



FINNING NEWS

DEMOLITION SPECIAL

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24 HOUR TAKEDOWN

What do you do over a weekend break? Well if you are Lawson Group, you take a fleet of Caterpillar® machines with accompanying work tools and demolish the Princes Street bridge in the centre of Swindon, capturing it all on time-lapse video viewable at www.finningnews.com/video.

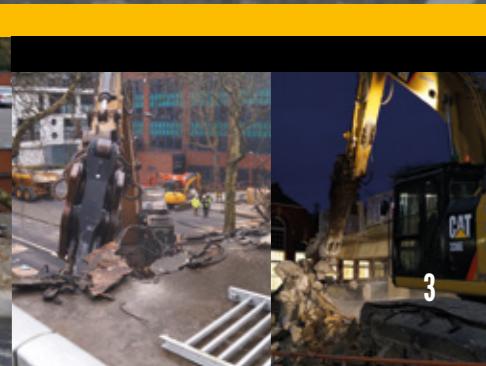
It may sound simple, but faced with a very limited weekend closure, Lawson Group had just 36 hours to prepare the site, demolish the bridge and make good, before reopening the major town centre road for the Monday morning commuter traffic.

The success of the project was in the hands of two highly trained Lawson Group operatives, controlling the lead excavators, a Cat 374D with

MP40 work tool and a Cat 336E with MP20 work tool. These individuals were backed up by other team members responsible for breaking up and removing the demolition debris, using two smaller Cat 323E excavators and a Cat 242D skid steer.

So successful was the operation, that the road was handed over 12 hours ahead of programme, to the delight of Lawson Group MD, Martin Wilson who said:

"The power and capabilities of the Cat 374D in particular meant we were able to split the job into two main phases over the dual carriageway sections. This allowed us to start the breakdown and removal of demolition waste faster, with clearly defined working areas helping to significantly reduce the overall programme time for what ended up being an excellent job."



TOOLS FOR TALENT

AR DEMOLITION

With the construction industry faced with filling 180,000 jobs by 2018, and reports showing that millennials often perceive the industry as "not very dynamic," one company has decided to tackle these challenges head on...



AR Demolition, a Warwickshire-based family-run business has taken the first step towards change with its Apprenticeship Programme, supported by heavy investment in Cat® machines and attachments, more specifically the Cat Auto-Connect Quick-Coupler. Finning News visited AR Demolition's Apprentice Day to speak to co-founder Richard Dolman, and Apprentice Ambassador, Paul Lancaster.

Richard: "The skills shortage has been at the forefront of conversations for several years now, and it's only going to get worse – AR Demolition has made the decision to take control and grow our own talent, by introducing an apprenticeship scheme that encourages young people into the industry."

We've launched the scheme earlier in the year, and currently have six apprentices with four undertaking a bespoke, machinery led training programme. Our ambition is to nurture a new generation of talent and grow our own team of operators.

"It's been incredibly important to show our new recruits how committed we are, which is why we have purchased brand new machinery and attachments specifically for apprentice training. To be honest, it was quite a long procurement process to try and find the best machines, but we eventually chose to purchase two Cat 320E machines.

"Not only is it far easier to purchase machinery and attachments from one supplier, the relationship we've built with Finning has ensured a smooth process, from enquiry through to delivery, in a very short time scale.

"We first saw the auto-coupler in Holland around three years ago, and have tried various makes and models. However, we have been very impressed with the Cat Auto-Connect Quick-Coupler, its simplicity and robustness is what attracted us to it, along with its ability to protect all of the hydraulic couplings whilst not in use. It also fully automates tool exchange, which means our apprentices can change work tools in just a few seconds."

Finning News also caught up with Paul, Apprentice Ambassador at AR Demolition: "I had never actually used Cat machines or attachments before this, but I have to say, the kit has lived up to my expectations. It's a good feeling to get in to a brand new machine and feel like it's really yours."

"The training we undertake at AR Demolition is excellent, there's a heavy focus on health and safety and ensuring that we follow procedures and perfect our craft. I feel far more confident and competent now, which has allowed me to do my job better and be more productive."

"I do believe that there are a lot of prospects in the demolition industry, as there's plenty of opportunities to grow into different roles. I would definitely encourage more young people to enter the industry as, let's face it, where else do you get to smash things up for a living!"

CAT AUTO-CONNECT QUICK-COUPLER

Cat Auto-Connect Quick-Coupler is a new generation of automated hydraulic couplers for Hydraulic Excavators. The Auto-Connect fully automates tool exchange, with the ability to change work tools quickly and is still based on the standard Quick-Coupler CW platform.

The Cat Auto-Connect coupler has a low construction height design that maintains an optimal breakout force as the geometry in the relationship between the work tool and the boom does not change. It can support up to five hydraulic ports and is a fast, reliable and safe solution, eliminating oil spillages common with manual connections."





ULTRA DEMOLITION

Finning News caught up with Thomas Bros Excavations (Luton) Ltd to take a look at their brand new Cat® 329E Ultra High Demolition (UHD) Excavator. We spoke to Director Andrew Burton, at their site in North London, where Thomas Bros Excavations is demolishing West Drayton police station to make way for residential properties.

Andrew: "We've had the Cat 329E UHD for around 6 weeks now; it is the 11th edition to our Cat fleet and it's the largest machine of its kind currently in operation in the UK. We were in talks with Finning prior to this

project getting underway, as we needed a machine with increased versatility and extra reach. The Cat 329E was the perfect choice as the boom and stick reaches a height of 20m.

"Due to the location of the project, we're required to demolish the site in quite a tight timeframe, which means it was essential for us to be able to change attachments and work tools quickly and safely. With the hitch system incorporated on the boom and stick, our operators are able to change tools in a matter of minutes."



SMASHING PRODUCTIVITY

Following the arrival of the first new Cat® H130 ES hammer in the UK, Finning News caught up with Jack Stephens, Plant Manager for K.J Services Ltd in South Wales, to find out what impact the recently purchased work tool is having on its hire fleet.

Jack: "Put simply, by using the new hammers we are achieving an increase in productivity of up to 20%, we have happier operators, and by choosing the Cat H130 ES we don't get any misfiring. To be honest, being able to tackle misfiring through the functionality of the new hammer was one of the main reasons we selected it, as the hammer will only fire once the full weight is on the stone, and then stops automatically. Our machines are also running on half revs whilst utilising the hammer, which saves on fuel and is overall far more economical."

"On a practical level, we also opted for the Cat hammer as we primarily wanted to match it with our existing Cat 323D excavator, we currently use it to break up limestone for one of our quarry customers. Having now used the

hammer for over four weeks, we have had some great feedback from the operator, but more importantly our customer has seen real benefits, as we have been able to break down more rock within the allocated project time."

"We are typically using the new Cat hammer for 10 hour long shifts, five days a week. In financial terms, our customer is now getting almost one day a week more activity from us due to the increase in productivity – of course, this will go straight to their bottom line. Equally for us, by opting for a three-year warranty, supported by the Llantrisant Finning branch, we are able to reduce any downtime from what is already a reliable product. This ultimately means we are able to offer all of our customers a much better and more competitive service."

The Cat E Series Hammers feature a new symmetrical housing design, which allows for rotating the housing 180 degrees to compensate for wear, which effectively extends its life. The lower portion incorporates rock edges that add protection to the housing, and enables quick positioning of boulders. An optional wear package is available to further enhance hammer durability in severe applications.

The H130 ES Hammer includes automatic shut-off, which instantly stops the hammer when the tool breaks through material. The system increases hammer reliability and durability by eliminating the high internal stresses created by blank firing. Another feature continued in each Cat E Series Hammer is the external pressure control valve, which reduces service time when an adjustment is necessary. Sound suppression is standard for environmental protection and enhanced operator comfort.





Consistency is next day delivery 100% of the time.

The Our Promise symbol represents a set of promises that underpin our commitment to delivering the highest levels of customer excellence across every area of our business. Our Parts Promise includes three commitments: To deliver stocked parts from our national distribution centre, next day, 100% of the time, or give you a 5% discount if we fall short. To deliver Parts Direct orders for stocked parts free of charge.* To call you back within an hour if we can't give you an answer straightaway. That's our promise.

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*Terms and conditions apply. For more information visit www.finning.co.uk/ourpromise

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