

UD Trucks continues regional growth

Volvo Group truck maker UD Trucks has said the launch of its new Quester model contributed to sales growth in the UAE, Kuwait and Oman last year, and has confirmed Saudi Arabia as a primary focus market for 2020.

The launch of the new heavy-duty Quester, a series of major fleet deals and the announcement of a new retail partner in Saudi Arabia were among the highlights of 2019, as UD Trucks enjoyed another positive year across the Middle East, East and North Africa (MEENA) region, said the company.

Against the backdrop of extremely challenging economic conditions, the Japanese commercial vehicle brand recorded sales increases in several key regional markets.



In the UAE, UD Trucks sales were up almost 10% year-on-year, despite the overall market shrinking. It was a similar story in Oman, with UD Trucks again registering a 10% growth in market that generally stayed down. Meanwhile, Kuwait bucked the regional trend with truck sales increasing, and helped UD Trucks to double its sales. The company maintained

its number one spot in Bahrain, while reinforcing its position in Qatar as the number one brand in the Japanese trucks segment and number three brand overall, including the European manufacturers.

UD trucks termed 2019 as a year of transition for it in Saudi Arabia. Following a mutual agreement to terminate its collaboration

with Rolaco Group, the brand's previous partner in the Kingdom, UD Trucks announced Zahid Tractor as its new exclusive importer and distributor in the country.

Central to UD Trucks' strong regional performance in 2019 was the Middle East arrival of the New Quester in April. The model introduced key features such as ESCOT automated manual transmission, engines with higher horsepower and user-friendly telematics to deliver greater fuel efficiency, productivity, driver efficiency, safety and uptime.

Mourad Hedna, president, UD Trucks MEENA, said: "In 2020 we will continue growing by reinforcing our market share...(delivering) the highest standards of customer service."



NEW ASTEC COMPACT CRUSHERS
American mining products maker Astec Mobile Screens has announced the launch of a new compact product range said to be ideal for operations on smaller sites. The Ranger line will comprise tracked models including jaw, impact and cone crushers, as well as incline screens and trommels.

EVENT PREVIEW BOBCAT, HIDROMEK GEAR UP FOR SAMOTER EQUIPMENT SHOW IN ITALY

As the SaMoTer construction machinery show from March 21-25 in Verona, Italy, draws near, Bobcat has said it will present the latest additions to its full-liner range of compact equipment including wheeled and tracked loaders, mini-excavators, telehandlers and attachments, under the theme 'Technology, Innovation and Efficiency'.

The Bobcat stand will show solutions in every customer sector from construction, roadwork, rental and recycling to waste and demolition, material handling and landscaping.

Among the firsts for Bobcat at SaMoTer will be the first showing of new Stage V compact loaders, alongside its recently launched Stage V M-Series S450, S510 and S530 skid-steer loaders. Bobcat will

also preview its larger R-Series loaders being launched later in 2020, representing a new approach to designing skid-steer and compact track loaders from Bobcat.

Bobcat's new 'Waste Expert' telescopic loader, the TL43.80HF, will also make their first appearance at the show. Another machine making its first appearance will be the E10e electric mini-excavator, claimed by Bobcat as the industry's first battery-powered, zero tail swing mini-excavator in the 1t class.

Meanwhile, Turkish brand Hidromek has already won two awards at the SaMoTer Innovation Awards 2020 for its HMK 230 NLC crawler excavator. The winning machine will join other models of its H4 excavator range at Hidromek's stand.

MARCUS CURRY JOINS LEEA BOARD

Marcus Curry, MD of George Taylor Lifting

Gear – a premier lifting, hoisting and mechanical handling products brand – has joined the board of the Lifting Equipment Engineers Association (LEEAA).

"I am proud to be joining the LEEA Board at such an important time for the association," said Curry, who has over 20 years of global experience in purchasing and selling, including in the Middle East,



Ritchie Bros. launches new inspection service



Global machinery auctioneer Ritchie Bros. (RB) has consolidated the machinery inspection offerings of its constituent brands to offer Ritchie Bros. Inspection Services, a new, comprehensive facility available to customers as part of its Ritchie Bros. Asset Solutions.

According to RB, IronPlanet and Asset Appraisal Services – two brands it acquired in 2017 – have for years been leaders in the equipment inspection business. IronPlanet has offered inspection content and technology for customers of its online marketplaces,

including its IronClad Assurance(R) equipment condition certification, which ensures buyers receive the equipment they expect.

Asset Appraisal Services is a leader in the commercial truck inspection market.

Since both were acquired by RB, the company has continued to enhance the inspection capabilities and the number of inspections has increased significantly. Now RB is consolidating these two inspection service providers to formally launch Ritchie Bros. Inspection Services.