

Press Release - Yuken Europe

Yuken Europe work as part of the team to deliver a multi-million-pound upgrade to the Mersey Ferries which has safety at its heart.



After closing for two years, commuters and tourists are welcomed back to the Mersey Ferry route from Liverpool to Wallasey. The upgrade to the ferry terminal means that the iconic Mersey Ferries are back in Seacombe. The Ferries have graced the river Mersey for over 800 years, having already been an established sight before Liverpool had officially been declared a town in 1207, they have a huge role to play in the city's heritage.

Yuken Europe's role in this upgrade was paramount. Working on the hydraulics for the new bridge and the landing platform that links the ferry to the pontoon. Yuken Europe developed a bespoke hydraulic system designed to meet the required technical specification provided to us by the customer.

By working with Mersey travel (operators of the Mersey Ferries), an executive body that provides professional strategic and operational transport advice to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, the team created an enhanced safety system.

The system had its own complexity as it needed a solution to adapt the gangway system to manage the effect of high frequency tidal and weather conditions often seen on the Mersey. The Mersey is one of the fastest tidal rivers in Europe therefore this required special attention to the way the gangway was going to move with the vessel during passenger embark and disembarkation operations. A unique 'Float' system was designed and incorporated into the gangway control system which successfully achieved this.

Alan Ledson – Projects Engineering Manager at Yuken Europe has been leading this project with the team and he explains the project:

“This system provides levels of redundancy should a critical component fail. Component selection such as this was essential as many considerations had to be made, for example, the environmental and safety levels.”

“The main operator consoles were designed in such a way as to mimic the existing system operating at the pier head, thus, shortening training familiarisation times. We have created a unique and innovative replacement for the 130-year-old linkspan bridge. New security features prevent unauthorised access to the operation of the gangways, coinciding with MerseyTravel’s aim to ensure transport is fit for the future, accessible, and safe.”

Hundreds of thousands of people are out on the Mersey each year, with Liverpool Freeport being the biggest and busiest freeport in Britain. Not only is it a hotspot for tourists, but in 2020 Liverpool was the UK's fourth largest port of tonnage of freight handling 31.1 million tonnes.

“The re-opening of Seacombe will allow us to begin works at Woodside and bring it up to the same standard and support the on-going regeneration works in Birkenhead.

“The Mersey Ferries are an important part of our cultural identity in the city region. These works at both of our Wirral terminals will make sure the ferries can continue to operate from there for many years to come.”

Cllr Liam Robinson

Transport and Air Quality Portfolio Holder for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

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Yuken: Hydraulic Specialists, their products are recognised as an industry leading brand used in a variety of specialist applications around the world.

Founded over 90 years ago, Yuken started in an automobile repair shop founded in 1929 by Uichi Yuki in Tokyo. By 1940 the repair shop had become a successful manufacturer of hydraulic equipment, producing hydraulic honing machines, hydraulic vane pumps and hydraulic control valves.

Yuken Europe was founded in 1980 in the Northwest of the United Kingdom, supplying the UK, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East with products and specialist guidance in hydraulics.

Yuken Europe is based in Speke in Liverpool with over 50 employees. They operate and support their customers with bespoke projects and to supply hydraulic components.

More information about Yuken Europe

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