

NEW WEBAK GETS PTB APPROVAL

GO-AHEAD FOR FUTURE LINE AWP

THE latest Webak AWP for the German street market, Future Line, has been approved by the PTB, the German government-owned testing authority.

Webak, based at Gmunden, Austria, was the first non-German manufacturer of AWP machines to get an approval certification from the PTB after the German laws changed in January 2007. The company is constantly upgrading its software for the product with which it broke into the market, Casino Multi Game, which comes with five games already installed.

The new AWP, Future Line, which will also be distributed by Neox Technologies of Bingen am Rhein, Germany, and features a 19ins

touchscreen monitor and upgraded technology, will similarly have five games, a mix of new product and the most successful games from the Casino Multi Game.

Webak's Eveline Kreiner commented: "We were surprised at how quickly the PTB processed this authorisation, as it has to work on so many applications, resulting in long waiting periods. But because of new measures the backlog now seems to have been reduced."

"The first indications are that our new machine will be just as successful as the Webak Casino Elegance Slim Multi-Game and besides the existing markets we will of course be looking at other markets for it."

PAN DIVERSIFIES WITH GO-AHEAD SCHEME

SHOOTING GALLERY FIRM CHANGES TACK

CONTINUING its successful diversification, the world leader in electronic shooting galleries, Pan Amusements, has designed, built and installed the scenery and surroundings for a children's go-kart amusement at Butlins, Skegness, UK.

The project required Pan to construct the whole track setting, including all structures, sign-writing and accessory pieces such as tyres, flags and oil drums. Pan worked alongside North Wales-based Formula K International, which supplied the go-karts and track management expertise.

Pan still maintains a healthy order book for its trademark electronic shooting galleries but is being increasingly commissioned for its animation and set building skills on a number of leisure projects.

AMG TAKES OVER

UK ARCADE CHANGES HANDS

AMG Amusements has completed a takeover of the former CHS Amusements facility on Hunstanton's Beach Terrace in the UK.

£75,000 has been invested in redemption games and the adult gaming area has received a major overhaul. Tony Bowman, AMG's director of operations for Norfolk, said: "We just want people to know we are back."

"The days have gone where people just put their money in machines and walk away with nothing. With games like basketball and bowling they can save their tickets and get prizes back."

ICONIC IN EUROPE

BARCREST FOLLOWS UP UK LAUNCH

FOLLOWING a successful UK launch, Barcrest Group has announced the introduction of Iconic sb, its fully-integrated server-based gaming solution, into continental Europe.

Developed specifically for the gaming machine environment Iconic sb allows operators to change the games mix to match player demographics and optimise each site's gaming offer according to demand. Iconic sb also allows instantaneous configuration and reporting of machines - essential for maximising machine income.

In continental Europe, Iconic sb will provide a video lottery system using the Triple 7 cabinet as the terminal to deliver a comprehensive library of top-performing video slots games. The first country to benefit will be the Czech Republic, closely followed by Slovakia, in a new venture between Barcrest Group and Czech partner Jamp.



McILVENNY RETURNS FROM RETIREMENT

EX-RANK MAN IN AT ALDGATE

TERRY McIlvenny, the former head of ancillary gaming at UK giant Rank, who officially retired from the industry in 2005, has accepted an invitation to join the Nick Harding-led Aldgate Capital Group in what is being described as a "high profile consultative role."

He will be advising the head of Aldgate's adult gaming centre subsidiary, Jonathon Hughes, as he plans its entry into the AGC market. Commenting on his appointment, McIlvenny said: "Although I retired from the business full time three years ago, I've remained in close contact with many different people and personalities, including Jonathon, who I've known since he ran the highly successful Royals chain of AGCs, and I am delighted to be able to assist him in what will doubtless be an exciting entry into this market."

Hughes is equally enthusiastic about the latest addition to his team. He said: "Terry is a 'one off' who has forgotten more about the industry than most people will ever know. His knowledge, contacts and vision will all prove great assets to us as we press ahead with our UK business strategy."

BELGIAN amusement machine manufacturer VdW International has appointed Jean-Mario Bockstael as export manager.

Bockstael, who has extensive experience in the industry, will be in charge of all overseas contacts for the company.