MPA’s UK ‘BREXIT’ DECISION REVIEW
The UK-based Mineral Products Association (MPA) has initiated a review of the implications and consequences for the mineral products sector of Britain’s ‘Brexite’ vote to leave the European Union. MPA Chief Executive Nigel Jackson said: “With a number of regional and local decisions pending on high profile transport and energy projects, such as Hinkley Point, the 3rd runway in the SE and the Severn Tidal Lagoon, and increasing concerns about the pace of delivery of planned infrastructure, this is a time to lose determination or focus. Key strategic initiatives such as the Northern Powerhouse must remain high on the Government’s agenda.”

HEAVYWEIGHTS AT SAMOTER 2017
CASE Construction Equipment, Hyundai, Kubota and Komatsu are said to be the first top charting and construction companies to sign up to the 20th Samotex, the triennial event scheduled at Verona Fair in Verona, Italy for 22-25 February 2017. Komatsu is reconfirming attendance after the exhibitor’s 2014 edition, while CASE Construction Equipment and Hyundai make a welcome return. Meanwhile, 2017 will mark the debut of Japanese corporation Kobelco at the Italian event.

SHELL FOR EUROPE BITUMEN SUPPLY
Senior figures at Shell have addressed the company’s long-term commitment to supplying high-quality bitumen across Europe. Shell has established a robust bitumen supply chain in Europe, anchored by its two main refineries in the region; Rheinland in Germany and Pernis in the Netherlands. In late 2016, Shell announced the decision to invest in a solvent deasphalted (SDA) unit at the Pernis refinery, with a view to improve its performance and competitiveness. Shell’s Pernis facility is the largest integrated refinery complex in Europe and occupies a strategic location in the Rotterdam, Holland industrial region.

CEMEX UK’S NEW READY-MIXED CONCRETE PLANT
Cemex UK has invested in a new £700,000 (€834,000) ready-mixed concrete batching plant at Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, which is said to have less than 0.6% wear. 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,” said Tom van Wijk, managing director. “Hitachi premium machines can be viewed on a new Hitachi website, https://usedhitachimch.eu which offers a comparison feature to check the hours, specs and pricing of similar models.

Italian construction machines sales up 22% in H1 2016
Sales of construction machines in Italy rose 22% year-on-year in H1 2016, according to data from the Italian equipment manufacturing association, Unacea. “However, in absolute value, it is a much more modest recovery. Effectively, comparing this result with the data of the Golden Year 2005 when in the first months there were more than 13,000 machines sold, the loss is more than 65%. Despite the recovery, the market is still lower than the pre-crisis level so prudence and measures of support are mandatory, also considering the deterioration of the international trade and of the growing global tensions.”

Trimble Loadrite’s 10,000th scale
Trimble has reached a significant milestone with the installation of its 10,000th Loadrite L2180 loader scale. Since its release in 2009, the L2180 has become, says Trimble, the world’s most popular on-boat weighing system. In spring 2016, Gollan Recycling, a German construction and recycling company, received Trimble’s 10,000th Loadrite L2180 loader scale installed by local Loadrite dealer Stech Germany, the landmark unit is said to be confirmation of the product’s performance, reliability and alignment to customer workflows. The 10,000th device is installed in a Caterpillar 962 wheel loader, primarily used for loading materials like scrap metal or plastics that are to be recycled. In total, Gollan’s fleet includes 30 wheel loaders, and ten excavators that are equipped with the Loadrite weighing system.