

NEWS

EVENTS DIARY

2016

World of Concrete (Europe)
September 6-7, 2016
Paris, France
www.worldofconcrete.europa.com

Europlatform 2016

September 22, 2016
Vienna, Austria
www.europlatform.info

IMDER's 2nd International Construction Equipment Congress

October 20-21, 2016
Istanbul, Turkey
www.vizyon2023turkiye.org/eng

2017

World of Concrete
January 17-20, 2017
Las Vegas, US
www.worldofconcrete.com

Samoter

February 22-25, 2017
Verona, Italy
www.samoter.it

Conexpo

March 7-11, 2017
Las Vegas, US
www.conexpoconagg.com

Smopyc

April 4-7, 2017
Zaragoza, Spain
www.feriazaragoza.es/smopyc.aspx

Ukraine is forecast to bounce back after difficult few years

Research firm PMR says country's prospects are relatively good for medium and long term after 'nose dive'

The Ukrainian construction industry is estimated to have bounced back in the first half of 2016 after a very difficult few years, with expansion of 9% year-on-year after a 26% contraction recorded in the same period a year earlier.

Research firm PMR said that despite the sharp economic contraction in Ukraine in 2014 and 2015, the prospects for the Ukrainian construction industry remained relatively good in the medium to long term.

It added that this was taking into consideration that most of the country's production facilities were in need of reconstruction or extensive modernisation, and that the same could be said for transport infrastructure.

Between 2008 and 2015, the Ukrainian construction industry expanded year-on-year in real terms only once, in 2011, said PMR, with double-figure market reduction recorded in each year between 2013 and 2015.

It said that the construction industry in Ukraine was set to resume growth in 2016, though it was unlikely to expand by more than 5% year-on-year in real terms.

The positive trend will resume largely because of a very low statistical base effect, said PMR, after a "nose-dive

setback" between 2013 and 2015, when the construction industry recorded double-figure reductions each year.

Improving economic growth figures were said to have contributed decisively to the rise in the construction confidence indicator in Ukraine.

In the second quarter of 2016, the industry's business confidence index improved in comparison with the previous quarter, rising to the highest level in more than two years. In addition, the difference between the proportion of companies which predicted an increase in the number of employees in the short term and those foreseeing a reduction was at the highest level in more than eight years, according to PMR's survey.

It also found that producers of most building materials were seeing higher demand for their products, primarily because of the growing demand from infrastructure development projects.

Sizeable support has also been provided by a reviving private sector, which has been encouraged to roll out new construction projects thanks to the improving economic environment and consumer purchasing power, said PMR. **ce**

Used programme introduced by Hitachi

Construction equipment manufacturer Hitachi Construction Machinery Europe has introduced an inspection programme for used excavators and wheeled loaders.

The Hitachi Premium Used programme applies to Hitachi medium and large excavators with 5,000 hours or less than five years old, mini excavators with less than 3,500 hours, and all ZW-series wheeled loaders above 93kW.

It said these machines would undergo

an inspection and refurbishment process carried out by an authorised Hitachi dealer using genuine parts and consumables.

In addition, it said scheduled oil sampling would be completed and maintenance records would be available via Global e-Service, Hitachi's remote machine monitoring website. The machines would also be painted if required, and the undercarriage and tyres were guaranteed to have less than 50% wear.

Hitachi said these machines would also be covered by its six-month/1,500-hour powertrain and hydraulics warranty. The company said the used machines could be viewed on its website, which also offered a comparison feature to check the hours, specs and pricing of similar models.

Tom van Wijlandt, manager of service

business support, said, "These inspections ensure the high quality of Hitachi used equipment is maintained throughout Europe."

"Customers travelling to, or working in, different countries can benefit from the same Premium Used conditions and will be supported by the local authorised Hitachi dealer, irrespective of where they are on the continent." **ce**

GB's construction stalls

Construction output in Great Britain during the second quarter of 2016 fell 0.7% compared the first quarter of the year, and 1.4% year-on-year.

The latest report from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) noted that the downfall in overall output was caused by all new work – which decreased 0.8% – and repair and maintenance – which fell 0.5%.

The report also stated that, on a month-by-month basis, construction output in June fell 0.9% compared to the previous month.

Andrew Bridges, managing director of UK-based estate agent Stirling Ackroyd, said, "As ever with construction and house building, it's all about the pipeline. Next year will see huge construction projects like HS2 and Crossrail take centre stage – having a huge knock on benefit for housing and infrastructure opportunities."

