



Contractors Mechanical Plant Engineers

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

**Welcome to another edition of your National Newsletter and a very
Happy New Year to you all.**

CMPE Charity Donation

On Sunday 7th January 2024 our National Chairman, David Hodges, presented a cheque for £500.00 to Derian House Children's Hospice



*David Hodges CMPE National Chairman and Jo Hodges presenting a cheque for £500 to
Ellie Smith Community Fundraiser for Derian House Children's Hospice.*



David Hodges
CMPE

Sunday 7th January 2024

Your kind donation and support

Dear David and members of Contractors Mechanical Plant Engineers,

I just wanted to write and say a massive thank you for your very kind support and donation of £500.00 to Derian House Children's Hospice. Please pass our thanks onto the CMPE's members.

Your donation goes towards providing care and respite for 400 babies, children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions across the whole of Lancashire, South Cumbria and North Manchester and I am sure I can speak on behalf of our children and families when I pass on their sincere thanks.

In 2024, it will cost us £6 million to provide our services and we receive only 29% funding from statutory sources so we rely on our own efforts and the support of our friends within the community to help us meet our financial target. Therefore, we are truly thankful and appreciative of your kindness to help us keep our doors open to those who need us.

As a small way of thanking you for your support, we would love to welcome you to the hospice for a tour of our facilities so you can see first-hand how your generosity benefits the lives of our families during their time at the hospice.

If there is anything I can do for you at any point in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you again for supporting Derian House Children's Hospice.

Kind Regards

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Registered Charity No. 1005165.
Registered in England and Wales.

Company No. 2650110.
Registered Office as above.



CMPE NEWS

Preston & Fylde Branch

On Sunday 18th February 2024, Preston & Fylde Branch will be holding the second of their "Sunday Lunch with Friends" at the Ship Inn, Freckleton, Preston.

Last year's event was well supported with 29 attending a great Sunday Lunch with good food and happy banter. Building on that success, this next event is looking to be even better.



On Friday evening 12th April 2024, Preston & Fylde Branch are taking a Canal Cruise with entertainment from "Mama Mia - Abba Tribute" and a Fish & Chip supper. This event is always good fun and the branch have booked almost every seat on the barge.



INDUSTRY NEWS

Komatsu plans 13-tonne battery-powered digger.

Komatsu is planning to introduce the 13-tonne class PC138E-11 electric excavator this year.



The PC138E-11, powered by a lithium-ion battery, launches in Komatsu's domestic Japanese market this month before making its European debut at the Intermat trade fair in Paris in April.

Komatsu says that it has paired a high-capacity lithium-ion battery with an integrated cooling system for the battery and electric components to achieved "long" (but not yet specified) operation time while reducing the rear-end swing radius.

While battery-powered (and plug-in) mini excavators have become available in recent years, the market for mid-size battery-powered diggers has stalled over performance. Some manufacturers are looking to hydrogen as a more promising low carbon alternative to diesel for heavier duty machinery.

At Intermat 2024, Komatsu Europe will present the PC138E-11 excavator with a Smart Construction 3D Machine Guidance kit, a technology now available for a range of Komatsu machines. The kit provides an accessible way to add 2D and 3D machine guidance and can be customised with various options that allow the kit to better accommodate each customer's machine configurations and operating conditions.



Civils contractors publish political manifesto.



The Civil Engineering Contractors Association has published a list of priorities that it will be pressing the next government to advance.

With a general election set to be held later this year, and a change of government currently looking likely, the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) is making an early pitch for attention.

Some of its demands are either notably vague or unambitious, as might be considered typical for documents produced by committee. For example, CECA calls for a transport strategy but expresses no view on what that strategy should be. The strategy is to have a strategy.

And CECA is no longer even calling for the outright abolition of retentions, but instead calls mildly for “accelerating progress in abolishing retentions”.

In its document, *Priorities for an incoming government 2024/25*, CECA's demands are listed as:

- Investing in ‘the future’ – through maintaining delivery of projects outlined in the National Infrastructure Strategy;
- Maintaining confidence – by ensuring the ‘star chamber’ for infrastructure announced in the 2023 autumn statement puts infrastructure at the heart of policy-making;
- Enabling regions to thrive – by pursuing the ‘levelling up’ agenda and supporting industry to develop an independent bank of expertise to offer local authorities advice on planning issues and unblocking projects;
- Delivering ‘world-class connectivity’ – by publishing a transport strategy for England that supports the devolved transport authorities (Transport for London, Transport Scotland etc), with five-year capital settlements complemented by indicative five-year funding;
- Strengthening ‘resilience’ – by publishing a national water strategy, upgrading the wastewater network and reducing water demand;
- Supporting SMEs – by accelerating progress in abolishing retentions and ensuring social value requirements reflect SME needs;
- Maximising best practice & driving innovation – by encouraging public and private sector clients to adopt and track progress against the use of best practice models such as the Construction Sector Playbook, Project 13 and the recent Cabinet Office frameworks review;
- Delivering skills – by developing an apprenticeship system for construction employers that is supported by public sector clients.

CECA director of operations Marie-Claude Hemming said: “These priorities must form the basis of an incoming UK government, whichever party or parties emerge victorious from the next general election. The past number of years has seen the UK economy buffeted by a series of economic shocks, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the impact of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Key to returning the UK economy to dynamic growth will be stability, certainty, and pipeline visibility.



Mecalac signs dealer for road-railers.

Mecalac has appointed a new dealer to its UK and Ireland distributor network.



Alfreton-based EP Industries has been handed responsible for sales of Mecalac's range of road-rail excavators.

Mark Royse, head of sales at Mecalac Construction Equipment UK, said: "As a global leader in the compact equipment marketplace, further developing our distributor network is key to further improving access to our latest models, as well as broadening our national service and maintenance reach.

"With extensive experience in the railroad sector, we look forward to working in close partnership with EP Industries to drive widespread brand awareness and build strong bonds with specialist railroad operators across the UK."

Eddie Pilsworth, managing director of EP Industries, added: "Mecalac's range of railroad excavators is completely unique in the marketplace. Innovative design, paired with unmatched build quality, mean they set the sector standards.

"There's huge demand for class-leading products that can help operators to further improve productivity and streamline efficiencies, so we're looking forward to joining the Mecalac network and introducing more customers to the globally-acclaimed brand."



Government proposes ramping up fines for late streetworks.

The government has launched a consultation on plans to increase fines on utility companies whose roadworks overrun.

Proposed measures in the *Street works: fines and lane rental surplus funds* consultation paper include raising the level of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) that can be issued for five street works offences and allowing overrun charges to apply at weekends and bank holidays.



It also proposes a requirement for at least 50% of any surplus lane rental funds to be spent on repairing potholes.

The Department for Transport claims that its proposals could not only reduce congestion for but also generate “up to” £10m a year extra for resurfacing roads.

The consultation seeks to extend the current £10,000 per day fine for overrunning street works into weekends and bank holidays as a deterrent for working on the busiest days for road travel. Currently, utility companies are only fined for disruption on working days. The measures could double fines from £500 up to a maximum of £1,000 for companies that breach conditions of the job, such as working without a permit.

Clive Bairsto, chief executive of Street Works UK, the trade association that represents utility companies and their streetwork contractors, said: “Utilities perform a vital role in connecting households, working to the highest standards, while complying with rigorous inspections to ensure works are high quality and lasting.

“We look forward to engaging constructively with government throughout this consultation, representing our members and the wider industry, to ensure both utilities and local authorities can deliver infrastructure works while giving customers and road users the speed of delivery, lack of congestion and transparency they expect.”



Tool hire broker in branding U-turn.



Less than three years after adopting WowNow as its trading name, Hampshire-based Nationwide Hire Ltd has decided to do business as Nationwide Hire Solutions instead.

Since changing its name to WowNow in May 2021, the business has seen sales fall and profit turn to loss.

In the year to March 2020 it made an operating profit of £1.2m on sales of £16.4m.

Latest accounts, for the year to September 2022 when it traded as WowNow, show an operating loss of £381,000 on sales of £14.4m.

WowNow is now being binned and Nationwide revived.

Nationwide Hire Ltd was incorporate in 1995 by Howard Piper as a tool hire brokerage service. It has no inventory, shops or depots but boasts access to five million products from 9,000 locations by acting as an intermediary.

It was acquired by private equity investor Livingbridge Enterprise LLP in 2019. WowNow Hire Ltd was incorporated in 2021 as a subsidiary of Nationwide Hire Ltd but never actually traded – it is listed at Companies House as a dormant company. Instead Nationwide Hire Ltd became “Nationwide Hire Ltd (trading as WowNow Hire)”.

Since the adoption of the WowNow brand, the company has brought in a new chief operating officer and a new marketing manager. CEO Mark Burton is credited with taking the decision to revert to the original brand, despite the presence of similar-sounding car hire and powered access hire companies out there.

“After some serious heart-to-heart chats with our customers and dedicated staff, we've decided to re-grow from our roots and build on our established reputation as Nationwide,” the company said.

While the company now does business as Nationwide Hire Solutions, the 'solutions' bit is just for effect. The company name remains Nationwide Hire Limited.





Contractors Mechanical Plant Engineers

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