

Well equipped

Despite the industry still enduring tough times, investment in workshop equipment could prove a cost-effective measure for many operators. John Challen looks at some of the latest products on the market

There is no denying that the recession caused many companies to think twice about new machinery and tooling for their workshops. However, months later and, as the market starts to recover, workshops are looking at investing once again.

Snap-on Diagnostics is one of many firms looking to boost sales through recent product debuts. First up is the company's commercial truck diagnostics tool, launched under the Sun brand. This hand-held tool is essentially a more robust version of its diagnostic equipment used in the automotive market. "The tool will be great for the independent market, fleets, bus and coach companies, and official dealers," reckons Mark Ost, Snap-on Diagnostics UK sales director. "We have been asked for some time to create a commercial vehicle

diagnostics tool with all the features and we are fulfilling a market need."

Also falling under the Sun banner is the KoolKare HD air conditioning recycling centre, which is designed for servicing systems used in trucking and passenger service vehicles.

There is a 40L recycling tank, a 21cc recovery compressor and a vacuum pump that flows at 170L/m when filling the vehicle. Its gear pump handles 1kg/m of refrigerant, while 6m service hoses are located on the rear.

For those looking for a major overhaul of their facilities, Crypton,

a specialist in MoT and diagnostic equipment, has widened its ATL range. The expansion is being led by the ATL Pit Package, which allows operators to purchase a Crypton test lane with either scissor or four-post lift, or a pit. Use can be made of an existing pit or a new one. With the play detector only fitted to one side of the pit option, the amount of groundwork a workshop requires in the installation phase is greatly reduced. The play detector and turntables are recessed on the sides of the pit and the jacking beam straddles it, to take the place of the lift. To complete the ATL requirement, the Crypton pit package includes brake tester, headlamp aligners, mirrors, brake pedal depressor and control centre, with integrated emission test equipment, if required.

Penny for your thoughts

For another useful idea, look no further than Aberdeen-based Gray Forklift services, which installed a 150-tonne capacity Penny Hydraulics static tyre press to shorten response times and broaden its workshop service capabilities. The new press will allow this Scottish operation to replace solid tyres on rims up to 24in in diameter, used on the largest forklift trucks, so that it can offer a same-day swap service using its own resources, rather than relying on third parties.

"Customers cannot always wait the whole day for a set of replacement solids," comments Keith Robertson, operations manager at Gray Forklift Services. "With this new press, we can offer a better service to our customers with faster response."

The tyre press is floor-mounted, which avoided the need for a floor pit. Although a pit would have



allowed some of the mechanism to be mounted below floor level (making it easier to place and retrieve wheels and tyres), it was not an issue in this particular installation. Instead, because the various items are so large and heavy, service engineers use a lift truck with an attachment to handle rims, tyres and assembled wheels on and off the press.

Light launch

Meanwhile, Boston Garage Equipment has launched two VOSA-approved trailer wiring testers for MoT premises needing to acquire such equipment before the end of this year. For EU-13 pin socket testing, its model BTT-110 is the lower cost product, which complies with the minimum specification, while also offering power check, reverse and ignition functions. A premium version (BT-111) adds 7-pin test capability, which covers the majority of sockets currently on the market for vans and LCVs.

As for vehicles equipped with tyre pressure monitoring systems (TPMS), of which there are growing numbers, the OmiCheck Service, from Omitec, carries the TPMS function and enables registration or re-registration of tyre pressure monitoring valves on vehicle ECUs. The monitoring application is designed to register a new valve or re-register the location of a wheel, should it be moved from front to rear, and to detect when there is a tyre pressure monitoring system fault or if the valve itself needs replacing.

OmiCheck Service can also be used to monitor and service a wide variety of systems, such as ABS, airbags and climate control. For electronic parking brakes (EPB), this application has been designed to release the brake callipers, while replacing brake pads on selected vehicles with electronic handbrakes. **TE**



Operators lifted by scrappage idea and new products

Need an extra incentive to invest in new equipment? Stertil Koni could have the answer, because the mobile column lifts specialist has introduced a 'no quibble' commercial vehicle lift scrappage scheme.

General manager Tony Edge says the scheme is designed to encourage users to replace older commercial vehicle lifting equipment by offering a minimum £3,000 part exchange against a new set of lifts.

The allowance covers all part-exchanges of commercial vehicle lifts, regardless of make, age or condition, when purchasing a model from Stertil Koni cabled (ST1082S) or wireless (ST1082FWF) hydraulic mobile column lifts.

Edge maintains that the expected boost to sales is just part of the justification. "We're also taking the opportunity to extend our environmental responsibilities by making it easier for users of old, inefficient and non-green equipment to upgrade to brand new, clean, efficient and environmentally-friendly products," he insists.

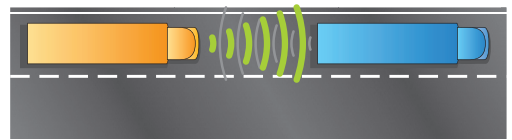
Elsewhere, garage lift specialist Codi International has introduced a range of replacement vehicle lift pads, designed to offer a greater level of safety in the workshop, while, at the same time, saving operators some cash. There are 60 different types of pad, according to the company, covering fitment to all the well-known lifts. Available with a next-day delivery package, the pad price starts at £6.25.

The company has also announced it is distributing the Italian range of Werther lifts. The range offered by Codi complements the existing range of Consul lifts that the company has imported for many years, and features the entry-level 3.2 tonne two-post Werther 2251 hydraulic lift. This model, says Codi, is competitively priced and easy to install, and features smoother operation and lower maintenance costs. A single phase version is also available, if required.

ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL RADAR ALIGNMENT

Steertrak, the nations leading laser wheel alignment specialist is now able to offer **Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) radar alignment** as part of its nationwide service. Using the latest equipment designed specifically for commercial vehicles, Steertrak is able to ensure that the radar sensor is aligned both horizontally and vertically in relation to the thrust angle of the vehicle, maintaining safe and reliable operation. Call **01684 276900** or email sales@steertrak.co.uk to find out more.

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