

Heidelberg selected the Natura 2000 protected File Hajdar on Gotland, Sweden as the location for its first sustainable quarrying summit. The company said it selected the area which is operated by its subsidiary Cementsa as a limestone quarry because it is home to one of the largest populations of the threatened Pulsatilla patens.

Heidelberg organised the event last week to tell local stakeholders about progress of a project to investigate the possibilities of establishing and increasing the number of Pulsatilla patens in other suitable areas. The long-term goal is to find a solution for co-existence of quarrying activities and sustainable management of the Pulsatilla patens on Gotland, Sweden.

At the first day of the conference, around 50 participants learned more about new restoration concepts



Heidelberg hosts sustainability summit

including the sustainable protection of the red listed flower Pulsatilla patens at Gotland. The second day of the conference took participants to the current and former quarrying sites and locations where the Pulsatilla patens is growing.

"We would like to see this conference as a starting point

for an overall discussion on how nature and industry can exist side-by-side on Gotland," said Cementsa environmental manager Kerstin Nyberg. "We hope that the conference is the beginning of good cooperation, involving all local stakeholders in order to protect and develop the values we have here."

CALCESTRUZZI UNDER INVESTIGATION

Sicily-based Calcestruzzi's business practices have been placed under the spotlight again after two of its staff were among 14 arrested in connection with an investigation into the supply of concrete. The employees are accused of working with the local mafia to control the supply of concrete in Sicily and for criminal offences and fraud in public supply contracts.

The Italcementi's subsidiary has been previously linked to mafia control and in December 2007 Italcementi temporarily

suspended the operation of the company. Italcementi has issued a statement to say that the current investigation does not impact on the operation of Calcestruzzi or Italcementi.

Meanwhile on Corsica, fines of €10million and €4.5million handed down to Lafarge Ciments and Vicat for cartel activity have been confirmed by the Paris Court of Appeal. The companies were fined for operating a price fixing system on the French island.



AR Aggregates has said it is aiming for quality rather than just quantity with its latest equipment purchase for its newest UK operation. The newly formed aggregates arm of AR demolition has recently acquired new Sandvik QA450 and QE340 screens and a QJ340 crusher. "We could have just bought a second-hand crusher and screen and been content with producing a 6F2 product, but there are plenty of other companies doing that. We wanted to be unique in this area," explained AR co-director Andrew Thompson.

SNEF ACQUISITION

France's SNEF is reported to have acquired part of Holcim's business in Romania for a token fee of €1. The transfer is believed to have taken place in February and concerned Holcim's Ceprocim Engineering business, which delivers integrated engineering and project management services to cement manufacturers.

SPANISH BOND

Cemex Spain is reported to be preparing to issue two new bonds for a total of €2.15billion to help refinance debts. The first issue is for €523.8million with a fixed annual interest of 8.875%. The placement date was 5 May 2010 with maturity on 5 May 2017. The second issue is in US dollars and is for US\$2.20billion (€1.62billion) with an interest rate of 9.25%. The placement date is the same as the previous issue but maturity is 5 May 2020.

NEW CRH APPOINTMENT

CRH has announced that it has appointed Erik Bax as its new Europe Products and Distribution managing director following the resignation of Máirtín Clarke. Bax took over the post when Clarke's resignation took effect on 31 May this year. Bax joined CRH in 1984 and has a number of senior positions with the company and is currently managing director of CRH's European distribution business.

LATVIAN BLOCK INVESTMENT

Latvia-based paving specialist Silverstone has opened a new production facility in Talsi. The new plant will use sand and gravel from the company's local quarries to produce up to 3000m² of paving blocks and slabs, curbstones and concrete blocks per day.

RAIL AGGREGATE OPPORTUNITY

Rock blasted from a new cross border tunnel on the new Turin to Lyon rail link is to be crushed and screened as aggregates by Holcim and Vicat. Project developer LTF has estimated that the 57km tunnel will generate 14million m³ of material and it is likely that most of the aggregates produced will be reused in the scheme.

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