

Edinburgh Zoo opens high ropes course

UK based Innovative Leisure has completed the installation of a major high ropes adventure course at Scotland's Edinburgh Zoo.

Featuring a range of challenges, the new Sky Trail offers a brand new form of family entertainment at the zoo and is the first installation of its type to be completed by Innovative Leisure in a UK zoo. The structure blends perfectly into the surrounding landscape with its jungle theming and consists of an 80m long track, 6m above the ground, providing a fun, exciting, challenging, "dangerous yet safe" experience carried out in perfect safety with the use of a continuous belay system throughout the course, which is made up of a series of testing elements suitable for all skill levels.



TAA hooks onto pirate theme

THEMING and Animatronics Industries has completed the design and installation of the key themed elements of Heide-Park Resort's latest attraction.

Skull Pirates' Bay is the German theme park's latest environment that enables young and grown-up guests to immerse themselves in the adventurous - and "dangerous" - world of pirates.

As part of its contract with Heide-Park, Spain based TAA was appointed to realise two major projects, the first of which was to develop a giant pirate ship wreck as the highlight of the ToPiLauLa Splash Battle.

"Guests don't only come past the wreck various times during their adventurous boat trip - they can already admire the inside of this historic sailing ship while waiting in the queue," TAA said. "The design was implemented in such a realistic way that one could believe that this wreck has just been washed ashore."



As a further highlight, TAA also installed the decor for the area surrounding the Pirate Stunt Show.

The group added: "Thanks to the theming of the existing facade and its extensions in artistic rendering and real wood, the manufacture and mounting of old windows and doors as well as the theming and decoration of the

constructions exclusively made for acrobats and stuntmen, even the workers felt like they were on a time travel back to the times of sea battles."

Animalive lands Sea Life contract

INTERACTIVE theatre developer Animalive has signed an agreement with Merlin Entertainments to provide its latest technology solution, ChatterBox Mini, for the Sea Life Centre brand in the UK.

According to the group, Animalive's technology will be placed in four Sea Life centres across the UK, adding a new level of theatre-based entertainment and education for its guests.

Animalive's ChatterBox Mini previously won an IAAPA best product award. The technology

combines motion capture, real time animation rendering software and video hardware - a solution previously only available to television production companies for children's programmes.

"For their purpose we created a special character, Kiah the Turtle, who will host an interactive quiz, which asks guests questions about their experience and what they have learned during their visit," said Ali Kord, CEO of Animalive.

Continued growth for UK karting group

FASTLINE Group, the UK-based karting giant which incorporates ROC Timing, continues to grow its global presence as a key provider of go-kart products and venue management systems.

Fastline's dual business model has helped buffer the company's operations in the face of the global economic slump. Marketing director Simon Heap said that while the group's go-kart centre and FEC venue management systems division had been hit by the downturn, there has recently been a resurgence of interest in opening new centres, particularly in the UK and US.

"As Fastline Group distributes a lot of commodity type products which kart centres consume frequently - such as tyres, engine parts and spares - the business has actually

been growing over the past year," noted Heap. "This growth is a product of improving our supply chain and increasing our product line, while we are also currently sourcing a budget range."

Looking ahead, Fastline plans to bolster its presence in the Middle East and Africa through the turnkey solutions the company offers. It is also planning to move its ROC Timing venue management system into the FEC and theme park market.

"In the near future we will be launching a new kiosk system aimed at the FEC market to help them manage bookings and queues for time based activities such as bowling, karting, climbing walls and laser tag," Heap said. "We are also looking at expanding our product range into adjacent markets."

