

# EARTHMOVERS

JULY 2009 £3.50

**O&K**  
**MINING**  
**GIANTS**



## Fully-loaded Bell

## Exclusive

## First drive

**SHOW KIT**  
**REVEALED**



**NEW**  
**JCB**  
**4CN**

### MARKET REVIEW:

### COMPACTION OPTIONS

**Neuson tracked loader**  
**Terex backhoe history**  
**Fuel-saving tips & tricks**



● **NEW CAT TELEHANDLERS** ● **MOTOCROSS TRACKS** ● **HGV LICENSING**

## SEMI-AUTO HITCH ALARM

Hertfordshire-based Quick Switch has launched a new device to ensure that safety pins are inserted into semi-automatic quick-hitches. The idea is simple; a small sensor mounted to the inside of the quick-hitch detects the presence of the pin. If there is no pin present the control box sets off audio and visual alarms.

Quick Switch inventor and demolition veteran Tony Bianchi said, "The semi-automatic quick coupler is an intrinsically safe product when it is used correctly. But all too often, operators are failing to manually insert the retaining pin, leaving buckets and attachments prone to becoming disconnected from the machine.

"Because the sensor has quite a specific sensing range, we have used this to our advantage by installing the bracket and sensor in such a way that the correct sized pin has to be used. An undersized, inappropriate or temporary pin will not be detected or only detected intermittently, thereby activating the alarms."

Developed over the past two years and with some 12,000 live test hours under its belt, the Quick Switch system appears well thought-out and is said to meet the Supply of Machinery (Safety)



***The Quick Switch alarm system for semi-automatic hitches has been tried in real-life conditions and would seem to do what it says on the box.***

Regulations 1992 and the essential health and safety requirements contained within it. The cost, fully fitted and tested, is £600.

## Paving control

The new Trimble PCS400 paving control system can be mounted on a variety of new or used asphalt paving machines, regardless of manufacturer. Using the system, contractors can pave accurate slopes of 0.5% and lay the finish surface at an accuracy of up to 3mm, all within smoothness and minimal thickness specification.

The system uses up to three sonic tracers mounted on an averaging beam. Each sonic tracer has five sensors, rather than a single sensor, which allows the system to minimise the impact of small irregularities such as stones, grate inlets, shovels and workers' feet. Larger irregularities, such as road waves, can be averaged out using Trimble's averaging beam technology without bulky drag skis.

## Screen guards

