



History of BPH Equipment

BPH Equipment, formerly known as Birse Plant Hire was a subsidiary of Peter Birse Ltd, subsequently renamed Birse Construction. Peter Birse founded the construction business bearing his name in the early 1970s and from the very start civil engineering played a major part in the success and growth of the Birse business. By 1975 the company was well established and was focused on public works projects for local and regional authorities.

It was also in 1975 that Birse Plant Hire was established to service the plant and equipment requirements of not only the Birse Construction business but also external companies involved in construction and civil engineering.

During the 1980s the Birse business continued to grow and extended its operations to include water and waste treatment systems and process engineering and it was during this period of successful growth that Birse Plant Hire changed its corporate identity and became known as BPH Equipment Ltd. In 1989 the Birse Group of companies were floated on the London Stock Exchange and had become firmly established as a major player in the UK construction market. By this time BPH Equipment had also diversified its activities and in addition to serving the needs of construction and civil engineering had established depots in Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Aberdeen supplying specialist equipment to the offshore industry.

As part of the successful Birse Group, BPH Equipment had grown in stature and diversity and the easily recognised 'Birse Green' equipment of BPH Equipment was highly visible on major and high profile projects throughout the UK, offshore in the North Sea and on occasion overseas in locations such as the Gulf States, Indonesia, Malaysia and a number of European countries.



From its very beginning BPH Equipment had concentrated its core business around the hiring of crawler cranes and piling equipment to the heavy civils market and in particular marine piling had become established as the BPH Equipment market of choice.

During the year 2000 and following on from the success enjoyed by BPH Equipment in these areas of operation it was decided to restructure the business and concentrate exclusively on the specialist equipment which had always been the mainstay of BPH Equipment's business – crawler cranes and piling equipment.

Since restructuring the business has continued to operate in this highly specialist niche market and has grown its reputation over many years as the only UK hire company with the capability to provide the complete package of crawler crane and piling equipment to the largest and most complex marine piling projects which have taken place throughout the UK. The BPH Equipment reputation for quality equipment and service support is second to none in the industry, its latest achievement being that of being the first company in the UK to launch into the market a crawler crane which is compliant with Balfour Beatty Regional Civil Engineering's Zero Harm Standards.

The Birse Group was acquired by Balfour Beatty in July 2006 at which point BPH Equipment Ltd became part of Balfour Beatty Regional Civil Engineering. Continued investment by Balfour Beatty in the BPH Equipment business has assured its continuing success at the forefront of the specialist hire industry with the most modern specialist equipment fleet available in the UK maintained to the highest standards of safety in line with the Balfour Beatty initiative of Zero Harm by 2012. BPH Equipment cranes and piling hammers remain highly visible today throughout many major UK construction sites although the equipment is no longer green but in the very distinguishable blue and white livery of Balfour Beatty with the well known BPH Equipment logo still prominently displayed.