It is equipped with a Mercedes 176 hp Final Tier IV engine. There is also easier maintenance access for the operator

Meanwhile, with a boom reach of 24 metres for a load-bearing capacity of 7 tonnes, the MRT 2470 is a response to the needs of heavy high-rise construction. Like the MRT 3050, the new MRT 2470 benefits from a new chassis. With a newly designed counterweight, this rotating telehandler maintains perfect stability, even with a maximum load at 24 metres.

With its hydrostatic "shift-on-fly" transmission option, this model allows the operator to choose between a manual or automatic gearbox. With two ratios, the maximum speed of the MRT 2470 is



The Manitou MRT 3050 rotating telehandler

40 km/h. Cab access is facilitated with a wider footboard aligned with the cabin.

Optionally, the operator has the benefit of an electronic stairway with an extra step that slides out when the stabilisers are deployed, making it easier to get in and out of the cab. The machine can be raised 23 cm when the stabilisers are completely deployed.

Bobcat Extends Forestry Cutter Attachment Range

Bobcat has extended the company's new range of forestry cutter attachments with a third model – the new FRC150ST – for use on the smaller Bobcat S630/H and S650/H skid-steer loaders and T590/H and T650/H compact tracked loaders.

The new FRC150ST complements Bobcat's recently launched FRC150HT and FRC200HT high torque forestry cutter attachments, which are compatible with the larger Bobcat

T770H and T870H compact tracked loaders, S770H and S850H skid-steer loaders and the A770H all-wheel steer loader and provide cutting widths of 1.5 and 2.0 m, respectively.

Based on feedback from the field, the 1.5 m wide FRC150ST incorporates many improvements over the previous FRC150 model. Among the improvements, the FRC150ST is manufactured almost entirely from Hardox, with a specially designed new fixed motor offering greater output and efficiency. The enhanced

design also offers a new, lighter drum, with carbide teeth, new hose routing and greater performance and manoeuvrability.

The FRC150ST forestry cutter mulches trees and underbrush in minutes – leaving a carpet of mulch behind when clearing trees and bushes for any kind of application. The variable front gate can be adjusted to provide the coarseness or fineness of mulch that the finishing requires.

Providing a cutting width of 1.5 m, the FRC150ST forestry cutter is

designed for continuous work on bushes and trees 100 to 120 mm in diameter, intermittent use for trees with a diameter from 150 to 200 mm and occasional use on trees 220 to 260 mm in diameter.

Applications are very varied and range from those in agriculture including vineyards, orchards, nurseries and tree care; forestry including cutting fire breaks in woods and forests, clearing work and removing unwanted undergrowth and trees; wildlife, national park and country estate management; to site development in construction; land clearing for landscaping and recreation projects; and roads as well as clean-up work after storms and floods.

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GYRU-STAR GROWS ITS COMPACT SCREENING SYSTEMS

The Gyru-Star brand is becoming increasingly familiar to contractors across the country. Up until recently, it may not have been a name that readily came to mind in this part of the world, but that's all changing.

Gyru-Star having introduced a cost effective compact screening system to a market sector where it's never been available before; a new model has recently been added to its line-up.

Gyru-Star Compact Screening Systems are manufactured in the UK and its screening buckets are at work internationally, having been sold and supported by an international distributor network and a string of UK dealers.

Its Northern Ireland dealer is Essener Equipment, the well respected County Tyrone based family run business which specialises in various types of materials handling and access equipment.

Wheatway Solutions Limited began development of the Gyru-Star brand back in 2008, with serial production in 2010. The keenly priced product range is already a big success in other parts of the world.

The Gloucester headquartered company, which also manufactures the 3-120A solely for Avant Oy and which is distributed through the Avant Global Dealer Network, describes itself as 'a customer driven solution provider for the crushing and screening industry.'

"We recognised there was a gap in the market for cost effective compact screening systems," comments Wheatway Solutions Limited Managing Director Colin Smith, "so we set about designing and developing a high output and no maintenance compact screening system for excavators, compact and skid steer loaders and telehandlers."

A fast and efficient screening system, the unique design with flexible poly stars, enables

a large screening area to maximise output. Unlike the steel alternatives, the Gyru-Star poly stars screen without crushing and shredding. All Gyru-Star products use sealed bearings and combined with Gates Poly Chain carbon belt drive lines with ROSTA belt tensioners create a no maintenance system.

Gyru-Star boasts a range of eight compact screening systems – from the 2-50E to the 4-150HE - suitable for one to 18 tonne excavators, and with a unique rail system the HE models can be fitted to a loader, skidsteer or telehandler.

Wheatway is currently expanding its fabrication facilities as the brand continues to grow in this part of the world, and it is also enlarging its already busy parts department, which services the crushing and screening industry, supplying wear consumables including durable cast products.



GY4-120HE Manitou



GY4-120HE Rail System



GY2-50E JCB

Gyru-Star Compact Screening Systems®



Specifications

Model	Carriers		HYD Requirement		Bucket		Screening Area
	Excavator (kg)	Loader (kg)	Flow (l/m)	Pressure Bar	Weight (kg)	Capacity (l)	(mm)
2-50E	1000 - 2300		40	200	155	50	300 x 480
3-60E	2000 - 4000		55	200	240	120	430 x 560
3-80E	3000 - 5000		55	200	290	172	430 x 800
3-100E	4000 - 6000	1000 - 2000	65	200	360	215	430 x 1000
3-120HE	5000 - 7000	1000 - 3000	65	200	405	258	430 x 1200
4-100HE	5000 - 8000	4000 - 6000	90	200	560	350	615 x 1000
4-120HE	10000 - 13000	6000 - 8000	90	200	600	421	615 x 1200
4-150HE	13000-18000	7000-12000	90-110	200	690	526	615 x 1500

Wheatway Solutions Ltd, Unit B3 Brearley Place, Baird Road, Waterwells Business Park, Gloucester, GL2 2AF, UK

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Fast Efficient Compact Screening System

QUICK COUPLERS: THINKING INSIDE THE BOX



Quick-couplers are seen as game-changers in the construction industry by increasing the safety and speed of attachment changes whilst expanding the versatility of an excavator. But in this era of fast-moving technology and ever-changing construction sites, the humble coupler is now something many contractors take for granted.

Driven by the demand for added safety and efficiency, quick coupler designs have changed dramatically over the last two decades and advances in materials are helping manufacturers like Miller UK, to keep finding new ways of making couplers lighter for fuel efficiency and stronger to enhance life cycle.

The science behind the design and development of next generation couplers is an art, as Steve Ferguson, Engineering Manager at leading earthmoving attachments manufacturer Miller UK, explains.

"More often than not, users will look at specifying a coupler thinking that all quick couplers share the same properties. Miller Coupler technology has developed to meet the needs of all types of working conditions, driven by the requirements of contractors to carry out work efficiently without compromising on safety or economy. The right coupler should complement and enhance the machine and make each task as smooth and efficient as possible, saving contractor's fuel, time and money. Put simply, specifying the wrong coupler will cost more in the long run."

For decades Miller has been committed to product innovation, listening to its customers in order to design and develop high performance couplers, whether that's reacting to new safety legislation or finding ways to improve efficiencies on site. The next generation of precision engineered fully cast quick couplers from Miller UK are a far cry from the first generation fabricated Mag 7 Coupler, launched in the mid 1980's.

There is often a misconception in the construction industry that steel castings are brittle and subject to abrupt failure, however brittleness is a function of metallurgy, not of process, and steels are not brittle alloys. Compared to fabrications, which are assemblies of steel components that have been welded together to form a larger part, quick coupler castings are a single piece created by running high quality molten metal alloys into a cast, resulting in a homogenous single piece free from joints. In general castings provide better tolerances and superior mechanical properties when compared to fabricated assemblies.

Pioneers

Miller UK is one of the leading pioneers in the development of cast couplers, having

set up their casting joint venture in China since early 2004 after a period of four years of intensive supplier development. Their continual R&D investment has played a pivotal role in enhancing British cast designs and delivering standardised OEM approved management processes in conjunction with their Chinese counterparts for over 13 years.

Casting allows Miller design engineers to explore exciting profiles of its quick couplers as it enables complex curved geometrical frames that are impossible with fabricated assemblies. The major advantage of cast couplers is that they are specifically designed and engineered exclusively to meet specific lightweight performance design objectives with no extra pieces, weld or sections. Simply put, castings allow designers to put metal and strength only where it is needed.

In contrast, the formation of a fabrication is typically driven by the availability of material, and the ability to join the parts. "The weakest part of a fabricated assembly will always be the weld" commented Steve who added "More often than not welds are usually placed in the highest stress locations such as corners, which limits the load bearing strength of the coupler. In a high cycle product such as a coupler even the grade of steel being used will have little impact on the fatigue performance as the fatigue limit on a structural weld is considerably lower."

To combat this, welded fabrications often can be redesigned to one-piece casting, which allows the designer to effectively remove highly stressed areas using advance finite element analysis (FEA). An example of the

latest cast design to come from Miller UK R&D facility in Northumberland UK is its newest lightest and strongest PowerLatch Tilt Coupler. Designed specifically to offer up to 180° tilt rotation for 3.5T up to 20T machines whilst handling the extreme ground conditions in Australia and has recently released to the UK market at Plantworx 2017.

Game Changing

"We have listened closely to the requirements of our customers and we were set with the task of lowering the design height of the original PowerLatch Tilt coupler and coming up with a novel way of offering late dedicated top mounted brackets, to offer not only additional strength to the actuator connections but to also offer interchangeable top brackets," said Steve, "and the solution, although simple was game changing all thanks to the design flexibility that casting provides.

The Miller design team developed a fully cast coupler body which offers up to 180° tilt rotation and utilises the trusted Twinlocking PowerLatch technology in combination with a truly innovative top mounted cast head bracket.

Miller have managed to deliver the lightest tilt frame in the marketplace with the lowest profile to offer optimised breakout force whilst increasing strength in traditionally highly stressed areas. Furthermore, the top bolted attachment method removes a notoriously troublesome welded connection seen in a number of other tilt couplers available on the market. With its fully cast, slim line, external cylinder free tilt design, the new PowerLatch Tilt coupler is ideal for working with the narrowest of attachments for all manner of tasks, from channel clearing and grading to house building and quarrying without having to worry about damaging external rams or cylinders.

Summary

Combining multiple elements together in fabrication assembly generates stress points, requiring additional strength to be designed back in. Fabrication design needs to be sensitive to the limitations: welds can be hard to repair and are often the cause of failure.

In contrast the ability to explore inspiring, complex curved geometrical cast frames which allows designers the ability to add strength where needed and remove excess weight where not required, offers an exciting level of design flexibility when compared to traditional fabricated couplers.

The tough, ductile nature of castings therefore lends themselves to designs where longer working life and improved performance across all work environments are an advantage. For once thinking inside the box offers a new perspective on coupler technology.



Steve Ferguson, Engineering Manager at Miller UK.



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New X-TRA Model for Tobroco-Giant

Besides the standard GIANT D337, this model will now be available in the X-TRA version as well. The D337T X-TRA has a lower front frame and thus a lower centre of gravity, resulting in excellence on the attachments and stability of the machine, as well as the biggest advantage of an increased lifting capacity.

A D337T X-TRA has a tipping load of 2.054 kg in comparison with 1.450 kg for the standard model. The new wheel loader has a 33

hp, 3-cylinder Kubota diesel engine and is equipped with a hydraulic pump from Bosch Rexroth for smooth and powerful driving characteristics.

The service weight of the machines is 2.200 kg (measured with earth bucket) and the lifting height is 2.45 m. Like all GIANT machines the pendulum joint between the front and back frame is completely free from maintenance.

The D337T X-TRA is driven by hydrostatic four-wheel drive with automotive control and automatic differential lock on both axles. This

gives the machine a maximum driving speed of 18 km/h. The D337T X-TRA can be delivered as HD version. The "Heavy Duty" version will be equipped with a bigger hydraulic pump.

A great advantage of this option is that the machine will have extra tractive force in its second gear. To meet with European regulations, the X-TRA model as standard is equipped with a ROPS/FOPS safety roof and safety doors. Also, optional extras include; a safety roof deluxe, foldable safety roof or cabin are available for this model.

Miller CONNECT app is Unveiled

In line with its continued focus on customer support, global attachment manufacturer Miller UK has released its new operating procedures app Miller CONNECT, with the aim of promoting better on site operating practices for the Miller PowerLatch quick coupler.

Quick couplers are a common sight throughout the construction industry and when properly designed, maintained and used can save a great deal of time when working with excavators.

There are many items of legislation appropriate to the use of quick hitch couplers, most of which stress the importance of providing workers with sufficient information and instruction to carry out their job safely. The operator has ultimate responsibility for the safe use of the quick hitch equipment and has a duty to conduct an inspection at the start of each working shift to ensure that the machine is in safe working order. When operators are switching from machine to machine they often encounter many different types of quick couplers and not

all quick couplers operate in the same way. The benefit of the Miller app is if an operator has switched to a Miller machine he can easily review the operating procedures offline in the comfort and safety of his cab prior to commencing his shift. Mobile platforms make it easier for machine operators to access additional 'on-the-job' guidance and to respond to changing machine operator's needs Miller have developed a series of quick coupler operating procedure videos that promotes competency and safety, which illustrates:

- Safe working practices for the use of quick couplers
- Procedures for connecting and disconnecting attachments
- Visual inspections of the quick coupler equipment
- How to maintain the quick coupler equipment

The aim of the app is to educate and inform machine operators on the safe use of quick couplers whilst reducing the misuse and mismanagement of quick hitch couplers.

The new Miller mobile app is currently available for iOS users and can be downloaded for free from the Apple App store to allow for onsite offline viewing.

Screenpod Design & Manufacturing



Screenpod STARTECH Screening Buckets

STARTECH

Screenpod STARTECH screening buckets are innovative and durable in design, by incorporating the very best wear resistant materials available in the market today we have created a screening bucket that is both solid in construction and lighter in weight allowing fitting on a wider range of excavators and loading shovels.



New Quick Coupler for Bobcat E25 to E55 Excavators

Doosan Bobcat EMEA has extended its excavator quick coupler offering with the launch of a new hydraulic pin grabber coupler for attachments used on the seven Bobcat compact excavators from the E25 up to the E55 models.

The new Bobcat Hydraulic Coupler is available both as a factory installed option and as an aftermarket product for use with all the pin-on fitting attachments for the E25 to E55 excavators. The new quick coupler complements the existing full range of mechanical couplers from Bobcat including Klac and Lehnhoff systems.

Key features and benefits of the new quick coupler include its triple lock design for greater safety, exceeding the ISO 13031 norm and complying with all safety standards in the industry in Europe and the UK. There is a wide variable pin centre, to pick up multiple pin-on attachments. A robust, yet compact design



ensures maximum breakout force and the system is essentially maintenance free, with few components for peace of mind. Powerful springs are activated in case of pressure loss to avoid any risk and reversibility is standard when the job requires it.

Important aspects include the increased safety and compliance offered by a hydraulic pin grab coupler, which enables the operator to rapidly and safely change between non-hydraulic attachments from the comfort of the cab.

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KINSHOFER'S NOX TILTROTATOR IMPRESSES SPECIALIST CONTRACTOR



Described as one of the most advanced tools for excavators, the Nox-Tiltrotator by Kinshofer has proved to be a great investment for groundworks specialists Utcheter Plant Ltd, based at Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, as Plant & Civil Engineer's David Stokes has been finding out from company director Steve Bennett.

As an excavator operator of many years experience, Steve acquired a NOX TR10

Tiltrotator for his CAT backhoe loader back in June and says its versatility is 'simply phenomenal.'

There's no doubt, that with an integrated worm drive, running in its own lubricant, providing continuous, effortless 360° rotation, a tilting angle of up to 2 x 55°, combined with a quick change system and a range of attachments, it's a highly efficient addition to any construction site.

"I've used it on quite a few different projects as it accepts a good range of attachments – from tree shearers to buckets and forks," says Steve. "It has represented a significant investment for us, but it has enabled us to take on a wide variety of jobs."

Utcheter Plant Ltd's expertise extends from groundworks and civil engineering projects to land drainage and tree management.





Kinshofer has developed a range of tools especially adapted to the NOX-Tiltrotator to guarantee the best efficiency available. Besides the clamshell buckets, demolition and sorting grabs and forks, there are various other combinations possible. The general working is much more efficient and fast, because you can work precisely without repositioning the excavator all the time.

"It really doesn't matter what angle your excavator is sitting at, so long as you have a view of the Tiltrotator you can accomplish almost anything," explains Steve who is particularly impressed with the gripper that has proved to be extremely beneficial. "It makes life so much easier if I need to move anything out of my path, like a bucket or other equipment," he says.

In addition, he has been able to turn his excavator into a forklift truck, thanks to a lightweight fork set that features a high lifting capacity. The tines are mechanically adjustable and are easily connected to the carrier by a quick coupler adapter.

Flexible

"Used in conjunction with the set of forks, I am easily able to load and unload, for example, pallets, on

restricted and limited access sites that we couldn't otherwise reach."

Quick coupler and attached tools are operated comfortably and effectively by means of a smart NOXPROP control system: tilt and rotation are controlled by proportional solenoid valves and can be run simultaneously. The extra function is controlled proportionally, too. A separate display module is included. The system has been engineered to enable the control of ten profiles – for different operation or different drivers. You can configure your control system with your laptop.

As we mentioned, a large variety of attachments is available and there is a good tolerance against back pressure thanks to the standard high flow swivel.

"I also use an Engcon unit on an 8 tonne excavator, so the NOX has been

designed to accept those attachments, too. Its flexibility is exceptional."

Easy Controls

Operating the Tiltrotator can be a little challenging for first-timers, but once you familiarise yourself with the two joystick controls, with triggers and rollers, it becomes second nature. "The more you use it the easier it becomes," says Steve. "I couldn't imagine life without it now."

It's extremely service friendly, too, as there are only two greasing points. There are less wear parts and the hydraulics are integrated into a solid cast housing.

The Tiltrotator was initially installed and is maintained by Summit Equipment, who were chosen by Kinshofer as they are a premium installation specialist with 38 years experience. "They have been very helpful from the beginning and provide us with an excellent service," says Steve.



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Unexpected downtime can be a costly business, which is why when things go wrong you need a service that is prompt, reliable and competitively priced. Enter County Down based Hose-Tec Hydraulics.

More often than not, hydraulic hose failure can happen when it is least expected, so it is good to know that help is only a phone call away.

Hose-Tec Hydraulics, headed up by David Crichton who has more than two decades of experience in the industry, was established six years ago to service the plant repair and hydraulic hose needs of a wide range of customers, including those in the construction, quarrying and agricultural sectors.

With a fully equipped and stocked mobile workshop on

the road, Hose-Tec can handle virtually any call-out, usually within an hour, thus keeping any potential for downtime to an absolute minimum.

"We always carry a good stock of hydraulic hoses and fittings. We are one of the only companies that can replace up to 2" hoses onsite," says David. "We also carry a complete range of Caterpillar fittings enabling us to replace any Caterpillar hoses."

Adds David: "We have a varied customer base which has steadily expanded over the years, not least because we offer a professional and prompt service at all times which has resulted in a lot of repeat business."

All hose and hydraulic services are, of course, carried out on-site, with expert technical support always available.



COUNTDOWN TO NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The countdown to this year's epic National Ploughing Championships is almost over; the three day annual event takes place at Scraggan, Tullamore, Co Offaly, beginning on the 19th September.

Launching the event, NPA Managing Director Anna May McHugh said: "The Championships not only provides a national stage for showcasing all things agricultural, but also brings together people from all sectors of Irish society both rural and urban, to enjoy three days immersed in country living.

"It is great to see the phenomenal interest in the Ploughing Championships with countries such as the USA, UK, Germany, Belgium, Turkey, New Zealand, France and the Netherlands exhibiting. Also the number of overseas buyers coming to ploughing has doubled with buyers and visitors from Italy, Hungary, Australia, Prague, South Africa, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Latvia, India, Poland, China and Russia.

"With record crowds of 283,000 visitors in attendance last year and the site in Scraggan proving to be a phenomenal success, signals would suggest another 'great ploughing' is on the way."

Anna May also commended the Gardai on the Traffic Plan and she's asking the public to travel with care and follow the plan provided.

Launching the championships, food and farming were the fare of the day as ploughing enthusiasts, landowners



NPA Managing Director Anna May McHugh with World ploughman Eamonn Treacy, Carlow at the NPA Media launch for this year's National Ploughing Championships.

and public representatives including the Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed and photographic journalists got a flavour of all that "Ploughing" has to offer.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine Michael Creed said: "It is with great delight that I am here to launch this year's National Ploughing Championships. This is the pinnacle event in the farming calendar and a wonderful celebration of agriculture and rural life."

New Features

Exciting new initiatives this year will see the return of the Machinery Demonstration Area, the inaugural Harry Fergusson Macra Tractor Driver Safety Award and the Biggest Indoor Innovation Arena built at any Irish Event.

There will be an array of new exhibitors as well as hundreds of outstanding veteran companies showcasing their products and services in dynamic ways. The very latest models in agricultural machinery, quality livestock, a Forestry Village, Food Fayre, an International Business Centre.

A Local Enterprise Village with exhibitors from all over Ireland, National Brown Baking Final, Foróige Young Cooks Final, Crafts, Pig Agility, topical seminars and lots of special events.

In the ploughing stakes over 350 competitors are preparing to showcase the art of ploughing on Offaly soil over 3 autumn September days with many returning to challenge or defend a title.

Dubbed as the Farmers Festival #Ploughing 17 is sure to be trending later this month as one of Europe's Largest Outdoor Events.



Six New Technology Developments That Are Changing The Way You Work

Modern methods of construction are improving the bottom line for contractors by helping them to reduce the time, cost, complexity and health and safety issues on projects.

To continue to drive the industry forward and reap the benefits that advanced construction and geospatial technology can bring, TopCon is constantly transforming and improving its products. Often this is through easier integration across our products or technology that takes construction into new territories.

Earlier this year, at the triennial CONEXPO event in Las Vegas, TopCon showcased a range of its new technology launches. From hardware to software, machine control to paving systems, here are six examples of new TopCon technology that are helping to transform construction workflows.

ZPS system: automated concrete paving system

This is a game changer for paving applications. Part of the next generation of automated concrete paving systems, the ZPS system includes a cutting-edge robotic total station featuring a Z-beam laser, and an intelligent sensor that integrates GPS, optical targeting and Z-Beam reception into one unit. It also uses millimetre accurate GPS technology which gives unmatched accuracy to concrete paving jobs but with a fraction of the hardware that's used in traditional local positioning systems.

Finally, while traditional systems need multiple robotic total stations to control the paver, the ZPS automated system controls the paver using just one. This helps increase productivity while dramatically lowering the cost.



GX-75: new 10 inch touchscreen display for construction machine control

The GX-75 is the latest addition to Topcon's longstanding line of touchscreen control boxes for construction machine automation. With its 10-inch touch screen, it's designed to offer a large and easy-to-use display for operators. It's actually the largest touchscreen display Topcon's ever produced and means drivers in the machine cabs can see more of the project file at once, in practically any weather condition.

X-52: update to the 2D indicate system for excavation

An update for the existing 2D machine control system, this has been designed for drivers who've had limited exposure to machine control systems previously. It's a very intuitive system that's easy to use and helps drivers detect the precise positioning of the boom, stick and bucket at all times during excavation work using 2D visuals on an in-cab screen. The system is designed to provide a forward-thinking investment for contractors who want to enhance their capabilities in the future.

Sitelink3D Support Desk: new remote job site support service

Sitelink3D Support Desk is a real-time job site monitoring and management system. It provides real-time connectivity allowing Topcon support staff and distributors to view and remotely adjust configurations and settings on a machine's control box. By using this kind of remote service, any potential machine downtime is vastly reduced as most issues can be resolved in real-time without the need for a call to the technical team. The new service now also offers a bundled cellular data plan which means there's no need for an external SIM card.

MAGNET Collage: integrated mass data processing software

Building on the existing MAGNET software package, MAGNET Collage merges and simplifies point cloud data for easier processing and visualisation. Working as an all-in-one system, it combines workflows for laser scanning, mobile mapping, paving applications and traditional surveying. While traditionally, each mass data technology would need its own standalone software, MAGNET Collage means mass data users can use one software programme to process point cloud data and imagery from a range of technology.

DS-200i: new Wi-Fi capability for imaging station

The DS-200i is a powerful robotic imaging station that offers real-time, touchscreen video and photo capture to measure positions and document these in the field. In addition to LongLink™ and high speed WLAN compatibility, it also now has WiFi connectivity. This means users can transmit these videos live to field controllers or Windows 10 tablets with ease.





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New Bobcat & Doosan Products On Show

Limerick-based Doosan Bobcat dealer, Adare Machinery, will be showing a wide array of new Bobcat and Doosan products for the farming and construction/rental markets.

Visitors to the Adare stand will be able to see for the first time the new Bobcat TL34.65HF Agri telehandler designed for the agriculture industry, a brand new high productivity model providing a maximum lift capacity of 3.4 tonne at a maximum lift height of 6.42 m.

In this model, HF/High Flow Technology, also available on the larger TL38.70HF telehandler, offers outstanding hydraulic capabilities and performance with a class-leading 190 l/min load sensing pump (150 l/min at the auxiliary line) and flow sharing distributor. This allows the operator to work at significantly lower speeds, consume less fuel



and benefit from remarkably shorter working cycles.

These telehandlers are part of a new range of Bobcat Stage IV compliant telehandlers combining models for both farming and the rental and construction industries. The

new telehandlers are powered by a Bobcat D34 Stage IV/Tier 4 final compliant diesel engine developed and manufactured in-house for use in the new range, resulting in optimised performance throughout.

Backed by a 3-year warranty, a standard feature of the new range, the Bobcat TL34.65HF Agri telehandler will be joined on the Adare stand by a wide selection of Bobcat compact excavators running from the E10 to the E45 models and Bobcat skid-steer loaders including the S70, S450 and S590 models. All of the Bobcat machines will be equipped with different attachments from a choice of over 80 types of Bobcat attachment for use with the Bobcat compact equipment range.

The Doosan products on the Adare stand include the DX140LC-5 14 tonne crawler excavator, the DX160W-5 16 tonne wheeled excavator and the DL300-5 and DL450-5 wheel loaders.

Like all new Doosan Stage IV compliant machines, these

models feature a distinctive machine styling scheme marking the many design advances they incorporate, which go well beyond simply meeting Stage IV emission regulations and set a new benchmark for construction equipment worldwide.

These new generation machines provide significantly higher performance in every area than the previous generation machines, combining enhanced comfort and controllability together with new features to boost fuel efficiency, uptime and return on investment, with a focus on increased power, robustness and agility.

Award-winning

Adare Machinery is an award-winning machinery dealership established by David and Marian Cuddy in 1984, which has developed into a fully-fledged family enterprise, with son, William, and daughter, Caroline, involved in the running of the business. Together with an excellent team of staff, the Cuddys continue to innovate, expand and grow the business.

As an Authorised Dealer for Doosan Bobcat EMEA, Adare Machinery has exclusivity for sales and service in Munster and Connacht for Doosan crawler and wheeled excavators from 3 to 53 tonne and the Doosan range of wheel loader models with bucket capacities from 1.9 to 4.8 m3. For the Bobcat range, Adare Machinery is the Authorised Dealer for the whole of Ireland.

Operating out of state-of-the-art premises at Patrickswell near the city of Limerick, Adare Machinery is also offering service and warranty work on all existing Doosan and Bobcat machines in its area, backed by a full selection of genuine accessories and parts.

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Ploughing Debut For New Komatsu Wheel Loader

The new Komatsu WA200-8 wheel loader is one of the machines set to make its debut at the forthcoming National Ploughing Championships when it will be unveiled to Irish farmers for the first time by distributor McHale Plant Sales.

Also exhibiting from the Japanese manufacturer's stable will be the WA270-7 and

the WA320-7 (with high-tip bucket) which has become increasingly popular with agricultural contractors. Other Komatsu machines on display will include a PC138US-11 heavy-duty excavator and a wide selection from their midi and mini digger series.

Sharing the spotlight on the McHale exhibit will be the new Merlo TF33.7 and high-spec

P27.6 Plus telehandlers which features a 2,700kg lift capacity with a boom reach of 6 metres. Completing the line-up will be a number of models from the Zetor tractor portfolio including the 120 Proxima Power and the entry-level 80hp Major.

Pointing to their diverse product offering coupled with an expert team on hand to discuss rental, lease and purchase options, McHale Plant Sales general manager Denis McGrath says their exhibit is likely to have "something to appeal to everyone".

Strickland MFG Ploughs through the competition

For the second year running, visitors will be able to come onto the Strickland MFG Ltd stand and take in their comprehensive range of excavator attachments on show.

These will include their versatile S-LOCK Coupler. Their experienced Sales Force will be on hand to answer any questions and advise on the best fit for customers needs.

Strickland MFG has seen a huge increase in sales into Ireland in the last two years. Being an Irish owned company, with their S-LOCK Coupler facility based in Dungannon, they are very proud to be back in the thick of it. Hailing from Dublin herself, National Key Account Manager, Nicola Troy is very happy with how business is going in Ireland. "The versatility of our S-LOCK Coupler, coupled with our competitive pricing

& a quality product across the attachment range are making us the preferred choice for both OED's and end users alike."

Strickland MFG is not afraid to put their money where their mouth is and invest in product. Holding in excess of £4 million worth of finished product between their UK & Irish facilities, Strickland's is in a position to react very quickly to both customer & market demands.

"The Strickland Brand is becoming more and more recognised within the Irish market," says Nicola.

"The feedback we are receiving from our ever growing Irish customer base is very positive. Getting to know our customers is important to us. We feel it is very important that our Sales Team know their individual customers well as this enables them to ensure that the best advice and level of service is given."



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Another Good Year for R&M Buckets

Co Meath based R&M Buckets, who will be at the show to promote its range of buckets, attachments and couplers, are enjoying another successful year.

Exports are particularly buoyant, especially for its hydraulic quick couplers, with regular shipments to Scandinavian countries as well as some shipments going to Australia. These are usually replacing worn items or mismatch systems, ie JCB to pick up Matbro systems.

"Recently we have been tasked with designing and manufacturing bespoke coupling units for a company dealing primarily with the African Mining Service.

"Another item that we are getting a lot of enquiries about are adapter links; these are usually manual and used in the agricultural sector for fitting implements to different types of loaders."

Over the last 12-18 months R & M Buckets has also seen an increase in the sale of buckets and attachments for larger excavators, with 14-22 ton attachments becoming more popular, although 1.5 ton to 8 ton would still be the main sellers.

"In addition, we have been busy manufacturing Stoning Karts and gravel ploughs as well as MolePloughs, Tile Drain buckets and Hydraulic Tile Drain Buckets for Drainage. These have been mainly for the Irish market, with some items going to England, Wales and Scotland."



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KUBOTA'S M9960 PROVING THE RIGHT BUY FOR GOAT FARMER

Juergen Marl and his wife Claudia run Barba Goat Farm near Collinstown. Originally from Germany but farming in Ireland for the past 27 years, the farm extends to 500 acres in the Barbavilla Estate and is home to 350 milking goats but the Marls have plans to increase the herd to 500.

"Last year I was looking for a tractor on the farm to operate the diet feeder we use to feed the goats," said Juergen. "Originally, I was searching for a used tractor but I was finding them rather expensive and I wasn't too sure about their source or service history.

"I happened to call into the Clarkes of Cavan Kubota dealership to have a look around and ended up purchasing a new Kubota M9960 tractor with a Kubota LA1354 front end power loader attached."

Juergen made his Kubota purchase as he was really impressed with the competitive price and the attractive warranty, which also influenced his buying decision.

"The three year warranty extended to five years on the Kubota M9960, coupled with the keen price made buying this tractor new make more sense than buying a second hand tractor," added Juergen.

"The tractor is very compact in stature yet spacious inside the cab which makes it very easy to operate along the feeding passage when dispensing silage to the goats. We use a JF Stoll VMR tub feeder to mix up hay and silage to feed the goats twice per day.

"I opted to purchase a Kubota power loader with the tractor as well. I use another tractor and loader to fill



the feeder but I decided a second loader would also be useful at silage time to cart and stack the round bales."

As well as using his Kubota M9960 tractor on the diet feeder in the winter time, Juergen uses it to move round bales and operate the grass tedder at silage time.

Barba Goat Farm sends its milk to a number of different outlets to be processed into milk and cheese. While Juergen is in charge of the machinery on the farm, it is his wife Claudia that looks after the goats and milking them.

"This current herd has been in production for the past four years and consists of Toggenburg, Nubian, Alpine and Saanen breeds," said Claudia. "We produce around 600 litres of fresh milk per day and receive 70 euro cents per litre from the processor.

"Goats are milked at 7am and later again at 5pm in our Fullwood rapid exit parlour which can milk 40 goats at once. There is currently a good demand for goat milk and cheese and that demand is on the increase. With that in mind, we are

planning to increase the herd to 500 milking goats sometime in the near future," she said.

Juergen's Kubota M9960 is powered by a Kubota common rail four cylinder turbo engine and fitted with a 36 forward and 36 reverse transmission which can reach a maximum forward speed of 40km per hour.

These gear ratios on the M9960 are achieved by a mechanical six-speed gearbox and a reduction box that offers three speeds as standard.

In each of the six main speeds, the operator can select one additional power shift without engaging the clutch.

The manufacturers say with an excellent power to weight ratio and a maximal load capacity of up to 3800 kg, this tractor is best suited for use on grassland farms, or as an on-farm tractor with front-loader use, and for soil cultivation.

"Visibility from the cab is superb," said Juergen. "It also has a very comfortable operating space within the cab. This makes using the loader very handy and safe. What I like mostly about this Kubota M9960 tractor is the small radius turning circle and the fact that it does not have too many electronics. It really is a super little tractor and one that does everything I ask of it around the farm."

Juergen's Kubota M9960 currently has around 650 hours on the clock but it is a long term investment for the farm. "With regular servicing, we aim to keep this Kubota for a long time," he said. "I am really happy with how it has performed for us so far."



Kubota and Clarkes of Cavan support Ballyhaise College

Kubota UK and local dealer Clarkes of Cavan have joined forces to lend their support to Tegaasc Ballyhaise College – one of Ireland's leading providers of educational courses in agriculture and forestry.

The two companies are working in partnership to sponsor machinery that is being used around the 220 hectare estate, located 8km north of the county town of Cavan.

Kubota's M110GX-II agricultural tractor is being used by the college for general farm work. The farm at Ballyhaise consists of a number of enterprises such as a 120 cow dairy herd, a 50 suckler cow herd, a 200 ewe sheep flock and 200 cattle of various breeds. The Kubota M110GX carries out slurry spreading, topping and mowing, along with a host of other jobs in the day-to-day running of the farm.

Two rugged Kubota RTV utility vehicles are also making getting around the estate much more

effective for farm duties, like transporting the maintenance team across the farm terrain and materials and kit for farm upkeep. In addition, Kubota's market leading B3030 compact tractor is being used to keep

three acres of college lawns in immaculate condition.

John Delaney, technical officer at Ballyhaise College, who has worked at the educational institute for 37 years, commented: "We are

delighted that the college is being supported by our local machinery dealer Clarkes of Cavan and the partnership we have developed with them and Kubota. Kubota machinery is renowned as the most reliable on the market so its great we get use their market leading equipment for campus upkeep and for farming operations. The quality of the machinery is second to none and this is backed up with first class service and support from Clarkes of Cavan."

Ballyhaise College is recognised as one of the leading agricultural and forestry colleges in Ireland, welcoming 350 new students each year and 1000 students in total.

Kevin Pryce, Kubota's agricultural dealer manager for Ireland, said: "We are absolutely delighted to be joining forces with Ballyhaise College. By working in partnership with such a prestigious educational institute, it enables us to support the college and helps us build the profile of the brand with the next generation of people that will be entering the agricultural and forestry industries."



Lawnmower man drives the distance

Prison officer Andy Maxfield from Inskip in Lancashire has completed his epic journey from John O'Groats to Land's End on a John Deere lawn tractor, while raising several thousand pounds for Alzheimer's Society.

The 'Driving the Distance for Dementia' Challenge set off from John O'Groats at 8am on Tuesday 25th July 2017, and the Guinness world record attempt was completed when Andy and his support team arrived at Land's End on Sunday 30th July at 4.45pm – a total measured distance of 874.3 miles travelled in five days, eight hours and 45 minutes.

Andy is hoping that Guinness will verify his achievement as he drove the whole distance on his own on an unmodified lawn tractor, which has not been attempted before. "It was a fantastic team effort all round – we certainly raised awareness for Alzheimer's Society and we all had some fun along the way," he said.

The trip included interviews with both BBC and ITV regional news and a shout-out on Radio 1's breakfast show, while thousands of people took to social media to offer encouragement and good wishes throughout the week. John Deere Limited's



turf division manager Chris Meacock, who organised the logistics and accompanied Andy Maxfield for a large part of the journey, said: "This really was a phenomenal achievement, given the difficulties Andy faced for much of the journey.

"It was a tough challenge that he took on and completed with determination,

dedication and no complaints – likewise his daughters Kathryn and Kaitlyn, who were with him the whole way.

Record or not, everyone should be very proud of what they have achieved – it was a pleasure to support the Alzheimer's charity in this way and raise money for a great cause."

RECORD DAYS ALL ROUND AT EURO AUCTIONS

It was another record breaking three-day auction in Leeds this August for Euro Auctions. A final hammer total of £40,725,000 was achieved based on a total of 4,738 lots, making it the largest single used plant and equipment auction held anywhere in Europe in recent years.

"We are extremely pleased with the outcome of the Leeds auction, which saw a number of records broken. We are pleased to break the £40 million barrier, but equally we are pleased with the record number of first time registers and the first time buyers that attended the auction," declared Jonnie Keys, Operations Manager of Euro Auctions.

"This can be attributed to the massive show of equipment available from around the world and in particular consignments from some of the largest rental companies including Ardent, Charles Wilson, Lynch and A-Plant, as they continue their aggressive plant renewal programmes. Also pleasing to see was equipment being sold to all continents which demonstrates the recovery in the construction sector around the world and in particular the South American countries which have been slow for a while now.

"A record number of 522 vendors from across the globe, including almost 50 first time consignors, entrusted Euro Auctions to maximise interest in their equipment through our sustained pre-auction marketing and achieve the best hammer prices. By attracting and presenting desirable lots we also achieved an excellent turnout with over 2,200 bidders participating from 70 countries – again numbers that are record highs for this auction. Buyers from across the UK, Ireland and Europe again topped

the tables but we saw significant added interest from the USA, the Middle East and Australasia with almost 1000 buyers coming from all continents across the world.

"Around 60% of all winning bids were placed by bidders actually attending the event and over 100 of the 160 plus first time registered bidders also placed their first winning bid. That said, we find that many buyers prefer a mix of onsite and online channels; with many coming along on day-one to inspect equipment, making preferred choices and then opting to purchase online, if they cannot attend all three days."

With excavators being the largest single category of equipment in this auction, there were no fewer than 693 to choose from; probably the largest number of excavators ever assembled for sale in the world. Included in this were almost 300 mini excavators, 110 6+ tonne, 117 10+ tonne and almost 150 20+ tonne excavators. Many were high specification, low hours, late registration models. Also included in this sale were a good choice of over 250 telehandlers, around 50 of each backhoes, dozers, forklifts, skid-steer loaders and articulated dump trucks, plus over 100 wheeled loaders and wheeled excavators – so something for everybody. Top hammer total went to a 2014 CAT D6T selling for £187,000.

"Leeds is now regarded by many around the world as the place to buy excavators because of the choice and quality available. It is really pleasing to see both buyers and sellers happy with the outcome of the auction which bodes well for our upcoming auctions, with many machines already consigned to the next

Leeds auction on 18th-20th October, which promises to be another massive event."

Agricultural tractors also featured at this auction with over 60 units being consigned including a 2013 New Holland T7.210 which went for £42,000. This auction also featured 249 lots of commercial vehicles and trailers, plus an array of scissor lifts, cherry pickers and a handful of cranes. There was also crushing and screening equipment and all manner of miscellaneous small plant, including generators, over 180 compressors and various other related plant and equipment.

"The currently depressed Pound against the Euro and Dollar has certainly made the UK a rich and attractive shopping location for many looking to acquire quality equipment," concludes Jonnie Keys. "This, coupled with the massive choice of quality equipment on offer led to it being a hugely successful sale.

"Euro Auctions is now a truly international player and we are seeing strong interest in all our auctions around the globe. We have two new locations, Dubai and Hong Kong, both holding their first sales in September, further expanding our reach and appeal. Our online presence is also attracting significant interest and traffic to our website during the three-day sale was up over 25% on the previous auction with an almost 40% increase in new users to the site. Compared to the same period last year traffic was up over 30%."

The next three-day sale back in Leeds for Euro Auctions will be between 18-20th October.

Full details and catalogues for all forthcoming Euro Auctions events are available on its website at www.euroauctions.com



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2010 JCB JS220LC



2006 New Holland E215



2013 Hitachi
ZX210LC-5B



2014 CAT 312E
- Choice of 3



2013 Doosan
DX140LC-3



2013 Hitachi
ZX130LCN-5B



2014 Doosan DX160W-3



2012 Takeuchi TB175W



2014 Hitachi
ZX29U-3 CLR



2014 JCB 8050RTS
- Choice of 2



2008 Volvo A40D
- Choice of 2



Volvo A30C



2008 Volvo L120F
- Choice of 2



2014 CAT 432F



2011-13 JCB 3CX P21
ECO - Choice of 2



13-15 CAT TH417C
- Choice of 8



2008 Genie GTH-4013



13-14 JCB 535-140
HI VIZ - Choice of 13



13-14 JCB 535-125
HI VIZ - Choice of 6



2005 Bomag BW213D-4



2013 Wacker Neuson
6001 - Choice of 2



2014 Morooka
MST300VD



2014 Bobcat T590
- Choice of 4



Unused Barford L22



2008 Bruno GX85FE
82.5KvA

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RITCHIE BROS: IT'S BEING 'BEST TOGETHER' THAT SETS THEM APART

Ritchie Bros.' acquisition of IronPlanet is one of the most noteworthy recent events in the global heavy equipment sector. What does it mean for the customers of this new heavy equipment superpower? Crucially, what kind of global market is the backdrop to what is still early days in the evolution of their newly combined operations?

The official coming together of two of the world's leading heavy equipment auction companies, that occurred on May 31 this year, is the culmination of a long process. It is one that was foreseen with the formal announcement of agreement for Ritchie Bros.' proposed acquisition of Iron Planet in August 2016.

However, for Jeroen Rijk, Managing Director Europe at Ritchie Bros., although there is an undoubted cause for satisfaction at this milestone for both companies, it is less about any sense of conclusion and more symbolic of a first step.

The moment for congratulation has passed and it is now all about looking ahead. Despite the perspective of a long career, where he is probably entitled to claim to have witnessed most scenarios, he can't disguise his excitement for the "enormous opportunities" this merger provides. Not least, for the customers of this newly created equipment superpower.

However, all those in the previous rival's respective customer databases who don't share his insider knowledge on the specific points of synergy; will immediately see evidence that this new combination is delivering new choices for them in buying and selling equipment. That the market is improving is only part of the story. Customer's needs are changing. There is an increasing complexity involved in the process of disposition. It is an auspicious time for Ritchie

Bros. and IronPlanet to come together. Combining platforms enables their customers to take better advantage of the improving picture with the benefits of one powerhouse in the market that provides for all their needs.

As the proposed benefits of the combined company are initially rolled out under the banner of - 'Best Together' - customers, whatever their previous affiliation, can use one destination that incorporates their current favourite methods; with the promise of new routes to market as the processes are fully integrated.

Business as usual

Jeroen Rijk underlines that customers can expect business as usual in the short term: "It is a continuation of what each company is offering." As it is still early days, the aim is to: "Keep it straightforward and easy for the customers - not to make things too complicated. We are committed to providing them with three main product lines. This begins with the existing live unreserved auctions held at our locations.

"Next is the IronPlanet product, which is the featured online auction - whether that be in the US (weekly) or Europe (monthly). The third product incorporates our EquipmentOne marketplace and the IronPlanet Daily Marketplace. These two will be combined later and will evolve into a platform called Marketplace e.

"These three main product lines will run to one system. It also means we are now able to offer a complete portfolio of products to serve our customers. Our representatives have the ability to offer any of the products depending on what the customer needs; this could involve splitting items among auctions; with the option of then putting something a bit more unusual on Marketplace e. - whatever is considered apt for the transaction."

Consequently, both the Ritchie Bros. and IronPlanet websites will look the same for the time being. Each one will retain its own identity and logo, yet, as Jeroen Rijk stresses, - "at the same time they are truly connected. This goes from the moment you sign up: there is one combined contract, and you decide which platform you want to put the equipment on. One of the first tasks after the acquisition was in combining databases, to ensure that anything that is offered on either site is being offered to the complete customer base."

Stability

Is Jeroen Rijk's confidence concerning the merger matched by global market conditions? What of Europe, the region he is responsible for? "I am quite optimistic at what we are seeing. Compared to last year and prior to that: in fact, since the end of last year... the market has been more stable than we have seen in a long time."

The positive evidence, he views as being different from the recent past: "Before, the market would pick up and then something would happen. You might see particular areas where there was a small increase... Now, it is very stable for everyone - dealers, manufacturers, and that includes us as well."

Combined future

Jeroen Rijk is bullish about his expectations of the potential of the partnership. "The move from the traditional auction market to digital is more important every day. Both IronPlanet and Ritchie Bros. have been active in this area from the early days. There is still so much opportunity around in different sectors, such as construction, agriculture, transport. We've really just started. The opportunities ahead are enormous. We will be able to open up a whole new range of services for customers who have become accustomed to using one single method of disposition."



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The legacy that shaped Volvo's world-class excavators

Volvo has leveraged 180 years of technical know-how and over 75 years of excavator experience to develop some of the world's finest excavators – a story that continues to unfold as new challenges of urbanisation emerge.

With a history that can be traced all the way back to 1832, Volvo CE is one of the true pioneers of the construction equipment industry. The company is famed for its innovations in wheel loaders and articulated haulers, but also boasts more than 75 years of excavator experience.

In 1939, Swedish company Åkerman launched its first 8-ton rope shovel. The machine was such a success that by 1956, Åkerman specialised entirely in excavators and by 1985, had sold more than 10,000 units globally. Volvo CE acquired Åkerman in 1991 and with it a whole wealth of knowledge and expertise.

With the acquisition of Samsung Heavy Industries' construction equipment division in 1998, including established excavator manufacturing operations in Korea, Volvo branded excavators leapt onto the global stage.

Today, Volvo CE has R&D facilities for excavators around the world and excavator manufacturing plants in eight locations – and demand keeps on growing.



Volvo is among the top brands for excavators globally and over the last five years, Volvo CE has achieved the strongest market share growth for crawler and wheeled excavators in the competitive European market.

The Volvo excavator range has likewise grown in size over the years, encompassing machines from 1.5 to 90 tons (compact, crawler and wheeled excavators, high-reach demolition machines and pipelayers).

"Excavators account for a large proportion of the overall construction equipment market – and the excavator market is growing," says Carl Slotte, president of Volvo CE Sales Region EMEA. "This makes excavators an important strategic product for Volvo CE."

Digging in the city

One reason Volvo CE sees behind the growth is increasing urbanisation. "Wheeled

excavators are an attractive machine for contractors working in city environments; they are easy to transport, easy to maneuver for precise digging, and do not risk damaging paved surfaces," Carl Slotte says.

Volvo CE has also noted a growing trend for short-swing radius machines. "Short-swing radius machines are ideal for maneuvering in city conditions where space may be limited. When working on a road, for example, their compactness means less disruption to other lanes and the flow of traffic. A case in point: our EWR150E was one of our best-selling models in the Nordic countries last year. As urbanisation continues, we expect wheeled and short-swing radius excavators to become even more popular."

Urban areas are currently developing worldwide at a rapid rate. By 2050, around 66% of the world's population is expected

to live in urban areas, according to UN projections. Over 60% of the land projected to become urban by 2030 is yet to be built. With this in mind, Volvo CE is busy planning for the future with new technologies to make construction quieter, safer, more efficient and more environmentally friendly; always working towards its goal of zero unplanned stops, zero emissions and zero accidents.

Excavators of the future

Earlier this year, Volvo CE unveiled the EX2 fully electric prototype compact excavator. The EX2 delivers the same power and force as its conventional counterpart with enough battery power to operate for eight hours in tough ground conditions – but with zero emissions, 10 times higher efficiency, and 10 times less noise.

"The EX2 is purely a research project at the moment but it showcases how our vision of high performance and environmental care could be realised. And as we leverage the knowledge and experience of the Volvo Group within the area of electromobility, we know that electric machines are part of our future sooner or later."

"Whether designing the excavators of today or tomorrow, we cooperate with and involve our customers to meet the challenges they face – of fuel efficiency, emissions, noise, safety, versatility, maneuverability and controllability – to produce the very best machines we can. Our mission is to build the world we want to live in."

Upward Trend for UK Exports and Imports of Construction and Earthmoving equipment

UK exports of construction and earthmoving equipment continued on an upward trend in the second quarter of 2017, showing growth for the fourth consecutive quarter.

Overall, Q2 2017 levels were the highest for two years, since Q2 2015. Exports in Q2 2017, increased by 5.3% in weight terms (tonnage of machines) compared with Q1 2017, and 2.0% in value terms (£ million), reaching £714 million. In the first half of 2017, exports are 19.1% higher than the same period in 2016 on a value basis at £1,413 million. On a weight basis, exports in the first half of the year are also 11% ahead of 2016 levels.

The increasing levels of exports of equipment can be attributed to both improving demand in many of the major overseas markets, as well as the benefit of the weaker £ exchange rate since the middle of 2016, following the Brexit referendum.

The USA remained the top destination for UK exports in the first half of 2017, accounting for 19% of total exports on a weight basis, and 23% on a £ value basis. Collectively, exports to EU28 countries accounted for 48% of total weight of machines exported in the first half of the year, and 44% of £ value. These were similar proportions to the 2016 annual levels.

Imports of equipment also showed further increases in Q2, and are following the same seasonal pattern as the last two years, "peaking" in Apr/Jun quarter, and "bottoming" in Oct/Dec. In Q2, imports showed a 4.3% increase on Q1 2017 in weight terms, and a 2.6% increase on a £ value basis, reaching £398 million. As with exports, imports were also at their highest level since Q2 2015 on both a weight and value basis. In the first half of 2017, imports are 15.8% higher than the same period in 2016 on a value basis at £786 million. On a weight basis, imports are also 3.4% ahead of 2016 levels in the first half of the year.

Higher levels of imports of equipment in the first half of the year are consistent with statistics on sales of equipment in the UK, according to the UK construction equipment data exchange. This shows an increase of 6% in equipment sales in the first half of the year compared with the same period in 2016.

Japan remains the highest single country source of imports in 2017, accounting for 19% of total imports of equipment in the first half of the year on a value basis. Imports from Sweden also remain strong this year, accounting for 17% of total equipment imports, and have taken Sweden from 5th in the 2016 ranking to second place so far this year.

The UK remains a net exporter of construction and earthmoving equipment, measured in both weight and value terms. In Q2, the trade surplus increased slightly on Q1 levels to £316 million. This was lower than the surplus of £340 million in Q4 2016, but after this, was the highest quarterly surplus since Q4 2015.

Association Busy on the Training Front

On the training front the Association have been extremely busy. It has linked up with MPA and IOSH to deliver two training sessions for senior managers focusing on creating a healthier workplace through good leadership.

Whatever the size of your organisation, the course highlights that investing in safety and health can reap valuable business benefits, including, reduction in accident rates, absence and sick leave, improving productivity, increased profits, enhanced reputation among stakeholders, reduced insurance premiums and legal costs.

The course ran at two locations on the 6th and 7th September were well attended and feedback indicates we should run further courses depending on Industry demand.

Concrete

QPANI have also teamed up with the local branch of the Concrete Society, CITBNI and the Federation of Master Builders to deliver a back to basics concrete course.

The half day courses delivering practical and technical guidance on handling and laying concrete on site are being held on the 19th September, 17th October and 28th November at CITBNI Nutts Corner. Each attendee on the Course will receive a free copy of the new MPA Ready Mixed Concrete – Practical Guide for Site Personnel”.

This guide is for construction site personnel to help them specify, order, receive, place, compact, finish and cure ready-mixed concrete. Most requirements of a concrete specification are derived o-site by a designer, or the designer specifies a Designated concrete where most of the requirements are pre-specified.

Designated concretes can only be supplied by ready-mixed concrete companies who have a suitably high level of product conformity certification and so there is verification of the concrete delivered is consistent with that ordered. We hope this guide will assist in raising the quality bar when it comes to ordering, handling and placing ready mixed concrete on construction sites across Northern Ireland.

CPD Event

The Association are also supporting the Contractors sub group of QNJAC in holding the first CPD event staged by industry experts aimed at everyone who works within the industry from quarry owners through to supervisors and contractors. The half day program will cover the most recent guidance offered to our industry. The event will provide a valuable form of 4 hours CPD accredited by The Institute of Quarrying. The local event is being held on the 26th September in the Dunadry Hotel from 9.15 – 12.15, followed by lunch. We hope as many QPANI Members as possible can support this event.

QPANI Meet with HSENI Chairman and Chief Executive

Recently the Regional Director and Chairman of our Health and Safety Committee, Craig Chisholm of Northstone, met with the New Chairman of HSENI, Derek Martin, former MD of H&J Martin and CEF President, and HSENI Chief Executive, Keith Morrison.

We discussed the very important and long established QPANI /HSENI working relationship, regulation of small rural construction sites and safe off loading of construction materials, management of dust and health issues and underground services.

We agreed the close working relationship between our two organisations must continue and Derek praised the Association and in particular our Safety Committee, for its professionalism and proactive work in advising the quarry products industry.



L-R: Craig Chisholm (Northstone NI, QPANI Health and Safety Committee Chair); Gordon Best (QPANI Regional Director); Derek Martin (new Chairman of HSENI, former MD of H&J Martin and CEF President) and Keith Morrison (HSENI Chief Executive).

Stone Chuckers Challenge Set for Return

Following the success of last year's event the Stone Chucker's challenge will return on Friday 13 October 2017 and this year is being hosted by Norman Emerson Group.

We would appeal to everyone to support this years “Children In Need” Fund raising event. We have been in contact with BBC and it is hoped they will be filming the event for broadcast on Children in Need night in November.

Preferred Options Papers

QPANI recently submitted its responses to the Derry Strabane and Mid and East Antrim Council's Preferred Options Papers.

The Association continues to liaise with the local Councils and the Northern Ireland Local Government Association in order to better inform and raise awareness among local Council decision makers about the importance of the construction materials and minerals industry in the areas.

“We would strongly recommend all those in the Industry who receive information requests from their local Council and the Department of the Economy in relation to annual aggregate production, sales information, aggregate resource and planning information to please return as accurate data as possible,” says Regional Director Gordon Best.

“This information will assist Councils as they develop local mineral plans and identify safe guarding areas and it will assist the Department of the Economy as they decide on the need and value of a Northern Ireland Minerals Strategy and Forum.”

Promoting Career Choices to the Young

QPANI's HR Group continue to engage with Invest NI and the Institute of Directors on Skills Development and how it can promote the opportunities and careers available within Construction Materials and Minerals Industry to young people and parents.

The Association is also focusing attention and aiming to raise awareness about the range of careers in our Industry available to Women.

“I recently met with ‘Womenstec’, an organisation dedicated increasing womens roles in key Industry sectors,” says Regional Director Gordon Best, “and we hope to work together over the coming months and years to increase the number of women working in our Industry and show that its ‘not just for boys.’

Going Underground at Curraghinalt

Dalradian Gold kindly hosted a recent visit by QPANI's Executive Committee and Committee Chairs to their Curraghinalt Project near Omagh in Co Tyrone.

The visit was extremely informative and enjoyable taking in a 2 hour tunnel tour and explanation of above ground operations.

We wish DALRADIAN every success in the forthcoming planning application. If granted this operation will bring significant employment and economic and social benefit to communities in the Sperrins and wider area.

Komatsu Dash 11 Excavators Arrive

With the arrival of their latest range of Dash 11 excavators into Ireland, Komatsu is delivering what they claim is 'a product offering that combines the three-fold benefits of productivity, dependability and efficiency'.

Ranging from the 14-tonne PC138US-11 up to the 50-tonne PC490LC-11, the Dash 11 line-up comprises models to suit most requirements from small construction applications to large-scale quarrying and other heavy-duty applications.

Here in Ireland, the units most in demand will be the 23-tonne PC210 and the 36-tonne PC360.

Comments Michael McHale, MD of distributors McHale Plant Sales: "The introduction of Dash 11 models reflects the investment being made by Komatsu in the field of innovation and demonstrates further the brand's 'pre-eminence in technology' that benefits customers in matters of economy, productivity and machine performance monitoring."

Introduced in 1996 with the first Komatsu Tier 1 engine, these latest models come with a EU Stage IV engine – an even more environmentally pleasing power source than those of the Dash 10 series they replace.



For users, this enhancement comes with the promise of significantly improved fuel efficiency, its other attributes including an upgraded cab design, enhanced serviceability and the promise of maximised productivity and reduced operating costs.

Built to ensure product reliability and durability in demanding conditions, the entire system on the new excavators - including control software critical to the effective operation of the after-treatment system - is integrated into the machines' on-board diagnostics and telematics set up.

Inside the ROPS-certified cab - with its reinforced box structure framework

mounted on viscous isolation dampers for low vibration levels - a comfortable and quiet work environment exists.

Standard are proportional control joysticks for the precise operation of attachments.

A standard air-suspended, high back seat has newly-designed and fully adjustable armrests for improved comfort. Other features include a radio, 12-volt power ports and external devices to play music through the cab speakers.

In a bid to reduce costly downtime, a number of new design features have been added. These include guardrails fitted on both sides of the upper structure for easier service accessibility. A hydraulically driven fan can be manually reversed to simplify cleaning of the cooling assembly. Radiator and hydraulic oil coolers are mounted side-by-side making it easier to maintain and service when required.

Fitted with latest Komtrax remote monitoring, with data accessible via web or smart phone, Dash 11 owners can log and control information on fuel and AdBlue levels and monitor operating hours, location, cautions and maintenance alerts, KDPF regeneration and fuel theft alerts.

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Digital Construction Live Conference

Digital technologies have had a significant impact on the way we communicate, work and shop, writes Melanie Dawson, Head of BIM at Graham Construction, ahead of a major conference in Belfast in November.

In the space of just a few generations, we have transformed a grainy black and white television into an ultra-high definition screen which can fit in our pocket.

In recent years, the construction industry has started its own digital revolution by introducing and implementing Building Information Modelling on public and private sector projects. The 2016 Government mandated use of BIM Level 2 was just a start, and we are now heading toward BIM level 3, big data and smart cities.

Many simple yet advanced tools are creating new forms of digital construction which can be used and applied to increase the efficiency and improve the process of delivering and operating in the built environment.

We are using simple digital tools such as video conferencing every day to communicate better and avoid unnecessary travel. Furthermore, simple digital tools can also

be used to manage and capture field/site information and data to improve quality, reduce rework and promote safety.

Advanced digital tools, such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), 3D printing, robotics, virtual and augmented reality, and artificial intelligence (AI) will make the delivery, operation and renewal of our built environment safer, more efficient and more collaborative.

Free Workshops

After hosting a very successful BIM conference at the Titanic Building in 2016 with over 400 delegates from across the UK, NIBIM Regions is pleased to announce that we are gathering together again on 17th November at the Europa Hotel in Belfast to host the "Digital Construction Live 2017," where keynote speakers will talk about BIM & Digital Construction, the future of new automated and computerised ways of working, and emerging and converging technology. You can experience these cutting-edge technologies for yourself in the breakout sessions and workshops.

The "Digital Construction Live 2017" conference is free to attend, and it is one

of the best places to learn more or to expand your knowledge of BIM and digital technologies in the AEC industry. Furthermore, you have an excellent opportunity for networking and to meet professionals from leading organisations across the UK.

Therefore, if you are new to BIM and Digital Construction or want to know more about innovative technologies in the construction industry, book 17th November 2017 in your diary and join us at the "Digital Construction Live 2017" conference in Europa Hotel Belfast.

More Information

If you would like to present and promote your business, raise your company profile and position your brand alongside other recognised bodies supporting the Digital Construction Live conference, please contact nibimhub@gmail.com for more information about available sponsorship packages.

*Melanie Dawson is Head of BIM at Graham Construction and a Chair of the BIM Regions NI group. She is also a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) Northern Ireland Digital Group, which supports ICE's thought leadership on digital transformation of the built environment.

Concrete Society 'Forming our Future' Seminar

The Concrete Society has drawn up a diverse and forward-thinking programme under the theme 'Forming Our Future', for the third Evolving Concrete one-day CPD-accredited seminar to be held at the Royal Berkshire Conference Centre on 28 September 2017.

The Society has already revealed that the programme will be opened by Chris Dulake, major projects portfolio director and global metros practice leader at Mott MacDonald (and previously engineering director for HS2

Phase 1 and chief engineer for Crossrail), and can now confirm that his presentation will be entitled, 'Forming our future – is our industry equipped for the challenge?', which will start the day's proceedings with some insightful issues facing construction in the UK.

Kathy Calverley, managing director of The Society, said, "To be able to attract such interesting and informed speakers such as Chris Dulake to our technical showcase is a huge coup for The Society. Chris is a strong advocate for efficiency and quality in

design and construction, and we look forward to his presentation on such a perceptive and thought-provoking subject."

This discerning opening address will be followed by equally informative presentations by industry experts.

With further topics to be added to the agenda, The Concrete Society showcases its position as a centre of technical knowledge for the construction industry.

This high-level seminar day with exhibition and optional evening dinner is open to both

members and non-members, and will be of particular interest to architects, consultant engineers and contractors. Evolving Concrete will be held at the Royal Berkshire Conference Centre near Junction 11 of the M4, Reading. The venue has excellent travel links, free parking and, as well as a 200-bedroom hotel onsite, there is also a range of hotels within a short radius.

For further information on this event, visit: www.evolver-concrete.org. Tel: 01276 607140 or e-mail: evolving@concrete.org.uk

Roadbridge Puts Komatsu To Fore In Longford Village Development

Komatsu is featuring strongly in the line-up of heavy-duty machinery assembled by Roadbridge for work on the new 395-acre Longford Forest Village being developed by Center Parcs near Ballymahon.

Coupled with two 80 tonne PC800LC-8 excavators – the largest machines on site – latest Komatsu Dash - 11 machines purchased by Roadbridge to carry out ground works at the site include a number of PC138US-11, PC210LC-11 and PC360LC-11 units. Included also in the mix of machines acquired by Roadbridge is a number of construction site-specified Merlo P38.13 Plus telehandlers.



The 80 tonne PC800LC-8 and the versatile PC138US-11 – just two of the heavy-duty Komatsu machines assembled by Roadbridge for work on the new 395-acre Longford Forest Village.

The first Centre Parcs development of its kind in Ireland, the new Longford Forest project is

scheduled for completion in 2019, creating around 750 new jobs during construction and a further 1,000 permanent jobs when opened.

In other fields, Komatsu is extending its presence in agricultural and waste management applications. Recent deals reported by their distributors in Ireland, McHale Plant Sales of Birdhill and Rathcoole, have seen Thorntons Recycling acquire a WA380-8 wheel loader while All Away Waste has chosen a Merlo TF42.7-156 telehandler to complement its existing fleet of Komatsu wheel loaders.

Elsewhere, McHale reports a number of WA320-7 and WA270-7 wheel loaders being sold to agricultural contractors.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



As the UK repositions its economy on the global stage, improving the performance of our infrastructure networks has never been more important.

ICE's digital transformation campaign is pushing industry to transform both the tools and approaches used to build, maintain and operate assets to:

- *Boost productivity by shifting from CAPEX to TOTEX*
- *Understand the behaviours and technologies that will improve outcomes*
- *Increase resilience against cybercrime - currently affecting 1 in 6 construction firms*

Explore the resources at ice.org.uk/digital.

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KEY EVENTS

Shaping a Digital World

13 October, London

ice-digitalengineering.com

Transport Asset Management

21 November, London

ice-tam.com

Liebherr launches customer programme to combat on-site accident rates

Liebherr Great Britain Ltd has launched a new Product Familiarisation Programme to support its UK customers and help improve on-site safety.

The Product Familiarisation Programme will be available to all Liebherr customers in the UK and will initially focus on materials handling machines where there is a recognised gap in both knowledge and support. The course will ensure that customers have an in-depth understanding of their own specific machines, helping them operate more efficiently and crucially, safely.

The Programme will see Liebherr supply highly skilled product demonstrators to a customer's site for a one or two-day session. Each course will comprise two core elements. Firstly, an interactive classroom session



designed to cover all elements of operating the machine and understanding its capability. This is followed by a demonstration and a tour around the customer's own Liebherr machine, so that

points discussed during the theory session can be reviewed in an operational environment. This is then followed by a classroom-based test. All participants reaching the required

standard will be issued with a certificate to demonstrate that they have passed the Product Familiarisation course.

Commenting on the launch, Material Handler Product Specialist, Mike Hanlon, said: "Whilst there are numerous training companies running courses for most machine types, there are none for industrial material handlers. The Product Familiarisation Programme will extend Liebherr's responsibility beyond the stringent machine safety requirements stipulated by many of the industry's insurance companies. It enables us to support customers, many of whom are running multiple machines, who want to take even greater ownership for the safe operation of their machines and the care of those employees operating them."

Ireland moves to make competent builders register a legal requirement

The Construction Industry Federation (CIF) has welcomed government approval for the drafting and publication of the General Scheme of the Building Control (Construction Industry Register Ireland) (CIRI) Bill 2017.

CIRI was established by the CIF in consultation with the Department of the Environment as definitive listing of main contractors and sub-contractors operating in Ireland, competent to carry out works on behalf of public and private clients.

Each company on the register must meet particular prequalification criteria to qualify for CIRI registration.

Construction Industry Federation (CIF) Director General Tom Parlon said: "The overall goal of CIRI is to foster improved standards and continuous professional development throughout the Irish construction industry. By registering with CIRI, members commit to delivering excellence in every aspect of their work.

"The Government proposed the establishment of a Statutory Register of Builders and has acknowledged the need for independently verified evidence of compliance with statutory obligations.

The CIF first responded to the wishes of the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government in establishing the Construction Industry Register Ireland (CIRI) in March 2014. During 2015, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government completed preparation of the draft Heads of Bill for legislation which will enable CIRI to be placed on a statutory footing and the CIF is delighted to see this work coming to fruition.

"The registration of competent builders, specialist contractors and tradespersons supports the prime objectives of the building control system to ensure a quality, safe built environment and to protect consumers. All registered members must make firm commitment to excellent building

principles and to abide to an Industry Code of Ethics and Commitments."

Hubert Fitzpatrick, Director of Housing, Planning and Development with CIF and of the Irish Home Builders Association stated: "All registered builders on the register will be required to undertake continuing training and development so that they keep abreast of new building regulations requirements and building standards.

"Anybody engaging a builder or purchasing a new house should ensure that the builder they select is CIRI registered under the current voluntary basis, which is up and running for the past three years. I strongly recommend that the public only engage registered members on CIRI who currently comply with mandatory registration requirements under the Scheme. The existing CIRI register can be viewed on line by the public by accessing www.ciri.ie."

New Finish For Versatile Hoist Range

J D Neuhaus (JDN) is implementing a new Hydro Coating on its industry-leading hoist range. The coating not only enhances quality and appearance, but is far more environmentally friendly.

JDN takes its corporate and social responsibilities extremely seriously, and moving from a standard hammer finish to the Hydro Coating will contribute to sustainable protection of the environment. In fact, the new Hydro Coating features a percentage of organic

solvents that is less than 3%, which is significantly more environmentally-friendly than the former hammer finish. In addition, the coating is silicone-free, which means no wetting failures, an important consideration for automotive or coating plants. Further benefits

of the Hydro Coating include optimised adhesion, high resistance to corrosion and oil, and the potential to be diluted with water if required. It offers excellent surface quality, even when refitting, and complies fully with the VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) Directive.

HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR WORKPLACE?

Workplace Wellness is finally coming into corporate jargon and many will say not before time, but does it mean anything or is it just another tick box exercise on the Corporate responsibility page. Well it shouldn't be.

Don't just see an employee, see a person

A healthier workforce is a happier, more productive one, in fact research has shown that healthy employees are 30 days a year more productive than less healthy employees. So, instead of treating the effects of ill health our unique, award winning medical insurance promotes the benefits of good health, by rewarding employees for positive lifestyle choices.

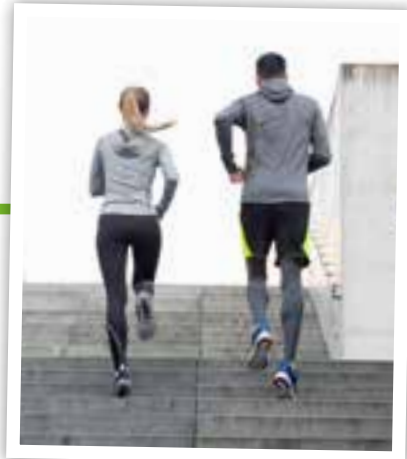
The healthier they become, the better they perform - and the bigger the return on your investment in terms of productivity, absenteeism and retention. We call it giving shared value, because with our health cover everyone benefits.

How do we improve the health of your workplace - by using a range of reward partners to make it more affordable to get healthier, and to give more rewards for being active. The rewards range from smoking cessation classes, discounts on healthy eating, gym fees, trainers, bikes, the latest tech such as Apple Watch series 2.

Lead an active lifestyle and we'll give you weekly cinema tickets for Vue & Cineworld, or our cinema partners in Northern Ireland. We'll also give you a drink at Starbucks every week so the weekly coffee run can feel well earned.

We'll also give your staff discounted travel with up to 40% off British Airways flights and Eurostar

All this and we'll protect your employees when things do go wrong. With the latest video technology we can put a GP in your workplace so employees won't need to take time off for GP appointments. We'll also make sure they see the best consultants in the shortest time, meaning less time spent worrying and less time off work.



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Avant To Launch New e6 Electric Model

AVANT will launch its new e6 electric model at the Plant and Machinery Show at UK Construction Week at the Birmingham NEC in October.

The fully electric battery-powered loader in the same size class as the Avant 600 series, offering zero emissions, extremely low noise and minimal running costs.

The battery powered loader is especially suitable for indoor use where ventilation is limited. This means that the operator and workers are not exposed to exhaust emissions which create health risks.

A further benefit of a battery driven machine is the extremely low noise level, meaning it can be used in noise restricted areas. This is especially useful for demolition and construction contractors, farms and equestrian businesses, as well as some industrial applications, where noise needs to be kept to a minimum.

The loader has an integrated battery charger, which makes it possible to

charge batteries using a 230 volt/16A power outlet. The e-series can also be operated while charging the batteries.

The Avant e6 is the first loader in the world to use lithium battery technology. The e6 is equipped with a 288 Ah lithium battery and two electric motors: a 6kW motor for driving the machine and a 2kW motor for loader boom operation and auxiliary hydraulics. An onboard charging unit is included which enables charging from any 230V/10A power outlet. Auxiliary hydraulics flow is 30 l/min, which allows working with various Avant attachments, including hydraulic hammer and various grapples.

Lithium-ion battery technology provides significantly better performance compared with lead-acid batteries. In light use lithium battery performance is around 30% better than lead-acid batteries - in heavy use the operating time is up to three times longer.

The battery on the e6 can also be charged from 0-100% in one hour when using a rapid



charging station. It's also lighter which is useful when working in construction sites where the machine weight is relevant.

Raimo Ala-Korpi, Managing Director of Avant UK said: "The new e-series are truly green machines which are extremely useful in demolition and construction when CO2 emissions are a problem."

He added: "The e6 is the ideal machine to ensure a healthier and more comfortable working environment without compromising on power and versatility."

Hiab expands continuous slewing for its loader cranes

Hiab is introducing continuous slewing on its 30 to 40 tonne metre range of cranes. Continuous slewing has previously been available for only the biggest HIAB cranes, which have a capacity of over 50 tonne metres.

"Continuous slewing offers the operator the best possible load access, avoiding unnecessary backtracking, and enables safer operation with no awkward lifts and stopping in risky positions. There has been high demand for this from our customers, which we are now answering by expanding our offering to the



lighter end of the heavy range," says Marcel Boxem, Director Heavy Range Cranes, Hiab.

Combined with boom and jib operations for construction, transport and specialist

work, cranes with continuous slewing make work faster, smarter and safer.

The following models are now available with continuous slewing: HIAB X-HiPro 358 (specifically designed for long boom applications with or without a jib), HIAB X-CLX 398 (specifically designed for short to medium length boom applications for emerging markets), HIAB X-HiPro 408 (specifically designed for long boom applications with or without a jib for maximum performance) and HIAB X-HiPro 418 (specifically designed for short to medium length boom applications, for more mature markets with high demand for electronic safety features and optimal performance).

JCB Director First Honorary CEA President

The CEA (Construction Equipment Association) has welcomed David Bell, director JCB as the trade association's very first Honorary President.

David joined JCB in 1974 as a graduate trainee, following an Engineering apprenticeship at Rolls Royce in Derby. During his 43-year career at JCB David has held a variety of senior roles, including managing director of JCB Sales/Service, JCB Agriculture, JCB's Backhoe Loader and Telescopic Handler Business Units and Group HR Director. He is also a seasoned traveler and lived and worked in North America for three years.

Another string to David's bow is the JCB Academy, where he has been involved since its conception and currently holds the position as chairman of governors. In 2010, David became JCB's chief corporate



David Bell

development officer focusing on growth in Brazil, China and latterly in Jaipur India.

He was Regional Chairman for the CBI in the East Midlands, and has recently stepped down as a National Apprentice Ambassador.

On his new role at the CEA, David said, "The construction equipment industry is

vitaly important to the UK economy and I strongly believe it has a very bright future. The CEA is the voice of our industry and having spent my entire working life over 40 years working in different roles at JCB, I have a good understanding of the issues that everyone is facing. I'm really looking forward to championing the interests of the industry on behalf of the CEA at the highest level."

Rob Oliver CEA chief executive said, "David has been a well-known leader in the construction equipment industry for many years. His scope of experience and continuing enthusiasm for our sector is outstanding. I am thrilled that he has agreed to be our figurehead as our first ever Honorary President. We very much look forward to working with him."

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New Case CX130D supplied by Cowan Bros to Mark McKelvey, Saintfield.



New Yanmar VIO25 supplied to NMG utilities from Crumlin Plant Sales.



A Giant Tendo 4548 HD for Play & Leisure Services, from Ballyward Plant Services.



Hitachi ZX135US-6 excavator for CP Hire of Coleraine.



Bomag BW161AD-5 - MMB Surfacing, Randalstown.



Chris Dorman of Alan Dorman & Son, Larne. New MI 25 D cw Half cab - nit logo.



Hitachi ZX19U-5 - McLaughlin Contracts (NI) Ltd, Omagh.



New Yanmar VIO33 supplied to E&B Services from crumlin Plant Sales.



Takeuchi TB210 with an Hydra Auger to be delivered to Iron Design in Armagh by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



Ni hoses supplied this c910 hydraulic compactor to mills contracts omagh.



Boles Hire Z45 Boom Lift & GS4047 Scissor Lift from Sleator Plant.



Ciaran Ferris of SAF Building & CE Ltd, taking delivery of a Probst SAFELOCK Pipe Grab - 720 to 1280.

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A TB260 ready to be delivered to Kilbrony Timber Frames in Rostrevor Co. Down by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



Atlas Copco HB 3600 fully rebuilt by Sme sold to Liam Whelan Plant Hire.



New WA470-8 recently delivery to Robinsons Quarry Masters.



Bann Hire - Andrew taking delivery of more Skyjack slab scissors from Glendun Plant.



915 Sold to Xcav8 Ltd.



Bomag BW120AD-5 - GAP Hire, Omagh.



Jonathon McInerney, Co. Galway with his SK140SRLC from McSharry Bros.



New Takeuchi TB235 sold to Granagh Development in Broughshane co Antrim by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



New Case CX75C supplied by Cowan Bros to Joseph Davis, Strabane.



Takeuchi TB235 delivered to J Hanna in Kilkeel Co Down by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



new yanmar V1050 Supplied to monaghan hire from Crumlin plant sales.



Hitachi ZX10U - Nicor Construction, Strabane.



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A Giant V5003 for M McIlwaine and Sons, from Ballyward plant services.



Hitachi ZX350LC-6 - H J B Plant Hire Ltd, Newtownards.



Bomag BW120AD-5 - Cole Groundworks Contracts Ltd.



McCusker Demolition's New Hyundai HX220L - delivered to Belfast and put to good work straight away!!



new Yanmar SV08 AND MESSURSI Tch07 SUPPLIED TO ppo hire From Crumlin Plant Sales.



A Truxta B300-E zero emission Mini Dumper for CP Hire, from Ballyward Plant Services.



Paul Lehane, Co. Cork in front of his SK210LC from McSharry Bros.



New Yanmar V1017 Supplied to WT PLANT hire from Crumlin Plant Sales.



3CX Contractor advanced easy controls ready for JD Excavations.



New yanmar sv26 supplied to DONEGAL HIRE from Crumlin Plant sales.



2 TB210 being delivered to Outdoor living.Co Dublin and Hire Max in Kells Co Meath by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.

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Navan Hire collecting Genie Z45 Boom Lift.



Height Access Hire Ltd with 15 x Genie Scissor Lifts from Sleator Plant.



Jason Rolston, Farm Manager of JMW Farms with their New Manitou MLT 840-145.



New messursi High tip track dumper supplied to JN Hire from Crumlin Plant Sales.



Brian and Joe Rankin from Limavady taking delivery of their new Manitou MLT 630 vario - with logo.



Takeuchi TB230 delivered to D Nichola in Moneymore Co. Londonderry by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



Raymond Armstrong collecting his new Wacker Neuson CRT60 ride-on power float from Derek Weir - Glendun Plant.



Thwaites 1 Tonne Hi Tip - JB Plant & Tool Hire, Omagh.



Three Merlo P40.17 PLUS sold by DA Forgie to McGinnis Group - BW Homes and Construction.



SK270SRLC x 3 units ready at McSharry Bros for Ward & Burke Construction Ltd., Co. Galway.



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HP Hire, Enniskillen, new Niftylift HR21 boom lift supplied by Glendun Plant.



Kyle Price from JH Price & Sons with their new Manitou MT1840.



Takeuchi TB240 being delivered to Down Asphalt in Ballynahinch Co Down by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



Another Kubota way from FJS Plant.



digger sold to GMK Contracts Omagh.



East Down Hire collecting their new Hanix N085UJ from Ballyward Plant Services.



Kubota U55-4 digger sold to GMK Contracts Omagh by D.A Forgie.



Niall Leitch from Leitch Trans Lift.



Thwaites 1 Tonne Hi Tip - KBO Hire, Magherafelt.



New Case CX75C supplied by Cowan Bros to Campbell Contracts Ltd, Tempo.



New Case CX80C supplied by Cowan Bros to JA Lyttle & Son, Ballyclare.



The first hybrid Takeuchi TB216 sold by Alan Milne Tractors to Meegan Builders in Castleblaney Co. Monaghan.

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New Case CX26C supplied by Cowan Bros to Stephen Wallace, Ballyclare.



New Yanmar SV18 supplied to Culmac contracts from Crumlin Plant Sales.



Boles Hire collecting Genie Z62 Boom Lift from Sleator Plant.



New Case CX130D supplied by Cowan Bros to James Murdoch Contracts, Comber.



2 kubota machines sold to Weston Homes by FJS Plant.



William Miller of Milgro Ltd - with logo.



Takeuchi TB250 delivered to Doherty Constructions in Dundalk by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



3 x Bomag BW120AD-5 - CP Hire, Coleraine.



New Case CX130D supplied by Cowan Bros to TD McKane & Son, Castlederg.



New Case CX145D supplied by Cowan Bros to AG Wilson, Portadown.



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A Quadzilla Tracker 800 for PF Murphy fom Ballyward Plant Services.



New Case CX26B supplied by Cowan Bros to Viewpoint Developments, Hillsborough.



Second att --kramer 5085t sold to customer in Newtown-hamilton Co.Armagh.



3 x Hitachi ZX26U-5 - Balloo Hire Centre, Bangor.



Derry Refrigerated Transport's new Skyjack SJ3219 supplied by Glendun Plant.



A Giant V452T HD and attachments for AWT Home Improvements, from Ballyward Plant Services.



TB210 with Thor Hammer collected by Frank McParland Newry from Alan Milne Tractor Newry.



Kevin Harkin of Harkin Bros, Donegal taking delivery of his new Manitou MLT 737-130 along with a square bale clamp.



New Case CX130D supplied by Cowan Bros to WR Jenkins, Keady, Armagh.



New TB230 Takeuchi delivered to W Hayden in Wexford by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



Richard Trouton, Moy, new Wacker Neuson TH412 supplied by Glendun Plant.



Robin Hill Construction - James Cole taking delivery of his new Wacker Neuson TH412 from Glendun Plant.

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Hitachi ZX250LC-6 - Stanley Bell & Sons, Cookstown.



Parkes Hire collecting Genie GS3246 Scissor Lift from Sleator Plant.



Takeuchi TB216 delivered to E. Hopkins in Naas by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



First att - kramer 5085t sold to J.Gillfillan, Douglasbridge Co.Tyrone.



New Case CX130D supplied by Cowan Bros to Bellshill Developments Ltd, Magherafelt.

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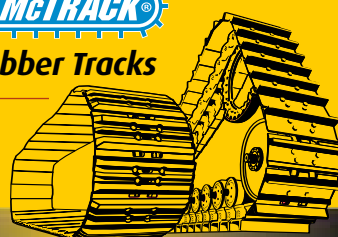
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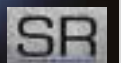
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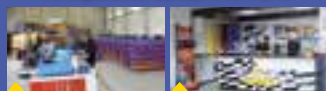
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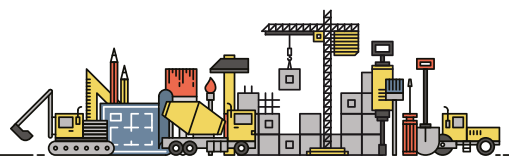
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