FINLAND

**Finnish light rail contract**

The contract to build the Jokioinen Light Rail line in Finland has been awarded to the joint venture partnership of NRC Group Finland and YII.

The railway is set to connect Jokioinen in the country’s capital, Helsinki, with Kotaniemi in the country’s second-largest city, Espoo.

The build contract is valued at around €220 million (US$246 million), more than half of the project’s total value of €366 million (US$428 million).

The first work phases include the implementation of temporary traffic arrangements, soil cutting and cable and line trenches.

Work will start on the line this year, with completion scheduled for 2024.

The project was approved in the light of growing transportation concerns, with two million residents expected to be living in the greater Helsinki region by 2050.

Hari Tanaka, director of public works for Jopus, said: “Jokioinen Light Rail is a profitable project for the cities, especially in view of the land-use benefit that the new railway connections offer. The light railway will make the area more attractive for residential and commercial purposes, as well as enable denser urban construction along sustainable transport connections.”

**GLOBAL**

**Strong growth for earthmoving equipment**

Worldwide sales of earthmoving machinery in 2018 accelerated sharply, achieving growth of 23% according to data produced by Pr macula for SaMoTer. This increase means that sales of earthmoving equipment exceeded one million units.

The second result in 2018 was said to be driven by several factors, including investments in construction on a global scale in excess of US$879 billion.

In most parts of the world the market posted double-digit growth, attaining new historical peaks in US (+36%), India (+48%), China (+39%) and the rest of the world (+20%).

North America and China were the driving forces behind almost two-thirds of overall growth, with a combined market share of 50% followed by Western Europe (18%) and India (9%).

Western Europe had a growth rate of just 3% with 182,000 machines sold. The market leader for sales was Germany (23%), closely followed by the United Kingdom (22%).

Italy ranked fourth, with a market share of 39%.

The earthmoving machinery market in 2018 was said to be characterized by sustained and widespread growth for all types of equipment. For example, truck-mounted excavators saw growth of +20% and other sectors performed well: mini excavators (+47%), wheel loaders (+39%) and compact mini loaders (+47%).

**US**

**US plan for infrastructure**

US President Donald Trump and leaders of the Democratic political party have agreed to spend US$2 trillion on infrastructure such as roads, highways, bridges, air travel and internet connectivity in the country.

However, it was not agreed how the infrastructure investments would be paid for.

Substantial infrastructure investment is required in the US, with the American Society of Civil Engineers estimating that the country needs to spend close to US$5 trillion by 2025 to just cover basic infrastructure needs.

Stephen E. Sandherr, chief executive officer of the Associated General Contractors of America, said: “The fact the President Trump and Democratic Congressional leaders agree to enact a much-needed infrastructure measure underscores just how vital these investments are to the country’s continued prosperity and global competitiveness.

“Congress and the administration need to act quickly to convert this bipartisan agreement into a comprehensive infrastructure measure that will fund significant upgrades to our aging and overburdened infrastructure.”

In February of 2018 the White House released a legislative outline which they proposed that US$200 billion from the federal government would be spent on roads, ports, airports and highways. The document stated that this would stimulate another US$3 trillion from US States and the private sector. However, nothing came of the proposal.

**WORLD NEWS**

**EVENTS DIARY**

**PlantWorx 2019**

June 11-13, 2019
Pinecrook, UK
www.plantworx.co.uk

**International Tower Cranes**

June 16-18, 2019
Venice, Austria
www.int-lc.com

**AHK CA**

September 12, 2019
San Diego, US
www.ahk-ca.com

**Dieded Progress Summit**

September 30, 2019
Kentucky, US
www.diededprogresssummit.com

**ICURE The Demon Expo**

October 1-3, 2019
Kentucky, US
www.icure.com

**ConExpo Latin America**

October 2-5, 2019
Santiago, Chile
www.conexpoamerica.com

**International Rental Conference (IRC)**

October 22, 2019
Shanghai, China
www.irc-cn.com

**World of Rail Summit**

October 23-24, 2019
Dublin, US
www.worldofrailsummit.com

**APEX Asia 2019**

October 23-30, 2019
Shanghai, China
www.apexasiaonline.com

**World Crane and Transport Summit**

November 10-14, 2019
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.wcct.nl

**EXCON**

December 10-14, 2019
Bangalore, India
www.excon.in