

NEWS



Volvo CE president backs heavyweights

Volvo Construction Equipment president Martin Weissburg believes the brand's increasingly popular heavyweight champions will allow the industry giant to push for growth.

"Our market share continues to increase in the heavy machine segment and the introduction of larger articulated haulers and excavators will generate significant productivity gains for customers and allow Volvo CE to enter new segments," said Weissburg, during the company's 2016 bauma press conference.

Meanwhile, Tomas Kuta is Volvo CE's new senior vice president, sales. Having worked for the company since 1997 in a variety of senior management roles, Kuta's new leading role will see him responsible for leading the development and delivery of Volvo CE's global sales strategy. He will serve as part of the executive management team and report to company president Weissburg.

"At this exciting time for Volvo Construction Equipment, I am very energised about this opportunity and look forward to working closely with our dealers to drive forward the company's product and service offering to our valued customers," says Kuta. Most recently, Kuta was sales president for Volvo's EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) region where he successfully increased dealer engagement and customer satisfaction, while overseeing the merger of two sales regions (Europe and International) and driving strong general purpose machine market share growth in most markets.

Veronafiore and Federcostruzioni team up

Federcostruzioni and Veronafiore have joined forces to support growth in the Italian earthmoving and construction equipment sector through their joint promotion of the Samoter 2017 exhibition. Confindustria-affiliated Federcostruzioni is a key champion of the Italian construction sector and Veronafiore organises the Samoter trade fair, Italy's only exhibition covering all construction machinery sectors, staged every three years.

The pair have signed a cooperation agreement ahead of the next Samoter event scheduled for Verona 22-25 February 2017. The event is set to be the biggest construction sector exhibition in Europe next year. The Italian construction equipment and earthmoving sector is worth more than €400 billion and employs 2.6 million people. However, the sector is still suffering, having lost nearly 30% of production and 650,000 jobs in the period 2009-2014. Last year showed some signs of a gradual recovery with substantially steady forecasts for 2016.

METSO LOKOTRACKS ON SHOW

Metso's official distributor in the UK, Garriock Bros, was due to present a series of Lokotrack plants at Hillhead 2016. The Lokotrack LT106 and LT120 mobile jaw crushing plants; the LT300HP mobile cone crushing plant, and the LT1213 mobile impact crushing plant will be presented. The Lokotrack LT106, in the 40tonne class, is equipped with the Nordberg C106 jaw crusher, and new features include a radial side conveyor high inertia flywheels and Metso IC process control system that utilises an ultrasonic material level sensor.

FINNING AND SITECH AT HILLHEAD

Finning UK and Ireland and its technology partner, SITECH UK and Ireland, were due to showcase new machines and new technologies at Hillhead 2016. In the static display area, the Caterpillar 730C2 articulated truck; the Cat 323FL excavator grade with assist; and the Cat 352FL XE hydraulic excavator, equipped with the Cat Adaptive Control System (ACS) valve and Trimble 3D GPS. In the live demonstration area, there will be a Cat 745C articulated truck with Caterpillar Production Measurement (CPM) and a Cat D6N LGP with Cat Grade Control technology and Trimble 3D software.

EDGE INNOVATE: MC1400'S HILLHEAD DEBUT

EDGE Innovate was set to premiere its new MC1400 track material classifier alongside its TRM516 mobile trommel and Slayer XL slow-speed shredder at Hillhead 2016. The company says that the MC1400 offers the ability to extract impurities from highly contaminated material in one pass. It utilises controlled air flow as a separation medium, and allows operators to separate up to four different fractions as standard; lights (plastic, paper, film); mid-weight (wood); and heavy fractions (aggregate and glass).

UK's flat mineral products market

UK Mineral Products Association (MPA) member sales of mineral products in the first quarter of 2016 are said to provide hard evidence that recent construction activity has flattened out.

While overall activity is still positive on an annual basis and higher than Q1 2015, sales of aggregates, ready-mixed concrete (RMC) and mortar have been static in recent months and asphalt sales have continued to decline.

Annual sales volumes are modestly positive in the year to

March 2016, with aggregates, RMC and mortar sales volumes up by 3% compared to the previous 12-months period, and asphalt sales up by 1%.

Compared to Q4, 2015, aggregates sales volumes were broadly flat in 2016Q1 (-0.1%); RMC sales volumes fell 1% and mortar -0.2%.

The overall flattening in these markets indicates a slowdown in general construction activity. Housing growth has slowed significantly in recent months, and anticipated improvements in commercial and industrial work are yet to be seen.

IQ CHIEF TO LEAVE ROLE

Institute of Quarrying (IQ) CEO Phil James is leaving for a new role after four years in charge of the UK-based organisation.

He had joined the IQ in late 2012 as joint CEO with MPQC and drew on his rare combination of quarry management experience and professional body expertise in executing his senior role.

James will become the new CEO of the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) in September 2016. In his new post he plans to continue his link with the minerals industry and to combine the challenge of an exciting new position with work on a PhD.

Of his four-year stint at IQ, James said: "Working for IQ has been a tremendous privilege. I've had the pleasure of meeting and working with members from around the world, whose dedication and passion for the quarrying profession is nothing short of inspirational."

"I'll be very sorry to leave an amazing team and a very supportive Board

of Trustees. But the Institute is in great shape and has a fantastic set of plans in place to celebrate its centenary next year, and to accelerate its growth and influence as it reaches its 100th birthday."

Further announcements about the recruitment of a new IQ CEO will follow in due course. In the meantime, anyone wishing to have an informal discussion can contact the chairman, Miles Watkins, via the Institute's head office – visit: www.quarrying.org for contact details and further information.

