

Scaffolding

INTERNATIONAL

Peri scaffolding has helped Stuttgart, Germany contractor Züblin construct the Mercedes Benz sales centre in Milan, the largest in southern Europe, in the 12-month concrete phase of the project's 21-month build schedule. Planned for completion in Autumn this year, the 183 by 126 m building features a 19 m high 'brand gallery', whose central, truncated cone form changes continuously from 35 to 17 m in diameter. Its vertical axis inclines at an angle of about 13°, which results in a maximum 4.35 m offset of the circle centre.



UpRight appoints general manager

UpRight International held a two-day customer seminar at its Dublin, Ireland facility on 23-24 November at which it reaffirmed its total focus on the aluminium tower market and 'specials' such as aviation, boiler access systems and defence.

The company, which sold its powered access business to Tanfield Group last year and is now concentrating solely on the aluminium access market, also introduced its new general manager, John Nevin, who joined in November.

UpRight used the event to provide details of improvements to its manufacturing processes and to its products. It said it was capable of supplying products with a lead time of between four and six weeks, and that the facility could increase production capacity by 30% at short notice.

Product wise, UpRight focused on



John Nevin, new general manager at UpRight International.



the capability to paint its towers – a benefit in particular for rental companies – as well as new foldable toeboards, a stairway for its 400LF system, and new castors.

Following Mr Nevin's appointment,

Brand gets new private equity owner

Ownership of Kennesaw, GA-based Brand Energy & Infrastructure has shifted to private equity firm First Reserve Corporation in a US\$1.1 billion (€0.85 billion) deal announced on 3 January. Current owner is investment banking firm J. P. Morgan, which will sell its majority ownership of Brand by the end of the first quarter.

Paul Wood will remain president and chief executive officer of Brand, and the company said its current senior management team will remain in place.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for our business and employees to partner with First Reserve in the next phase of Brand's evolution," said Mr Wood. "We have successfully executed our business strategy over the last few years thanks to tireless work by our employees and loyal support from our customers. We look forward to working with our new owners to continue to build Brand into one of the strongest energy

and industrial service providers in the world".

Brand is one of the world's biggest scaffolding services companies, and also owns Aluma Systems, the concrete forming and shoring services company. Brand acquired Interstate Scaffolding in the US last October. The company provides scaffolding services for the industrial sector, and its services in the commercial market primarily serve non-residential construction and renovation markets.

The deal is subject to the usual regulatory approval and closing conditions.

Noel Corcoran retains overall leadership as regional chairman, while Brian Maddon is head of engineering and Arne Dirckinck-Holmfeld remains in charge of sales.

Not every scaffolding application is 'temporary'. SGB tube and fitting scaffolding and Cuplok staircases towers are part of at least a six-year, £5 (€7.5) million effort by specialist firm Davis Langdon LLP to preserve the 16th-century warship Mary Rose, dry docked in Portsmouth in the UK since 1982. SGB is replacing its original scaffolding, which has rusted because of the continuous spraying of water for preservation of the ship. The new equipment, installed over a 14-month period, will provide access throughout the project for archaeologists and conservation staff inside a sealed enclosure for spraying water-soluble wax polyethylene glycol, used to preserve the ship.

