



Contractors Mechanical Plant Engineers

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to another edition of your National Newsletter.

CMPE NATIONAL NEWS

The next CMPE National AGM Weekend has been announced by our National Vice-Chairman, Chairman Elect, Michael Farrington. Please diarise the date. Further information will be forwarded in due course.



SAVE THE DATE !



CMPE NAGM Weekend.

20th—22nd June 2025

Botleigh Grange Hotel and Spa.

SO30 2AF

More Details to Follow.

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INDUSTRY NEWS

JCB develops weighing system for heavy loaders.

JCB has introduced the Intelliweigh system for its 427, 437 and 457 wheeled loader models.



Intelliweigh is part of JCB's waste & controls option package, providing a factory-fitted digital and connected on-board weighing system with an optional printer.

It has been specifically designed and developed for JCB wheeled loading shovels. It is capable of weighing loads on a multitude of **attachments** even when working on uneven ground conditions, leading to reduced cycle times and maximum tonnes per hour performance.

Offering a +/-2% accuracy rating, according to JCB, and an ergonomic 7" touchscreen display with physical keys for increased use-ability, the Intelliweigh system is compatible with up to 10 different **attachments**, including forks and buckets.

An integrated GPS system delivers precision machine productivity tracking and material location tracking capabilities, offering site managers real-time feedback on material stock levels and locations.

Intelliweigh can be used as a split system, allowing the operator to load and weigh multiple vehicles on a single site. Individual targets can be set for each vehicle while maintaining the same overall target weight, to ensure that all vehicles and **trailers** are filled evenly and to their maximum capacity. This also reduces the risk of individual vehicles being overloaded. Split loading provides the convenience of combined weight tickets, to allow customers to calculate total combined material weights from a site.

The Intelliweigh display can also be used to show the reversing camera feed, when fitted. An onboard printer is fitted to provide weight tickets from within the cab. Intelliweigh data can also be automatically uploaded to a customer's systems, with live updates on machine efficiency and production.

JCB has also developed a Lever Steer option for its large platform wheeled loaders. Lever Steer is a new option that allows the operator to steer the machine with a fingertip control lever, rather than using the steering wheel, to make it easier for operators doing particularly repetitive loading.



Private equity takeover at Fox Brothers.

Stellex Capital Management has acquired Blackpool-based Fox Brothers Holdings Group.



The private equity injection into Fox Group is part of a plan to complete the transition of the business from its haulage and earthmoving origins into a “fully integrated, circular economy construction materials solutions business”.

Mark Joel and Andy Swinnerton, past managing directors of Lafarge Tarmac and Aggregate Industries respectively, have joined the management team. Mark Joel is now company chair and Andy Swinnerton is chief operating officer.

Former owner Paul Fox remains chief executive and retains a share of the business.

Fox Group, now in its fourth generation of family leadership, has been in operation since 1932, providing services to the construction and infrastructure industry across the UK, including muck-away, haulage of aggregates, production of recycled aggregates, waste recycling, quarry operations and ready-mix concrete production.

Paul Fox took over the family business when just 23, on the death of his grandfather Harold (also known as Barney) Fox in 2007. In 2020 he recruited John Flood to help implement a growth plan. Flood had previously been commercial director of utilities contractor Enterprise, where he helped grow the business from £30m annual turnover to £1.1bn. In 2013 Ferrovial paid 3i £385m for Enterprise.

Between 2020 and 2023 Fox Group’s turnover grew from £16m to £99m, helped by acquisitions including Clive Hurt Plant Hire and sister company CMP Plant Hire, JJ O’Grady, Blackledge Plant Hire, Cotswold Roller Hire, Woods Waste and Tipworx. In March this year it also bought the ports of Fleetwood, on the Fylde coast, and Silloth, west of Carlisle, to support its logistics operations.

As part of the Stellex takeover, Fox is also merging with JA Jackson, a Lancashire quarry operator and producer of recycled aggregates and ready mixed concrete.

Mark Redman, managing partner at Stellex, said: “We see strong potential in the company’s capabilities and resources and look forward to working together with management and our operators to deliver on our value creation plan.

“This acquisition aligns with our strategy to identify companies where we believe we can introduce operational expertise in an effort to drive growth and better leverage companies’ assets and resources.”

Paul Fox said: “We are delighted to welcome Stellex, Mark and Andy to our group. This is an extremely exciting time for the company and with their help and the integration of JA Jackson, we are now in a position to transform the company into a fully integrated circular construction materials business, delivering sustainable solutions to the construction industry.”

JCB 370X gets thumbs up from Chandos.

A Manchester civil engineering contractor has bought one of the first JCB 370X tracked excavators.

Chandos Civil Engineering has added a 370X, JCB’s biggest X Series [excavator](#), to its existing fleet of 85 [JCB](#) diggers and dumpers.



The new JCB 370X, supplied by dealer Gunn JCB, is heavy-duty earthmover in the 35-40 tonne class. Powered by an 8.9-litre, Cummins engine, it boasts a 14% power increase over the outgoing [JCB JS370](#), with 240kW (322hp) available at 1,700rpm. The engine delivers this maximum power within a reduced operating rev range, to increase fuel economy and reduce overall noise levels.

Chandos Civil Engineering was founded in 2003 by brothers David and Daniel Molloy. It has grown from a local operation to one of the northwest’s leading groundworks firms and now has a workforce of more than 450.

Danny Molloy said: “We have a huge fleet of machines from JCB and we have been purchasing them since we started the company. They are reliable and productive. Allied to the excellent service we receive from Gunn JCB’s local depots - it keeps us coming back.

“The X Series range has marked a huge step forward for JCB and a major success for us. The performance is really good and of the leading brands, they are the best machines to operate.

“We are increasingly seeing projects where attenuation [tanks](#) for water storage are becoming the norm. Culverts for handling larger volumes of water are also now a regular aspect of our work. With their sizes increasing, so does their weight and the new 370X beats previous machines hands down for lifting capabilities.”

Chandos operator Simon Finch also approves. He said: “I’m a big lad and I like my bigger machines. They have made massive improvements in the cab on the X Series and I think this 370X interior has gone a step further still in offering the operator a great place to spend their working day.

“I’ve got masses of room around me and I don’t feel claustrophobic as in some other machines. The controls are smooth and precise, and there is so much movement on the sticks and seat, you are able to get the right operating position with ease. The new screen on this machine is so simple to use and allows me to keep track on a range of information.

Fuel efficiency is impressive too. We are currently using around 20 litres per hour. That’s well down on any other 40-tonne machine I have operated.”



Research uncovers scale of AdBlue safety concerns.

Pan-European research is exposing just how bad problems are with the AdBlue engine additive in industrial vehicles.



ESTA – the European association for the abnormal road transport and mobile crane rental industry – has been compiling survey responses from member companies.

In the three months since its AdBlue survey was launched, ESTA has had responses from 55 companies from 10 different countries with the biggest numbers coming from the UK, the Netherlands and France.

Some calculate that a third of all on-road breakdowns are AdBlue related.

Crane and haulage companies reported problems with mobile and crawler cranes, trucks and SPMTs. The most common incident was a public road breakdown with almost half of the respondents saying that safety had been compromised as a result.

A small number reported dangerous interruptions to wind turbine and port load-out work.

Even more concerning, many of the companies said they had experienced multiple incidents in the past two years with three suffering more than 20 in that time.

AdBlue is a mixture of water and urea used in diesel engines to minimise the production of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions. It reacts with NOx in the catalytic converter, breaking it down into nitrogen and water vapour in a process known as selective catalytic reduction (SCR).

A key concern is that if the AdBlue system malfunctions – often because the engine is not hot enough to burn off the crystallisation – then the [crane](#)'s engine can lose power and will eventually shut down, with potentially dangerous consequences.

ESTA director Ton Klijn said: “We will continue gathering information and will be consulting with the members of the joint ESTA and FEM European Regulations Workgroup that first raised the issue, and then decide on the next steps.”

FEM is Fédération Européenne de la Manutention – the European Materials Handling Federation – which represent machinery manufacturers.

Klijn continued: “What is already clear, however, is that this is a serious issue with considerable safety implications – and it needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.”

He suggested that one solution might be for the engine manufacturers to develop some sort of override that would allow the engine to keep operating for a limited period despite the AdBlue system malfunction.

But engine manufacturers are reportedly reluctant to invest in diesel engine redesign, he said, at a time when their commercial emphasis is on developing electric powertrains.

There are products on the market that claim to prevent AdBlue-related breakdowns.

Optispray, for example, is AdBlue with a surfactant added that changes the surface tension of the AdBlue allowing it to hydrolyse at lower temperatures. It prevents the build-up of white cyanuric acid spots.

Effinox is AdBlue with an added reagent that not only prevents the build-up but also removes the deposits.



New coupler from Engcon.

Engcon's new machine coupler size S70 for 20-30 tonne excavators has come out a year after its S60 [attachment](#) for excavators in the 12- to 19-tonne class.

As with the S60 the S70 has been designed to be stronger and has an increased hydraulic flow.

In addition, retrofitting with EC-Oil blocks will be easier because the new coupler no longer contains hoses, Engcon says, thus minimising the risk of leakage. Like the S60, the S70 has an increased hydraulic flow, which is beneficial when using a hydraulic



hammer or other tools that require a larger amount of oil.

The next step in Engcon's product development will be the S40 for the 3- to 6-tonne excavators and the S45 for the 6- to 11-tonne range. These will be topped out with the S80 for the 27-40 tonne size class. These models will be launched in the first half of 2025, Engcon said.

Vp makes Irish access acquisition.

Vp is paying up to £28m for an Irish powered access hire company.



Vp plc, the listed equipment rental group, has acquired a majority interest in Charleville Hire & Platform Ltd (CPH).

CPH is described as one of Ireland's leading, specialist powered access companies principally servicing the pharma, renewables, technology and food ingredient sectors. It is a family owned and run business, based near Cork.

Total consideration for the entire share capital of CPH includes an initial cash consideration of €12.1m (£10.1m). Vp has acquired 90% of the shares in CPH, with the remaining 10% to be added over the next three years. Subject to business performance, a further maximum deferred and earn out payment of €21.7m (£18.2m) may be payable across the second and third anniversaries of the acquisition.

In 2023, CPH made a pre-tax profit of €2.3m on turnover of €9.5m.

Vp chief executive Anna Bielby said: "This acquisition is exactly in line with our renewed strategic focus on building our highly differentiated, specialist customer offering. CPH brings to the group a market-leading powered access fleet in a growing Irish market while complementing our existing divisions. The CPH management team has a track record of successfully growing the business and, with the opportunities that exist in the Irish market, we believe they are well placed for further expansion in the future."

Volvo adds to hybrid excavator range.

Volvo has released its largest hybrid excavators to date.

Volvo Construction Equipment has introduced a hybrid option for its new generation excavators.

The EC400 and EC500 will be the first of the new generation excavators to be offered as hybrid models, with more in the range to come.

The 40-tonne and 50-tonne machines become the biggest models in Volvo's hybrid portfolio, joining the previous generation's models, the EC380E Hybrid, EC350E Hybrid, EC300E Hybrid and EC250E Hybrid excavators.

Volvo says the hybrid versions offer a 17% increase in fuel efficiency through digging and dumping operations, with no loss of power or performance.



The new electro-hydraulic system also requires less hosing, thus reducing the need for couplings, minimising maintenance requirements and costs, and improving reliability.

Volvo's hybrid technology works by harvesting 'free' energy generated by the down motion of the excavator boom. The machine uses this boom down motion to charge the accumulator, with the stored energy then used to drive the assist motor, when needed, in turn powering the engine system.

Product manager Otmar Kirsch said: "We are ambitious in leading our transformation journey and strive to continuously evolve our offering to ensure world-class reliability and performance for each and every customer. The expansion of our Hybrid range into our new generation excavators represents the merging of our most advanced hybrid technology with a new and modern design that takes customers into the future."





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