

NEWS

EVENTS DIARY

2019

Plantworx 2019
June 11-13, 2019
Peterborough,
UK
www.plantworx.co.uk

**International
Tower Crane
(ITC) Conference**
June 26-27, 2019
Vienna,
Austria
www.khl.com-itc

**World Crane and
Transport Summit**
Nov 13-14, 2019
Amsterdam,
Netherlands
www.khl.com/wcts

2020

SaMoTer 2020
March 22-25, 2020
Verona,
Italy
www.samoter.it

**IPAF Summit /
IAPA Awards**
April 23-23, 2020
London,
UK
www.iapa-summit.info

APEX
June 9-11, 2020
Maastricht
The Netherlands
www.apexshow.com

UK construction ranked number one in Europe

New CEA report places the UK construction sector number one in Europe with a 24% market share

A new report from the UK government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the UK Construction Equipment Association (CEA) has revealed that the UK construction sector is currently ranked number one in Europe with a 24% market share.

The figures refer to 2018 when the UK was the largest producer of construction equipment in Europe and 5th largest in the world, producing over 60,000 units.

Revenues of around £13 billion (€15.13 billion) were generated from sales of these machines.

The report said that the confidence in the sector was partly as a result of large infrastructure projects such as High Speed 2, Hinkley Point C and Highways England's current £15 billion (€17.46 billion) five-year roads programme.

The UK Government has also committed to further significant infrastructure investment, with plans to

expand the current housebuilding programme to 300,000 new homes a year, a 30% increase on its previous strategy.

Investment in research and development was also said to have increased by a further 10% in 2018 to £220 million (€256 million) as a greater number of manufacturers develop invest in electric powered machinery.

The full report will be launched at the CEA's UK Plantworx event in June later this year.

Rob Oliver, chief executive of the CEA, said, "The Sector Report comes five years since the last one in 2014. At that time our industry and the world economy were still recovering from the financial crisis triggered in 2008.

"We can proudly report that the latest figures show record revenue for the sector and that the UK remains a good place to both manufacture and supply construction equipment."

CE

Moldova gas pipeline to be extended

A 120 km extension of the existing Ungheni-Iasi gas delivery network in Moldova is ready to begin construction.

The project is expected to cost over €113 million with partial funding being provided by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Investment Bank providing sovereign loans of €41m each to the Government of

Moldova.

While the EU has agreed to provide an additional €10m investment grant.

The Romanian Government will also provide a grant of €550,000 (US\$600,285) to Moldova for detailed engineering works in support of the gas pipeline's construction.

The current pipeline stretches to 43.2 km and is currently the only gas connection between

Moldova and the European Union.

Considered of vital importance, this project will help make Moldova less energy dependent on Russia. Once the North Stream pipeline has been completed the delivery of gas from Russia is likely to become uncertain.

The Ungheni-Iasi pipeline currently

transports gas from Romania from OMV Petrom, a subsidiary of the Austrian oil and gas group OMV, and has a maximum transportation capacity of 1.5 billion m3 of gas.

The extension, with a design life of 25 years, will be built by Romanian gas firm Transgaz under the control of the Economy Ministry.

CE

Finance agreed for Bosnia and Herzegovina motorway

The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has signed a €210 million loan agreement with the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to fund a new phase of the country's largest road project.

When completed, the Corridor Vc motorway will run from the port of Ploce in the south of the country, to its northern border with Croatia.

Work on the road has so far cost €1.1 billion; the entire project – with completion expected by 2030 – will cost around €4 billion.

Ultimately, the road will become an extension of the European Union's Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T).

At the signing of the loan agreement in Sarajevo last month, EBRD president Suma Chakrabarti said, "Connecting Bosnia and Herzegovina with the region and the wider outside world by creating the physical infrastructure, but also by supporting the adoption of European standards and regulations, is a priority for the country as well as for its international supporters.

