Sandvik Construction not at bauma 2016

Sandvik Construction will not be exhibiting at bauma, Munich in April 2016. In a statement, the Swedish-headquartered crushing and screening equipment manufacturing giant’s president, Dinggui Gao, said, “The reason for this decision is due to our continuing strategy of focusing on the real needs and requirements of our customers. This will be reflected in more locally oriented activities which will bring us closer to the local needs of our customers, wherever they operate in the world.” In the statement, Gao added that a series of activities had already been planned in 2016 which reflected the company’s customer focus. The activities include participation at major regional events, including Hillhead in the UK, which, said Gao, will enable Sandvik Construction to “develop customer relations to a more tightly controlled audience”. He added: “Events such as these are also well suited for displaying and promoting our aftermarket solutions, which serve as enablers of business growth.”

Gao said that new Europe-based product launch events will be arranged later in 2016 in order for the firm to share its latest offerings and knowledge, while also further develop its customer relations. “As a part of our communications strategy of Customer Focus, we plan to run more of our own Customer Events where we have a 1-day and 3-day concept developed,” he said. A Mobiles Distributor conference will be held in January 2016, representing what Sandvik Construction’s president said will be an “important meeting with our partners”.

Gao concluded his statement: “As outlined above, we have many customer focused activities now planned which we believe will deliver greater benefit.”

Breeden to acquire Hope CM

Breeden has entered into a conditional agreement with Cortina Investments to acquire Hope Construction Materials Limited for £336 million (£480 million). The combination of Breeden and Hope will create the UK’s leading independent producer of cement, concrete and aggregates and a vertically-integrated building materials group. The acquisition is conditional upon the approval of the UK Competition and Markets Authority and is expected to complete in Q2 2016. The acquisition is consistent with Breeden’s strategy of organic growth combined with the continuing consolidation of the smaller end of the UK heavyduty building materials industry. Breeden has agreed definitive terms to acquire Hope for £336 million on a cash- and debt-free basis.

Hope is a leading independent construction materials supplier in the UK with a national footprint of over 160 operational sites, including the Hope cement works in County Durham, England; five quarries and 152 concrete plants. The enlarged group will have more than 319 operational sites, including a cement plant; 58 quarries; 26 asphalt plants; 214 ready-mixed concrete and mortar plants; three concrete block plants; nine depots and wharves; eight regional contract surfacing operations; and one traffic management services company. Hope Construction Materials was launched as a new company on 1 January, 2013, and at that time was owned by Mittal Investments.

ITALIAN CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT MARKET UP 33% Q1-Q3 2015

Italian market sales of construction equipment were up 33% to 5,945 units in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the same period of 2014. The Unacea analysed data compiled by the National Institute for Statistics (ISTAT) and processed by Prometeca breaks down the overall equipment sales as follows: earthmoving machines (+30%), and 241 road machines (+217%). The same data report reveals exports of Italian produced construction equipment grew (+8%), with tower cranes proving most in demand (+24%), followed by road machines (+16%), drilling equipment (+12%), earthmoving machines (+8%), and crushing and screening equipment (+9%). The export of concrete equipment is said to remain stable. Italian imports of construction equipment also grew in the analysed period - up 27%.

“The result of the third quarter confirms the recovery trend of the Italian market,” says Paolo Venturi, president of Unacea. “However, it is a growth that starts from a very low basis, because of the drop of the market up to 86% between 2008 and 2013. The scenario is very fragile because we see a limited physiologic replacement of some machines really outdated. To stabilise these positive signs and to meet national pressures, Unacea calls for a plan of action to secure the territory against the dangers of flooding.”

Meanwhile, figures released by SamoTer-Veronafiere in the run up to Samoter 2017 in Verona (22-25 February 2017) show €617,162,420 worth of Italian earthmoving machinery exports from Jan-June 2015 - up 7% on the same period of 2014, and €265,193,833 worth of aggregate preparation machinery - up 1% on Jan-June 2014.