AUSTRALIA
Light rail project

An Acciona joint venture has agreed to build a 12 km light rail route in Sydney, Australia, worth AUS$2.1 billion (US$1.5 billion).

The project, which aims to help with the reduction of congestion, comprises a 12 km track, 19 stops, a bridge over the Eastern Distributor toll road, a tunnel under Moore Park, Connect Centre facilities, housing for the light rail vehicles, a maintenance depot, and subtractions with other service buildings along the route.

The new light rail network will carry up to 15% more passengers during peak hour and provide 33% more seats across the day.

The joint venture, Altabs Light Rail, includes Acciona, Transdev Sydney, Atomix Transport Australia and Capella Capital.

Construction will begin in April this year, with services expected to start operating in early 2019. The new light rail network is expected to provide more than AUS$ 4 billion in benefits to the economy, while creating 10,000 jobs.

INDIA
Power plant contract

Dooon Heavy Industries & Construction has been awarded a $350 million (US$249.35 million) contract to build three boilers for a thermal power plant in Bhilai, India.

The project – awarded by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) – comprises three 660 MW boilers in its Bath Super Thermal Power Station.

The project is expected to be completed in October 2018.

Meanwhile, the company expects to receive additional orders from India, where the power generation industry is estimated to grow, according to Sun Chong-seob, managing director of Dooon Power Systems India.

In a bid to expand its presence in the Indian power generation market, Dooon Heavy Industries adopted a localisation strategy through the acquisition of AE&E Chennai Works Private, a local manufacturer of industrial goods, in 2011, to set up Dooon Power Systems India.

DUBAI
Arabtec results

Dubai-based Arabtec – which helped build the Burj Khalifa – has released its results for 2015, revealing a loss of US$626 million.

In its report, the company – which is backed by Abu Dhabi’s state-owned Adar Investments – said its revenues for the year was also 12% down on 2014.

Arabtec cited the “continuing difficult environment...and the challenging economic backdrop” among its reasons for the poor performance, but also admitted a number of poorly performing projects had adversely affected its bottom line.

In 2014, Arabtec signed a US$ 40 billion deal to build a million affordable homes in Dubai – a project which has been beset by confusion and stoppages. In the same year, the company’s CEO unexpectedly departed.

Acting CEO, Saeed Al Mahemari, said the company was now pursuing “…a more selective approach to project tendering, ensuring new projects deliver appropriate returns”.

TAIWAN
An investigation has been launched in Taiwan, into the construction of a building that collapsed during an earthquake on Saturday, killing at least 33 people. The 17-storey Wei-ping Golden Dragon Building in Tainan City was the only high-rise building to collapse due to the 6.7-magnitude earthquake.

Witnesses have reported that the building’s collapse exposed blue and white oil can, which appear to have been used as filler inside some of the concrete beams.

It has also been reported by Reuters that a Taiwanese bank had a policy of rejecting loan requests from residents of the building, citing its poor construction.

The mayor of Tainan, William Lai, said civil engineers had been brought in to investigate the construction of the 20-year-old building, adding, “When it’s completed, we’ll punish those who should be held accountable.”

EVENTS DIARY

2016

World of Asphalt
March 22 – 24, 2016
Nashville, USA
www.worldofasphalt.com

Bauma
April 11 – 17, 2016
Munich, Germany
www.bauma.de

Hillhead
June 28 – 30, 2016
Buxton, UK
www.hillhead.com

Bauma China
November 22 – 25
Shanghai, China
www.bauma-china.com

Bauma ConExpo India
Dec 12-15, 2016
Delhi, India
www.bconda.com

2017

Samoter
February 22 – 25, 2017
Verona, Italy
www.samoter.it

ConExpo-Con/Agg
March 7 – 11, 2017
Las Vegas, USA
www.conexpoagg.com

SMOPC
April 4 – 7, 2017
Zaragoza, Spain
www.smopc.es

APEX
(International Access Equipment Exhibition)
May 2-4, 2017
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.aexpex.com

International Rental Exhibition
May 2-4, 2017
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.irexshow.com

Plantworx 2017
June 6-8, 2017
Birmingham, UK
www.plantworx.co.uk

March 2016 INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION