

MECHAN



A new Hitachi traincare centre at Ashford and upgraded DLR depot at Beckton have generated substantial orders for Sheffield-based heavy-handling gear specialist Mechan Limited. New depot action is not

confined to the UK and Mechan has also been contracted to supply equipment in Ireland and South Africa.

Express commuter train services linking Ashford and the Kent coast to London St Pancras via the Channel Tunnel Rail Link are due to start in December 2009, when 28 Hitachi Class 395 trains will cut some journey times in half. Construction work is well under way on the new traincare centre at Ashford and another at Ramsgate.

The Ashford facility will undertake daily and heavier maintenance on the 140mph six-car trains and requires six sets of four 15-tonne rail-car lifting jacks to enable the controlled lifting of a complete train without decoupling. Rivalry for the contract was intense and Mechan emerged the victor.

'We faced really stiff competition from continental suppliers,' recalls Mechan managing director Richard Carr. 'It seemed like a close-run thing but we believe the quality and operating characteristics of our jacks, plus our package of post-installation support, won the day.' Delivery is set for February 2008.

● www.mechan.co.uk

CIRRUS RESEARCH

Cirrus Research plc, the UK company which specialises in the design and development of noise measurement equipment, has upgraded its high performance CR:800C series of sound level meters, to include a wide range of new features and functions. Suitable for both occupational and environmental noise measurement, the new CR:800C sound level meters are also supplied with Cirrus' new '2-12' year guarantee. This enables Cirrus' standard two year warranty to be extended by ten years, at no additional cost, provided that the instrument is serviced and recalibrated annually by either Cirrus Research plc or by an authorised service centre.

Like their predecessors, CR:800C sound level meters are easy to use, yet capable of meeting sophisticated modern noise measurement guidelines. They are available in Class 1 or Class 2 accuracy and now comply with the latest IEC 61672 measurement standard as well as IEC 60651 and IEC 60804. Data logging of up to 1300 measurements is now possible, and outdoor measurement kits are available for unattended environmental noise monitoring with remote access via an optional outdoor measurement kit and GSM modem.

New features of the CR:800C Series include data download to a PC via a USB connection and updates to the Deaf Defier3 software. Further options that are available include 1:1 and 1:3 Octave Band Filters.

● 01723 891655



BCM CONSTRUCTION



BCM Construction has been removing litter and graffiti for the rail industry for over 10 years.

Managing the removal of trackside litter and graffiti is a serious and complicated business, combining the professional expertise to work safely and efficiently in the rail environment, the intricate planning of works to be carried out during railway possessions, and the skills to manage the expectations of both the client and the local residents. Having recently secured another five-year contract for the Kent, Sussex and Wessex area, the company has invested heavily in its new plant. BCM Construction has recently taken delivery of 18 new custom-designed vehicles including a Ford Transit van fitted with a cherry-picker.

Adding this new equipment to its fleet enables it to offer more complete instant solutions to its clients, as well as saving them money.

● www.bcmconstruction.co.uk

SIS FACILITIES

As a principal contractor for the rolling programme of refurbishment at GNER stations, SIS Facilities needed to provide high-quality toilet facilities for rail users while existing toilets at train stations across the country were out of use.

It was essential that a high standard of amenities was provided to minimise inconvenience to GNER customers. Furthermore, the toilets had to be suitable for high-volume use at some of the UK's busiest stations. Portaloo buildings were chosen by SIS Facilities due to their robust all-steel build, as well as the standard of amenities provided, including full-flushing toilets and high-quality sinks, taps and fittings.

Dan Hurley, projects director at SIS Facilities, says, 'The quality of the toilets is perfect for our requirements and meets GNER's high expectations. Portaloo provides a complete package of products and services, including full installation, male and female toilets, baby changing facilities, and access ramps for compliance with DDA legislation.'

● www.portanews.co.uk



ATLAS COPCO



Atlas Copco Tools, a manufacturer of ergonomically designed industrial power tools, has recently announced its sales success across its BLM range. Introduced in 2006 it offers a range of tools designed to assist with quality and back-up procedures on the production line.

Within the range are the highly successful:

- BLM LINEwrench, providing immediate temporary backup on the line and assembly of special series production;
- BLM Joint Simulator Bench 3860, offering maximum tool evaluation flexibility. DC electric, clutch, impulse and battery tools as well as torque wrenches, are able to be evaluated; and
- BLM LABwrench Gyro, providing an advanced and multi-purpose electronic torque/angle wrench that is capable of performing a variety of functions in lab, quality control and tightening applications.

The BLM range has proved highly popular in the marketplace. For detailed product information, telephone Atlas Copco Tools on 01442 261202 and quote reference BLM08.

Atlas Copco Tools: one of the world's leading industrial power tools supplier.

● 01442 261202

TENSAR INTERNATIONAL



Following the derailment of a freight train on 22 June 2007, Tensar International's in-house team worked alongside Network Rail's civil engineering framework contractor Kier Construction to provide a rapid design solution which aided the rescue operation.

The Buckingham Group constructed a mechanically stabilised temporary working platform for a 1000 tonne mobile crane with Tensar geogrid, enabling the recovery of eleven derailed freight cars more rapidly, at lower cost and with less aggregate than if a conventional platform had been constructed. Despite the very poor condition of the ground, the Tensar Technology platform supported the operation with minimal deflection.

It occurred on a rail bridge over the River Ouse, when 11 wagons loaded with mineral aggregate left the track on the bridge, damaging it extensively. In addition, as well as the incident closing this portion of track, the river also became impassable at this point and limited access for rescue. Civil engineering contractors Kier Construction worked with Tensar International to provide the temporary working platform to support the load from the 1000 tonne crane.

First, a 1.3 km access road from the A142 was reinforced with stone. The contractors then removed the freight wagons and Kier Construction dismantled the bridge remains, and then divers and dredgers worked with the Environment Agency to remove aggregate from the river and opened the river to navigation. Network Rail is designing a new bridge and construction will start as soon as possible, to minimise any disruption for passengers and freight.

● www.tensar.co.uk

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