

NEWS

Central Europe growth is forecast for 2017

Research data from PMR predicts that construction market in Central Europe will be speeding up in 2017

Central European construction market growth will speed up in 2017, with fresh funding from the European Union (EU) during a new funding period expected to be the key driver behind the Central European construction growth from 2017.

This forecast comes from research firm PMR, which said for Poland, despite the fact that civil engineering construction had seen a weak start to the year, it expected that 2016, as a whole, would see a continued rise in output – mostly on the back of an upturn in road construction and power construction.

A new EU funding programme is expected to give Czech road construction a fresh impetus. However, PMR reported that state funding for road construction for 2016 had fallen, and this was jeopardising a number of planned road construction projects.

After six years of decline, 2015 brought 20% recovery for the Slovak construction industry, according to PMR. However, it forecast that the Slovak engineering market would undergo a double-figure reduction in 2016 – mostly because of the shift between the old and new EU budgets, and the very high comparative base.

After a weaker 2016 – also marking the change between the old and new EU budget – Hungarian civil engineering construction was predicted to grow from 2017 onwards, but the rate of growth was expected to slow in comparison with 2013 to 2014.

For Romania, the absorption rate for 2007 to 2013 funds from the EU has improved from 15% at the end of 2012 to 66% in 2016, said PMR. This encouraging trend was expected to accelerate in the 2014 to 2020 programming period, it added, mostly because of diminishing corruption and more investment-focused programmes of Romanian politicians.

PMR predicted that a strong influx of EU funds from the 2014 to 2020 budget, along with an improvement in the absorption rate, would increase public investment in Bulgaria. **ce**

Samoter signs agreement

A co-operation agreement has been signed between Italian trade fair Samoter and Federcostruzioni, the federation of major associations representing Italian building.

Meanwhile, the deadline for exhibitors to benefit from discounted rates for the next Samoter exhibition is 10 June.

The fair will be held in Verona from 22 to 25 February, 2017, alongside Asphaltica and Transpotec Logitec.

The agreement between Federcostruzioni and Veronafiore, organiser of Samoter, is aimed at supporting growth in the Italian construction sector.

The Federation, part

of Confindustria (the General Confederation of Italian Industry), claims to bring together the main production categories in the construction sector.

The objective of the partnership was said to be to develop promotional and training initiatives to support a system that was worth more than €400 billion and employed 2.6 million people in Italy.

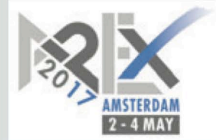
Part of the run up to the show will include Samoter Day on 16 June.

Held at the Veronafiore Congress Centre, it is described as a day dedicated to the world of construction equipment, and an opportunity to take stock of the construction machinery market in Italy and abroad ahead of the 30th edition of Samoter. **ce**



Maurizio Danese, president of Veronafiore (left), and Rudy Girardi, president of Federcostruzioni

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Amsterdam hosts APEX show again

The aerial platform exhibition APEX returns to the Amsterdam RAI exhibition centre in 2017 for its ninth edition, and is already 85% sold out almost a year in advance.

Many of the industry's big name manufacturers have confirmed their participation in the show, and the organisers are expecting the event to match the previous show in Amsterdam in June 2014 when more than 100 companies exhibited.

APEX 2017 takes place on 2 to 4 May, 2017, and will again be sponsored by CE sister-publication *Access International* magazine, and supported by the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF).

The show will benefit from being co-located with the International Rental Exhibition (IRE) and the European Rental Association's annual convention, which will ensure the presence of Europe's largest equipment rental companies.

"APEX 2017 is shaping up to be a fantastic exhibition for the access industry," said Tony Kenter, managing director of show organiser Industrial Promotions International (IPI).

"APEX is dedicated to access equipment and remains the best place for equipment buyers to see all the latest products, conveniently, under one roof. There is also evidence that Europe's rental companies are entering a period of fleet re-investment, which makes the timing of the exhibition very good."

Visitors to APEX will again see a wide variety of equipment, including self-propelled machines, vehicle-mounted platforms, hoists and mast climbers, low-level platforms and access towers.

In addition there will be used equipment

specialists, rental software companies and other suppliers of ancillary products and services.

For more information on the show, see www.apexshow.com, or scan the QR code (left).



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