



Nuremberg 2009

Ian Webb visits the largest Toy Fair in the world, and sees what model makers have planned for collectors this year.

In the scale model world the biggest event of the year for new model announcements is the Nuremberg Toy Fair held every February. This year the fair celebrated its 60th anniversary and will seldom have been held in a gloomier economic climate.

The trade-only exhibition is exciting and huge with over 2,500 stands covering every aspect of the toy market. One of the exhibition halls is the home of models, and it was here that the major manufacturers of construction collectibles were

showing their products.

The first observation about this year's show was that there was no sign of economic problems in the scale model sector, with manufacturers reporting that they were doing good business, and sales were holding up.

There were plenty of new models to see, and some of them were large and impressive. The boundaries of the model-makers' skills continue to be pushed forward.

NZG's large large stand was exciting and had a whole showcase of Liebherr models. The German company now seems to be Liebherr's first choice model maker.

Among the new releases will be a good-looking HS885 crawler crane and a heavy PR764 dozer, both of which appear to be high quality models. Also, in prototype form, was a model of the Liebherr LTM11200, the largest telescopic crane in the world.

Left: WSI Model's Nooteboom ballast carrier in Ainscough colours.





Above: Norscot's TowHaul trailer is very imposing.

Six new excavators of various sizes were announced, and two Hitachi demolition excavators were displayed as prototypes, a very welcome addition to this sector.

NZG is also the distributor for TWH models in Europe, and so there were some interesting new models from it on display. One is the Vermeer Tub Grinder which is a machine typically used in forestry applications. The detail level of this model looks incredible. There were also new versions of two large mining models, and a prototype of the unusual Grove GTK1100 mobile crane.

Conrad of Germany is a model maker with a long history and it still has capacity to produce some very well-made models, although the detail level is not as high as some of the better models now made in China. They showed a couple of new, very large heavy-haulage models, which for sheer length will challenge the display space of some collectors. In addition there were smaller models, but unusually no new concrete pumps, or models for Liebherr.

Another company challenged by competition from Chinese models is Spain's Joal, and this was reflected on its stand with few new models in the usual 1:50 scale.

The relatively new German company BYMO had a good-looking model of a Komatsu D355C-3 pipelayer on display, together with a prototype of an Italian IMT piling auger.

WSI Models of Holland is also fairly new in the market and in just over two years has built a strong reputation for a wide range of truck models. It also makes a number of heavy haulage vehicles and it was great to see a new model of a ballast carrier in the colours of the UK crane hire company Ainscough being premiered.

It should be available to collectors in April. Also towering over everything was the huge Mammoet PTC crane with extension kit. This 1:50 model is around 12 feet tall.

On another stand, very high quality crane models were being



Above: NZG's Terex TR60 dump truck looks the part.



Above: The Sandvik LH621 underground loader from Conrad.

shown by the Taiwanese company, YCC. Although only small, YCC has built a following for its exceptionally detailed models of Liebherr large capacity cranes and some new versions were attracting a lot of interest. It has also expanding into producing a model of a Japanese Kato crane which looked first class.

The Norscot stand showed the most Caterpillar models that are likely ever to be seen in one place. The Caterpillar model range is very extensive and covers all types of machines. New for 2009 is the CAT 784C Tractor with TowHaul Trailer which is large and impressive, but smaller models have been added, including a CAT 336D excavator and the historic CAT 572C pipelayer.

Going by this year's Nuremberg Toy Fair, 2009 promises to have plenty



Above: A highly detailed Liebherr LG1550 mobile crane from YCC Models.

to excite the construction model collector with money to invest in building their collection.

Ian Webb reviews construction models on his website and you can read more at www.CranesEtc.co.uk **BPM**

Below right: TWH Collectible's highly detailed Vermeer Tub Grinder.

Below: The Liebherr HS885 crawler crane is new from NZG.

