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We are all for equality here at Plant & Civil Engineer, so it was good to hear a recent call from the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) for more females to be encouraged to make a career in the construction industry. That, they say, would go some way to meet current demand for skills and to deliver Ireland's urgent housing and infrastructure needs.

As we report in this issue, the CIF has launched its first Diversity and Inclusion Guidance Document for the Construction sector in a bid to address the existing gender imbalance.

A recent survey revealed that over 70% of construction companies recognise the need for more women in the industry. However, on average approximately only 1 out of 10 construction workers are female.

On another issue, Unite, the construction union, is calling on construction employers to 'up their game' in rooting out fake Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards. The call follows recent news reports that a fake CSCS card seller was jailed for more than three years. The latest story underlines that there continues to be a market in fake CSCS cards, which undermines the value of the cards.

On a more positive note, latest Construction Statistics show that construction output here in the second quarter of 2018 increased by 6.2% compared with Q1 2018, although was 2.5% lower compared to the same quarter in 2017. However, this latest increase brings the overall level of construction to a similar level to 2017.

While many companies are investing in new equipment, the market for 'used' machinery keeps growing apace, according to Euro Auctions, one of Northern Ireland's unsung success stories. The Co Tyrone headquartered company, with a truly global reach, reports that its October sale at its Leeds site was the biggest on record with over 4,800 lots going over the ramp and a total hammer of £42,515,535, an increase of 20% over the same sale in 2017. Global buyers hit another all-time high, with 59% of bidding being online.

Well, that's about it for now. Our next issue will carry a full report in words and photos of who won what and why at our annual Plant & Civil Engineer awards.

In the meantime, remember, you can keep up to date by logging on to our website at www.plantandcivilengineer.com.

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(L-R) Stephanie McCullagh, Paul Harper, Ronan Larkin, Mark Ellesmere (all NI Water) John Mills, Utility Regulator, Sara Venning, Sean McAleese, Len O'Hagan, Kieran Grant and Mark Brownlee from NI Water.



The NI Water Project team including BSG Civil Engineering, RPS & Doran Consulting.

£7 million investment in Ballycastle Wastewater Treatment Works Complete

A new state-of-the-art £7million Wastewater Treatment Works at Ballycastle has been officially opened.

The project involved the construction of a new treatment works on the existing expanded site, which will now meet the needs of the growing local population and economy. Ballycastle is growing in terms of its population, tourism industry and infrastructure and the new plant is essential to accommodate this development, as well as improving the local river water quality and bathing water standards.

Sara Venning CEO NI Water said: "We in NI Water are immensely proud of what we have achieved here, but are equally frustrated that ongoing financial restraints are preventing us from providing the same levels of infrastructure in many other areas throughout the province.

"Continued investment in the water and wastewater services throughout Northern Ireland is essential to improve the infrastructure and to help us to ensure the protection of public health and the environment; support the growing economy

and enable us to meet increasingly challenging European standards."

Recognising the importance and sensitivity of the area, the construction team successfully overcame many obstacles along the way, as the new coastal Wastewater Treatment Works was built on an extremely confined site, and careful consideration needed to be made to the sensitive ecology of the surrounding environment when planning the works. The new plant, which includes additional stormwater storage to help protect water quality will treat wastewater to the required standards until 2035.

Merlo Growth Predicted On Back Of New 'Streamlined' Supply Arrangement

Merlo distributor in Ireland, McHale Plant Sales, is anticipating a growth in their telehandler sales with the coming into force of a faster, more streamlined supply chain arrangement between themselves and the Italian manufacturer.

Replacing the via-UK plan that existed previously, McHale will henceforth be supplied directly from the Merlo factory in Cuneo, Northern Italy. As a result, product ordering and delivery lines are shortened and customer care issues brought correspondingly closer to source.

Commenting, Michael McHale said: "We have a goal to strengthen the market position of Merlo in Ireland, raising it towards the position the brand holds in Germany, Canada, Australia, Finland and Italy. This new arrangement is a step in that direction."

With its footprint expanding in construction and farm contracting applications, factors that McHale will focus on in its drive for growth will include the brand's 'excellent residual value' and feedback that describes it as 'a driver's machine'.

In recent months the Rathcoole and Birdhill-based distributor has chalked up some notable sales. One saw a TF50.8 model, fitted with a bucket and grab for use in waste handling, go into service with recycling specialist Thorntons. Another saw a 40.30 MCSS Roto with 4-tonnes lift and 30 metres reach, supplied to civil works contractor, NRS.

Other deals included a P40.17 to Raven Mobile Homes and two 45.21 MCSS Roto models to building, civil and marine engineering contractors, L&M Keating, a company ranked as Ireland's single largest Merlo fleet operator.

The performance of the Liebherr R 946 has been second to none



'We have made it a company policy that all new machines from 30 tonnes upwards will wear the Liebherr badge.'

The R 946 is designed for minimal downtime and greater profitability.

"We bought our first Liebherr, an R 954 crawler excavator, back in 2007 and over the past 11 years have used it on a wide range of projects. The machine's performance has been second to none: it has stood up to everything we could possibly throw at it. With minimal repairs it is still going strong, which is why we have purchased another Liebherr: the R 946 crawler excavator with straight boom. After running the R 946 for a trouble-free 12 months, we have made it a company policy that all new machines from 30 tonnes upwards will wear the Liebherr badge." Howard Stott, Howard Stott Demolition Ltd.

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LIEBHERR

Business Community Club Together for Children's Cancer Unit

A group of local businessmen got into the swing of things by hosting a two-day golf tournament, raising an incredible £80,177 for The Children's Cancer Unit Charity.

Organisations from construction, property, energy, banking, hospitality and other sectors made up the 74-team competition which was held at Rockmount Golf Club in Carryduff. The fundraising total, which was generated through 4-Ball sales, sponsorships, donations and charity auction bids, will go directly towards supporting the work of the Children's Cancer Unit at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children.

Speaking at the handover of the cheque, Johnny McQuillan, Joint Managing Director at John McQuillan (Contracts) LTD and Member of the CCUC Golf Committee, said:

"We are absolutely thrilled with the amount that was raised through our charity golf event this year. Businesses from right across Northern Ireland came out in force to lend



Jacqueline Wilkinson from The Children's Cancer Unit Charity and Sinead Gallagher accept a cheque for £80,177, which was raised through the CCUC Golf Committee bi-annual tournament at Rockmount Golf Club. Members of the committee, David Hassard, Johnny McQuillan and Steven Kher, are also pictured with Dr Anthony McCarthy and Felix Mooney, Chairman of The Children's Cancer Unit Charity.

their support to this fantastic cause and had a great time on the course while doing so.

"We would like to thank all the individuals and businesses who participated on the day, who made donations or sponsored a tee box and who helped make the event such a huge success. Special thanks must also go to Rockmount Golf Club for putting

on fantastic days for us and to Terry Cross from Killaney Estates, who was our lead sponsor."

Accepting the funds, Felix Mooney, Chairman of The Children's Cancer Unit Charity, added:

"The Children's Cancer Unit at the Royal is the only place where children in Northern Ireland can receive their specialist treatment

for cancer. Supporting the medical team and the children who are treated there is central to the work of The Children's Cancer Unit Charity, so we are incredibly grateful for the support of the local business and golfing communities.

"One way that we assist the Children's Cancer Unit is through the funding of essential equipment. This year, we have pledged the necessary funds to buy a new ultrasound scanner that is greatly needed at the Children's Hospital, so these funds will go a fair way in helping us to achieve that."

The fundraising event was organised by the Children's Cancer Unit Charity Golf Committee, which includes local businessmen, Malcolm MacFarlane, John Morgan, Johnny McQuillan, David Hassard, Steven Kher and Felix Mooney.

For more information on the Children's Cancer Unit Charity or to find out how you can support the work of the Unit visit www.childrenscancerunit.com

Construction industry central to avoiding boom and bust in Irish economy

The CIF President has stated that the construction industry is key to ending boom and bust in the Irish economy. The Government's efforts to end volatility in the Irish economy will be influenced greatly by whether the construction industry can become more productive and efficient. This will require much closer collaboration and alignment between Government and industry.

Speaking at the recent CIF Annual Conference, Dominic Doherty said: "This is our last chance to end the boom and bust cycle that has plagued the construction industry throughout our history. We have a unique opportunity to build a sustainable, stable industry in this economic cycle. With our partners in Government, we are taking steps now to do this.

"If we can continue to collaborate as we have been in the past few years on issues such as diversity, productivity and procurement, I think we should be ambitious enough to say we can end boom and bust. We have built and rebuilt Ireland many times, it's now time for us to build a sustainable industry.

"I'm delighted to announce that the CIF will be developing a national research strategy for the construction industry in

2019. Phase one of this process is being launched in partnership with Galway/ Mayo IT. We will be bringing all researchers across the Institutes of Technology and key CIF members in November to identify a shared research agenda.

"I want this to be seen as the first step on a road to the creation of a state-owned research body for construction in the form and scale of Teagasc."

Building the Future

In his address 'Building the Future,' Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy TD told the conference: "Often in politics people will try and divide, they'll try and create a false narrative and try to put us into different sides of the room. One of the things that I have noticed in Irish public life is this attempt to divide the public sector and the private sector, and one is good and one is bad depending on where you are standing. A lot of the people in this room will have worked in both and are currently working in the private sector; I think that dichotomy is nonsense. I think we work best when we work together towards the same aims.

"The point of Project Ireland 2040 was to give us that same destination that we could work to; We have that now and my ambition

as Minister and our ambition as government is that through these new bodies and processes we have established, we can all work together to making Ireland the kind of Ireland we want to live in, which is the Ireland laid out in Project Ireland 2040."

On the recently announced Land Development Agency (LDA) Minister Murphy said: "What the LDA will not be is vehicle to give state land to developers. This is about the state developing the land, it being the developer and capturing the value enhancements and delivering housing needs for it's citizens; bringing forward public land for use for social housing, subsidised housing and general housing and I think it's important we do that."

The conference featured national and international industry leaders including Henrik Lund-Nielsen expert in 3D construction printing, which is disrupting and modernising the industry worldwide; Sandi Rhys Jones OBE, Management consultant and pragmatic and practical champion for women in construction, engineering and science on addressing the gender mix in firms; and Chris Sexton, Technical Director, Crossrail, UK, who discussed the lessons Ireland can learn from London's Crossrail as we embark on our own transport mega project, Metrolink.

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TRAINING MEETS TECHNOLOGY WITH NEW SIMULATION ZONE AT PLANTWORX



Simulation technology as a training tool is a proven concept in various professional fields – for example F1 drivers, pilots and astronauts have already benefited from simulation-based training for many years.

It's only recently that immersive technology has seen rapid growth within the construction sector. Advanced simulator development for construction site machinery is being implemented by many leading construction businesses, who are using leading edge technology simulation-based operator training, as a versatile and effective tool to train operators in a safe environment. The plant and machinery sectors are seeing great results with this new technology.

Plantworx, the UK's largest working construction machinery exhibition in 2019, (11th -13th June at the East of England Arena, Peterborough) will host the UK's first fully interactive construction Simulation Zone, which will promote virtual interactive training, in a fun and informal environment - which will highlight the very latest technology in construction and how it is changing the way we work.

The Simulation Zone at Plantworx will comprise six state-of-the-art simulators which will replicate a 'real working construction site' - but in a virtual world. Each of the simulators will be linked and will represent an individual construction machine – an excavator, wheel loader, tower crane, dozer or an articulated dump truck – as examples. Visitors to the zone will be invited to work together on the simulators in the virtual world to complete tasks on a construction site. Spectators will be offered Oculus Rift headsets to join the virtual world as bystanders and offer encouragement and support to the participants!

Participants can expect to experience GPS machine control with the latest attachments. Also, height and slew restrictors and other highly advanced technologies which are being used in today's construction processes. These simulator training methods have already been adopted by many large contractors - and training of this type was recently completed at Hinkley Point C where Dale Hawkins and his team trained 150 plant operators on Leica GPS and machine control.

A number of 80-inch screens and a huge event screen will project live feeds from the simulators and their operators, which will create a major visual and audible impact.

All Plantworx visitors will be invited to participate. Immersive training experts, including founder member of UK Plant Operators and a pioneer of simulator training, Dale Hawkins, will be on hand to guide each participant through the virtual world of simulation technology. Companies and contractors who would like to investigate this type of training are also invited to experience what the zone has to offer. No previous experience is necessary!

The Plantworx team is anticipating that the 'Simulation Zone' will be one of the highlights of the show, located in the Indoor Arena. Sponsorship opportunities are available should Plantworx exhibitors wish to be involved.

Why use simulator training for operators? Dale Hawkins explains the processes and advantages.

Training plant operators is not an easy task – this is due several factors including the transportation costs and logistics of getting a large piece of construction kit to a safe environment to enable the training of a potential plant operator. Then there is the safety aspect of the process – where traditionally a training instructor would be hanging off the side of a moving machine offering instruction to the operator. The safety standards of today would not allow this, therefore the trainee operator is tasked with learning to use the controls in the cab unaided – this could be the most dangerous time of the training program – and could cause untold damage to both man and machine! Also, this method of training only offers a one on one training schedule which elevates the cost and availability of such a course.

These new innovations in simulation offer a very cost-effective safe classroom based training solution where we are able to bring multiple candidates in to a classroom and teach the basics to these operators so when they do get the chance to sit in the real machine they are already familiar with the controls of the machine making the training a much safer and a more speedy process, thus allowing more candidates to be trained in a shorter time frame and a lower cost.

GPS Machine Control Training

With simulation digital machine we are able to mount 'real to life' machinery attachments with in-cab controls to the simulator, this enables us to also bring large numbers of experienced operators in to a classroom and teach them the more technical side of plant operation - with a special focus on operator aids like GPS machine control, rail specification height and slew restriction and any other highly advanced technologies which are being used in today's construction processes.

Operator Profiling

Plant operator profiling and efficiency training – this method can help the operator become more efficient in his/her daily work practices. An operator may have a lot of experience in operating heavy plant machinery, but he/she may not be efficient - which when calculated over a year - could cost the company a considerable amount in fuel and site wastage. We have used simulation to help teach these drivers how to become more efficient - for example how to set the machine up for a dig with minimum rotations of the machine - the shortest distances - making sure you use full buckets - planning of the site roads and haul routes. This is also extended to the site management team for the planning process when ordering plant machinery for the site.

On Track

Another reason we use simulation is there is a national short-fall of machinery operators in the UK, especially with major projects such as Hinkley Point C and HS2 using large numbers of operators. The plant machinery sectors are not pushed in the careers paths of school leavers, most are pushed towards well-known trades such as plumbing and engineering, when in fact there is more work and a very similar rate of pay to become a plant operators, we run a program called 'On -Track' where we take simulators into schools and encourage young people to try the machines and offer them information on routes to take if they would like a career path in construction. We also work with some major plant hire companies who offer apprenticeships.

If you are interested in sponsoring the Simulation Zone please get in contact with Louise Carney louise.murphy@plantworx.co.uk

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PLANTWORX, the UK's largest plant and equipment exhibition, is about to get even bigger with the introduction of a new dedicated section for the rail industry | 11-13 June 2019 | East of England Arena.

BLUE PLAQUE ERECTED TO COMMEMORATE THE INVENTIVE LIFE OF REX MCCANDLESS



The Ulster History Circle, in partnership with the Ulster-Scots Agency, recently unveiled a new Blue Plaque to commemorate Hillsborough man Richard 'Rex' McCandless, who died in 1992; he was an Engineer and Inventor of the Featherbed Motorcycle Frame in 1949 and also the developer of Gyroplanes.

Special guest, former motorbike racer Jeremy McWilliams, officially unveiled the new plaque at Rex's former family business, W.A.C. McCandless Limited, where the historic McCandless Racing Car and a Vintage Featherbed Norton Motorcycle were also on display.

"I am honoured to be part of this ceremony," said Jeremy. "Having read about Rex's history, I now appreciate he probably changed all our lives forever in motorbike racing."

Described by many over the years as 'genius, charming, eccentric, inventive, mercurial, and single-minded', Rex McCandless was born on 21st May 1915 on his father's farm at Culcavy, Hillsborough; during the great Depression of the 1930's, the family moved to Belfast and eventually Rex and his brother Cromie set up the excavator and heavy repair business; today, the company is the Main Dealer in Northern Ireland for Komatsu (one of the longest standing in Europe) and also has distributorships for Dynapac, Epiroc and Atlas Copco.

Both brothers had always been motor cycle enthusiasts, and Rex owned several machines. The Second World War intervened and it was not until peace was declared, that the motor cycle sport was revitalised and became very much part of the brothers' lives.

By 1949, Rex who always thought that the pre-war machines with their hard frames and suspension that broke easily, were difficult to handle over the rough Irish roads, had invented and developed a frame which set new standards in steering and roadholding. It was this creation that

changed the face of motor cycle racing for the next 25 years, and the first time the bike appeared in 1950, it won the TT races.

The 'Featherbed' name came from a remark made by a Norton works rider, who said that the new bike was so comfortable; it would be possible to go to sleep on.



Rex McCandless

Not only did Rex McCandless invent and create, he also raced and won several road races and won hill climb championships with his car, whilst his brother Cromie, with the legendary Geoff Duke and Artie Bell, became household names, and every motorcycle frame made since 1950 had to measure up to the Norton Featherbed which was used by Norton during the 1950/1960's. It

was not until much later in the world of motor cycle racing that new superbikes with higher speeds were created to the standard that we watch and so enjoy today.

Rex's talents did not stop at the motorcycle; he was also a developer of the gyroplane and had workshops at Crumlin and Newtownards. His talents were endless, and his achievements have been largely forgotten in the world of modern technology.

His creativity and inventiveness play an important part of our history, with motorcycles, four wheel drive racing cars, brick making and gyroplanes.

Role Model

Commented Ian Crozier, Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency: "Rex McCandless was a talented individual and a great role model not only to the people of North Belfast, but also to the people of Ulster."

And Chairman of the Ulster History Circle, Chris Spurr, added: "Rex McCandless excelled as an engineer and inventor, particularly in the areas of motor sport and aviation. The Ulster History Circle is delighted to commemorate this remarkable innovator with a blue plaque on the premises where he was in business. The Circle would particularly like to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for their financial support towards the plaque, and the Board of W.A.C. McCandless Limited for their assistance."

Biography

A biography of Rex McCandless, "To Make A Better Mousetrap" was published in 2003 by author R.L. (Leslie) Jennings, whose friendship with Rex was to endure, on and off, for some forty years.

"He was a remarkable character and few who knew him could fail to be impressed by his personality and dynamic energy," said Leslie whose book has since been reprinted to meet demand; it contains 150 illustrations over 276 pages.



United. Inspired.

WAC McCandless appointed Epiroc dealer for island of Ireland

Having successfully grown Epiroc's share of the market for hydraulic breakers and other excavator attachments in Northern Ireland, WAC McCandless has been appointed the Epiroc dealer throughout Ireland. McCandless's investment in fully trained workshop and field engineers and local stockholding of spare parts, enables them to offer fast and reliable back up to both new and existing customers. The great build quality of Epiroc's hydraulic attachment tools builds on their Krupp and Atlas Copco heritage, their reliability makes them competitively priced, easy to maintain and economical to run.

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demo day

CONSTRUCTION & AGRI EQUIPMENT FEATURE AT BOBCAT DEMO DAYS

The latest Bobcat Demo Days featuring both construction and agricultural products reflected the very close relationship between the company and its customers from all around Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA), as Plant & Civil Engineer's Justin Carrigan reports.

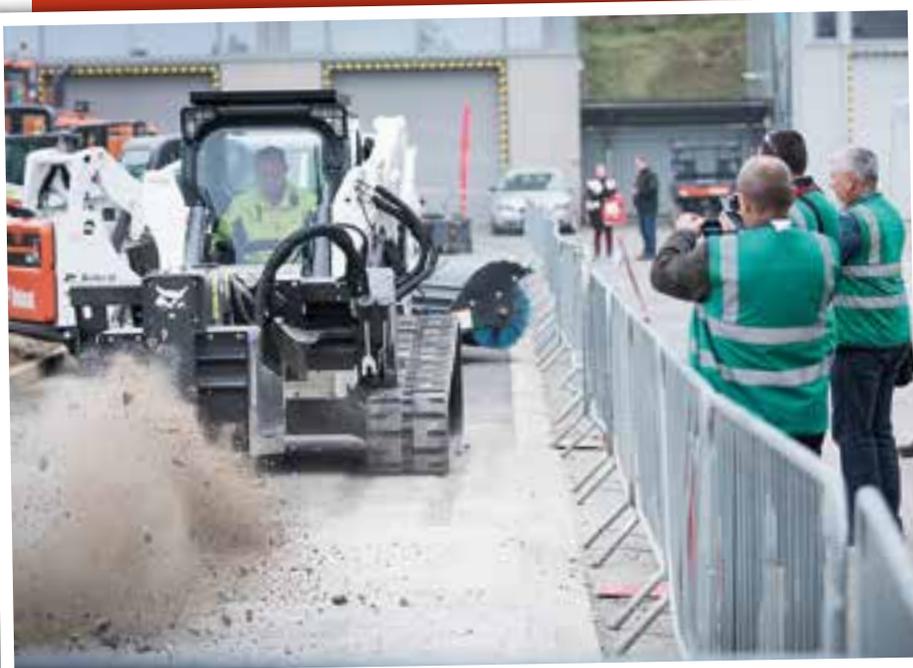
The event held at the Doosan Bobcat campus in Dobris, Czech Republic, provided a great platform for Bobcat's 180 dealers in 75 EMEA countries and their customers to try out different machines and a similar number of attachments in working conditions.

Guests had the freedom to drive and operate almost any construction or agricultural machine of their choice, safe in the knowledge that assistance and advice was close-at-hand from the many Bobcat product specialists, market

experts and demonstrators in attendance.

With over 600 visitors attending over the two weeks, Demo Days typified the support and care Bobcat offers customers throughout the region. This builds on the close proximity customers have at a local level, with easy accessibility at Demo Days to Bobcat personnel in all parts of the company, to ensure that feedback and experiences are exchanged in both directions.

In addition to seeing machines in action and trying them out for themselves in real applications (including agricultural work for the first time), visitors were also offered the opportunity to take factory tours and see how Bobcat machines are manufactured.



New Products

Appearing for the first time at Demo Days was Bobcat's brand new heavy lift TL43.80HF compact telehandler and R-Series 2-4 tonne mini-excavators, both redefining industry standards in their respective markets. The company also presented new developments in the market-leading Bobcat compact loader range and the arrival of the new S100E skid-steer loader model, providing customers with a wide range of new product features and capabilities.

The Bobcat story began in 1958, when Melroe Manufacturing Company, the forerunner to Bobcat Company, introduced a compact front-end loader for farms in North Dakota, USA, that evolved quickly into the M-400, the world's first true skid-steer loader. The M-400 was succeeded by the M-440 and in 1962, Melroe adopted what would become the world famous 'Bobcat' brand for the M-440 loader and



its success created the global compact equipment industry we know today. In 2018, the range of compact loaders including skid-steer, compact track and all-wheel steer models that Bobcat has developed over the last six decades continues to dominate the market, combined with 100+ attachments to meet every specific customer's needs. Part of the outstanding 60 year legacy at Bobcat has been expansion to offer a complete and wider range of compact products. Bobcat moved into mini-excavators

well over 30 years ago and the company can also boast more than 55 years of experience in lifting and material handling products (through the acquisition of Sambro). The company has continued to increase and develop these products so that today Bobcat can offer full line-ups of both mini-excavators and telehandlers that match the same tough internal requirements on reliability and productivity that Bobcat applies to the company's loaders.



GROUNDFORCE DEVELOPS FLEXIBLE SOLUTIONS TO GAS-MAIN CONUNDRUM

Modular shoring equipment from Groundforce has helped the Murphy GMC joint venture install a new gas main under the Colebrooke River at Maguiresbridge in Co Fermanagh.

Murphy GMC is installing the new gas pipeline for SGN Natural Gas as part of the £250m Gas to the West energy infrastructure project to bring mains gas supplies to eight towns in the western part of the province.

A section of the new gas main runs parallel to the A4 Belfast road and, in two locations where this passes over the meandering Colebrooke River, the buried pipeline must go underneath.

At Maguiresbridge, this was done using an auger-boring rig operating from a pit dug into the ground near the riverbank. The machine drives a micro-tunnel under the river to a reception pit on the other bank. The 13m long, 5m wide excavation was lined with a cofferdam comprising

Larssen AR605 sheet piles. The final dig depth was approximately 6m.

To support the excavation, Groundforce designed a structure comprising three hydraulic frames. The middle and bottom frames both consisted of Groundforce's Mega Brace units, each propped at the mid-point with one 80 tonne capacity HSK80 hydraulic prop.

These two frames were designed to be removed as soon as the concrete base slab had been cast and reached full strength.

The top frame, however, had to remain in place throughout in order to support the opening at the top of the excavation.

"For the top frame we used our Super Mega Brace," says Groundforce technical sales executive Richard Dunn. "We couldn't have a prop across the top of the excavation because the client wouldn't then have been able to lift the auger boring machine into the pit. That's why we used our strongest bracing system."

After Groundforce had designed the support structure and assembled the necessary components, it was discovered that the ground conditions were not as had been expected.

"The test borehole hit a low spot in the limestone bedrock and so our calculations were out: the piles were meant to be driven to 8m but there was refusal at 6.5m," explains Richard. "There wasn't enough depth for the sheet piles to toe-in."

Groundforce's design engineers were able to modify the design, using only the equipment already on-site, to provide a workable alternative at short notice, says Richard: "Overall this didn't affect the schedule."

The first river crossing was completed during the early summer; Murphy GMC and Groundforce are now completing the second river crossing about four miles further downstream.



CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS REDEFINED



NEW R-SERIES EXCAVATORS ENHANCE THE BOBCAT CONSTRUCTION RANGE

At Bobcat, we develop loaders, excavators, telehandlers and more than 100 attachments to get your job done.

For over 60 years, our machines have proved how tough they are on site. But instead of looking back, we're constantly focusing on the future, to make sure we are shaping it for you.

The new R-Series 2 to 4 tonnes compact excavators are a testament to this:

- ▶ best-in-class performance and precise controllability
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Ireland's major utilities come together to launch new construction safety campaign



ESB Networks Senior Safety, Health and Wellbeing Manager, Mark Madigan is pictured with Construction Federation of Ireland Director of Safety and Training, Dermot Carey at the launch of 'Dial before you Dig'.

ESB Networks and Ireland's other major utilities, Gas Networks Ireland, Irish Water and Eir have joined forces for Construction Safety Week with a new 'dial before you dig' campaign that encourages workers to contact utility owners to check the location of underground services before breaking ground.

ESB Networks has also taken the opportunity of Construction Safety Week to publish a new guidebook for safe construction practices and the electricity network.

So far in 2018 the construction industry has seen 439 instances where underground electrical cables were inadvertently hit. While none of these turned out to be fatal, some serious injuries resulted.

"At ESB Networks safety is of paramount importance. That's why we are asking all construction workers to contact our Dial Before You Dig service before they start construction, and obtain the relevant, up-to-date cable maps so we can prevent underground cable incidents.

ESB Networks' Dial Before You Dig service can be contacted by calling 1850 928 960 or emailing dig@esb.ie."

ESB Networks Senior Safety, Health and Wellbeing Manager, Mark Madigan, added: "Electricity is a powerful and versatile source of energy but can be dangerous unless we use safe systems and procedures. Where safety procedures have not been followed, and where construction work has taken place too close to the electricity network, serious accidents have occurred."

Commenting on the new dedicated ESB guidebook for construction workers, Safe Construction and the Electricity Network, Construction Federation of Ireland Director of Safety and Training, Dermot Carey said: "The new guidebook provides important additional safety information to help workers stay safe when working near underground cables, and I would encourage all construction workers to take the time this week in particular to download and read the guidebook to ensure they are up

to speed on the important safety practices regarding working near electricity cables."

ESB's safety booklet provides practical advice to construction workers on avoiding harm on site including:

- Always take essentially safety precautions before carrying out digging work, as there will often be buried electricity cables close by.
- Contact ESB Networks 'Dial Before You Dig' service and obtain the relevant, up-to-date cable maps - dig@esb.ie or 1850 928 960
- Look out for any indication of services such as gas, water etc.
- Ensure a cable avoidance tool is used by a competent operator
- Keep machinery clear and guard against working close to overhead wires, and allow enough clearance to avoid coming too close

ESB Networks' a new guidebook is accessible at <https://esbnetworks.ie/docs/default-source/publications/safe-construction-with-electricity-2018.pdf>

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Record-breaking Briggs-sponsored charity drive nets £140,000 for SSAFA

Driving through 10 countries in 10 days is no mean feat, especially during the summer's heatwave, so Briggs Defence was delighted to support Rally for Heroes and raise more than £140,000 for SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity.

The specialist division of engineering services, asset management and equipment supply company Briggs Equipment is committed to supporting the military community and was both a team and main event sponsor of the 2018 Rally. This year's event generated £140,235, easily exceeding the fundraising target.

Gary Clements of Briggs Defence said: "Rally for Heroes really is an epic undertaking. Organising some 60 vehicles and more than a hundred people takes a lot of hard work and all the participants are volunteers who fund the trip themselves, so we're delighted that this year's event was another record-breaker."

The teams set off from London's Horse Guards Parade on August 2 and travelled 3,000 miles (5,000 km) through France, Switzerland, Italy, Venice, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Austria, Germany and Luxembourg before returning to the UK.



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MCCLOSKEY INTERNATIONAL HOLD GLOBAL DEALERS DAY AT ARMAGH QUARRY

McCloskey International Ltd., which offers an innovative range of machinery for crushing, screening and materials handling, recently held a very successful Dealer Day at the King Bros quarry outside Armagh.

Around 50 dealers from Europe, Australia and New Zealand attended the event, which saw three different plant set-ups in operation within the quarry, after which followed a tour of the company's new purpose built facility at the Granville Industrial Estate in Tyrone, and a visit to the new paint shop at the Killyman site.

All the visiting dealers left highly impressed with the McCloskey International set-up, having met with members of the different teams behind the company's success, so much so that they requested the Dealer Day becomes an annual event!

One of the main focuses of the day was on the company's new I34 and J35 compact mobile crusher ranges, targeted at projects with small footprints but big requirements.

With their fast set-up time and ability to nimbly move around in tight spaces, the crusher's small footprint is uniquely suited to the recycling, demolition and smaller scale construction projects where space is at a premium, and manoeuvrability is key. The compact transport dimensions (less than 2.5m wide) allow easy transport from site to site.

The other set-ups on a day when even the weather played its part, were designed to show off the benefits of the J44 and J45 jaw crushers, the C28 cone crusher, and the R155 scalper.

Dealers later got an insight into the production processes at McCloskey International's new £17m, 120,000 sq ft facilities regarded as a Manufacturing Centre of

Excellence, which has enabled the company to bring inhouse much of the work that was previously sub contracted, giving it more control over the quality of the final product.

It has also enabled the company to increase production of its crusher range by 50%, its screening equipment by 30% and to expand both the washing and stacker product lines.

This timely investment coincides with increasing demand for the company's products from customers across the world in countries such as Australasia, Russia, China, France, Germany and, of course, the UK and Ireland, leading to several hundred new jobs over the last several years.



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Groundforce Shorco delivers a fast solution for city centre development

Groundforce Shorco has supplied a modular hydraulic support system to shore up the basement excavation on a prestigious city centre development in Manchester.

Concrete frame and groundworks specialist MPB Structures called on Groundforce to provide support for the 85m long, 40m wide basement excavation for the £96m second phase of the Circle Square development which main contractor Sisk is building for developer Bruntwood.

The original plan had been to support the excavation with structural steel props in the traditional manner. The change to a 2 stage propping solution to advance the construction of the cores meant the flying shores were in for a shorter duration of time.

The basement perimeter retaining wall comprising concrete secant piles and capping beam had already been installed. Groundforce were required to install one level of props, braced against the capping beam to support the top of the piles as MPB excavated.

"This isn't normally how we do it," explains Groundforce major projects manager Andy Simms. "Usually the props



would be assembled on the ground and secured against the capping beam before the contractor had excavated more than a couple of feet down.

"MPB had already excavated about 4m in the middle of the excavation to allow the piling of the bearing piles to commence and had battered the sides for support," he adds. This meant that the props had to be installed at height.

The props (which were up to 38m in length) were assembled on the piling mat and then them

lifted into position by a mobile crane. Groundforce provided four days of site assistance from their dedicated project co-ordination team to support MPB during the installation.

Due to the change in the scheme, no provision had been made in the capping beam for knee braces to connect the capping beam and so, Groundforce's technical team came up with a bespoke solution. "We designed bespoke shear plates with post-drilled resin anchors which took the load into the capping beam," explains Andy.

Despite the complex geometry of the capping beam, which incorporated multiple steps, penetrations and cast-in items, Groundforce very quickly provided the custom-designed connections for each of the 16 prop ends.

Similarly, some of the props were raked in both the horizontal and vertical planes. This cannot normally be accommodated as the connecting swivels act only in one direction. Groundforce therefore had to modify the swivels by welding wedges to their back plates to achieve the necessary angles.

In total, Groundforce supplied eight props, both 150 tonne capacity MP150s and the larger (250-tonne) MP250s with 1.2m diameter "Supertube" extensions to achieve the necessary capacity for the long spans.

"The need to hire a 130-tonne crane was costly, however this was offset by the time it saved installing the props. We were able to offer the quickest and most efficient solution," says Andy.

All of the props were installed in just four days at the end of June. They will remain in place until the basement slab has been cast and the permanent works completed.

Perfect control on-site with Engcon and Trimble integration

Engcon, together with Trimble the excavator control system manufacturer, have developed a new feature that automatically keeps the bucket or beam at the correct tilt angle, so the operator only needs to keep the equipment at the correct height and rotation for perfect results.

Engcon and Trimble have for many years worked to integrate so they benefit from each other's products and features. In recent years, customers have been able to use Engcon's Positioning System (ePS) together with Earthworks, Trimble's Grade Control technology platform. The driver can see the exact position of the bucket shown on the screen in the excavator cabin.

Now the two companies are taking the next step in collaboration, combining Engcon's automatic tilt function in combination with Trimble's Earthworks excavation system,

which includes GS5x0 sensors and software version v1.7.0. or newer, to allow guidance and automated control.

"The collaboration with Engcon has worked very well and the work on the automatic tilt function is a very successful project," says Fredrik Eklind, Product Manager, Machine Control, Civil Engineering and Construction Division at Trimble.

"The market's demands for higher productivity, profitability and automation in construction are increasing and by combining both tiltrotator and excavator systems in an automatic tilt function, we will see not only a response to meeting market requirements but also increased operator comfort" says Fredrik Eklind.

Another powerful customer benefit is that Engcon's DC2 control system will be made available for download directly



in Trimble's Android display via Trimble's App Central. This means that users have access to remote support directly through the large Trimble display and the digging system's internet connection. The DC2 operates completely independently of the type of phone the customer has.

"This is a big step towards becoming platform-independent, and Trimble have been very responsive to the development work," says Peter Huczukowsky, responsible for the development of Engcon's control systems, and manager of the Trimble project.

The automatic tilt function is expected to be ready for delivery mid November 2018.

Leica BLK360

Finalists for the Innovation of the Year Award



Finalists for the Innovation of the Year Award at the **Plant & Civil Engineer Plant, Construction & Quarry Awards 2018**

The Leica BLK360 imaging laser scanner, which is now available in the U.S. and Europe, creates a 360°HZx300°V full-color HDR spherical image overlaid on a millimeter accuracy point cloud.

Laser scanning range is 60 meters. Image capture, laser scan, data filtering, and transfer to an iPad takes approximately 2-3 minutes with the on-the-fly app.



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LEICA GEOSYSTEMS HOLD SERVICE AVOIDANCE & TECHNOLOGY SEMINARS

Leica Geosystems recently held seminars in Monaghan and Belfast to provide vital information to the team at Farrans on the latest technology involved in the detection and avoidance of underground services.

The Service Avoidance and Technology Seminars involved live demonstrations of the latest in buried assets detection and mapping technology from Leica Geosystems, including the new DD range of locators with web capability data capture; these utility locators use industry-leading digital signal processing to automatically detect utilities and underground assets deeper, faster and more accurately than any other system.

The event, which was supported by LGS dealers, including Innovate NI., and Levelling Equipment Services addressed the growing complexity of underground buried assets and the challenges involved in protecting onsite staff from the risks associated with working in close proximity to such hazards.

Other products in focus on the day included the Leica DS2000 Utility Detection Radar, which finds all potential threats, including non-conductive pipes and fibre optics, increasing safety by lowering the risk of accidentally hitting underground assets.

Also demonstrated was the Leica GS18 T, described as the world's fastest and simplest-to-use GNSS smart antenna and RTK rover. It is different from any other product in the market because it does not rely on a magnetometer to correct the pole tilt for each measurement.

A magnetometer is affected by metallic objects, like vehicles, iron fences and beams or even reinforced concrete, all of which are often found on construction sites. In order to provide accurate and reliable tilt values, Leica Geosystems developed an application-specific, powerful and lightweight inertial micro unit (IMU), which is built into the GNSS antenna. The real-time tilt compensation combines GNSS data with the IMU's tilt and



direction values. Different to magnetometer-based GNSS antennas, the GS18 T's tilt compensation does not need to be calibrated and is immune to metallic object interference.

Shown on the day, too, was the Leica RTC360 3D reality capture solution which empowers users to document and capture their environments in 3D, improving efficiency and productivity in the field and in the office through fast, simple-to-use, accurate, and portable hardware and software.



Levelling Equipment Services



The RTC360 3D laser scanner is the solution for professionals to manage project complexities with accurate and reliable 3D representations and discover the possibilities of any site.

With Northern and Southern Ireland being very under exposed to other manufacturers offering such detection equipment, these events have inevitably raised the profile of Leica Geosystems utility and detection equipment, not only to Farrans, but to Northern Ireland Water, and many other sub-contractors.

Commented Francis Gordon, Health & Safety Manager at Farrans, who work on behalf of Irish water and secured a multiple year contract covering many areas of the west of Ireland: "The Technology Days were a great success, with reports from all those in attendance at the events in Belfast and Monaghan being very positive."





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£3 Million Sewerage Scheme Completed at Castle Park, Bangor

Contractors for NI Water have completed a major Sewerage Improvement Scheme within the grounds of Castle Park in Bangor. It represents an investment of £3 million to upgrade the sewerage network in the area and provide a new modern and efficient underground pumping station to serve the people of Bangor for many years to come.

Grahame Millar, Project Sponsor, said: 'NI Water is very pleased to have delivered the latest phase of this major Sewerage Improvement project for the people of Bangor, which will enhance the local environment, reduce pollution and improve bathing water around the North Down Coast. We look forward to completing the remaining phases within this project'.

NI Water and its contractor Dawson WAM have thanked the local community, businesses in the area and commuters for their patience and cooperation during the completion of these essential works.



Nigel Boullier Dawson WAM, Councillor Carl McClean, Councillor Karen Douglas, Samuel Donaldson AECOM, David McGrath, Mark Consiglia (both NI Water), Gordon Dunne MLA and Councillor Wesley Irvine. Front row: Mayor of Ards and North Down Borough Council, Councillor Richard Smart & Grahame Millar NI Water.

New MEWPs Safety Publication to Facilitate Work at Height Rescue Plan

A new concise safety document entitled 'Rescue of Persons from MEWPs' is now freely available. Published by the Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group (SFPSG), the 10-page publication provides guidance to put plans in place to rescue powered access users if they ever become stranded at height.

The new guidance document has been compiled by the SFPSG MEWPs Group which is chaired by the Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) and administered and supported by the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF).

Kevin Minton, Chief Executive of the CPA, said: "We anticipate that the guidance will be a useful reference tool for MEWP hire companies, customers, operators and manufacturers. When MEWPs are used there is always an inherent risk of people becoming stranded at height due to a machine malfunctioning, breaking down or other influences. Although measures can be put into place to reduce the risk such as regular maintenance of equipment and the use of competent, medically fit operators, it is still important that organisations have plans in place should a rescue from a MEWP ever become necessary.

"The publication gives guidance to the organisation that has control of the planning, management and use of the MEWP on-site. Presented in easily digestible sections, it covers factors such as the Health and Safety legislative requirements, responsibility for rescue, means of rescue, the use of the Emergency Services and discusses scenarios such as rescues using another MEWP," he continued.

Andrew Delahunt, Technical and Safety Director at IPAF, said: "We now have a simple document to guide users and managers in how to plan for rescue situations. Planning is

critical to use a MEWP safely at height. By including rescue planning and the appropriate methods to recover personnel if necessary, this potentially life-saving action can be properly prepared for. We'd like to thank the contribution of the many experienced people who have provided input and identified the priority for safe rescue."

The 'Rescue of Persons from MEWPs' publication is available for anyone to freely download from the CPA website at www.cpa.uk.net/sfpsgpublications or from IPAF's website at www.ipaf.org/guidance

World-First Secure Digital Evidence Collection Platform Launched For Construction Industry

Construction projects can now benefit from a secure digital evidence collection platform believed to be the world's first to adhere to principles set out by the Home Office in The Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) digital evidence guidelines.

Business software specialist eviFile has launched its software as a service (SaaS) product of the same name to set new standards in terms of security and digital inspection for the UK construction industry. The product also allows a flexible workflow to meet each customer's requirements.

Developed over an 18-month period, eviFile is already being used in the UK construction, infrastructure and utilities sectors by contractors to satisfy clients that work has been successfully completed to required standards and timescales, whilst simultaneously protecting against disputes.

The company also expects its platform to be of use for intermediaries working within those sectors, including lawyers and building, project and engineering consultancies.

The founders of the platform aim to create a new 'gold standard' for evidence collection in UK infrastructure and construction projects, whilst also expanding into Europe and the United States to achieve the same objective.

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DOOSAN DX490LC EXCAVATOR IMPRESSES ALPHA QUARRIES

Alpha Quarries have a long and successful history dating back to 1948 when it was first established by Cyril Edward Stevenson; today this second generation family business is busier than ever, serving the needs of the construction industry across County Down and beyond.

With thousands of loyal customers and a dedicated workforce, the company relies heavily on its plant and machinery to keep the operation on track, which is why regular investment in the business is a priority, the latest addition to its fleet being a Doosan DX490LC-5 tracked excavator supplied by dealers Northern Excavators.

So, how has it been performing? Plant & Civil Engineer's David Stokes

has been getting the view from the cab.

The machine is currently earning its keep at the company's busy Castlenavan Quarry at Seaforde near Downpatrick where we caught up with its operator, Johnny Irvine who gets the best out of the excavator as it works at the quarry face, loading the crusher.

As he tells us, this new Doosan has a lot going for it, taking even the heaviest tasks in its stride. It is powered by a fuel efficient Stage IV compliant Scania DC13 six cylinder engine, producing high torque at low revs, and coupled with an improved hydraulic system, great digging power,

lifting capacity and impressive traction and stability, it is clearly ideal for tackling the challenges of its daily working environment.

The Doosan DX490LC, which complements Alpha Quarry's three Doosan loading shovels, has one of the most spacious and comfortable cabs on the market, a fact appreciated by Johnny who spends much of his working day in it! So, what does he like most about the cab?

"There's plenty of room in the cab. It's definitely more spacious than what I have been used to in the past," says Johnny, who's been operating machines for more than 15 years. "The air suspension, heated seat is very comfortable. The air conditioning system also adds to my working environment, especially as the cold and damp winter days draw in. It is easy to regulate, with a number of different



view from the cab

modes from which to choose. The cab is pretty quiet, too, with low noise and vibration levels.

"There's also lots of storage space for my bits and pieces, including a space under the seat, and visibility from the cab is excellent, which is essential working in the quarry. There's also a rear-view camera and large side mirrors, giving me a good all-round view."

Operator Friendly

What about the controls. Are they easy to master? Over to Johnny again. "The machine is very easy to operate; it's all very user-friendly, with a colour monitor that keeps me fully informed of what's happening."

Indeed, the multi-function 7" TFT LCD monitor displays a comprehensive range of useful technical information, allowing Johnny to check the machine's status and settings at a glance. Highly sensitive and low-effort joysticks and clear



convenient controls enables him to work safely, smoothly and confidently with minimum effort for increased comfort, efficiency and production.

Johnny also drew our attention to the benefits of Doosan's unique jog shuttle switch which gives him easy, precise control over all machine functions.

Fuel Efficient

He was also impressed with the machine's fuel efficiency compared to the previous – and different branded – excavator he operated. "It's difficult to quantify, but the Doosan is definitely using significantly less," he says.

That confirms Doosan's claim that the Scania engine uses up to 10% less fuel, while the SPC (Smart Power Control) system, combined with settable engine shut-off, provides an additional reduction of up to 5%.

The machine offers a choice between four power modes and four working modes, with the SPC reducing engine RPM during low load demand and ensuring pump torque control, thus contributing to better fuel efficiency and low emissions, while the auto-shut-off switch closes down the engine after the machine has been idling for a specified time.

The machine also features an eco gauge which provides information about

fuel consumption relative to machine performance in real-time. By trying to keep the right-hand LED bar from rising, any operator can teach himself how to save fuel and work more efficiently.

Easy maintenance

Routine maintenance is easy to carry out, thanks to convenient access to all compartments. Large guard rails are installed along with anti-slip steps and plates, for example, for safer, easier access to the whole upper structure. The cab's air-conditioning filter is lockable and placed on the side of the

cab for easy access, while the hour meter display can be easily checked from ground level.

Shut-off valves have been fitted on the pre-filter piping line and fuel tank drain piping to make servicing easier and prevent pollution from leakage, and engine parts can be easily reached via the top and side panels. For extra accessibility and servicing convenience, all filters (engine oil filter, fuel pre-filter, fuel filter and pilot filter) are located in the pump compartment.

Dealer Support

Dealer support, of course, is always a big factor in choosing plant and machinery. Alpha Quarries have been dealing with Northern Excavators for some years, so they knew the level of back-up they would get with the new machine would be prompt and efficient, and that's proved to be the case.

The machine has been working at the quarry face since July, with 480 hours on it to date. "It's proved to be very reliable and as an operator I cannot fault it in any way," says Johnny.



CITB NI survey shows majority of construction companies plan to implement BIM within three years

A European survey conducted by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB NI), as part of a Belfast Met-led EU Horizon 2020 BIM (Building Information Modelling) programme known as BIMcert, has shown that two thirds of construction companies are planning to implement BIM within the next 3 years, highlighting the increasing need for companies to adopt and invest in BIM technology and processes.

Findings also showed that the full value of BIM is underestimated, with an appreciation of the short-term benefits of BIM shown by the majority of respondents, and an undervaluing of the long-term benefits to sustainability and near zero carbon buildings and the associated cost savings.

Barry Neilson, Chief Executive at CITB NI, who leads on the project's 'State of the Art' work package said: "Our survey has shown that companies have still not fully understood the full extent of the benefits of BIM, despite the clear intention by the majority of companies to implement BIM within the next 3 years.

"The value of BIM was noted by survey respondents principally during the design and build stage, where many obvious benefits are known around streamlined and coordinated communication and improved collaboration between teams, and the associated savings to time and money. A dip however was noticed in respondents recognising the long-term benefits to sustainability and energy efficiency and these long-term savings."

The CITB NI BIM survey was conducted as part of the first stage of the €1.25 million EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation-funded BIMcert project, which was conducted in the 5 project partner countries of the UK, Ireland, Portugal, Macedonia and Croatia.

Barry Neilson added: "One possibility for this finding could be the drivers and tactics



(L-R) Paul McCormack, Belfast Met, Niall Doyle & Eamonn McDonnell, O'Hare McGovern Ltd with Barry Neilson, CITB NI, pictured at Queen's University Belfast's new School of Biological Sciences, one of Northern Ireland's largest BIM Level 2 projects, which is currently being completed by O'Hare McGovern

employed to promote and encourage the adoption of BIM. While energy efficiency and better management of the built environment are obvious benefits, client bodies including government seem to remain focused on the design and construction savings, and less so on promoting better buildings to bring long-term carbon reduction and cost savings."

The BIMcert project led by Belfast Met, which brings together 7 European academic and consulting institutions from across Europe, including CITB NI and the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), aims to provide a comprehensive BIM training and qualification scheme for all levels of the construction supply chain.

With the priority on developing an industry-led qualification scheme, CITB's role has been to engage with the construction sector through a comprehensive survey and series of workshops, so as to determine the awareness levels of BIM and the perceptions around BIM, to enable the development of an appropriate upskilling framework. The aim is also to attempt to

quantify the impact of upskilling, in terms of the value of projects that could benefit from the efficiencies of implementing BIM.

Martin Lennon, Managing Director of O'Hare McGovern, who are increasingly implementing BIM projects, commented: "We are currently delivering one of Northern Ireland's largest BIM Level 2 projects for Queen's University Belfast, namely the School of Biological Sciences. The project strengthens our previous BIM experience with the University on their multi award winning Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine & Computer Science Building. We are also currently engaging with a 3rd party provider for BIM level 2 company certification to further our commitment to BIM and its emerging technologies to continue to be at the forefront of the construction industry."

Paul McCormack, Innovation Manager at Belfast Met and BIMcert Project Manager, commented: "The CITB survey and subsequent reports on their industry engagement will underpin the development of the BIMcert training and qualification scheme. BIMcert plans to develop a framework of 'bite-sized' learning modules for all levels, which will enable individuals to upskill from any starting point. The survey has highlighted that the intention to undertake BIM training is strong across all countries. The survey also showed that 60% of companies are showing a preference for recruiting staff with BIM knowledge or qualifications, highlighting a growing demand for BIM training in the sector. In terms of training delivery, over half of respondents indicated they would prefer a person-led course with practical demonstrations, while the remaining would prefer forms of online training. This feedback indicates a need for a blended learning approach, with the need for any training to be underpinned by practical 'coached' skills."

GCSE Construction Book helps pupils build for the future

CITB NI has launched a newly revised textbook to support the delivery of GCSE in Construction and the Built Environment qualification and is providing 25 complimentary copies to each of the 47 schools that teaches the subject.

GCSE in Construction and the Built Environment provides students with a realistic understanding and experience of modern day practices in the construction industry and helps develop their knowledge

of the construction industry and the built environment. The textbook contains all the essential underpinning knowledge required of a student who has never studied construction before and who wishes to explore the subject for the first time and has been updated to reflect the changes in the specification.

Barry Neilson, Chief Executive, CITB NI, said, "Construction is a rewarding industry with a variety of opportunities on offer from project management to onsite roles with prospects

for career enhancement and good earning potential.

"The popularity of the subject is growing and over the numbers studying GCSE in Construction is steadily increasing and last year 763 pupils studied the subject of which 7% are female, this is the largest number of students since the GCSE became available in 2005.

"We are aware of the pressure on school budgets and delighted to present 25 complimentary books to each school providing

GCSE in Construction each year for the next 4 years. This will provide students with effective support material for the subject and may be a potential stepping stone in the right direction for a future career in construction. CITB NI also provides an annual bursary to the top 3 achieving students who excel in the subject and are acknowledged for their hard work and achievements."

Mrs C Keyes, a teacher at Christian Brothers Grammar School, Omagh said, "We would like to thank CITB NI for the complimentary copies of the newly revised GCSE Construction and Built Environment, it is an excellent resource for both students and teachers within the school."

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INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE DAYS HELD AT HYUNDAI'S EUROPEAN HEADQUARTERS

Hyundai Construction Equipment Europe (HCEE) recently staged its first international Experience Days at the European headquarters in Tessenderlo, Belgium. Plant & Civil Engineer's Justin Carrigan was among the invited guests.

The aim of the three days was to treat Hyundai customers and potential customers to 'a total company experience' that included a hands-on machine experience, going beyond the traditional trade shows.

Building the customer journey HCEE felt the need to approach its end-customers in a new way and decided to excel and take the end-user contact to the next level.

It followed an initial such event at the end of March when French customers and prospects were invited to Belgium for a "total Hyundai immersion" programme.

During the first part of the day customers were informed about the whole range of services, technologies and products that the company is providing. In addition, the company history, the European distribution network and a true "behind the scenes" guided tour completed the programme.

Later during the day all guests were invited to a



nearby demo site for a hands-on experience. During the Experience days, a line-up of 16 machines was put at the guests' disposal, including the latest Hyundai models.

These machines were available for testing in an open operation area in realistic working conditions. There was ample opportunity to see, hear and feel what

makes Hyundai construction equipment machines different. Dedicated training teams, product specialists and dealer teams were all present. These Hyundai professionals highlighted important machine differences and described key features and technologies.

"Our intention was to offer our customers, prospects and dealers a total and unique company experience which goes beyond the traditional trade shows," commented Paul Sysmans, Marketing Manager Europe at HCEE.

"At Hyundai Construction Equipment Europe we believe the best way to feel the Hyundai effect is to meet with us and exchange experiences. A vital part of the customer journey is the machine experience. That is why we invited our guests to lace up their work boots, put on their hard hat and enter the cabin of our world-class machines. The only way to know how Hyundai equipment will perform at a jobsite is to put it at work."

Materials Handling

The following day, Hyundai Material Handling, one of the two Hyundai Construction Equipment Europe business units, also organised its first international Experience Days at Tessenderlo.

Guests were invited for an on-site hands-on experience. During the Experience days, a line-up of 24 machines was available, including the latest Hyundai models. These machines were available for testing in





realistic working conditions, both indoor and outdoor. There was ample opportunity to see, test and feel what makes Hyundai Material Handling machines different.

Dedicated training teams, product specialists and dealer teams were all present. These Hyundai professionals highlighted important machine differences and described key features and technologies.

New Appointment

Meanwhile, HCEE has appointed Jean-Philippe Pollet as new Sales Manager Construction Equipment for the European market.

With more than 20 years of experience in EMEA business development, while leading distribution networks in various industrial segments, Jean-Philippe Pollet will be developing and implementing commercial strategies with focus on long-term partnership while securing HCEE's business objectives in Europe. He will be based in Tessengerlo.

"We are happy to welcome Jean-Philippe Pollet in our Hyundai family," said Alain Worp, Managing Director HCEE, "Jean-Philippe has been a strong sales leader within various industries and we are very excited to have him leading our Construction Equipment sales department. Jean-Philippe is an avid

supporter of industry growth and serving as sales manager will increase his ability to elevate the construction equipment sales department to a higher level."

"While always strongly involved with international distribution and business sales development in the course of my career, I look forward to strengthen and develop the partnership with HCEE's existing European network. It is therefore with great enthusiasm that I join a team of professionals dedicated to a powerful brand with a strong foundation to bring HCEE to the next level," said Jean-Philippe Pollet.



Jean-Philippe Pollet, Sales Manager Europe, Hyundai Construction Equipment Europe.

MID ULSTER SKILLS REPORT LAUNCHED



The Mid Ulster area has long been associated with entrepreneurial spirit and is in fact the leading regional area in Northern Ireland (outside Belfast) for the number of entrepreneurs, writes Con Gallagher from Spectrum Employment Solutions.

There are more than 8,500 businesses dominated by engineering, manufacturing and construction with some enjoying fantastic success on the world stage and others realising unprecedented growth in recent years.

The drive and ambition of people in the area is one of the key reasons why Mid Ulster businesses do so well, but with it comes certain challenges, especially when it comes to finding people with the right type of skills.

I have written previously about the difficulty some businesses are having finding skilled labour for roles such as welders, joiners and electricians. The problem has been an ongoing one and Mid Ulster District Council has taken steps to try and address the skills gap issue by engaging with local firms and setting up the Mid Ulster Skills Forum.

The Mid Ulster Skills Forum was established in 2017 and is made up of local businesses, colleges/universities and relevant industry partners to try and tackle the labour shortfall. The initiative is the first of its kind in Northern Ireland and the local council must be commended for spearheading the project and supporting local business. The Skills Forum has produced a three-year action plan for the Mid Ulster area which it launched at a special event in Cookstown in September.



The report provides a comprehensive roadmap to tackle the skills problem but goes further by way of workforce development and the creation of over 2000 new jobs to further cement the region as an industry powerhouse. The report sets out five key strategic goals: to attract talent, develop skills, engage with key stakeholders, future proof capability and measure the success of the plan in tangible metrics.

As a specialist recruiter in Mid Ulster, we get a real sense of the scale of the skills gap problem that exists within the area. It goes beyond the skilled trades such as welding and joinery and into areas such as sales/business development and product design. The forthcoming Brexit will do little to ease the burden and the threat of migration controls has already contributed

to some of our skilled and hard-working non-nationals leaving Northern Ireland.

But we must be optimistic about the future of our sectors and businesses in Mid Ulster, especially with the support of our local council and the huge effort and determination of local business and business partners in addressing the skills crisis. Apprenticeships, retraining and ongoing personal development must surely form the basis of this effort and with the clock now ticking on the three-year plan, there is at least a detailed way forward to help reduce the impact of future labour shortages in Mid Ulster.

*Spectrum Employment Solutions are based in Cookstown, Co Tyrone and provide a wide range of people for permanent job roles in the Mid Ulster area. You can contact Spectrum on 028 8676 0044 or email info@spectrumes.co.uk



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50th anniversary

YANMAR

GEARS UP TO CELEBRATE 50th ANNIVERSARY

As it celebrates its 50th anniversary of compact excavator production, Yanmar is busy introducing new models. Nick Johnson reports for Plant & Civil Engineer from the company's French factory.

In amongst the large number of compact excavator makers in the world, Yanmar has a long history, a wide range, its own popular engines and a renewed determination to gain greater market share. Whilst some Yanmar models are sourced first from the company's factory in its native Japan, others come from its long established factory in France while larger machines are made at the German factory formerly owned by Terex and Schaeff.

In Northern Ireland, Yanmar is now selling directly through long standing dealer Crumlin Plant Sales of Portadown. And the new Yanmar regional dealer in the Republic of Ireland is Cork-based O'Regan Plant Sales (which formerly handled Terex / Schaeff machines).

Yanmar's main construction equipment factory in Europe is located in Saint-Dizier, France. This facility is the source for many of the company's compact tracked excavators that are sold in both the north and south of Ireland.

The Saint-Dizier factory originally produced asphalt plants for Ammann and manufacture of Yanmar compact excavators commenced

there after the formation of the Ammann-Yanmar joint venture in 1989. Subsequent expansion has seen the facility grow in size and, since Ammann and Yanmar split in 2010, it now solely makes tracked Yanmar compact excavators sized from 1.5 to 10.0 tonnes.

The factory is much more than just a "screwdriver" assembly plant as it has sizeable fabrication and machining areas



To celebrate 50 years of mini excavator making, Yanmar has produced ten special red coloured SV60 machines.

to turn steel plate and castings into the main structural elements of the compact excavators. A tour of the factory revealed modern laser cutting machines, metal bending presses, automatic machining centres and robot welders – some of which operate on two shifts a day.



Yanmar's first mini excavator, YNB300 made in Japan during 1968.

There is one main assembly line capable of producing 25 machines a day. Over 6,000 machines a year are shipped from the Saint-Dizier factory with some 70% being exported from France. In 2017 the facility celebrated the production of its 70,000th Yanmar machine.

The painting facility at Saint-Dizier is well able to coat parts in customer colours. Currently some 25% of the machines made in the factory emerge in special colours. Much in evidence during the factory tour were machines wearing the distinctive red and grey livery of the large European rental company Loxam that is clearly buying a lot of Yanmars.

A special section of the factory is used for customising machines to meet specific customer requirements. This includes the fitting of tiltrotators and Yanmar works closely with Steelwrist from Sweden to provide a complete CE marked machine and attachment combination. Yanmar also offers matched hydraulic breakers made for it by Socomec in Italy.

Next Generation

The newest compact excavator to roll down the Saint-Dizier assembly line is the 'next generation' SV60. This short tail

The new SV60 tracked excavator from Saint-Dizier alongside the B75W wheeled midi from Crailsheim.





Yanmar's Saint-Dizier factory in France has one main assembly line capable of producing 25 machines a day.



A special section of the factory is used for customising machines to meet specific customer requirements.

tracked machine has an operating weight of 5,635kg and is powered by a 33.4kW (44.8hp) Yanmar 4TNV84T engine.

Equipped with a monobloc boom, the SV60 has a ViPPS hydraulic system with four hydraulic pumps. It can dig down to a maximum depth of 4,200mm when fitted with the optional long dipper arm.

The SV60 benefits from a very short rear overhang and a minimal front turning radius (only 2,240 mm). Usefully, this 1,990mm wide mini excavator has a very compact working envelope of only 3,565mm. It features a spacious operator's cab.

The arrival of the SV60 comes in the year that Yanmar celebrates the 50th anniversary of its first mini excavator. That landmark Japanese machine in 1968 was the non-slewing wheeled YNB300. The company's first full 360 degree slew mini – the YB1200 – appeared in 1975.

Yanmar claims to have made the first zero tailswing mini excavator in Japan – which it called the ViO – in 1993. The company subsequently had the distinction of introducing the first machines of this type in the UK during 1998.

Special Livery

To celebrate its 50th anniversary of compact excavator manufacturing, Yanmar has produced ten of its new SV60 machines in a special red celebratory livery. The first one was recently shown at the SAE fair in Bologna where it was bought by Yanmar's Italian dealer Canziani Paolo. The remaining nine will be sold through other European dealers.

The latest Yanmar zero tail swing excavator to be launched is the ViO82. Made in Yanmar's Fukoka factory in Japan, this 8,200kg machine provides a more sophisticated version of the existing, rental company orientated, 8,065kg ViO80.

The new ViO82 is designed specifically for end users working with powered attachments. It is equipped with the new Yanmar ViPPS2i hydraulic system and two independently controlled auxiliary hydraulic circuits.

The advanced ViPPS2i hydraulic system provides aggregated power regulation of two independent variable flow piston pumps and a multiple combination directional control valve. There is also a new electronic

hydraulic pump regulator to adjust flow rate to the engine's performance.

The ViO82 is powered by a fuel efficient, low emission Yanmar 4TNV98C-WBV1 diesel engine rated at 41.5kW (55.7hp). Maximum digging depth is 4,400mm (with quick coupler) and, with a tail radius of 1,135mm, the rear of the machine can turn safely within its 2,270mm track width.

Other Products

The upper end of the Yanmar compact excavator line-up also includes machines gained from the company's acquisition in 2016 of the Terex European Compact Equipment business and the Crailsheim factory in Germany. So Schaeff derived Terex excavators now with Yanmar model numbers are the tracked SV85 (weighing 8,200kg) and the 11,300kg SV120 along with the wheeled SB75W (7,400-8,000kg), B95W (9,300-11,000kg) and the B110W (11,000-12,500kg).



The latest Yanmar zero tail swing compact excavator is this ViO82 with an advanced ViPPS2i hydraulic system.

Terex / Schaeff derived compact articulated wheel loaders from Germany now in the Yanmar product portfolio comprise five models with operating weights from 4,200kg to 7,000kg. Four are conventional wheel loaders – the 0.65m³ bucket capacity V65, the 0.8m³ V80, the 1.0m³ 3rd V100 and the 1.2m³ V120. The fifth machine is the 0.70m³ V70S swing loader.

Yanmar is also still offering two small badge engineered wheel loaders from Venieri in Italy. These are the 0.7m³ bucket

capacity V7 and the 0.8m³ V8. Whilst Venieri also makes telescopic boom loaders, Yanmar has no immediate plans to add this type of machine to its range.

The other type of construction machines in the Yanmar line-up are tracked carriers / dumpers. The stalwart Yanmar model is the 1,150kg payload C12 and also coming from the company's Japanese factory is the 2,500kg payload C30R-3 available with either a flat floor rear tipping body or (version TV) a rotary dumper skip. These Series 3 C30R models have gained joystick controls and a reversible operator's seat.

The smallest Yanmar tracked dumper is the 800kg payload C08 that is available with standard or high tip skips (both with the option of a self loading shovel). This C08 with a Yanmar diesel engine is specially made for Yanmar by Cormidi in Italy.

Yanmar used to offer a 5,000kg payload tracked carrier made for it by Takeuchi in Japan. But this machine has been discontinued and a new generation replacement, designed and made by Yanmar, is scheduled to appear in 2020.

Meanwhile, Yanmar has been refining its machine distribution networks to get closer to its customers. National importers are being replaced by an enhanced network of regional dealers, such as Crumlin Plant Sales and O'Regan Plant Sales, which are getting machines direct from the manufacturer thus removing a link in the supply chain.

Yanmar has its main European parts warehouses at Rothenburg, Germany and Bettancourt in France. These supply more than 92,500 parts a year and the company claims a first pick availability of 96%. There is also a new machine storage facility (with a covered area of 23,000m²) at Marnaval near the Saint-Dizier factory to provide a staging post for machines coming into Europe from Japan.

Now armed with a wider range of modern machines and a new distribution model with directly reporting dealers, Yanmar is intent on increasing sales of its compact excavators in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The company has recently added a new SmartAssist Remote telematics system for its machines and it is known to be busy developing an electric mini excavator for future introduction.

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How does it do it? By utilising its own advanced, innovative inhouse designed and produced diagnostic technology which can be employed directly on machinery on site or from thousands of miles away!

The company was set up just over three years ago in Buckinghamshire, the brainchild of Managing Director Steven Gambrell. Through extensive years of software and hardware research, he has developed a service that is revolutionising the industry.

"We are fully focused on helping companies achieve minimal downtime and cut costs – an average of 46% a month," says Steven, who was signed to BMW as a race car technician at just 17-years old. Developing from this, his love for cars, engines and machines has continuously grown. From working on-site with all types of industrial companies, he is a man who clearly understands the requirements and problems a firm may have on a day-to-day basis.

"We are here to not only make money but to save our clients' money. The very reason we exist is because for too long now, manufacturers have taken advantage of owning the marketplace and dominating their customers with ridiculous fees and long waits on machine downtimes."

He adds: "We proudly boast a portfolio across the globe with some of the biggest brands such as JCB and Bobcat. We save money by no hefty call-out fees or hidden charges and we protect the environment by less travel and a greener process.

"We have no mileage charges or travel time costs and we limit the machine downtime which can ultimately save the machine owner thousands of pounds."

Clients can utilise the company's service with its on-site teams or alternatively, they can simply purchase the 'plug and play' software to benefit from the technology themselves with the full support of All Machines' Helpdesk 24/7 all year round.

Comments Head Technician Scott Wood, who spends much of his time out on the road meeting customers: "Our product is unique because from years of in-house design and testing, we have produced software and hardware to maximise output for broken plant and machinery. We have personally designed the software and are the only ones in the world to allow remote-logins to multi-machines as well as an on-site service."

Adds Scott, who joined the business back in 2016: "Our greatest unique attributes are our Helpdesk and our technicians who are on hand and ready to log-in remotely to electronically service our customers, no matter the time of day."

And says Dani Harris, Head of Commercial, and the newest member of the team: "Our two main packages – On-Site and Remote – can be tailored to individual

requirements. In the event of plant or machinery failure, our technicians can either make a visit on-site or remotely log in from our HQ to diagnose the problem."

Adds Dani, who has built a second-to-none career in sales and relationship management: "We can also have new parts ordered without delay to clear any backlog that is stopping the machine from working, keeping downtime to a minimum to save our clients time and money."

The other member of this tight, family run team is Office Manager Ruby Harris, described as 'the glue' who hold it all together!

Nothing is ever a problem for Ruby; she has it all in hand, with a background that focussed on the management side, having run successful offices for demolition and construction companies.

Understandably, perhaps, the company's customer base is rapidly growing, with many satisfied clients on its books, but that said, comments Dani: "Not everyone immediately grasps the concept, but once they see it in action they are totally committed. A few years ago, for example, you would never have dreamed of ordering a take-away meal on an app on your phone, but now it is an everyday common practice!"

Yes, we live in an ever-changing environment, and here at Plant & Civil Engineer, we believe All Machines has definitely broken the mould. "There is no other company with our ability and ultimately," says Managing Director Steven, "we are making an old-school industry modernise in a much cheaper way than ever thought of before."



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view from the cab

KOMATSU'S 'SMART CONSTRUCTION' TECHNOLOGY' GOES TO WORK AT PRIORITY CONSTRUCTION



As one wit once aptly noted: 'Progress? We're all in favour of progress... it's the change we don't like!' In the world of construction and civil works, few developments better illustrate the march of progress and the change it will bring than the emergence of excavators, dozers and graders fitted with their own 'inbuilt brains'.

As its name suggests, 'smart construction' is one major change that is beginning to sweep the sector defining, as it does, a new technology that enables excavators, dozers and suchlike to play an 'intelligent' role in site preparation.

Employing intelligent machine control technology, data needed to carry out site preparation work is captured electronically. First stage in this process sees high-precision drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) used to survey a site, collecting all of the coordinates, levels, and other

vital site data required to produce three-dimensional construction plan drawings.

Information gathered by drone can then be 'loaded' into the machine's memory alongside any other additional inputs likely to have a bearing on site configuration, dimensions, contours and any other key outcomes sought.

With its 'brain' then filled with all of the site data, the machine will then guide its own operations automatically, bringing the job through to a satisfactory and accurate completion with the minimum of human intervention, albeit under the watchful eye of an operator.

Thanks to this use of latest 'intelligent technology' and GPS positioning, the machine itself does all of the heavy lifting while its operator concentrates on safety and the numerous other obstacles and traffic one encounters on a busy construction site.

Clear Leader

Set to move into common usage over time, the current clear leader in the manufacture of 'smart' machines is Japanese manufacturer, Komatsu whose

equipment is distributed in Ireland by McHale Plant Sales of Birdhill and Rathcoole.

Though still seen as cutting edge, a small number of Komatsu 'intelligent' machines are already operating on Irish worksites where their performance is said to be 'exceptional.'

Behind their introduction is a company whose mind has always been open to innovation and change – Dublin-based Priority Construction.

A committed Komatsu owner whose stable of machines continues to expand, their recent purchases have seen, not one but two 210LCi - 11s being added to their fleet, along with a conventional new PC490 unit.

Showing itself to be a company quick to lead and embrace new technology, Priority's senior contracts manager, Pat Keating told Plant & Civil Engineer that 'traditionally, we have pursued the goal of offering clients latest advances where the likely gains are clear.'

"While established surveying methods and equipment will continue to play an important role in site planning and within the mix of construction disciplines generally, intelligent smart construction techniques will increase

intelligent MACHINE CONTROL



and the avoidance of expensive corrective work that arises when some error or oversight occurs.' "Another factor driving the trend towards smart construction is the increasing shortage of skilled operators," O'Brien added.

Embodying all of the features and benefits of its predecessor with a few 'smart' additions, the PC210LCi-11 relieves operators of the worry they might be digging too deeply or damaging a target surface.

With its auto tilt bucket, operators can tackle complex surface designs without need to change the position of the machine constantly.

Powered by a fuel efficient EU Stage IV Komatsu SAA6D107E-3 engine with net output of 123 kW / 165 HP @ 2,000 rpm, its operating

weights range from 22 – 23 tonnes, depending on the configuration.

Delivering 'automatic real-time control', its 'world first' intelligence prevents digging beyond the target surface.

Maintaining grade automatically, its bucket edge positioning in relation to the machine and the job surface is instantly displayed on the full colour, multi-function 12.1" touch screen monitor, eliminating wait time associated with conventional sensors.

Through the application of this new technology, reliance on traditional forms of site surveying and staking-out is reduced, as is surveying and final inspection.

Reduced too is the requirement to take constant measurements and record key values as the work proceeds. This leaves surveyors and site designers free to allocate their time to other important tasks for which their expertise is required.

In addition, safety is greatly improved, with fewer people needed on site and near the machine.

in importance as the technology becomes even more sophisticated" he said.

In that regard, Keating stressed that Priority Construction 'is committed to providing clients with the very latest equipment available.'

"For that reason, we expect that machines fitted to carry out the work involved will become an even more sought-after element in the service we are geared to provide" he added.

Put into operation at Tara Mines in Navan, Keating said: "the value our PC210LCi-11s are delivering is already evident in many ways, proof that Komatsu has raised the bar in terms of what future machine operating capacity will be".

Real-time Control

Looking beyond the Priority Construction example, what general benefits might contractors anticipate from using this new technology?

Commenting, McHale Plant Sales director, John O'Brien said: 'Amongst the PC210LCi-11's principal benefits are better productivity, the reduction and elimination of error,



MECALAC DEMO DAY PUTS 11MRW EXCAVATOR TO THE TEST

Construction professionals from across the UK recently visited Adventure Sports in Warwickshire to demonstrate the Mecalac 11MWR wheeled excavator. Alongside putting the game-changing model through its paces, attendees were briefed on the product concept and advantages against the competition.

Officially launched to the UK market earlier this year, the 11MWR blends the benefits of a crawler excavator and wheeled loader into one unique solution. Designed from the ground up, the innovative model is twice as compact as a classic excavator design, making it perfect for urban and peri-urban use.

Unlike most wheeled excavators, the 11-tonne unit has a low centre of gravity, ensuring 360° telescopic stability regardless of terrain. With the upper cabin set low between the four-wheel steering system, class-leading technology guarantees agility, mobility and versatility, without compromising on ground clearance.

Powered by a turbo-charged Deutz TCD 3.6 L4 water-cooled diesel engine, the fast and nimble 11MRW delivers 75hp @ 2,200 rpm. Closed hydrostatic centre transmission with Senso Drive automatic regulation achieves a continuously variable rate over the whole speed range, while an optional automatic gearbox guarantees smooth operation. All

this power without the need for AdBlue® too.

With a maximum reach of 6.5m, digging depth of -2.9m, 6,000 daN break-out force and 3,400 daN tear-out (penetration) force, the 11MWR provides class-leading performance. The addition of Mecalac's 'CONNECT' quick coupler ensures simple and safe equipment changes, while a variable adjustment (VA) boom with offset (three-part boom) enables operators to work outside their machine pattern.

Additional benefits include direct access to the cab, with steps in line with the cab door easy-access servicing points, including the refuelling point, all reachable from ground-level, alongside a wide selection of customisable accessories to ensure job site suitability.

Commenting on the demo day, Adam Phillips, Product Marketing Specialist at Mecalac Construction Equipment UK (CEUK), said: "A revolutionary addition to our compact portfolio, the MWR range sets the standards in lifting and carrying



capability. A revolutionary design and state-of-the-art equipment technologies offer a versatile wheeled excavator solution for almost every application.

"Hosting a special event at the Adventure Sports site in Warwickshire provided the perfect opportunity to showcase the 11MWR to excavator users and our dealer network. Alongside digging areas, the site's off-road course allowed us to put the model's speed, agility, compaction, and ground clearance to the test."

Initial feedback from the event has been hugely positive. One attendee added: "There is absolutely no competition when it comes to this machine; I've tried the nearest competitor and sent it back".



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OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE AT RECORD BREAKING UK CONSTRUCTION WEEK

Confirming its position as the largest event for the UK construction industry, a record-breaking 34,000 industry professionals attended this year's UK Construction Week (UKCW).

Built environment professionals from all parts of the industry came for new ideas and innovation, eager to explore new ways of working in a sector that is hungry to embrace the latest technology and products.

The 'Future of Construction', this year's theme, pervaded throughout the nine different shows within UKCW, and was brought to life through an innovation trail, 3D printing, AI, AR, numerous construction site simulators, and robotic technologies such as the Robocop-esque ExoSkeleton.

There were more than 650 exhibitors at UKCW this year, demonstrating and launching over 10,000 products and services. The diversity and innovation on show brought national media attention to UKCW, with live broadcasts each day including BBC Breakfast, Birmingham Live and BBC News channels.

Delegates were also keen to learn from the repercussions of the Hackitt Review and the Grenfell Tower fire. This led to CPDs and seminars covering the big issues all being extremely busy, including sessions on the review of building regulations and fire safety, quality and the consequences of poor building practices, insulation and cladding and other topics concerned with fire.

Other packed-out sessions generated calls for more responsive planning and housing policies, more integration across digital construction and software systems, and more consistency and guidance from the Government, especially in procurement and standards.

Equality, diversity and inclusion was also a major theme, with big debates on the UKCW stage. There was a highly illuminating interview with Barbara Res, the woman who built Trump Tower, plus a presentation by Lord Blunkett discussing the Heathrow Skills Taskforce, and the first award presentation for the UK Construction Week Role Model of the Year. The role models have already acted as inspiration for a new generation of construction professionals. They were invited to attend the event as part of a successful student programme.

Feedback on the show has been phenomenally positive, from exhibitors and visitors alike. Stuart Gray, senior building services engineer, ROK Construction, said: "You can't compare looking at the internet and websites to going around and chatting to people who really know what they are talking about. It's really interesting to see the latest and greatest technology which is coming into the world."

James Fairclough, European director of marketing, Cemex said: "UKCW is a fantastic place for us to meet both existing and potential new customers, where they can

experience our products and materials first hand and have a level of interaction that is not possible through other platforms.

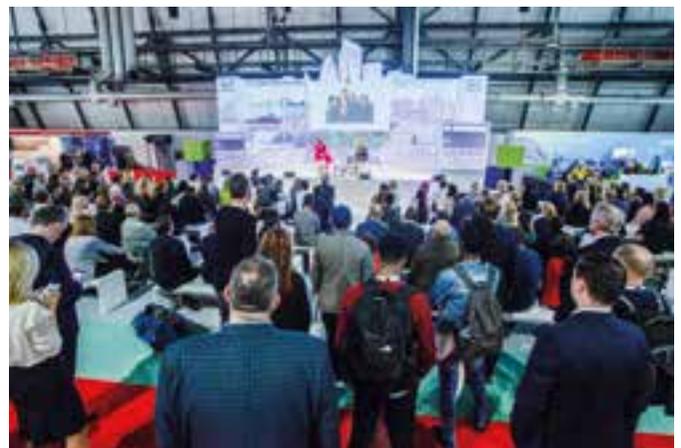
"There is an extremely wide range of people visiting this show, and over the three days we see everyone from major contractors, local government, through to small builders and self-builders. It is great to see the show growing and evolving every year since the start and we are proud to have UKCW as Cemex's flagship show."

Next Year

Looking towards next year's show, Nathan Garnett, UKCW event director said: "There was a tremendous positivity around UKCW this year, with a real feeling that the industry wants to adapt and embrace a new way of building. The success of the Offsite section was testament to this, as was the interest in new technology, electric vehicle infrastructure, renewables, and the IoT Arena. Our exhibitor rebook rate has exceeded our expectations and is 40% higher than last year, so we are really excited about how we can take this all forward in 2019 at UKCW."

UKCW consists of multiple specialist shows, including the Build Show, headline sponsored by Easy-Trim, Building Tech Live, Timber Expo, Civils Expo, Energy 2019, Plant and Machinery Live, HVAC 2019 and the Surface and Materials Show.

Next year's UKCW will take place between 8-10 October 2019 at Birmingham's NEC.



Strickland Digs Deep for another Successful Year

2018 has yet again been a success for Strickland MFG. Gaining even more market share across both the bucket & hydraulic coupler market, Strickland are looking at another record year of sales. Year on year, they continue to grow in both size and stature. Their business model allows them to react quickly to their customers' demands.

Having worked closely with a number of the OEM/OED and End Users over the years has built up a mutual trust. Their customers have faith in both the product and service and this is obvious from the repeat business that the company sees each year.

The company is very much a customer focused one. They have a young sales team, who are enthusiastic about the products they are selling. Staff turnover is minimal with the longest serving member of the Sales team having just completed 16 years with the company. With growth comes the need to add more members to the Strickland team, and in the last 12 months every sector of the company has expanded from the shop floor, through to purchasing, engineering and sales.

"We are very proud of how our business has grown," says National Key Account Manager Nicola Troy. "We are constantly investing into the business, whether that is in the form of new staff, new products or stock on the ground. We pride ourselves on knowing our customer and we feel we have just the right mix of knowledge, service and stock availability to get the job done to our customers exacting standards."

One of the "stand out" products of 2018 for Strickland MFG has been their 3 tonne Hydraulic S-LOCK Coupler. Based on the same "Safe, Simple & Secure" principal as their larger sized couplers, the 3 tonne's versatility has become the preferred choice

for many. 2019 is already looking to be a very busy year for Strickland on their S-LOCK Coupler but in particular the 3 tonne range.

As the year draws to a close, the Strickland team are looking forward to a well earned rest, after a successful but tough year of sales. 2019 will bring many challenges with Brexit round the corner, but it also promises exciting times ahead, with more new products being made available from the Strickland Group, alongside their tried and trusted existing portfolio.

The Strickland Group will be exhibiting on both sides of the water in 2019, at many of the industry renowned shows including



CQMS at Punchestown, just outside of Dublin and Plantworx, at the new Peterborough venue. They look forward to welcoming new and old customers alike at these events.

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Barford Equipment launches three new machines and expands distributor network

Dromore, County Tyrone based Barford Equipment, which manufactures world leading track, mobile and stationary screens, wheeled and tracked conveyors plus trailers, has announced three new equipment models meeting demand from global customers for high specification and competitively priced solutions.

“The world’s construction machinery, aggregate, quarrying and mining markets have long appreciated the equipment available under the Barford banner and over recent months we have significantly expanded both the range of machines on offer as well as the global distributor base from which they can be sourced,” explained Stephen Murphy, Distribution Manager for the Barford product range. “Barford is a well-known brand in the UK and across Europe, having built an enviable reputation and possessing a long and illustrious history, but it was relatively unknown in the US market; but that’s changing.”

The new Barford models being introduced comprise the TR8048 Track Mounted Stockpile Conveyor; the BF7042 Tracked Mounted Bin Feeder; and the SM312, a Single Axle Mobile Double Deck Screen.



TR8048 Track Mounted Stockpile Conveyor has an 80ft reach and a 48" wide belt. It also includes a twin-drive discharge belt complete with hydraulic slew hubs and a Cat 2.2 turbo engine with hydraulic oil cooler and a remote control movement.

The BF7042 Tracked Mounted Bin Feeder has a 42" wide belt and an extended reach of 70ft. Other features include a twin-drive discharge belt complete with hydraulic slew hubs and a Cat 4.4 elect automation control movement. It also ships with a 'Mulch' option that has an agitator attachment to break up

material before it goes onto the belt) and there is a larger BF7048 Mulch variant.

SM312 Mobile Double Deck is a single-axle mobile 12X4 ft (3m x 1.29m) Double Deck Screen complete with double drive pump to suit auxiliary, extended folding fines conveyors and incorporates a CAT 2.2 37kw engine and removable towbar.

Earlier this year Barford successfully entered the US market, launching the SR-124 and the S-104, two new track mounted screener, to meet local demand. Both were previewed at the Spring Sale in Kissimmee, Florida in February coordinated by top auctioneers Yoder & Frey and proved to be the perfect event to develop brand awareness amongst prospective distributor representatives and buyers. As a direct result it has signed up a number of Barford Equipment distributors and the objective is to have one in each US state.

Further afield several new distributors have also been signed up in Australia to cover both Perth and Sydney. The European network is also undergoing expansion with new distributors being signed up in several of the key EU markets but others are still being actively sort particularly those with direct mining, aggregate, recycling and construction sector knowledge and experience.



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view from the cab

A MERLO ROTO THAT IS ALWAYS IN BIG DEMAND

When Builders and Plant Hire company John Angus & Son bought their first Merlo Roto back in 2002 it was the first machine of its kind in Ireland, and they haven't looked back since; indeed, they are now on their third Roto, so Plant & Civil Engineer's David Stokes has been finding out what the attraction is.

The Greyabbey based company, established more than 40 years ago by John Angus, are involved in a wide variety of projects – from ground works and concreting to erecting agricultural sheds, steel works and timber frame homes – so they need plant and machinery that is not only reliable and dependable, but also versatile.

The company operates a range of machinery that includes dumpers, diggers and rollers, but it is their new

Merlo Roto, supplied by dealers D.A. Forgie, that has become the 'flagship' of the fleet, and for very good reasons.

Says John's son Stephen: "On restricted or limited sites, the Merlo reaches places that a traditional crane can't, and it is always in big demand.

"When we considered our first Merlo there was none in the country, so we had to travel to England to see it in action. When it became part of our fleet there was a lot of interest in the machine from other contractors who often arrived on our site to see it working. Today, we are on our third Merlo, a 45.21, which has a reach of 21 metres; we couldn't operate without it."

He adds: "It's a simple but robustly designed machine that does exactly what we need it to do, and it is very reliable. One of its big attractions is the boom, constructed in such a way that all the pipes, electric cables and auxiliary hydraulic sockets are located inside the structure where they are protected from potential damage; other similar machines have a bunch of cables running down the side of the boom and are very exposed."

Thanks to a patented solution, the stem movement cartridge system, too, is well protected inside the boom, which is strong yet lightweight as the panels of the boom are welded on the neutral axis, an area with less strain.

Excellent Visibility

The cab, too, gets the thumbs up from Stephen. The machine's architecture, the low centre of gravity and the tapered hood ensure excellent visibility in every direction, and he can visually follow the load to its maximum height, thanks to the transparent top.

"Good all-round visibility is vital," says Stephen. "We are on different sites throughout the week, so don't always get a lot of time to familiarise ourselves with our surroundings."



The cab is equipped with a powerful A/C and heating system, making it possible to maintain the ideal temperature of 22°, even when operating in extreme external temperatures, while the door is fitted with an opening window for better natural ventilation. We should make mention, too, that the Merlo cab is known for ease of access to the driver's side and for its on board roominess; it is the largest in the category and allows maximum comfort, even for more robust operators. The controls are practical and reasonably arranged, with an analogue-digital instrument panel that provides precise and punctual information.

Stable & Safe

"Once you get used to the controls, the machine is very easy to operate; it becomes second nature," says Stephen. "Stability, too, is excellent, better than our previous Merlo; this new machine has scissor type jack legs which are simple to activate."





The machine is equipped with automatic stabilisation and levelling as standard and features a stability check indicator to keep the operator fully informed. When the machine has reached its stability limit a buzzer in the cab and a light on the instrument panel will alert the operator. The instrument panel's integrated display features nine menus that can be selected interactively and ensures a high diagnostic level on board the machine at all times.

The machine is also fuel efficient and comes with the patented Merlo system known as EPD (Eco Power Drive), which automatically manages the hydrostatic transmission and the diesel engine with the EPD control unit, placed between the injection pump and the accelerator pedal. The operator sets the speed and the control unit manages the engine rpm to reach the pre-set speed, optimising the engine rpm. This makes it possible to save energy which results in a reduction in consumption of up to 18%.

The Merlo is also easy to move from site to site. "It has a top speed of 40kph, although we generally use a low loader to transport it; once on site it doesn't take long to set it up, either," says Stephen. "We also bought a number of different attachments, including a bucket, forks and a winch, which makes it very versatile. Each project is different, so we are always prepared."

He adds: "Because there are not many of these machines in the Province, it is always in high demand which is why we can hire it out, complete with driver, when it is not required on any of our own projects."

Dealer Support

It's the first time the company has dealt with Merlo distributor D. A. Forgie and they have been impressed with the level of support. "Anytime we have needed help, an engineer has been quickly on site to sort it out, keeping downtime to a minimum. We'll definitely be dealing with them again."



NI Businesses Urge Prime Minister to Tackle Critical Labour Shortages

The main business organisations in Northern Ireland have sent a joint message to Prime Minister Teresa May outlining what they call their 'serious and immediate concerns' around the current availability of labour in the NI economy.

In a letter signed by 20 leading figures across a range of sectors, including transport, construction, quarrying, retail and leisure, they state that the number of EEA workers has fallen by 26% since the Brexit referendum adding further pressure to an already tight labour market.

The letter goes on: "A combination of exchange rate movements and the uncertainty facing migrants to the UK, has meant that fewer EEA workers are coming to Northern Ireland and more are leaving. Many industry sectors are now facing severe labour shortages. We are appealing for your



support to deliver solutions to this worsening problem.

"Migrant labour is crucial to the success of the local economy. It fills gaps in both low-level and high-level jobs and is particularly relevant to key sectors such as agri-food, hospitality, healthcare, manufacturing, construction, education and digital industries – hence the wide interest from the various signatories to this letter.

"Recent research by the CBI has suggested that a substantial cut to both EU and international

workers would see Northern Ireland's GDP decrease by 9.1% by 2041. Even a lesser scenario involving a 50% cut to EU migration could lead to a 5.3% decrease over the same period. In an economy as fragile as ours this is simply unthinkable, but the impact of labour shortages is already evident.

"This is also at a time when we are already in near-full employment. If migration is limited further this could see Northern Ireland's working age population shrink by between 6 and 8% which would have a hugely detrimental effect on the economy.

"We need regional flexibility to resolve the significant labour challenges faced by key sectors of Northern Ireland's economy. The recent reintroduction of a pilot for the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme shows recognition of the labour shortages facing UK farms. However, there are other sectors including the wider agri-food supply chain and hospitality industry which face equally significant labour shortages.

"While we support the MAC's recommendations to remove the cap on the number of visas for skilled workers and reduce qualification levels to RQF3, a failure to recognise the differing labour market conditions would create a policy induced distortion across the UK, something which can and should be avoided. There seems to be no justification for the £30,000 salary threshold proposed by the MAC and this would damage Northern Ireland's economy. It would serve to block many essential workers coming to Northern Ireland given the prevailing lower average regional salaries here across many sectors.

"We must also consider the competitive position of the

Northern Ireland economy in an all-island context, whereby business efficiency will be eroded by a diminishing workforce. In a tight labour market, we run the serious risk of businesses currently operating on both sides of the border switching their focus or their production facilities to the south, where businesses benefit from the ongoing availability of EEA workers in the EU single market, and also the availability of new third country work permits designed to tackle the type of labour shortages that are now a problem in Northern Ireland.

"We appreciate that solutions need to be framed within a UK context, but also believe there are policy options which better meet the needs of Northern Ireland's economy. We note that the joint letter from the NI Executive Office to the Prime Minister in August 2016 about Brexit recognised the need for a flexible approach to labour here. This has been reaffirmed by the Head of the NI Civil Service, David Sterling in his recent comments.

"To that end, we ask for your support and swift action to address this vital issue. The forthcoming UK Government White Paper on immigration must set out how the new system can be flexible enough to meet the specific needs and urgent challenges facing the Northern Ireland economy, particularly for lower-skilled labour, including bespoke policy tools such as a dedicated Shortage Occupations List or salary threshold variations.

"Businesses in key industries across Northern Ireland's economy – from food processing and broader manufacturing, through to haulage and hospitality – are facing severe labour shortages today. This is before changes to immigration policy as a result of Brexit. Government should therefore bring forward immediate changes to immigration rules to allow these sectors to access the full range of labour and skills they need."

The letter ends: "For our part we stand willing and able to play a constructive role in the creation of an immigration policy which has the flexibility to address the needs of Northern Ireland's economy."

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Craig Duffy



John Chandler

New Appointments to Genie Sales Team UK & Ireland

After rejoining the Genie UK sales team in January 2017 with responsibility for certain strategic accounts, business development and supporting Genie Service Solutions maintenance contracts (GSS), John Chandler is promoted to the position of Sales Director for UK & Ireland.

Reporting to Jacco de Kluijver, Genie VP Sales & Marketing, Terex AWP for Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Russia (EMEAR), in this role, in addition to leading the Genie UK and Ireland sales team, John retains responsibilities for GSS.

New to the Genie team, Craig Duffy is appointed as Genie Territory Sales Manager for Scotland and the Republic of Ireland.

Having spent nine years with AFI-Uplift in positions of increasing commercial responsibility, Craig Duffy joins the Genie team from spider lift specialists VP Access where he held the position of national business development manager.

In his new role with Genie, he reports to John Chandler and is based in Scotland.

Galgorm Pumping Station Scoops Construction Excellence Award on Completion

The team working on NI Water's Galgorm Wastewater Pumping Station (WwPS) have scooped a Construction Excellence award from the Construction Employers Federation (CEF) following the recent completion of the project.

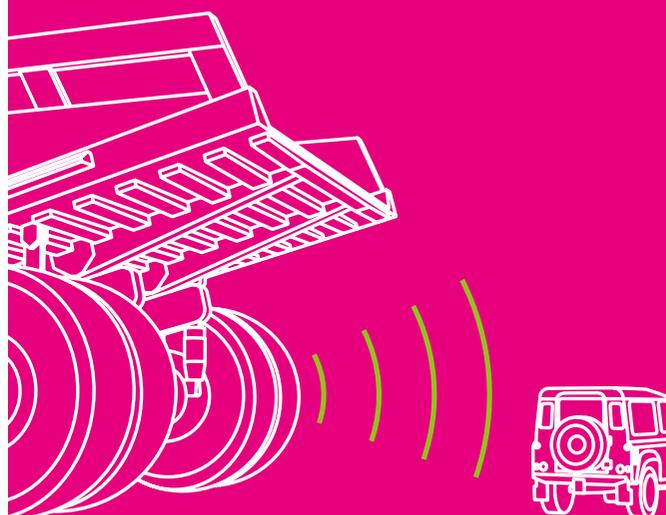
With Graham Construction the main contractor, and with Project Management and technical support from RPS, the recently completed Galgorm WwPS is a 'state-of-the-art' pumping station constructed in the heart of Galgorm village. The station will greatly improve the sewerage infrastructure in the local area, whilst reducing the risk of flooding.

NI Water's Senior Project Manager Peter Ferguson said: "NI Water is delighted that the project team has received this prestigious award, which demonstrates an innovative approach to construction excellence for this recently completed scheme.

"This major project involved providing a new Pumping Station at Galgorm, which was built on the existing site, as well as significantly improving the wastewater pumping station serving the village of Cullybackey by providing much-needed emergency stormwater storage to help reduce the risk of out-of-sewer flooding."

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Increasing female construction workers key to solving Ireland's infrastructure crises

The Construction Industry requires more female workers to meet current demand for skills and to deliver Ireland's urgent housing and infrastructure needs, say key construction leaders.

The CIF has launched its first Diversity and Inclusion Guidance Document for the Construction sector in a bid to address the existing gender imbalance.

Earlier this year, the Construction Industry Federation commissioned a survey to discover exactly how many women are working in the Irish construction industry, in what roles and at what levels.

The survey also investigated the views of female workers currently working in the industry and the views of employers regarding diversity and inclusion in construction.

This survey showed that over 70% of construction companies recognise the need

for more women in the industry. However, on average approximately only 1 out of 10 construction workers are female.

The survey also found that on construction sites, 99% of workers are male, whilst in offsite roles, 54% are male and 46% are female. Of those women working in construction roles considered 'offsite' the majority work in administration, finance, HR and marketing.

Jean Winters, Director of Industrial Relations and Employment Services with CIF and Chair of the #BuildingEquality Working Group said: "Increasing diversity and gender equality is not just the right thing to do, it is critical for our industry. A disengagement with construction is unconsciously driven by the education system at a very young age for girls. We have to tackle misconceptions about the industry at this level and this will form part of a national

awareness campaign the CIF is undertaking to promote the diverse careers in the industry.

"The industry has a job to do to proactively ensure that we are diversity and inclusion friendly and that has been the impetus behind the development of our CIF Diversity and Inclusion Member Guidance Document, which will be issued to all members.

"As the construction sector recovers and evolves, we are increasingly competing with other industries for talented young people who are concerned about equality and diversity. In order to meet the ambition of government strategies we must attract more women into the industry. Careers in construction have become more family-friendly, more technology driven, safer, less physically demanding and increasingly global in recent years. So, there are major opportunities in the industry."

McHale Plant Sales Appoints Technical & Training Manager

Damian Quigley (age 34) has been appointed to the position of Technical & Training Manager with construction equipment, forestry and waste processing machinery distributor, McHale Plant Sales.

In his new role, his primary function will be to advance the careers of apprentices, give technical support to the

company's own field engineers, and provide customer service personnel with even more direct and streamlined access to technical guidance.

Internally, health and safety training issues also form part of his remit.

From Ballina, Co. Tipperary, Damian is a past pupil of St. Anne's Community College in Killaloe. He joined McHale as an apprentice some 14

years ago since when he has been a technician within its field engineering team.

Married to Priscilla with two children, a son and daughter, he lives in the townland of Kilmustulla, near Birdhill. Away from work, he is a long-standing member of Killaloe Coastguard River & Mountain Rescue with 11 years of voluntary service to his credit.



Damian Quigley

Wirtgen Group UK opens new headquarters

Wirtgen Group UK, one of the UK's leading providers of construction equipment, has officially opened its new UK headquarters in Newark, Nottinghamshire.

The £12.5 million investment includes a new 5500 square metre head office building to support the continued growth of the business, which now employs over 120 people in the UK.

The 9-acre site also houses a new workshop, capable of providing maintenance and repairs for the company's largest machines, and a spare parts distribution warehouse that will stock approximately 8000 different items.

Two new training rooms will give access to the most modern facilities for over 400 people a year, and a new outdoor centre will enable customers to undertake practical training on the company's road pavers and planers.

Comments Wirtgen UK's managing director, Paul Holmes: "This fantastic new facility



demonstrates our commitment to continued growth in the UK across all our machines types and brands. Customers will benefit from a greatly enhanced spare parts delivery service and a significant increase in our repairs and workshop capacity.

"The close proximity to our previous office has enabled us to retain all of our outstanding team and we look forward to welcoming customers to site and realising the opportunity that this state-of-the-art facility provides."

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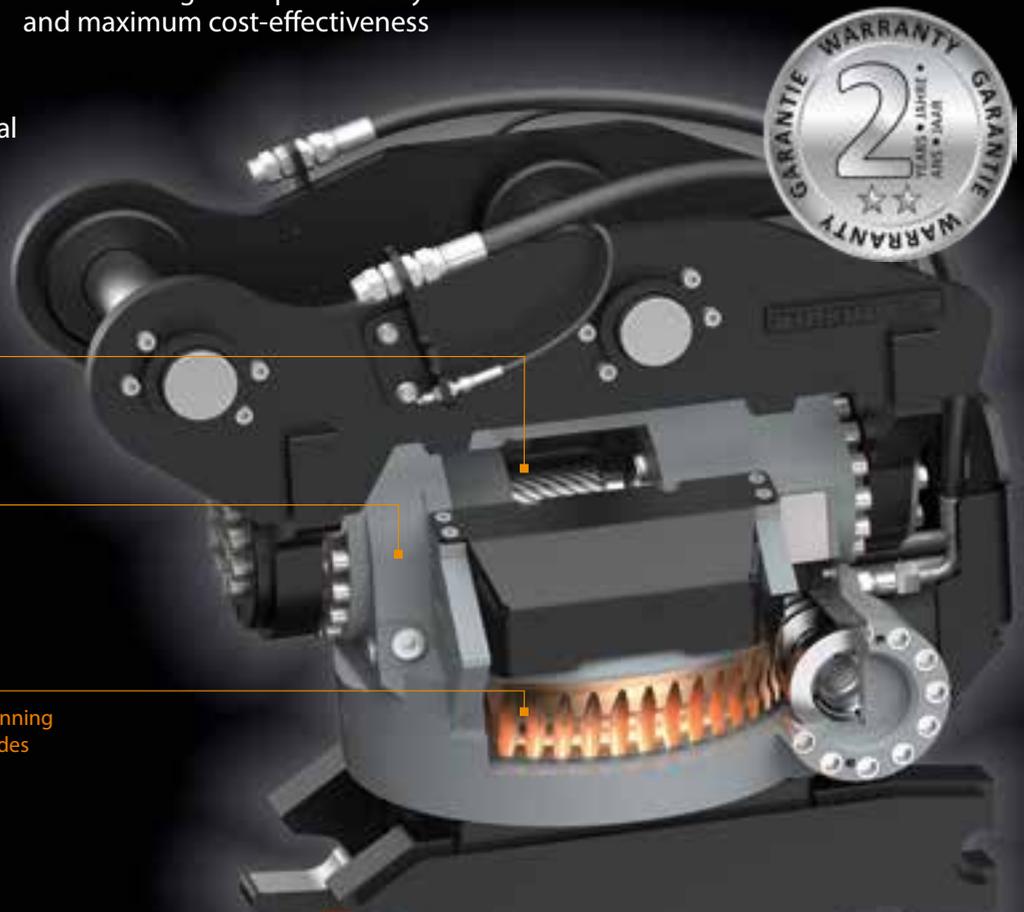
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MTK & KINSHOFER MAKING A BIG IMPACT IN TILTROTATOR MARKET

Since Kinshofer introduced the NOX tiltrotator to the UK market less than two years ago, reaction from operators up and down the country has been incredibly positive, as we have been finding out from Manchester based dealers MTK Breakers, one of our leading hydraulic excavator mounted attachment companies.

MTK Breakers, who offer a comprehensive range of hydraulic attachments for hire and sale throughout the UK, has been a Kinshofer distributor for around 10 years and reports increasing sales of the product range, with recent deliveries of NOX tiltrotators to a number of major civil engineering and construction companies.

The market for tiltrotators is highly competitive one, with plenty of quality and choice out there, but the Kinshofer NOX is clearly taking a major slice of that, perhaps not least because the product benefits from being ram-less, making it one of the most advanced tools for excavators.

This cylinderless solution features a very compact design with a narrow width and without any protruding parts. The flexible tool only requires low maintenance as there are only two greasing points. There are also less wear parts, the hydraulics are integrated into the solid cast housing, and the entire installation can easily be realised.

The worm drive runs in a long life lubrication. The patented tilting function is provided by the elliptic piston design with only one thread. Due to the closed system, the risks of damage are reduced and the tilting force is constant.

The five models in the range feature a 360° endless rotation and tilting angles of up to



2 x 55° with operating weights from 3t to 25t, and add in the performance aspects, the versatility, the durable construction, the NOX Prop joystick control system it is easy to see why the Kinshofer is highly attractive to contractors.

"One of the many benefits that operators appreciate is that you can work precisely without having to reposition the excavator all the time; it operates at any angle, reaching places conventional buckets couldn't," says Adam Jackson, MTK Breakers sales manager. "It is ideal, for example, for working on railway

lines; you can parallel dig next to the tracks without having to use an offset boom."

He adds: "Tiltrotators have been widely used across Europe for many years, but it is only now that operators in the UK are realising the benefits, transforming excavators into more efficient and more productive machines."

And adds sales representative Ian Hulbert: "Another attraction, in addition to being ram-less, is the two year warranty, and once you master the controls it is really easy to operate. We have sold quite a few in the past few months."





Recent Sales

Among those recent sales are two units to McFour Ltd, a company which operates across all sections of the construction and infrastructure sector, helping to deliver large scale and small drainage, ducting, earthworks and groundworks schemes for customers throughout the UK.

We caught up with the contractors working on a smart motorway contract on the M6 between junction 16 at Crewe and junction 19 at Knutsford.

The company recently acquired a TR19 NOX tiltrotator, ideal for excavators between nine and 19 tonne, and a TR25 NOX for its larger excavators.

Another two – a TR25 and a smaller TR14, for excavators up to 14 tonne – went

to Flannery Plant who are also working on a number of motorway contracts.

One of the biggest users of tiltrotators is the Quattro Group, an infrastructure specialist who are involved in both rail and civil work. Its rail division, which recently acquired six TR19 NOX tiltrotators, focuses the maintenance and renewal of rail infrastructure, including tamping banks, ballast brushes, ballast undercutters and thimbles.

Joystick Control

For all users, ease of operation is a big factor. Operators can control the actions of their NOX-Tiltrotator with two joysticks. Quick coupler and attached tools are also operated comfortably and effectively by means of the 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.

Kinshofer has also developed a range of tools especially adapted to the NOX Tiltrotator to guarantee the best efficiency available. Besides the clamshell buckets, demolition & sorting grabs and forks, there are various other combinations possible to make your excavator more versatile than ever. In addition, you can add a gripper to the NOX-Tiltrotator integrated into the lower quick coupler – that can be used to position rods, poles or kerbstones, while the other attachment remains mounted.



Green light for new industrial drone training

Drone pilots working on industrial sites can earn their wings by undertaking a programme of structured training and technical testing, which has been given the green light by the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB).

The new Industrial Drone Operations Training Standard, developed by the ECITB along with employers and experts, will assess drone operators against industry-approved requirements.

This new standard is designed to build upon the current Civil Aviation Authority scheme, delivering the specialist skills and knowledge to ensure operators can undertake drone activities safely in and around industrial process sites that have specific operational hazards and constraints.

The initial off the job training commences with a theory phase followed by practical flight

training on rotary and fixed wing drones of up to 20kgs. Following successful completion of the training, and after a period of work-based consolidation, candidates will undertake a vigorous technical assessment, which involves testing pre-flight preparations based on complex industrial scenarios, performing flight manoeuvres within set parameters and responding to emergency scenarios.

Chris Claydon, Chief Executive of the ECITB, said: "Drones are becoming increasingly common across engineering construction sites from monitoring and surveying sites to checking wear and tear on installations, such as offshore platforms and wind turbines. They reduce the need for people to carry out hazardous inspections and make these essential processes quicker and cheaper.

"There's no doubt we are on the cusp of a major shift in work practices with clear practical and financial benefits that means

the use of drones will become the norm across the engineering construction industry. This is a trend the ECITB has identified, and why we've delivered this rigorous new technical training standard that is recognised and valued by employers."

Thousands of drones could soon be flying above the UK's engineering construction sites and critical infrastructure, just one of a host of fourth industrial revolution technologies set to transform how the engineering construction industry works. A recent report by PwC – Skies without limits – puts the value of drone technology to the UK's wider construction and manufacturing sector at up to £3.5bn and forecasts by 2030 there will be more than 76,000 operator-controlled drones in regular use. The Industrial Drone Operations Training Standard is suitable for anyone that has passed the CAA Permission for Commercial Operations (PfCO) training and can meet the course pre-requisites. Successful candidates completing the technical test will be awarded an ECITB technical test certificate, which is valid for three years.

HAE Sponsors Major Category At Awards Ceremony

Some of Ireland's leading plant hire companies will be battling it out for an award sponsored by Hire Association Europe (HAE), at one of the biggest events in the Irish industry's calendar.

Plant & Civil Engineer magazine is hosting the Plant, Construction and Quarry Awards 2018 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Belfast on Thursday November 22. The Hire Industry is an important pillar of the Irish economy and these awards reflect the contribution made by companies to major construction projects in the island of Ireland, the UK and worldwide.

Open to businesses both large and small, HAE is sponsoring the Plant Hire Company of the

Year category at the ceremony. 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.

The HAE-sponsored award is one of 14 up for grabs at a much-anticipated highlight of the year for the Irish Hire Industry. The awards are an important way of showcasing the industry's importance to the economy and are highly valued and respected, encouraging companies and individuals to demonstrate how they have successfully met the stringent criteria laid down by the organisers.

HAE members are among those competing in categories

such as Innovation of the Year, Construction Project of the Year and Civil Engineering Company of the Year, plus the individual awards presented to those who stood out in their field of expertise.

Managing director of HAE, Graham Arundell, said: "We're thrilled to be sponsoring the Plant Hire Company of the Year award at Irish industry's showpiece event. Judges will be looking for organisations and individuals that have gone the extra mile. There will be some difficult decisions in selecting the winners."

The hire sector is a vital component in the delivery of economic activity, commercial

and public, in the UK and globally. HAE members provide the resources and capability behind much public and commercial investment: in land and buildings, infrastructure, national and international events and corporate hospitality. Its members are innovative and trusted partners who provide the highest of standards in quality, safety and customer service to all their clients.

Members of HAE have access to a range of products and services for everything to do with Hire, from trusted supplier schemes to training courses from energy-saving to safety checks. In addition, they have access to essential health & safety, economical and credit control services. To boost career opportunities in the industry, training schemes range from the careers programme initiative for apprenticeships to degrees.

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official opening

HITACHI'S STATE-OF-THE-ART DEMONSTRATION AREA HOSTS NEW PRODUCT LAUNCHES

Hitachi Construction Machinery (Europe) NV (HCME) has redesigned the demonstration area at its headquarters in Amsterdam to showcase a wider variety of machines in a more attractive and technologically advanced environment. Plant & Civil Engineer's Justin Carrigan was at the official opening.

The enlarged area at the front of the building has been created to enhance the experience of customers visiting HCME. From the comfort of their seat in the auditorium, visitors will be able to hear the operator in the cab during product demonstrations and see exactly what they are doing, thanks to the installation of a new microphone and camera system.

Frank van Neste, Demonstrator for the Product Management and Engineering department at HCME, says: "Previously, I could only give explanations from the cab to one or two people, but now I can share it with 90 people in the auditorium."

Frank led the redesign project, with support from HCME General Manager Product Management and Engineering Burkhard Janssen and Product Manager Wilbert Blom. Work on the new area took six months to prepare and was completed within six weeks.

ZX210X-6 ICT

The area was officially reopened with a special demonstration of the ZX210X-6, the first Hitachi ICT hydraulic excavator with machine control in Europe, which should have a huge impact on construction and civil engineering

projects – increasing efficiency considerably (by an estimated 30-50%), enhancing safety and making life easier for operators.

Incorporating the latest technological advancements, it is one of the most precise models on the market. The semi-automatic operation of the front of the machine ensures consistently high levels of accuracy. As a result, the amount of repetitive work on site is decreased and less time is needed to complete construction projects – leading to reduced running costs and fewer emissions.

The ZX210X-6's highly accurate performance also contributes to enhanced safety on the job site. Designed for easy operation with user-friendly features, it supports the skills of operators.

One of the features that enables the ZX210X-6 to work quicker than conventional models is the bucket angle retention. Slope finishing can be carried out with fewer movements, for example, as the angle of the bucket is maintained throughout. This also allows the operator to focus on the operation of the boom and arm.

Another feature is the overcut protection function, which enables operators to work quickly and easily, without worrying about over digging. The edge of the bucket is controlled by the ZX210X-6, so that it follows the target surface.

The introduction of the ZX210X-6 machine to the European market is a significant

milestone for Hitachi Construction Machinery, in the wider context of its development of ICT construction solutions and the increasing importance of BIM (building information modelling) in the construction industry.

Hitachi Construction Machinery (Europe) NV Product Manager Wilbert Blom says: "The ZX210X-6 excavator plays a pivotal role in Hitachi's ICT construction solutions, which connect people, information, processes and technology to create safe and productive working environments. More accurate than its competitors, it is the most technologically advanced Hitachi excavator to date."

ZX210LC-6

Also new from Hitachi is the ZX210LC-6 telescopic arm excavator. Capable of excavating to depths of 21 metres, it offers high levels of productivity, a powerful performance and exceptional versatility.

The special application model has been developed by Hitachi to meet the challenging requirements of underground projects in Europe. The telescopic arm of the ZX210LC-6 extends and retracts smoothly in seconds using a technologically advanced combination of rope and hydraulic cylinders.

This enables it to remove soil quickly and easily from a maximum depth of 21 metres and load trucks





efficiently so the material can be transported off site. It is not only more efficient than traditional methods, such as using cranes, skips and conveyor belts, but it is also safer and more cost-effective.

ZX135US-6

Meanwhile, the new ZX135US-6 telescopic arm excavator is the optimum solution for deep excavation on narrow job sites in urban environments. As the smallest model in the range, it occupies less than half the space of the largest model, the ZX350LC-6. Capable of excavating to depths of 16.5 metres, it offers high levels of productivity and exceptional safety.

Due to its compact size, quiet operation and exceptional visibility, the ZX135US-6 with telescopic arm is ideal for working on busy, urban job sites. For superior stability, it has a heavier counterweight than the standard model.



Safety is enhanced by the fall prevention guard in the front of the window of the cab, and the optional zoom camera installed on the end of the telescopic arm. This enhances the visibility of the operator and contributes to a safe working environment. Using the monitor in the cab, the operator can easily adjust the view angle, and zoom in and out of the image.

Short reach

The new short reach version of the ZX135US-6 is ideal for tunnelling projects, underground excavation and demolition work. Designed and built to use attachments suitable for larger 20-tonne machines, it offers a superior digging performance in confined spaces.

The new special application model has been developed by Hitachi as a compact alternative to larger models, addressing the specific need for powerful machines capable of working below ground or in areas with height restrictions.

In addition to a short swing radius, this excavator also has a short boom and arm that allow the machine to fit perfectly in small spaces. The arm can be raised higher on job sites with low height clearance, due to the widened opening angle of the boom and arm.

For safe transportation at the job site, two lifting brackets on the upper

structure and another on the boom enable the machine to be lowered into position below ground level or lifted up to higher floors using a crane.

ZX350LC-6

Another addition to the Hitachi line-up is the new ZX350LC-6 telescopic arm excavator. The largest model in the range, it is capable of removing soil quickly and easily from a maximum depth of 30 metres, and load trucks efficiently so that the materials can be transported off site. It is not only more efficient than traditional methods, such as using cranes, skips or conveyor belts, but it is also safer and more cost-effective.

Equipped with a large-capacity clamshell-bucket, the ZX350LC-6 has a powerful pull-up force. Unlike traditional rope excavators, it can also provide pull-down force, enabling good bucket penetration and bucket fill. It is capable of short cycle times, due to the exclusively designed hydraulic circuits and pressure setting.



Kevin Lagan Sets Out Investment Plans Following Sale of Materials Business

Following the landmark sale of his materials business to Breedon plc in April 2018 for £455m, Kevin Lagan has outlined his plans for what he calls 'the targeted and sustainable growth' of his retained companies, Lagan Homes, FastHouse and a new investment arm, Lagan Investments.

Kevin, who has been the driving force behind one of Ireland's most successful construction and materials companies for over 40 years, said: "Lagan Investments is our family investment vehicle, led by my sons, Peter and John. Our objective is to take a flexible approach to seeking opportunities across a variety of sectors, both locally and internationally. Lagan Investments has already injected capital into several diverse sectors including real estate, distribution and tourism.

"Lagan Homes enjoys a very strong reputation in the house building business and we are proud of its success in delivering high quality homes in numerous locations across Northern Ireland and GB. We look forward with confidence to the next phase of its growth, including expansion into the Republic of Ireland market. We operate the largest house building business in Northern Ireland, which has a significant high-quality land bank to underpin its medium-term growth plan. We are actively seeking



Kevin Lagan pictured with his two sons Peter (centre) and John.

development opportunities across all three regions.

"The third business, FastHouse, is an innovative manufacturer of modular timber frame systems which has seen considerable growth since inception in 2016. We are nearing completion of 466 holiday lodges in Ireland's first ever Center Parcs in County Longford and our local workforce has risen substantially in response to increasing demand

for our products, notably in the residential housing market. Our rapid build system allows us to construct quality homes to weathertight stage in just two days, a game changer for an industry faced with so many challenges, including massive skill shortages.

"There are exciting times ahead and I will remain involved in all of the businesses, supported by an in-house team of multi-

disciplinary professionals, with decades of experience in acquisitions and investment.

"All our businesses are also now coming together under a newly developed brand which reflects our vision for the future. This fresh and contemporary brand signifies our firm intention to succeed and prosper in the years to come."

Flynn announce 50 new jobs and a push into new overseas markets

Flynn, one of Ireland's leading contractors and fit out specialists, is adding 50 new jobs to its current workforce over the next two years. This will bring its headcount to a total of over 200 by 2021.

These jobs will be based across its Irish operations and in their London office. The new roles will be in the areas of project management, engineering,

quantity surveying and specialist IT and construction skills and will have an average salary of €60,000.

This new recruitment drive by the company is part of a move by the firm to grow its service offering in Ireland and to ramp up its well established and thriving construction business. Flynn is the fit-out company of choice for the top tech multinationals who have large European

operations in Ireland and of many of Ireland's leading indigenous companies.

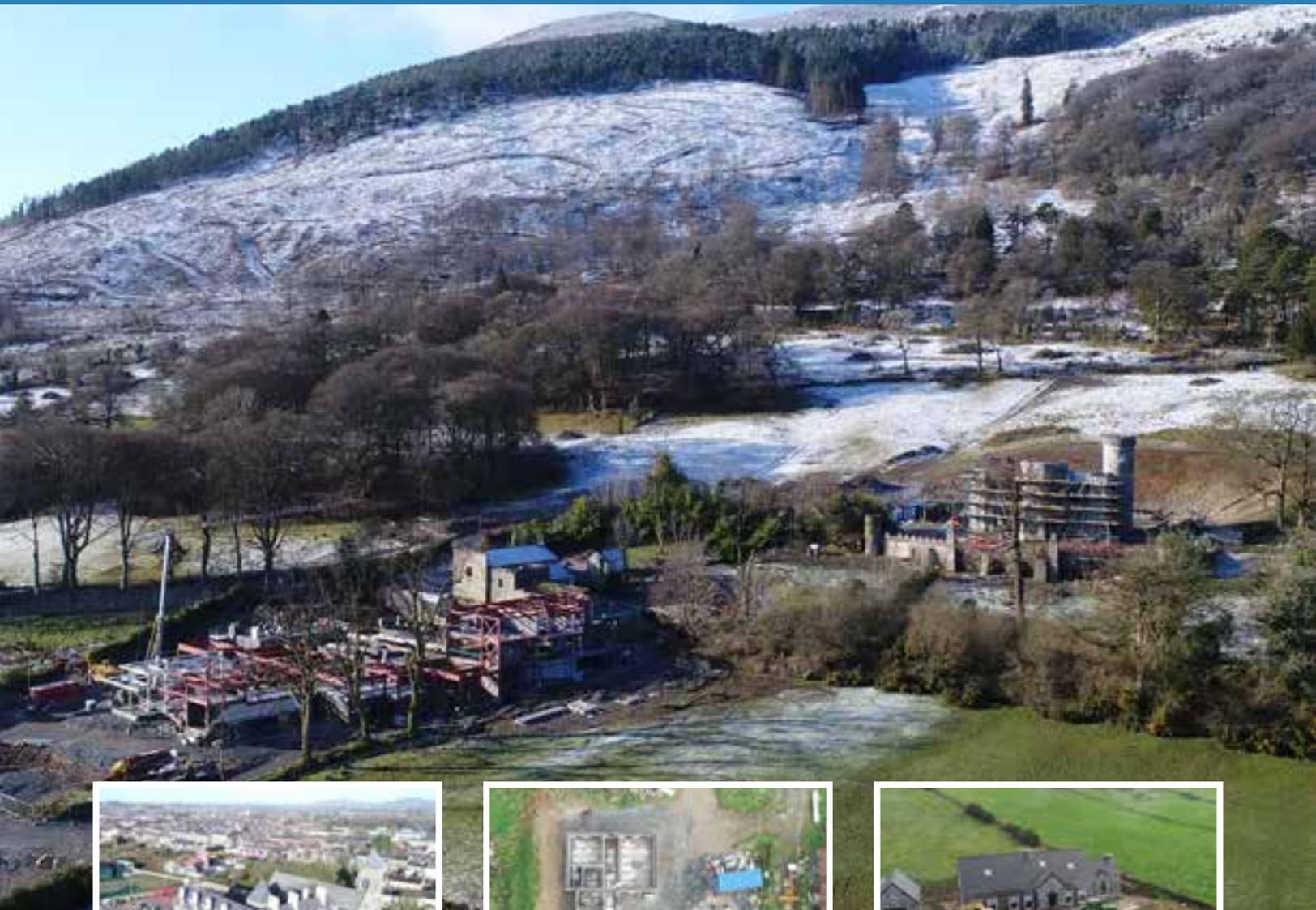
Flynn teams are currently working on several projects in hyper scale Data Centres at multiple locations around Europe. The company is aiming to significantly grow its overseas market offering with an ambitious plan to grow its market share in the Nordic States and the UK over the coming three years.

Kevin Flynn, CEO of Flynn Management and Contractors, said: "We have ambitious plans to grow our share of the construction market here in Ireland and to double our revenue from client projects overseas over the coming years. We are particularly excited about the opportunities we see for our business to grow in the Nordic States and the UK in particular."



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To be the best construction company, delivering the best service with the best team and at the best price. That's the goal of County Down based Branagan Construction Ltd (BCL); some may feel they are already there, as Plant & Civil Engineer's David Stokes has been finding out.

Now a well established Main Contractor for new build homes, extensions, refurbishments, the company is also very active in the commercial sector, with a number of high profile projects completed on both sides of the Irish border.

With a professional team who take pride in delivering good quality projects on

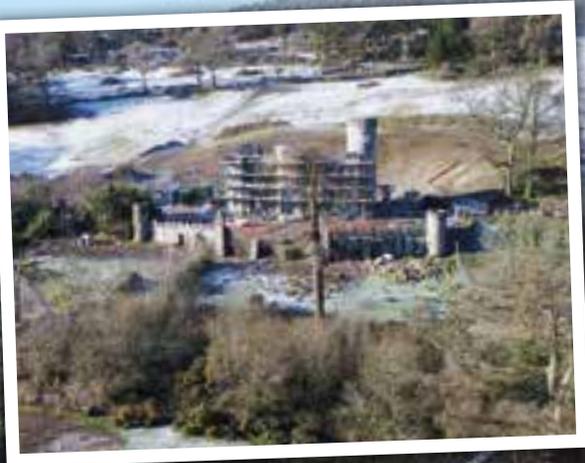
time and on budget, BCL has grown over the last decade to be a fully self sufficient company offering services from the conception phase right through to completion; more recently it has begun providing an in-house design service.

The company is headed up by Bernard Branagan who has gone from being an apprentice to owning his own limited company in just 10 years; he recently featured on the prestigious NI Top 40 Under 40 List, which recognises talented people under the age of 40 who have been responsible for helping to advance a Northern Ireland business.

"I strongly believe that our growing success is our team's constant dedication to being the best and offering clients a service that is second to none," says Bernard whose 'hands-on' approach is very evident; he does not expect any of his staff to do anything he would not do himself and regularly takes time to deliver tool box talks to his employees.

Hard Working

"We approach every contract as if it was the first we'd ever won - with passion and enthusiasm. You are only as good as the people around you. We hire the best people and we have one of the hardest working and fully focused teams





Work progresses on another prestigious project.

in the country," adds Bernard, who also manages quite a few subcontractors. Indeed, one member of that team, bricklayer Thomas Murnin recently achieved 1st place in brick work skills and was named 'Employee of the Year' in the construction sector in the Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade Awards. Another recent addition to the team is Lisa Randall, a qualified quantity surveyor of 12 years currently undergoing her RICS chartership and who also plays a big part in business development.

Major Contracts

Recent contracts undertaken by BCL include involvement in Phase 5 of the Quays shopping centre in Newry; the £20m extension created an additional 100,000 sq ft of retail space that is now hosting some of the UK's most prestigious retail brands including Marks and Spencer and Puregym.

The team at BCL worked against the clock to ensure its part in the project was completed on time and on budget, with extra resources being pulled in to do so.

Another successfully completed contract was at St Joseph's monastery in Dundalk on behalf of QMAC Construction.

The company, which is a member of the Construction Industry Training Board and a Board member of the Federation of Master Builders, has also been involved in the multi-million development of a luxury hotel and spa on the Killeavy Castle Estate in County Armagh and a luxury apartment block in Belfast.

BCL is a strong advocate of health and safety standards, a case

in point being the company's strong support for the recent Construction Safety Week initiative. Also high on the agenda is regular staff training.

The company, which provides excellent opportunities for young apprentices, helping to shape them to be the best that they can be, has indeed come a long way from when Bernard first established the business, working out of a van and a site office in those early years.

With new contracts being won on a regular basis, BCL can clearly look forward to a prosperous and successful 2019.

To find out more, go to: www.branaganconstructionlimited.com



A completed penthouse on Belfast's Antrim Road.



Bernard Branagan

Work begins on A6 Dungiven to Drumahoe Dualling Scheme

Work has begun on the A6 Dungiven to Drumahoe dualling scheme. The 25.5 kilometre scheme represents an investment in the region of £220million, including land acquisition.

The project will construct a high standard dual carriageway between Drumahoe and Dungiven, including a bypass of Dungiven, with roundabouts connecting the scheme to the existing road network at either end.

The scheme will be completed by a contractor consortium of Sacyr, Wills Bros and Somague.

Speaking as he joined local representatives to cut the first sod, the Department's Northern Divisional Roads Manager David Porter said: "The A6 is a strategically important route as it connects the North West to Belfast and beyond. The existing road carries around 15,000 vehicles per day and with traffic levels continuing to grow, this very significant investment will greatly improve road safety and journey times by reducing congestion.

"The construction of this road will help to secure jobs in the construction industry, contribute to the economic development of the region and bring long term benefits to road users and local communities."

Work is expected to take up to four years to complete.



Causeway Coast and Glens Mayor Brenda Chivers, Northern Divisional Roads Manager David Porter and Derry City and Strabane Deputy Mayor Derek Hussey cut the first sod on construction of the A6 Dungiven to Drumahoe.

Employers need to up their game to root out CSCS card fraud

Unite, the construction union, is calling on construction employers to 'up their game' in rooting out fake Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards.

Unite made its call following recent news reports that a fake CSCS card seller was jailed for more than three years. The

latest story underlines that there continues to be a market in fake CSCS cards, which undermines the value of the cards.

Unite believes that the existence of fake cards is primarily a result of the failure of employers to properly check CSCS cards when workers begin work. All new CSCS cards contain a microchip within them and, if an employer

checked the cards electronically, they would automatically know if it were genuine.

Unite national officer Bernard McAulay said: "Construction workers recognise the importance of the CSCS card and it is a major factor in helping to improve standards and competency in the industry.

"However, the number of fake cards in the system is tainting CSCS' brand and diminishes the confidence of workers in the scheme.

"To ensure that the CSCS card remains the gold standard, employers need to up their game and ensure that all cards are checked electronically.

"The employers' failure to do this is allowing the spivs and fraudsters to flourish. Allowing unqualified workers damages productivity and potentially the safety of all workers on that site."

Plantworx Heading for Another Sell-Out

The CEA's (Construction Equipment Association's) Plantworx Construction Exhibition demonstration areas are selling out fast as manufacturers gear up for putting machines through their paces in front of Plantworx visitors at the show's new home at the East of England Arena, Peterborough (11-13 June 2019).

Commented Plantworx sales manager, Angela Spink: "We have been inundated with enquiries for the show and bookings for the event are coming in daily. We also have 47 brand new exhibitors that have committed to the show - this is excellent

news and proof that the threat of Brexit is having little impact on exhibitor confidence."

Angela added: "JC Mac is the latest company to sign up - the company will be showing and demonstrating Turkish construction equipment Çukurova. Hyundai is also making a return to the show alongside Takeuchi, Mecalac, Marubeni Komatsu, Liugong, JCB, A&Y and many more.

"Hi-Spec Buckets & Attachments, Nooteboom, Red Rhino Crushers and Hook Up Solutions have also booked recently taking the number of exhibitors up to 230 in total. The Indoor Arena is

also taking shape with over 50 exhibitors confirmed including Nylacast, Webtec, Teletrac Navman and Elobau UK - we are expecting a spike in exhibitors in the Indoor Arena with the recent announcement of the Simulator Zone, which will explore virtual training which is currently one of the industry's hottest topics."

Visitors are also reminded that, in addition to virtual action, they can also put themselves in the driving seat at Plantworx as many exhibitors will encourage visitors who present the correct operator's licence to try the kit first hand in one of the many demonstration areas.



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Creagh Concrete win 'Best Project' at Concrete Society Awards NI



Creagh were awarded a Certificate of Excellence at the Concrete Society NI Awards in the Europa Hotel, Belfast. The award was in the category of 'Projects' and was in recognition for its work on latest rapidres project Arena Central, Birmingham.



Former director of Creagh Concrete Ken Smartt picked up an award in recognition of his outstanding efforts within the concrete industry.

Engcon launches new sorting grab for mini excavators

Engcon has developed a new sorting grab specifically for mini excavators. The new grab, SK02, weighs just over 100 kg, making it perfectly suited for small excavators in the 1.5-3 tonne class. The SK02 is the newest addition to Engcon's wide range of accessories.

In recent years, Engcon has invested heavily in expanding its digger accessories programme and the company is the major player in the development and production of tools for excavators up to 33 tonnes.

The new, smaller grab has been in demand for a long time by Engcon's mini excavator customers who find the larger SK05 too big for their machines. With a weight of only 109 kg, a width of 400 mm and a maximum grab strength of 5.7 kN, the new SK02 is ideal for mini-diggers.

"Our philosophy is that we will provide the best and most reliable tools that can be attached under a tiltrotator. Our new sorting grab fits our customers' needs very well," says Johan Johansson, Design Engineer at Engcon.

Like most of Engcon's hydraulic tools, the top bracket is bolt-on and can be easily adapted to the hitch that the digger-owner already has. The SK02 also has bolt-on cutting blades, prepared for digging teeth, and can be delivered with side cheeks so it can also be used as a clamshell bucket.

Robert Hunt, Managing Director of Engcon UK, commented: "The majority of excavators sold each year in the UK are mini diggers, which is a much bigger market share for minis than many other countries. The launch of the SK02 is especially exciting news for UK digger-owners. We expect demand for this product to be high."



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Mental Health In The Spotlight at HAE EHA Conference

Members, non-members and exhibitors attending HAE EHA's annual conference at Holywell Park in Loughborough were given an ideal opportunity to assess and improve their strategies for dealing with mental health in the workplace by expert speakers on this growing issue.

It is estimated mental health problems blight one in four of the UK population, a figure replicated last year in the construction industry according to one survey, which also revealed that this rose to one in three among junior members of staff and graduates.

Measures companies can take to spot the warning signs of mental illness and how to support their employees were the focus of talks given by the Revd. Kevin Fear of the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), who is currently working with an initiative called Building Mental Health and Martin Cloyd OBE, Head of Health, Safety & Wellbeing at Mace Construction.

The experienced duo shared a platform to describe initiatives like mental health first aid (MHFA) England and Building Mental Health, which provide free resources to construction companies so that they can help and give guidance to employees suffering from mental illness.

Keeping on the theme of the wellbeing of workers, Faye Bevington of Stallard Kane Associates gave a very interesting insight into dyslexia in the workplace and what employers can do to help those with this common learning difficulty, like providing quiet areas, not altering work patterns and using simple computer text formats like Arial.

Mind over matter was the theme of Dr Jack Lewis, a leading neuroscientist, whose topic 'Neuroscience of decision making and how technology is changing our brain', provided his audience with food for thought by explaining that putting aside their electronic gadgetry, even for a



short period, can unclutter the mind and lead to a more creative way of thinking.

It was a creative presentation from Focko Imhorst of McKinsey & Company, who works with clients on setting corporate strategy and improving operational performance. His topic was an upbeat message on the changing face of the construction industry and the opportunities for Hire that can overcome setbacks such as the collapse of Carillion.

Attracting young people into Hire is an ongoing challenge for companies. This was addressed by Mark Woolaston, of ITV Business Development Team with his presentation on how to engage and recruit 16-24-year-olds – his television company attracts 26.5 million of them as viewers! HAE EHA's commercial manager Paul Gaze continued the theme with his talk on future career paths in Hire.

Michael Dall, lead economist at construction market analysts Barbour ABI, gave his take on the current state of the UK economy with specific focus on the construction sector, while Justin Levene of HireHop revealed the advantages of moving software into the cloud.

HAE EHA Managing Director, Graham Arundell, said: "The exciting speaker line-up proved that we are the Association that cares about all stakeholders in the Hire industry. Businesses can be blind to mental health problems among their workers, unlike physical issues.

"A lean and mean workforce can boost productivity so using conference to highlight the measures that companies can take to help the wellbeing of employees, as well as their physical health and safety, is a good thing for our industry."

Sleator Plant seals multi-million-pound deal with CP Hire

Sleator Plant has secured a record-breaking deal, worth in excess of £2 million, with multi-national plant hire firm CP Hire.

The agreement will see 95 Mecalac site dumpers added to the CP Hire fleet. Set to be rented by site professionals across the British Isles, this move will not only considerably expand fleet size, but also increase availability of the latest models and technologies.

Commenting on the deal, John Rawnsley, CP Hire (GB) Ltd Managing Director, said: "The quality and depth of the Mecalac range is very attractive. The versatility of each site dumper allows us to offer the perfect option to meet our customer's exact needs.

"The support we receive from Sleator Plant is above and beyond. They work closely with us and always listen to our needs before delivering an effective



solution. This working relationship has resulted in us taking in excess of 300 Mecalac units in the past four years alone."

Jonathan Campbell, Dealer Principal at Sleator Plant, added:

"Mecalac's equipment, combined with our bespoke packages, prove a big draw in Northern Ireland. We're proud to be able to work with CP Hire on its ongoing equipment needs."



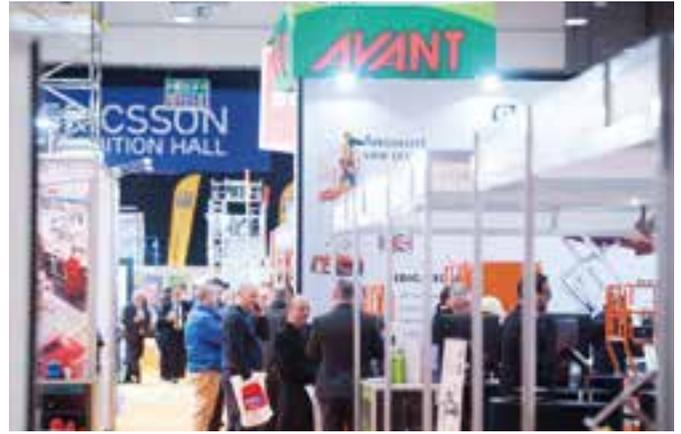
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The Executive Hire Show 2019 is Ready for Business

The tool, equipment and compact plant hire industry is going from strength to strength following reports from the organisers of the Executive Hire Show 2019 being held on 6-7 February at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry.

During the annual exhibitor 'Kick-Off' meeting at the Ricoh Arena, which took place recently, the team reported that an impressive 159 exhibitors had already signed up for the 2019 Show and the event is now 90% sold.

EHS Show Director, Craig Donovan said, "We expect that the Show will be fully sold out before the end of the year. We are also delighted to report that, out of the 159 confirmed exhibitors, 18 of these will be making their Show debut, which is confirmation of the confidence in the strength of the hire industry."

The 'Kick-Off' meeting attracted a record attendance, with exhibitors both old and new taking time out of their busy schedules, to attend the event and listen to the EHS team talking about the 'all new' look for the 2019 Show.

Now in its 13th year, the event organisers felt that

the Show needed a whole new look to refresh and reinvigorate it for exhibitors and visitors, – so a complete redesign was undertaken.

Craig reported, "We have a very successful Show with loyal exhibitors and visitors. The event grows year on year. We have expanded into all of the available areas at the Ricoh and have even created new space. The outdoor exhibits have also grown in numbers. But we are not complacent and wanted to improve everyone's experience of the event, especially as there are no viable alternative venues that satisfy the demands of our visitors and exhibitors."

Craig added, "We wanted to 'refresh' the Show and move it forward. The Ricoh has become the 'home of hire' being such a convenient venue for visitors to get to. Therefore, as a team and working with our exhibitors, we have completely redesigned the Show! The exhibitors have all moved stand location, which, in itself, has created a whole new look. We have also changed stand designers and have introduced new colour schemes. We are confident that

this new look and feel will create a new and fresh experience for exhibitors and visitors alike – creating more footfall throughout the entire exhibition space as visitors explore the new layout."

Many of the exhibitors have increased their stand space including UK Caterpillar dealer Finning and access equipment manufacturer Snorkel UK. Armorgard Security Products have doubled the size of their plot, while excavator manufacturer Takeuchi is returning to the Show after a two-year absence and construction machinery manufacturer Mecalac will also return.

Brexit

There's not a conference or a meeting currently taking place that does not mention the 'B' word and the EHS Kick-Off meeting didn't shy away from the elephant in the room. Executive Hire Show's, Alan Guthrie, spoke openly about Brexit – and how hire companies are not letting the harbinger of doom impact on business. He suggested that, when the UK does leave the EU at 11pm (UK time) on 29 March 2019, it need not affect the hire market unduly.

Alan said, "The hire industry has not been distracted by Brexit and is moving forward confidently regardless. Not only are hirers busy, but they are also expanding, and some are reporting record turnovers. We are a dynamic and resilient industry and are ready for business!"

Attention then focused back on the Show and it was announced that back by popular demand is the Innovation Trail. The Trail was first launched in 2013 and innovation continues to be an integral part of the Show.

The 'Innovation Trail – Live' initiative is also making a return, with ten selected Innovation Trail products, which judges consider to be particularly outstanding, exhibiting on a specially branded stage area in Hall 2.

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

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

Plantforce Plans to Increase Bell Fleet

Rapidly expanding plant hire specialist, Plantforce, has announced plans to increase its fleet of Bell Equipment B30Es to support growing demand.

A major supplier to the Hinkley Point development project, and supplier to companies involved in the construction of HS2, Plantforce currently offers ten B30Es within its impressive fleet; having made its latest Bell Equipment ADT acquisition in March this year.

The company's relationship with Bell is relatively new, and began back in November 2016, when demand from Plantforce's customers for fleet machines with the ability to fulfil 'the heavier side of plant' led Operations Director, Samuel Mercer, to take delivery of his first consignment of Bell ADTs.

He explains: "With our customers increasingly requesting machines suitable for excavating sites such as Hinkley Point, quarry

operations, housing sites, and for use as part of sea defence work, we felt the time was right to invest in a series of larger ADTs that would prove 'task compatible'.

"While considering market options we looked at the Bell B30E in close detail and chose to invest in the model for multiple reasons. Its capacity to provide superior levels of fuel efficiency, together with its notable build-quality impressed us straight-away."



Tom Verner
Group Managing Director,
The Momentum Group



WELCOME PLANS TO PREVENT THE MISUSE OF R&D TAX RELIEF IN BUDGET 2018

As part of the 2018 Autumn Budget announcement on Monday 29 October Chancellor Philip Hammond unveiled new measures to help prevent abuse of the R&D SME tax relief initiative.

The Chancellor stated that the Government will aim to stop the R&D Tax Credits system being abused through the re-introduction of a PAYE restriction for the small and medium sized companies' scheme.

As part of the Finance Bill for 2019-20, the amount that a loss-making company can receive in R&D Tax Credits will be capped at three times its total Pay As You Earn (PAYE) and National Insurance contributions (NICs) liability. This change will take effect for the accounting periods beginning on or after 1 April 2020. Any loss that a company cannot surrender for a payable credit can be carried forward and used against future profits.

While the R&D Tax Credit initiative is meeting its purpose: to encourage innovation and enable UK companies to compete in a global marketplace, ensuring post-Brexit economic prosperity. HMRC have identified and prevented fraud attempts on the SME payable tax credit, worth £300 million in total. In these cases, companies were set up to claim the cash available through the payable credit even though they have no legitimate R&D activity.

Like any marketplace that experiences a surge in demand for services, the number of companies providing 'professional' R&D Tax Credit advice has grown significantly. Alarming many companies are being misled and misinformed about the R&D tax relief initiative with assertions such as "everything you do qualifies".

The legislation pertaining to R&D Tax Credits is complex, and HMRC's criteria for qualifying activities and expenditure is intrinsically specific and definitive. So much so that it requires an R&D Tax Credit advisor with technical expertise in a vast range of sectors to truly understand the processes that an organisation goes through when carrying out projects. I welcome this higher level of scrutiny as our approach has always been

to apply the highest professional standards to every claim we prepare, resulting in a 100% success rate across hundreds of claims with over £100m R&D tax relief approved.

Momentum has helped hundreds of large and small highly competitive companies, from manufacturing to construction, food & drink to technology, to claim this UK government incentive. We assist in a range of areas, investing in understanding and optimising R&D expenditure and our team includes chartered accountants, business, commercial and ex-HMRC technical experts to ensure every claim gets the necessary expert scrutiny and is thoroughly investigated to meet HMRC compliance.

The latest annual statistics from HMRC announced in September 2018 showed the average received per R&D tax claim by companies in Northern Ireland was £46,000, compared to those in London benefiting from the highest average claim of £128,000. The overall average payment per claim across the UK was £86,000. While HMRC statistics show many industries in the UK are wakening up to the benefits of R&D Tax Credits, the potential is far greater.

In my experience, there are still so many in the manufacturing, quarry, construction and plant machinery sectors that are either not aware of R&D Tax Credits, incorrectly think they do not qualify or feel they lack the necessary experience to submit a claim. In fact, many companies are not claiming their full legitimate entitlement. Momentum is calling on more manufacturing, quarry, construction and plant machinery businesses to act now on R&D Tax Credits, highlighting that the regional statistics could be much higher given the increasing investment in export here.

If you would like to find out more about a potential new claim or review an existing claim then please contact Momentum for a free no obligation review.



agri-plant & equipment

Massey Ferguson extend renowned line-up of telehandlers to six models

MF-TH8043



Massey Ferguson's latest MF TH.8043 telehandler delivers new solutions for the most demanding needs in materials handling across agricultural and industrial applications.

Key highlights of the 130hp MF TH.8043 include maximum lift height of 7.5m and maximum lift capacity of 4.3 tons (13 % more compared to the MF TH.7038). The new 3500 L bucket boasts the largest capacity available on the market.

A brand-new boom design offers superior working angles and capacities, as well as featuring automatic boom suspension management. The high-performance Load Sensing hydraulic system delivers up to 190 l/min across all functions through an optimised design. Outstanding accuracy and driving comfort is assured by the hydrostatic transmission featuring an intuitive system to ease operation.

Best-in-class visibility and comfort comes from a unique cab design which provides a 360° view for the operator and reduced noise levels.

Extensive engineering work has been carried out by the R&D department to enable this new machine to reach higher working capacities, while keeping the much appreciated compact dimensions of its little brother, the MF TH.7038.

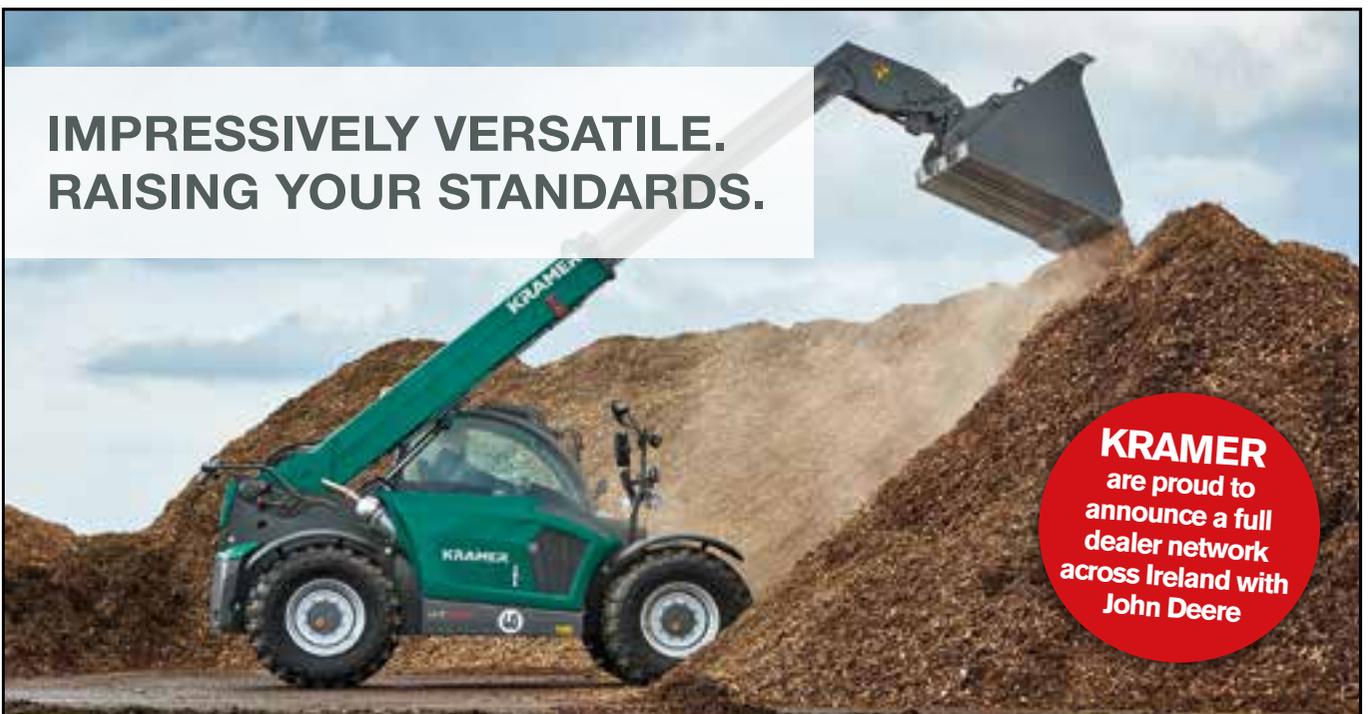
The overall length remains at under 5 metres and the total width does not exceed 2.36 metres (460/70 R24 tyres). This, together with the unchanged 2870mm long wheelbase combine to produce agility, stability and superior working capacities.

Lift capacity in the most common trailer loading conditions (4 metres of lift height and 2 metres of boom extension) is now an outstanding 4300kg. This significant increase of +700kg compared to the MF TH.7038 brings new levels of productivity. The capacity at maximum boom extension has also been enhanced to 1600kg. The MF TH.8043 is therefore capable of lifting heavy materials even when the implement is further away from the machine.

The boom is not only 50 cm longer to provide greater lift height but it also benefits from a brand-new headstock design. The innovative Z-shape design provides an uncompromised combination of increased working capacities and complete integration of the system. This new Z-shape headstock provides greater working angles with an increase of 13° on the dumping angle (49° in total) and an increase of 17° on the total headstock range of movement (159°).

Being fully integrated, the new system does not impact on working capacities or visibility (for example, no interference when loading bales). At the same time, it enhances durability.

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New Year Dates for the Farming Diary

For all of those who attend the Spring Farm Machinery Shows each year across Ireland, the dates for the 2019 shows have been released with exciting changes being made across the four shows.

The 2019 farming calendar will begin on the 16th & 17th January with the Millstreet show in Co. Cork's Green Glens Arena. This popular show reached record numbers in 2018 with over 11,000 visitors over the two day with projected numbers expected to grow higher in 2019.

The biggest change coming to the 2019 shows will be the Balmoral addition of the Spring Farm Machinery group move to January taking place on the 23rd & 24th in place of the original machinery show in Fintona, Co. Tyrone which will be moving to a later date in February.

With extra space now available at the Eikon arena totalling over 10,000 square meters, the Spring Farm Balmoral Show will be introducing a Plant and Quarry Machinery and Services section combined with the



current Farm Machinery to become Ireland's largest indoor Machinery and Services event.

This will offer a unique opportunity to farmers, contractors and other rural businesses looking to increase their sales an excellent opportunity to quiz manufacturers and suppliers of farm machinery,

equipment and agricultural services all under one roof.

The Cavan Equestrian Centre will see the Spring Farm Machinery Show return on the 30th & 31st January after a record number of visitors attended the 2018 show.

Visitors can expect a new layout and some new format changes which are beneficial for both exhibitors and visitors.

The original Spring Farm Machinery Show in Fintona Co. Tyrone will now take place in February on the 20th & 21st.

It celebrated its 20th anniversary earlier this year in its new two-day format with visitor numbers soaring, making it the highest attendance figures recorded.

Q8 Oils
SPRING FARM MACHINERY SHOW
 THE FUTURE OF FARMING

THE GREEN GLENS ARENA
 MILLSTREET, CO. CORK

WEDNESDAY 16TH & THURSDAY 17TH JANUARY 2019
 12NOON - 10PM

MUNSTERS LARGEST FARM MACHINERY SHOW

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SPRING FARM MACHINERY SHOW
 THE FUTURE OF FARMING

CAVAN EQUESTRIAN CENTRE
 CAVAN, CO. CAVAN

WEDNESDAY 30TH & THURSDAY 31ST JANUARY 2019
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ALL LEADING MANUFACTURERS & DISTRIBUTORS IN ATTENDANCE

Q8 Oils
SPRING FARM & PLANT MACHINERY SHOW
 THE FUTURE OF FARMING

EIKON EXHIBITION CENTRE,
 BALMORAL PARK, HALFTOWN RD
 SPRUCEFIELD

WEDNESDAY 23RD & THURSDAY 24TH JANUARY 2019
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EURO AUCTIONS' OCTOBER SALE WAS BIGGEST ON RECORD

Euro Auctions is expanding to meet the increasing needs of its global customers, building Europe's largest permanent auction facility at its sale site just outside of Leeds in the UK.

The Euro Auctions October sale was the biggest on record with over 4,800 lots going over the ramp and a total hammer of £42,515,535, an increase of 20% over the same sale in 2017. Global buyers hit another all-time high, with 59% of bidding being online. Euro Auctions is a true global business, with buyers from 67 countries registering for this auction, and with 70% of those countries buying during this sale!

"We physically had to shut the gates on this sale, allowing nothing else onto the site, as we had run out of space," explains Jonnie Keys, Euro Auctions Operations Manager. "This was our biggest sale to-date and even with the new 45 acre extension that we added in 2017, making the total site area 70 acres we are looking forward to opening our new facility in early 2019."

He continues: "As the Euro Auctions business continues to expand, we have embarked on the building of what is believed to be the largest permanent auction facility for industrial plant, construction and agricultural machinery, in EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa). This new facility will allow us to conduct five 3-day sales each year, with a capacity to auction between 5,000 to 6,000 lots during each auction. The new facilities will greatly enhance the customer experience, from consignors selling equipment, to buyers who can sit in comfort and enjoy the action of the sale."

The new Euro Auctions development includes the construction of new workshops, office and main administration centre, auction arena and sales ramp, in addition to a 2380m² jet wash bay, which is again believed to be the largest in Europe.

The 45-acre extension to the existing yard brings the Euro Auctions site up to over 70 acres in total. The three new purpose-built structures all at various stages of completion, which will see all facilities fully operational in early 2019.

Phase 1

The design and construction of a fully fitted workshop covering 3300m², designed by David McKinley Architects, the same firm that designed the new Euro Auctions facility in Dromore, Northern Ireland. The new workshops will offer consignors the services of Euro Auctions' highly skilled plant fitters and technicians to prepare equipment for sales, thus helping them realise better hammer prices.

Euro Auctions is also constructing what is believed to be the largest jet wash bay in Europe, covering 2380m² and will have the capacity to clean for sale a high capacity of equipment leading up to all auctions. Other facilities include shot blasting rooms, workshops, spray booths and loading bays.

With sustainability and recycling a high priority on this project, the concrete wash bay tanks have 'built-in' settlement bays, to separate solids from liquids, in addition to oil and hydro carbon settlement areas, which can also filter waste water, making it reusable in all high volume pressure hoses used on site, reducing dramatically

the dependency on potable mains water, which will be boosted by rainwater capture. With sustainability high on the agenda, Euro Auctions is installing photovoltaic panels on all new roofs, which will provide electricity to run much of the infrastructure on the site, as well as returning power to the grid.

Phase 2

The construction of a 1080m² steel frame and brick-built office and main administration centre, which has been designed by MKA Architects. This main building will accommodate all accounts infrastructure, consignor and buyers' reception, IT, and meeting rooms.

Included in this phase is the design and construction of the main sales arena, which was designed by the English architects Darnton B3 from Leeds, who secured the planning permission for the overall development. The main auction arena will extend to over 2500m², with two main sales ramps and viewing auditorium, plus administration accommodation. The dual ramps will enable Euro Auctions to put more lots under the hammer during a sale day; thereby enabling greater volume of core equipment and machinery to be sold.

Says Jonnie Keys: "We have been on the site in Kellington, Leeds, since 2002 and in those years have built a reputation for providing quality machinery and equipment, whilst offering excellent service and attention to detail. Euro Auctions is extremely proud to unveil this new project and the next stage in the development of the business. It will really establish us as a global leader as well as having the best facility of its type anywhere in Europe."



An internal view.



An artist's impression of the new site.

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2011 Komatsu D61PX-15E0



2017 CAT 120M



2016 Hydrema 912F - choice



Unused Hyundai HL780-9



2012 JCB 2CX-12-4WS - choice



2016 Manitou MT625H



Unused Case SR150 - choice



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2015 Ausa D1000AP

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



AGGREGATES LEVY, BREXIT, LABOUR SHORTAGES AND SCHOOLS SUPPORT

Achieving sustainable economic growth and securing the best possible Brexit must be the priority for the whole of the UK. MPA submitted a very detailed submission to the Treasury ahead of the recent Budget Statement. A key priority for QPANI was to ensure the Chancellor did not place a retrospective increase on the Aggregates Levy.

The Levy has remained frozen at 2.00 per tonne since 2010. A significant increase of 20% to 30% would have a serious impact on the Northern Ireland quarry industry.

QPANI had been working through our own Members of Parliament, namely Sammy Wilson and Nigel Dodds of the DUP, to highlight the negative impacts any significant rise in the levy would create in Northern Ireland. We greatly appreciate the support and lobbying that both Sammy and Nigel have shown at Westminster on our industry's behalf.

Brussels Meeting

In early October I was part of a Northern Ireland Business Group that visited Brussels to meet Task Force 50 to discuss their version of the backstop and to have a technical conversation about what this means for businesses who trade throughout the UK, into the EU and internationally.

We had a good constructive conversation and TF50 were able to answer many of our questions. We left with some things to think about and challenged TF50 to look at certain areas.

We still await the UK's version of the backstop and we welcome the opportunity to engage with both the UK government and NI representatives on this. It is clear that No Deal is bad for NI businesses, consumers and future job creation.

We need to see a deal in place and we urge the negotiators on both sides to use the limited time ahead to reach a deal that works not only for the EU and the UK but critically for Northern Ireland. The EU has proposed a backstop that would mean NI staying in the customs union, large parts of the single market and the EU VAT system.

The UK government has rejected it as a threat to the integrity of the UK and has

suggested a backstop that would see the UK as a whole remaining aligned with the EU customs union for a limited time after 2020. There are reports the government is working on a so-called hybrid backstop which would see light touch regulatory checks on goods going between the Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Businesses and business representative groups who met were from agri-food, manufacturing, retail, construction, pharma, freight and services.

Labour Shortage

The main business organisations in Northern Ireland, including QPANI, recently wrote to the Prime Minister to outline serious and immediate concerns around the current availability of labour in the NI economy.

The number of EEA workers has fallen by 26% since the Brexit referendum adding further pressure to an already tight labour market. A combination of exchange rate movements and the uncertainty facing migrants to the UK has meant that fewer EEA workers are coming to Northern Ireland and more are leaving.

Many industry sectors are now facing severe labour shortages which are critically impacting upon businesses' ability to perform daily operations. Businesses in key industries across Northern Ireland's economy – from food processing and broader manufacturing, through to haulage and hospitality – are facing severe labour shortages today. This is before changes to immigration policy as a result of Brexit.

We believe Government should therefore bring forward immediate changes to immigration rules to allow these sectors to access the full range of labour and skills they need. The Group of NI Business sectors stand willing and able to play a constructive role in the creation of an immigration policy which has the flexibility to address the needs of Northern Ireland's economy.

The same group of business organisations recently met with both the DUP and Sinn Fein Leaderships to impress upon them the growing seriousness of labour shortages within NI.

More recently the Business Organisations have written to the Prime Minister again stating that in our opinion the

proposed NI Backstop is much more preferable to a NO Deal situation.

Construction Output

The 2018 quarter 2 Construction Statistics have been published by NISRA. The stats can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/economic-output-statistics/construction-output-statistics>.

The main headlines from the report are:

- The total volume of construction output in the second quarter of 2018 increased by 6.2% compared with Q1 2018 and was 2.5% lower compared to the same quarter in 2017. This latest increase brought the overall level of construction to a similar level to 2017.
- The increase in the overall output in Q2 2018 from the previous quarter was accounted for by a 20.3% increase in Repair and Maintenance and a 2.0% increase in New Work.
- In Q2 2018, there were increases in Housing (7.1%), Infrastructure (5.4%) and Other Work (1.6%), compared to the previous quarter.

Schools Support

The Association has written to 50 schools across Northern Ireland who are delivering the GCSE in Construction. We have offered support to teachers and students towards the delivery of the GCSE on Construction syllabus by:

1. Presentations on the responsible sourcing of construction materials, including health and safety and protecting biodiversity;
2. Site visits to extraction sites and construction material manufacturing sites;
3. Construction materials such as aggregates, concrete and asphalt technical information including coming to school and showing simple tests on aggregates, concrete and asphalt; and
4. Highlighting the many and varied career opportunities within the wide sector of construction.

The response to date has been excellent with almost 20 schools accepting our offer of support. We are arranging the presentations and site visit in partnership with a number of local QPANI Members in the locality of the schools.

Dennison JCB Lands Seven Machine Deal From Demenex

JCB's new Northern Ireland dealer Dennison JCB has delivered its first machines to a long-standing JCB customer which set up business 33 years ago with just a single 3CX backhoe loader.

Now a leading plant hirer and commercial property developer, Demenex – which boasts offices in Newry, Belfast, London, Birmingham and Glasgow – became the first fleet customer for the newly appointed dealer earlier this year with the purchase of seven new JCB models.

Demenex has bought two 15C-1 mini excavators and two 8026 mini excavators, 535-125 HiViz and 540-140 HiViz Loadall telescopic handlers and the new 3CX backhoe loader which mirrors the company's first ever purchase in 1985.

Director & Founder Peter McCamley said: "Since the inception of Demenex in 1985, we have always been a loyal fan of the JCB product. Our first item of plant was a JCB 3CX which I drove myself, while



my wife Carmel dealt with the enquires. By the end of 1985 we had already added four more JCB 3CX models to our fleet. Our business grew slowly and steadily thanks to strong foundations and a faithful JCB backhoe fleet which grew larger year on year.

"We chose JCB for these latest machines due to the product reliability, service, price, back-up and an excellent trading relationship with its

dealer network. All of the new equipment has performed flawlessly. That is typical of what we have come to expect from JCB and the reason we still retain JCB as the main brand in our fleet some 33 years later.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that JCB backhoe loaders were integral to our formation and have been to the success of our business. Without the

3CX, Demenex may never have come into existence.

"Our operators are passionate about the quality of work they provide and this is only possible by arming them with the best equipment available in the market place. Where time is money, the combination of high quality operators and excellent, reliable JCB equipment keeps our customers returning time and time again. Demenex strives on a daily basis to reflect what we see from JCB - where a high quality service comes as standard.

"We now look forward to working closely with Rob Ireland and his team at Dennison JCB. They have already provided great assistance and a service which has been second to none. In conjunction with JCB itself they delivered us a package that was just unbeatable."

Established in 1985, Demenex offers self-drive or operated equipment rental and commercial design and build property development services throughout the UK & Ireland. Its predominantly JCB fleet includes backhoe loaders, excavators, telescopic handlers, site dumpers, wheeled loading shovels, crushers, sweepers, lighting towers and access equipment.

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demolition

Upgraded Terex Trucks TA300 offers 5% fuel efficiency improvement

Terex Trucks has updated its TA300 articulated hauler with the introduction of a new and improved transmission.



The 28-tonne (30-ton) workhorse will now incorporate the latest EP320 transmission from ZF as standard. This results in a 5% improvement in fuel efficiency, as well as enhanced performance and productivity, when compared to the previous model working in the same application.

The new transmission comes with eight forward gears as well as four reverse gears, higher overall gear ratio spread, equal ratio steps between gears and optimized gear shifting with partial load shifts. All of this helps to ensure smoother gear shifting and thereby higher levels of operator comfort. The TA300 is also equipped with true independent front suspension as standard, further enhancing operator comfort and enabling excellent

traction control and maximum productivity in the most challenging of conditions.

In addition to this, the hauler's maximum speed has increased to 55 km/h (34 mph), up from 50 km/h (31 mph). As a result, customers can achieve faster cycle times and lower cost per tonne. Other operational features include automatic shifting with manual over-ride, a hydraulic integral retarder and a hydraulic power-shift longitudinal differential lock. Together, these help to ensure safe and productive operation, as well as reduced fuel and diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) consumption on job sites. The TA300 also now comes with long life transmission fluid, increasing the length of time between oil maintenance intervals from 1,000 to 4,000 hours.

Kobelco launches its smallest demolition machine

Following the introduction of the SK400DLC-10 and SK550DLC-10 in January 2018, Kobelco Construction Machinery Europe B.V. has launched the all-new SK350DLC-10 – the manufacturer's smallest machine designed exclusively for the demolition sector.

Despite its smaller size, the versatile new model incorporates many of the same features as the larger models, which are designed to aid the safe and quick assembly/disassembly of attachments and maintenance, easy transportation between projects and significant cost savings.

Kobelco has long been a market leader for demolition equipment in Japan and launched its first demolition machines to the European market earlier this year. Like the SK400DLC-10 and SK550DLC-10, the new SK350DLC-10 features the Kobelco-developed NEXT system. This is a common base machine

with dedicated attachments for both high elevation demolition work and breaking up foundations. The attachments can be easily changed on site.

The SK350DLC-10's NEXT ultra-high attachment is best suited to the demolition of multi-storey buildings from ground level – its ultra-long attachment configuration enables it to work to a maximum height of 21m (with the 6.1m arm) with a maximum tool weight of 2.6 tonnes. The machine's separate boom configuration is ideal for demolishing the lower floors of buildings where the concrete is at its thickest – the maximum working depth of the SK350DLC-10 is 6,320mm.

Demolition job sites provide challenging conditions for machinery so the SK350DLC-10's boom attachments are reinforced for increased durability, longevity and reduced structural fatigue. Their block structure also simplifies the assembly/disassembly process in order

to reduce downtime on site. The machine's attachments are connected by hooking the upper (backside) pin to the opposite pins on the lower side – the pressure release to pin fixing can be completed quickly and safely. All attachment joints have the hydraulic piping mounted to the side and adopt a multi-coupler system for easy access, and maintenance from ground level. This aids good health and safety working practices for workers.

Operator comfort and safety is always high on the agenda for Kobelco design so it is no surprise that the manufacturer has invested significantly in the SK350DLC-10's demolition-specification cabin. The cabin is compliant with level II FOPS and fitted with high strength security glass and radial grid guards across the front and top windows and can tilt up to 30-degrees so that the operator can maintain



a comfortable posture during high elevation demolition work.

It also incorporates a number of other important safety features including a cab interference prevention system, which sounds an alarm and prevents the machine from allowing the working tool to come into contact with the cab during operation. In addition, the working radius and stability of the machine is calculated from the position of the attachment and the operator is alerted when stability is compromised via the stability warning system. It is also equipped with rear view and right side cameras, a loudspeaker system, falling object deflector and bright LED lights for increased visibility on site.

Demolition Man Of The Year

Worsley Plant's Brian Carroll has been named 2018 Demolition Man of the Year by the National Federation of Demolition Contractors.

Said the NFDC: "Brian has given so much to the Federation, working tirelessly for Demo Expo 2017 to the benefit of both ISPs and Corporate Members. Brian was involved in all stages of the planning, set up and running of Demo Expo to ensure the event was the success it was. The NFDC

wished to acknowledge and celebrate this success by honouring Brian with the Demolition Man of the Year Award."

Added Worsley Plant MD Sean Heron: "For one of our team members to win such a prestigious award is fantastic. Brian fully deserves this great achievement. His knowledge of the industry is a great benefit for the company as it is one of the key industries in which we operate."

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view from the cab

A NEW LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION IN THE STRALIS X-WAY

To compete in the mixer market Iveco introduced the new slimline Stralis X-WAY designed for smooth handling while delivering maximum payload. Kevin Swallow gets behind the wheel to assess the new specification.

A year ago, Iveco introduced the Stralis X-WAY, heralded as 'the lightest in the construction sector', and now it has unveiled its even lighter mixer option; the Stralis X-WAY Super Loader (SL).

Offered with just the Cursor 9 engine that use selective gas recirculation (SCR) to achieve Euro-6 emission standards, it arrived ready for Plant & Civil Engineer with a SLX8 mixer barrel, which has an 8.0m³ capacity that takes it up to a tad over 19.0 tonnes payload.

For the UK sector, SL is available with four wheelbases (first to third axle); 4,750mm, 5,020mm, 5,600mm and 5,820mm. Choose the shortest wheelbase and the kerbweight is an impressive 8,833kg with no driver and full 290-litre diesel aluminium tank and 50-litre AdBlue plastic tank.

For this test Iveco has specified a 5,020mm wheelbase with an overall length of 9,448mm. With alloy wheels

taking off up to 165kg it brings the kerbweight for this chassis-cab down to 9,210kg, leaving 22,790kg for the bodywork, payload and driver.

The Iveco chassis is fitted with reinforced front stabilizer bar and two rear stabilizer bars. Typically, the steel suspension will have a two-leaf at the front and three-leaf at the rear. An option is a one-leaf optimised suspension on the front axles and two-leaf on the rear axles, which lowers kerbweight by up to 60kg.

Also helping to drop weight is the vertical exhaust stack behind the cab, rather than additional pipework on the chassis, and the use of disc brakes on the front and rear bogie. It's also worth noting that this truck came with the optional, heavier steel front bumper; plastic is standard.

The driveline for SL is the Cursor 9 8.7-litre, six-cylinder direct injection engine, the only option available, with four badged drivelines, listed with true horsepower and torque outputs:

- 310 (306hp/1,300Nm)
- 330 (326hp/1,400Nm)
- 360 (355hp/1,650Nm)
- 400 (394hp/1,700Nm)



STRALIS X-WAY PERFECT CROSSING



Photographs by
Tom Cunningham

Turning power into motion via the propshaft to the single-reduction drive bogie is the automated ZF 12-speed 1810 TD transmission with manual override, with gears ranging from 16.69 to 1:1 direct top. It is also fitted with a two-stage engine brake that delivers 891Nm at 3,000rpm.

Iveco has also turned to ZF to provide a permanently engaged PTO (power take off) that can deliver up to 2,450Nm. It is installed between the transmission and vehicle's engine, is driven directly from the engine shaft and features its own cooling circuit and oil sump.

Active Day Cab

For the SL option, Iveco only offer the AD (Active Day) short cab with low roof; little space and minimal storage. Overall the cab is 3,060mm high, with a 1,490mm cab floor height and 360mm engine tunnel. Internal cab height is 1,210mm upwards from the engine tunnel, and from the windscreen to the backwall its 1,660mm. There're three fixed steps into the cab, which is the ON Step option.

For greater visibility, there is a rear window to allow the driver to see



back towards the barrel and down onto the nearside of the vehicle.

Transmission is set into the dashboard to the left with D (drive), N (neutral) and R (reverse). Positioned on the top right of the central dashboard that houses the speed and revs is SL, which is not a misplaced logo but the 'speed limiter'. Press it once and a small visual on the top left of the dash indicates the selected limited speed.

On the right stalk off the steering column is the cruise control with a rocker switch on its end that sets the cruise control speed and changes the set speeds up and down, one kilometre at a time. Press D, release the hand brake (Iveco has retained a traditional lever) and away you go.

These days more operators are going for 394hp at 32 tonnes gross vehicle weight, and rightly so. This engine is a proven entity and it continues to impress. Torque kicks in properly from 1,200rpm, and with a 3.40:1 final axle drive ratio it just allows you to drop into top gear at 40mph on the flat. Any incline and it'll change down to cope. At 50mph it sits at a tad below 1,400rpm that'll ensure maximum fuel economy.

The test route took in East Yorkshire. From the Humber Bridge the route went north via Beverley, then west to Market Weighton and York, south east to Howden and finally back eastwards to the Humber Bridge.

Fitted with only an engine brake, it works impressively at 3,000rpm slowing the vehicle enough before introducing the disc brakes to bring the truck to a halt over the last 20 yards.

With a little time to reflect on the test, it is fair to say that Iveco has certainly delivered the on-road characteristics associated with XP and long-haul; it's very comfortable and easy to drive.

Closer analysis of the mixer specification suggests Iveco's claim to be the lightest is a little overstated, however, X-WAY is a new vehicle and it's now competing on equal terms within the concrete sector, which is no small achievement.

To become a lightweight champion in the lightweight construction market you must first be taken seriously as a contender, and in that respect, Iveco has already been successful.



INSTITUTE OF QUARRYING CELEBRATE AT STONE CRUSHERS BALL 2018



Sinead Francis, John Francis, Caroline Kirwan, Pierce Kirwan & Brendan & Jo Morris.



John Francis (IMQS President) & Roy Wallace (IOQ President).



Guests enjoying the night.



Helen Beggs & Sam Eccles.



Peter Ray & Joanna Pearson.



Gordon Best (QPANI), Bill Allen, Laura Allen & Roy Wallace.



John, Angie Moore, Sam Eccles, Eileen & David Johnston



Willie McNabb and Guests.



Stuart Wickie, Roy Wallace & Stephen Robinson.



Frazer Wallace, Roy & Janice Wallace.



Colin Emerson, Beverley Emerson, Jill Grudgings & Clive Grudgings.



Golda Burrows, Etaine McQuillan, Johnny McQuillan & Helen Beggs.



John Francis.



Gordon Best.



Same Eccles.



Roy Wallace.



Kate Quinn, Niall Quinn, Romona Savage & Paul Savage.



Eileen McNally, Art McNally, Willie McNabb, Etaine McQuillan & Johnny McQuillan.

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DRONE MAPPING STREAMLINES SURVEYS FOR MINERALS PRODUCTION OPERATIONS

Drones, otherwise known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems, (UAV or UAS) are beginning to have a profound effect on mining and quarrying.

When you consider drone mapping, what do you tend to focus on? Many people we've spoken with tend to concentrate on the drone itself. Don't get us wrong, its essential, but there is so much more to drone mapping than just the hardware.

Most articles focus on the drone equipment, flight licencing and permissions, operations and processing. Here, we are only going to discuss the uses and benefits of having your production operation mapped regularly using drone technology.

Survey companies are shaping change by applying UAVs to solve challenges in the industry: better planning, blast optimization, improved safety, faster surveying, and acquisition of the most comprehensive and continuous project datasets.

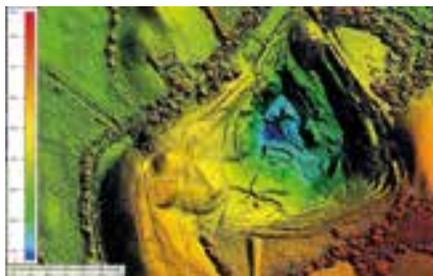
Foot traffic is increasingly prohibited or is ill-advised in many parts of a quarry. Obtaining traditional measurements with a total station or GPS can be problematic. UAV aerial photography and remote sensing allow us to capture all that information without putting someone in harm's way.

Aerial photogrammetry has been around for as long as the airplane. For mining and quarrying though, a manned aircraft was too expensive and too inconvenient for regular airborne photogrammetry. Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) are a natural fit for surface extraction and the advent of the lithium polymer battery has transformed development of airborne photogrammetry.

Data can now be captured in near real time from areas that may otherwise be inaccessible or unsafe for staff. The output from these surveys give operators much more information than traditional means allowing companies to use one survey of their site for many applications that the traditional means would not cover, resulting in significant time and cost savings.

The data can be used to illustrate quarrying or construction progress, and with regular scheduled flights, stock levels can be monitored and assessed to produce accurate production figures. All this up to date information can be used to inform management and streamline operations.

Five years ago, UAV survey costs were relatively high. Today, costs are comparable with, if not cheaper than traditional topographic survey methods,



and very much faster. For example, in August 2018 we had one surveyor travel 200 miles round trip by car, visit and fly two large sites – an operational mineral extraction site and its associated factory processing site, some 6 miles away from the quarry. The following day we delivered orthophotography, stock volumes and working reserve volumes. This would have taken at least a week using traditional methods to generate a far less detailed data set.

The Orthophoto

The primary drone output is an up to date full colour ortho photo of your site. That is, a high resolution, scalable 'photo-map' of the site, created by combining all the aerial photography into one blended seamless mosaic, corrected to a true vertical view, allowing accurate plan measurement from the orthophoto, in just the same way as one would measure from a standard topographic survey drawing.

This can be used for daily operations planning and form the basis for discussing work with site supervisors, foremen etc. A picture speaks a thousand words. A laminated A1 copy can be mounted on the wall and used with 'white board' pens to mark-up blasts, production and strip areas etc.

From one survey, blast fragmentation, stockpile volumes, or any other extraction-related activity data can be captured quickly and safely. Where traditionally a survey would have had to be carried out for each of these aspects, now drone surveys can cover all these in one flight.

A single survey can be used for, and not limited to:

- Identifying minerals
- Planning applications for quarrying / quarry extensions / deepening
- Calculation of pre and post strip volumes
- Archaeological monitoring of stripping
- Design and installation of new plant and service roads

- Monitoring of stockpile volumes
- Land ownership and access rights assessment
- Waste management plans
- Design and implementation of restoration plans
- Quarry and tip design
- Geotechnical assessment
- Surface water assessment

The Digital Surface Model

In addition to the orthophoto, the photography is processed to generate a precise 3D point cloud. The digital surface model (DSM) from a conservation standpoint can be a very powerful tool to plan or demonstrate designs in their working environment with isometric views and site fly throughs. Designs can be superimposed onto the data representing the present to allow fully integrated 3D visuals of proposed designs merged with the current site. Designs can be far more accurately priced given the increased detail available with respect to volumes and dimensions.

Using the 3D model of the site, health and safety issues such as substandard access roads or hazardous working areas can be identified. Loading locations and working zones can now be easily designed. Applying the visual element of the data, potential issues can be seen and mitigation quickly planned and implemented. Also, traditional acquisition methods could often be hazardous with survey personnel accessing edges of lagoons or quarry face crests and toes. Using a UAV the pilot can operate at the take-off and landing location in a safe location within or even outside the site area.

In conclusion, standard topographic survey in this sector is now outdated and expensive. The application of drone technology is rapidly becoming the safest and most cost-effective method for quarry mapping. The datasets produced have many more applications than the traditional CAD models that would have been the industry standard 5 years ago. In the future, applications can only grow to be more accurate and easier to use, reducing operational costs and streamlining production operations.

Footnote: Six West is a local multidisciplinary consultancy providing a full in-house range of surveying, planning and valuation services to the quarrying industry. Managing Director, Paul McCabe, has worked in the Irish minerals industry for over forty years.

CLOSE BROTHERS OFFER FINANCE SOLUTIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

At Close Brothers Commercial Finance, we understand that there are challenges facing the construction sector. Extensive work with building, demolition and related businesses has given our experts an insight into the pressures and opportunities facing the industry.

With the changes and rising costs associated with Brexit looming, it is unsurprising that some company owners are being cautious. However, thanks to the Irish government's commitment to investment in infrastructure, the outlook for the sector remains positive. For many firms, strategies must therefore focus on how to balance change whilst taking advantage of new prospects related to nation-wide construction projects.

That's where Close Brothers can help. Our invoice and asset finance solutions are often a good fit for businesses looking to capitalise on opportunities created by change, investment and growth. Releasing capital from existing assets offers a sustainable way to support expansion without the instability associated with traditional borrowing.

Refinancing, for example, often lends itself particularly well to the construction sector. This funding gives you fast access to cash tied up in essential equipment, such as cranes, backhoes and loaders.

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IMQS President John Francis and family.



John Francis (President IMQS) addressing the audience.



Seán Canney, (Minster of Natural Rescues and Communities affairs).



Compere Brendan Morris.



Heather & Les Sanderson, Elizabeth Murphy, Stephen Walsh & Robert McNulty.



Garfield Harrison, Sean Findlay, Brendan & Jo Morris.



John & Sinead Francis.



John Francis (President IMQS) & Roy Wallace (President of Institute Of Quarrying NI).



Stephen Walsh & Siobhan Tinnelly.



Keon Verbruggen, Eibhlin Doyle & Brendan Morris.



Winner of the IMQS Golf Meters Gordon Best (centre) Brendan Morris & Jason Hopps.



Roy Wallace (President of Institute Of Quarrying NI).



Heather Sanderson with Eileen Johnston & David Johnston.



Brendan Morris with the Overall Winning Team Garfield Harrison, Phil Eaglestone, Ciaran McCreanor & Gordon Best. Prizes presented by John Francis (President IMQS)

view from the cab

WENTVALLEY TAKES DELIVERY OF R 976 FROM LIEBHERR

Yorkshire-based quarrying and recycling specialist Wentvalley Aggregates & Recycling Ltd has taken delivery of a new R 976 crawler excavator from Liebherr to feed its 90 tonne jaw crusher and maintain the quarry's high production rates.

Quarrying and recycling specialist Wentvalley Aggregates & Recycling Ltd owns and operates a state-of-the-art recycling facility within the grounds of a yellow limestone quarry in West Yorkshire where recycled material is sold alongside virgin material removed from the quarry.

The operation, which has been going for over eight years, is owned and run by Russell Meakin and currently produces in excess of one million tonnes of mixed material per year.

There has been significant investment in upgrading plant and equipment to deliver a constant flow of material and when the company invested in a 90 tonne Giporec R170FDR jaw crusher, an equivalently substantial machine was needed to load it in order to maintain the high production rates required at the quarry.

Having successfully used a Liebherr R 974 excavator for almost a decade, Wentvalley decided to purchase the 80 tonne excavator's replacement model and has recently taken delivery of a new R 976. 'We looked at other manufacturers but have had a good relationship with Liebherr,' said Russell.

Regular operator of the Liebherr, Rob Netherwood, has been operating excavators for over 40 years and praises the Liebherr product: 'I have been on a number of Liebherr excavators over the years, starting with an R 932, and when they are set up right they are by far the best diggers out there. We need a large excavator on site to keep up with the crusher. Anything smaller than this would really struggle.'

Fitted with a 5.5 m³ direct mount bucket, the R 976 has been supplied with a 7.2 m mono boom and 3.3 m dipper, which is designed to give a combination of excellent breakout force and reach to load the crusher's hopper. Rob is able to reach enough material to keep the crusher operating for about half a shift, working on a 3 - 3.5 m high bench of blasted material.



The combination of a 14.1 tonne counterweight and a heavy-duty 3.5 m wide undercarriage ensures the excavator remains totally stable even at full reach with almost 10 tonnes of material in the fully outstretched bucket, which is a larger capacity version than on the older machine. Once the pile of blasted material has been exhausted, the team can quickly reposition the feeder conveyor, crusher and excavator to the next bench where operations are resumed for the remainder of the shift.

600 mm double grouser shoes give the excavator ample traction to get up onto the loose material and the large, heavy-duty galvanised access ladders mounted to the track frames have been designed to deflect errant rocks. Combined with a sturdy handrail and access catwalk, the climb to the cab is quite easy and Rob is generally pleased with the upgrade on the Liebherr cabin compared to the older R 974.

Power to the excavator comes from Liebherr's own 16 litre V8 engine, which delivers 544 HP at 1800 RPM.

view from the cab

"I have been on a number of Liebherr excavators over the years, starting with an R 932, and when they are set up right they are by far the best diggers out there. We need a large excavator on site to keep up with the crusher. Anything smaller than this would really struggle"

Rob Netherwood



An AdBlue SCR system brings the engine up to Tier 4f exhaust emission standards with the machine claiming to be more fuel efficient than its predecessor. However, for Wentvalley production is the most important thing: 'We need to get the material out of the gate and to do that we need to put it through the crusher and the Liebherr helps us achieve that,' Rob said.

An impressive ground level reach of almost 13 m means Rob can clean a large area of blasted material around the excavator before it needs repositioning and a load over height of more than 8 m enables the R 976 to work on the quarry floor when from time to time it is called on to rip out areas of it to expose suitable material. 'Without the weight and power of this machine, we wouldn't be able to do this job,' said Rob, who was also keen to mention Liebherr's service provision: 'The older machine was looked after by the Wigan depot and the backup we have had from them was exceptional. We are hoping for more of the same from the Sheffield branch, as and when we need it.'



Rob Netherwood

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Operator Sean McGarry with new Komatsu WA470-8 recently sold to Creagh Concrete by WAC McCandless.



New Yanmar VIO27 recently supplied to GDW Contracts By Crumlin Plant Sales.



Young Eoghan Dynes with his dad Kevin and driver Dessie Coulter taking delivery of new Manitou MT1335.



New Komatsu PC210-11 Super Long Reach sold to Quinn Quarries by WAC McCandless.



New Terex Ecotec TDS820 Shredder recently delivered to River Ridge from McHale Plant sales Ltd.



A new Giant V5003 Xtra for SMC from Ballyward Plant Services.



One of 2 New Komatsu D65PX-18 Bulldozers sold to Kilsaran by McHale Plant Sales Ltd.



New Wacker Neuson Dpu 2550 plate compactor recently delivered to Carey Plant Hire, Mayo..



New Komatsu WA270-8 recently delivered to Country Clean Recycling by McHale Plant Sales.



Hitachi ZX26U-5 - PL Contracts, Buncrana sold by TBF Construction Machinery Dublin..



SK210LC-10 delivered to Watson Plant Hire, Co. Dublin by McSharry Bros.



New Takeuchi TB230 being delivered to P Devlin Armagh by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



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2 New Messesi H. tip dumpers sold to Plantmaster By Crumlin Plant Sales.



2 of 3 Hitachi ZX48U-5 - Shannon Valley, Donabate sold by TBF Construction Machinery Dublin.



James and William McAleer check out McAleerContracts, Co. Tyrone new SK230SRLC-5 at McSharry Bros's yard in Roscommon.



Joe O'Brien, O'Brien Contracts Ltd., Sheroock, Co. Cavan with their new SK85MSR from McSharry Bros.



SK180LC-10 delivered to Michael O'Donovan Agri Contracting Ltd., Glenville, Co. Cork by McSharry Bros.



Hammer Fx 2000 we recently sold to Mc Sweeney Bros, Mid Cork Quarries.



3 x Takeuchi TB230 sold to IRCO Hire in Athlone by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



New Case SR130 Skidsteer supplied by Cowan Bros to Andrew Dalzell, Killylea, Armagh.



A new Giant SK201D for Gasgoine Garden & Tree Services from Ballyward plant Service.



Aaron Samuel, Samuel Contracts new Hyundai HX145LCR.



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Hitachi ZX26U-5 - Garden Escapes (Ireland) Ltd, Ballynahinch sold by TBF Thompson (Garvagh) Ltd.



Ollie Hickey with his son Luke and their new SK26SR-6 cw okada400 breaker from McSharry Bros.



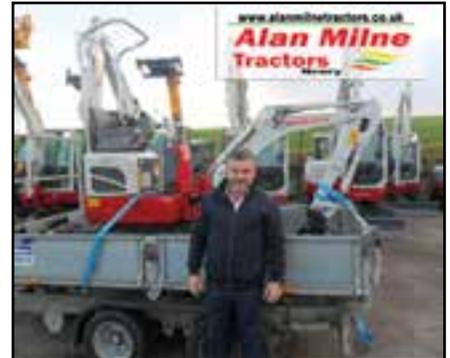
Ausa 1 1/2 ton swivel tip dumper delivered to Bann Hire By Crumlin Plant Sales.



Ronan Murtagh with his new Manitou MT1335 and driver Gregory Plata.



New Komatsu 931XC Harvester sold to Willie O Dwyer by McHale Plant Sales Ltd.



Mr Eoin O'Toole from Bray collecting his new Takeuchi TB210 at Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



New Komatsu WA320-7 Wheel Loader sold to Brehony Peat Products by McHale Plant Sales Ltd.



New Komatsu PC26MR-3 sold to PPO Hire by WAC McCandless.



Ralph & Sam Burrows with their new Hyundai HX140L sold by N.Lift Trucks.



Bomag BW90SC-5 - John Scott Contracts, Toomebridge sold by TBF Thompson (Garvagh) Ltd.



New Dieci 17m Icarus 40.17 sold to Irish Salt Mining in Carrickfergus by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



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2 stelco hammers sold to Markey Drilling by NI Hoses.



Pictured in machine Geoff looking on James Jim & Stephen from Boland Reilly Homes .



Steven beers new tigergrip grapple Recently purchased from NI hoses.



New Case CX130D supplied by Cowan Bros to Kevin Farry (Tree Surgery Ireland).



new Hammer SB 150 recently delivered to Charleville Plant Hire, Cork.



New Case 721G XR supplied by Cowan Bros to Greenacre Composting, Crumlin.



A new Giant V5003 for Ryan Rogan Contracts from Ballyward Plant Services.



Demoter hammer S65 sold to Paul & Andrew Adair , her with W Jonston and Maurice McCrea sale manager of Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



A new Hydrema 912F for PC Plant from Ballyward Plant Services.



C & J Small with their new Giant D263SW from Ballyward Plant Services.



New Ammann APR5920 forward reverse plate Sold to COD Plant & Civil Eng. By Crumlin Plant Sales.



A big thanks to John on the recent purchase of these four new Generac V20 Lighting Towers.

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A new Giant D254SW Tele for Reel Tech , from Ballyward Plant Services.



John of John & David Hanna, Killeel with the new Takeuchi TB210 collected from Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



New Case CX145D supplied by Cowan Bros to Armoys Homes, Ballymoney.



New Case CX130D supplied by Cowan Bros to James Kennedy, Muckamore, Antrim.



New Epiroc MB1500 sold to Meehan Homes by WAC McCandless.



1of 2 New Komatsu PC210LCI-11 Intelligent Machines sold to Priority Construction from McHale Plant Sales Ltd.



New Case CX145D supplied by Cowan Bros to AG Wilson, Portadown.



New Dieci Agri Pivot T70 delivered to West Waterford Agri sales Ltd in Tallow by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



Hitachi ZX33U-5 - Oliver Casey Plant Hire, Mallow sold by TBF Construction Machinery Dublin.



New Case SR210 Skid steer supplied by Cowan Bros to F P McCann..

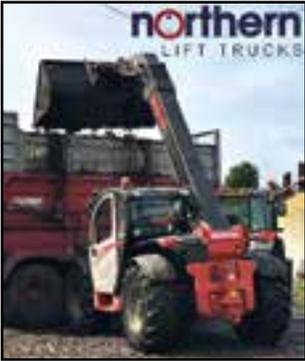


New Takeuchi TB225 delivered to DPLP P. Dunne in Kilmear, Naas by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.



Dieci 17m sold to Re Gen Waste Newry by Alan Milne Tractors Newry.

PLANT SALES: Justin Carrigan T: 028 9268 8888 E: justin@4squaremedia.net



Churchview Farm, Dungannon putting their new Manitou MLT 630 to work straight away .



New Komatsu PC210LC-11 recently collected by KC Civil from McHale Plant Sales Ltd.



Steven beers new grapple from Ni hoses.



New Yanmar SV26 C/W Hydraulic thumb sold to AWT Home Improvements By Crumlin Plant Sales.



Second Deere Icarus 40.17 delivered to Gem Contractions in Dublin from Alan mlne Tractors Newry.



New Epiroc SB102 sold to Loftus Construction by WAC McCandless.



New Case CX30C supplied by Cowan Bros to Sean McBride, Armagh.



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