German demolition bonanza

Close to half of the road and rail bridges in Germany will need to be demolished in the next 15 years, a former state minister has told the country’s major gathering of demolition contractors.

In a keynote speech at the German Demolition Association’s annual conference in Berlin, Michael Groschek – leader of the Social Democratic Party in North-Rhine Westphalia – said the demolitions were an essential part of the nation’s wider construction programmes.

“There are billions of Euros available to pump prime construction,” said Groschek. “We haven’t done enough. In the past few years, we need to accelerate this process. Around 40% of large bridges have to be demolished in the next 10 to 15 years and have to be replaced. Can you imagine the impact of the construction programme on infrastructure? There are 1.5 million new apartments being built. There will be new public buildings, day care centres, schools.”

He told the conference: “It’s your industry that makes new for all this with streamlining and demolition, with planning and modern equipment. Your association worked quickly to point out that staff need to be qualified and to have professional development to increase their skills.

“Demolition is going to be a good business for you.”

The presentatie also focused on recent positive figures announced by German trade association VDMA, with construction equipment turnover up 15% year-on-year and big increases in entertaining and building equipment as well as road construction machinery.

New slot for Samoter show

Samoter, the Italian trade fair next due to be held in 2020, will be at the end of March, rather than the February slot it used in 2017.

Also, it is switching to a Sunday to Wednesday format, 22 to 25 March – with an invitation-only preview on Saturday 21 March exclusively for the trade press and top customers from the exhibiting companies.

It will be the 31st edition of Samoter and will be held again at the Verona Exhibition Centre.

It claims to be the most important event of its kind in Italy for a sector that, according to the latest data made available by the Samoter-FiereVerona association, achieved experts of more than €2 billion in the first 11 months of 2017.

The organiser said that in addition to the exhibition and business area, which attracted 450 companies in 2017 – 25% of them international – there was a strong focus on technological innovation, contents and in-depth training for operators.

Samoter 2020 will again run alongside the AlpAlessio show which is dedicated to the asphalt and road infrastructure supply chain, organised with Sito (the Italian Road Airport Transport Association).

Strategic partnerships held with CECCE (the Committee for European Construction Equipment) and Univea (Italian Union of Construction Equipment Attachments Companies) have been renewed.

Also, the Samoter Outsiders will again be monitoring sector data, and will be produced in conjunction with the Frelmata consultancy, with Information from UNCE.

The Level consortium has been awarded a €650 million contract to strengthen flood defences along the 31-km-long Abdulliko in the Netherlands.

Rijkswaterstaat – part of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure & the Environment – selected the Level consortium, which comprises Van Oord Aberdeen Infrastructure Partners, with a 46% stake, Iam 999 Infrastructure Colombia, also with a 46% stake, and Babcock, with an 8% stake.

The contract is for the design, construction and financing of the project, as well as 25 years of maintenance work. The Abdulliko is one of the largest parts of the Netherlands, prone to flooding since 1932 and in need of refurbishment. Once reinforced, it is expected that the Abdulliko would be able to withstand a storm that occurs once in every 10,000 years.