



HCME launches Hitachi Premium Used

Hitachi Construction Machinery Europe (HCME) has launched Hitachi Premium Used for its second-hand equipment range. Customers get "a used Hitachi model, guaranteeing a high-quality machine with an approved Hitachi warranty", according to HCME. Hitachi Premium Used applies to Hitachi medium and large excavators with less than 5,000 hours or less than five years old, as well as mini excavators with less than 3,500 hours.

It also applies to all ZW-series wheeled loaders above 93KW. They will be covered by Hitachi's six-month/1,500-hour power-train and hydraulics warranty. "Every Hitachi Premium Used machine undergoes a rigorous inspection and refurbishment process," says HCME. "This is carried out by an authorised Hitachi dealer using only Hitachi genuine parts and lubricants, according to Hitachi specifications. Scheduled oil sampling is completed and maintenance records are available via Global e-Service, Hitachi's remote machine monitoring website."

The machines are painted if required "to provide an immaculate appearance and the undercarriage and tyres are guaranteed to have less than 50% 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 Wijlandt, manager service business support at HCME. Hitachi Premium Used machines can be viewed on a new HCME website: <https://used.hitachicm.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. The Unacea quarterly study shows that 4,723 construction machines were sold during the first six months of 2016, including 4,617 earthmoving machines and 106 road machines. Compared with the same period for 2015, this equated to a gain in sales of earthmoving machines of 24% but a drop of 33% for road construction machinery.

"The positive trend of recovery in the Italian market has been consolidated," said Paolo Venturi, president of Unacea. "However, in absolute value, it is a much more modest recovery. Effectively, comparing this result with the data of the Golden Year 2007, when in the first months there were more than 13,000 machines sold, the loss is more than 63%. 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."

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 'Brexit' vote to leave the European Union. MPA Chief Executive Nigel Jackson said "With a number of major and overdue decisions pending on high-profile transport and energy projects, such as Hinkley Point, the 3rd runway in the SE and the Swansea Tidal Lagoon, and increasing concerns about the pace of delivery of planned infrastructure, this is no 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, Kobelco and Komatsu are said to be the first top earthmoving and construction companies to sign up for the 30th SaMoTer, the triennial event scheduled at Veronafiere in Verona, Italy for 22-25 February 2017. Komatsu is reconfirming attendance after the exhibition'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 stressed 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 2015, Shell announced the decision to invest in a solvent deasphalter (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 Valence in county Gloucestershire, west England. The state-of-the-art plant replaces the existing plant in Gloucester, just over eight miles (12.9km) away. The Imer Oru Oneday batching plant is a fully wet batch plant which is skip-fed as opposed to by conveyor and allows collection using a flatbed vehicle. The design of the plant opens up the market for call and collect customers, as well as delivery to site by a Cemex IHC (Independent Hauler Contractor).

The Gloucester plant has been closed after 60 years and production

of 1.4 million m³, enough concrete to fill 560 Olympic-sized swimming pools. The concrete produced has been used in key local construction projects like Berkeley power station, Sharpness Docks, Gloucester Quay's Shopping Centre and Hartpury Sports College. Marcus Rappensberger, Director Readymix Southern, said: "The new plant represents significant investment in the local market, not only with the plant itself but the land and preparation of the site. As well as providing quality assured concrete, we have guaranteed production with a new plant, essential when supplying our customers on construction projects."

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 onboard 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 Sitech 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

