

Vans survey

Driving force

Flooring contractors have many different transport options:

Axiam-Mega says record petrol and diesel prices, combined with the growing cost of compliance with environmental legislation, are two powerful reasons for businesses to think strategically when specifying new vehicles.

The company manufactures Mega Multitrucks, described as ultra-light commercial vehicles said to offer a genuinely practical alternative to traditional vehicles across a range of tasks.

They offer a payload of up to 415kg and are designed for applications such as light on-site deliveries and collections, particularly in areas where space is at a premium. The electric models are suited to areas where noise and fumes must be minimised, where undercover working is required, and where environmental concerns are a key priority.

Mega Multitrucks are available in a range of body configurations including a van, tipper, Rossi tipper, dropside and pick-up.

Electric models offer a top speed of 30mph and a range of around 60 miles from a single overnight charge, depending on surface conditions and driving style.

Energy costs are less than 2p per mile, according to the company.

Mega Multitrucks are described as corrosion-resistant, easy to maintain, and almost 100% recyclable at the end of their life.

www.mega-electric.co.uk
Bott makes and installs in-vehicle storage equipment. Its Normline storage systems include shelving units, drawer service case units, lockers, bulkheads, floors and linings and in-house signs and graphics department. Bott provides extensive fleet installation, conversion and preparation services at its facility in Leicestershire and manufactures products at its factory in Cornwall. **www.bottitd.co.uk**

Fiat has added to its range of Light Commercial Vehicles with the Fiat Fiorino van. In line with market predictions suggesting a substantial demand for a small, modern delivery van, the Fiorino is reportedly proving to be a big success across Europe. Recently crowned the 2008 Fleet World Honours Best New Van, it joins the UK Fiat Professional product line-up at a time of expansion for the brand's LCV sales. Developed via a joint venture between Fiat and PSA, and made at the Tofas plant in Bursa, Turkey, the new Fiorino has been specifically designed for use in busy towns and cities.

www.fiat4media.co.uk



Mega Multitrucks are available in a range of body configurations



Nexus Rental provides a range of vehicle rental services supporting fleet and leasing companies, major corporate companies, government departments and national charities.

Working in partnership with the majority of the major rental companies and more than 50 local, regional and specialist rental companies, Nexus supports a variety of transportation requirements for businesses and individuals from one-day-one-way rentals to 90-day plus and lead-in vehicles throughout the UK, Europe and worldwide.

Central to the Nexus Rental Management proposition is its online booking and management system, IRIS. The system fully automates all booking processes internally via direct connectivity with several leading rental suppliers in the UK including National, Europcar, Enterprise and Avis.

Neil McCrossan, chief executive, Nexus Rental Management, believes some of the big challenges for the industry as a whole include how to keep people on the move whilst responding to pressure on costs caused by the credit crunch

and creating an environmentally-responsible transport policy.

www.nexusrental.co.uk

SsangYong has launched two new light commercial versions of the SsangYong Kyron and Rexton. The SsangYong Kyron C-S and Rexton C-S are based on the Kyron and Rexton S passenger SUV cars, and converted in the UK with the removal of the rear seats to provide a flat load area, and black tinted rear windows.

The Kyron C-S has a payload of 530kg and a mighty cargo volume of 2,384l. The Rexton C-S has a volume of 2,186l and an even bigger payload of 740kg.

A special guard to separate driver and passenger from any load being carried is available for £299 including VAT and fitting. A Mercedes T-Tronic auto transmission is an option on both models. **www.ssangyonggb.co.uk**

Volkswagen has extended its contract hire and finance lease offer on the Transporter van, which is now available from £209 a month (excluding VAT) until 30 September 2008. This offer also includes free servicing and maintenance for three years or 30,000 miles (whichever comes first).

Volkswagen says it offers such a competitive and affordable finance package thanks to the Transporter's durability, high residual values and competitive whole life costs. The offer applies to all models in the Transporter van range, including Sportline models. **CFJ**
www.volkswagen-vans.co.uk

'Correctly funding your vehicle is important'



Carl D'Ammassa, ceo, TLS Vehicle Rental, discusses funding options:

HAVE you looked at how you fund your vans and trucks lately? If the answer is no, then you fall very much into the majority of

businesses in the floorcoverings sector and elsewhere.

Correct funding can improve operational efficiency, reduce your risk exposure, help portray a professional image to your customers and protect you against future uncertainty. Reviewing the way your vehicles are funded on a regular basis is also good practice.

Rental, purchasing and contract hire are the main funding alternatives, with each giving different advantages and each suitable for different companies in different situations.

However, TLS Vehicle Rental finds that the vast majority of businesses including floorcovering companies hardly ever periodically question the method they use to acquire vehicles.



It could be that a decision was taken four years ago to take vehicles on fixed mileage, three-year leases because a floorcovering company was tied into a long-term contract.

However, that contract is now complete and perhaps several much shorter-term contracts have come along.

Entering into new three-year agreements may not be the ideal move but many companies repeat their model automatically.

TLS has recently been encouraging businesses in the floorcovering industry to look at their vehicle funding in detail because, in its experience, most unbiased studies will lead to more van rental being used. **www.tls.co.uk**

ABOVE: A TLS rental vehicle

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