

Nuremberg Toy

Ian Webb reports from the largest toy fair in the world, and sees what model makers will introduce this year.



The Caterpillar 785D mega water tanker.



Norscot's Caterpillar 740B EJ.



The boom of WSI's giant Sarens SGC-120.

The annual Toy Fair in Nuremberg, Germany, took place against the backdrop of very low freezing temperatures in Germany. Inside the vast exhibition centre it was warm though as over 70,000 visitors visited the stands of around 2700 exhibitors.

As usual the major diecast model makers could be found in Hall 7, although some companies chose not to exhibit this year including Tekno and YCC. For the rest, they reported the show was good with increased interest and a number of deals done.

It was good to see Norscot present as it have had a difficult time with its contractor in China resulting in legal action in Hong Kong and delayed deliveries of models.

Norscot has also been in discussion with Caterpillar about its scale model licence and has said that it hopes to resume manufacture and delivery of existing models at the end of March.

In the meantime, Norscot did display some new models at the show and it remains to be seen when it will make it to the market. Perhaps the most interesting model was the Caterpillar 740B EJ which is an articulated dumptruck with a working ejector. There were also a couple of existing models fitted with demolition shears and hammers. The biggest model on display was the Caterpillar 785D mega water tanker.

WSI of Holland had the largest new model on display with the unveiling of the giant Sarens SGC-120 Ring Crane. This machine is usually used in nuclear and petrochemical applications and the model is huge, weighing around 50kg and is some 2.6m high. It is expected to go on sale mid-year in a limited run of 500 models and you just need a house big enough to accommodate it.

WSI also showed the prototype of the Liebherr LTM 1350-6.1 mobile crane and this looks to be a very detailed model which will please collectors of crane models. It is also expected to be available in the summer.

Motorart were present at the show and seem to be back in favour as Volvo's preferred supplier although there were no new models on display. Four releases are planned for later in the year. Corgi had a stand as usual but its focus at the moment seems to be heavily on Olympics memorabilia with very little new in the 1:50 scale haulage sector.

Conrad of Germany had a number of new releases on display, and seems to be doing pretty well despite the flat economy. Haulage collectors will be well catered for with a couple of trucks with large loading cranes, and a number of vehicles in the

Fair 2012



The Link-Belt 800 X2 excavator.



Conrad's Putzmeister M42-5RZ concrete pump.

concrete sector including large mixer trucks and a new concrete pump model. Among the surprises was a large excavator for the American company Link-Belt, and the Terex AC100/4L mobile crane with a new cab design. Also on display was the large Terex AC1000 mobile crane model first seen at last year's show. However, the model will not be released until the real crane finally enters service.

NZG of Germany had a large number of

models in new liveries including the Hitachi Zaxis 1000K-3 demolition machines, and these looked really nice. It was good to see three new Liebherr models in prototype. These included the A 918 and A 936 C excavators, and the unusual SR 714 welding tractor. A new range of Mercedes Benz Actros trucks will appear and this will give rise to many truck and trailer combinations. The 2012

show had enough new models to make for an interesting year although 2013 is the year of the triennial BAUMA exhibition which is the largest exhibition in the world for real construction machines. The lead-up to BAUMA is usually the busiest period for model-making companies and there will be a significant number of as yet unannounced models under development. Some of these may appear towards the end of the year. **CP&M**



The Liebherr LTM 1350-6.1 mobile crane by WSI.



Liebherr SR 714 welding tractor prototype by NZG.



New Actros truck models