

EDGE

A publication for and about customers of RoadBuilders Machinery and Supply Co., Inc.

BLESSING CONSTRUCTION

Kearney, Neb., contractor's second business starts out big and continues to grow

See article inside . . .



Ron Blessing,
Owner/President

KOMATSU®

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Phil McCoy

**See what users
are saying
about new
Tier 4 Interim
machines**



Dear Valued Customer:

As we head into the fourth quarter, we hope you're having a productive and profitable year.

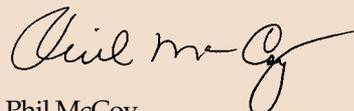
We've seen plenty of activity during the construction season, so if you find a need for new equipment, please let us know. Komatsu continues to roll out its new Tier 4 Interim equipment, which we believe you'll find among the most efficient and productive on the market. In this issue of *The RoadBuilders' Edge*, you can see what users are saying about the machines and their technology and service support. You can also read about the new PC210LC-10 excavator, which builds on the popular PC200LC models.

Like Komatsu, we're dedicated to keeping your owning and operating costs down. We help you do that in several ways, including the Tier 4 Interim machines, which come with complimentary scheduled maintenance through the exclusive Komatsu CARE program. Our trained technicians handle all the work, using genuine Komatsu parts and fluids.

We do some of that technician training right here at RoadBuilders Machinery and Supply. Our technicians also train at Komatsu's Training and Demonstration Center in Cartersville, Ga. There, Komatsu provides education on best practices to make parts and service personnel more efficient, maximizing your uptime.

Finally, during the construction season and throughout the year, we know you'll frequently encounter areas of road construction. Sometimes it seems inconvenient, but keep in mind those orange signs and cones are good for all of us as they represent progress toward better roads, bridges and other infrastructure. Like you, we're pleased that Congress passed legislation for even more highway and infrastructure construction.

Sincerely,
ROADBUILDERS MACHINERY
AND SUPPLY CO., INC.



Phil McCoy
President



The RoadBuilders'

EDGE

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(402) 325-0447 • FAX: (402) 325-0753

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A SALUTE TO A



CUSTOMER

BLESSING CONSTRUCTION

Kearney, Neb., contractor's second business starts out big and continues to grow



Ron Blessing,
Owner/President

When Ron Blessing decided to go back into business for himself, he was determined not to start the same way he did with a previous venture.

"That was basically a one-man show at the beginning, and much of the work involved pouring private driveways and sidewalks," said Blessing, who sold his first business in 1987 after about 15 years in operation. "I didn't want to do that this time around, so I immediately hired about 10 workers and went after larger municipal and commercial paving projects. That remains the bulk of the business."

The move paid off quickly as Blessing Construction immediately began a \$2 million paving project on North Railroad in its hometown of Kearney. The Blessing crew handled nearly every aspect of the 4,000-yard pour.

"I knew my employees very well, and I knew they had the experience to make it a successful project," said Ron. "They proved me right. That helped establish us and we've been building ever since."

But concrete paving does not make up the total Blessing Construction picture. While Ron founded Blessing Construction in 1998 with a focus on paving, today it provides additional services, such as site work, demolition and crushing, throughout central Nebraska.

"Concrete paving makes up about 70 percent of our work load," said Blessing. "Included in that is municipal street and county road projects, often as a general contractor, which I prefer. I like to be in control and handle everything on a project from the initial site prep to the final grading. That goes for the commercial aspect as well, where we tend to provide an entire site package that includes paving sidewalks, parking lots and any road work. We try to sub out as little as possible."

Crushing growth

Many projects also involve removing old pavement, something Blessing Construction has done since its founding. For the past 10 years, it's taken those materials to its Recycling Center in Kearney, where they're crushed to make four products that Blessing Construction uses in its own projects and sells to other contractors as well. It also accepts old pavement materials from other contractors, and does a small amount of portable on-site crushing.

"Crushing and reusing old materials continues to gain acceptance, which wasn't the case when I had my other business," said Blessing, noting he was an advocate for reusing materials before it gained prominence during the past decade. "It became a natural extension of what we were already doing. Our main product is inch-and-a-half-minus, which makes a good base material."

In addition, Blessing Construction produces Class B riprap, golf-ball-size product — what Blessing terms as "overs" — often used as

A Blessing Construction operator loads a truck with material from the company's Recycle Center. Based in Kearney, Neb., Blessing offers paving, site work, demolition and recycling services.

▶ VIDEO





Project Manager Scott Blessing takes down a farm building using a Komatsu PC300HD excavator. “Komatsus have good power and they’re durable,” said Blessing. “They also give us versatility, because we can dig, run a breaker or use a thumb.”

a base product for parking areas and farm driveways, and a product called fines, used for subgrade and site prep.

“When I first started, I figured if I could crush 10,000 tons a year, that would be good and we could justify having our own crusher,” said Blessing. “It’s continued to grow. Last year we crushed about 150,000 tons. That may not be the case every year, but the total has always been well beyond that 10,000 mark. Buying the crusher proved to be a solid business move.”

Demolition expands, thanks to staff

Another solid move for Blessing Construction is expansion beyond concrete demolition. The company also offers traditional demo work that includes tearing down houses, buildings and other structures. Project Manager Scott Blessing, Ron’s brother, oversees that aspect of the business.

Scott noted that lately much of Blessing Construction’s demolition work is in the agricultural market, tearing down old silos and other buildings to make way for more crops. In 2010, the company recycled 54 acres for the Platte Valley Academy, which included approximately 20 buildings, two sewage lagoons and more than 100 large trees. Crews then leveled the entire site for farming. Blessing Construction has also torn down houses and office buildings and razed several dorms at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, recycling 98.7 percent of the material from the dorms.

“Our demolition work runs the gamut, from taking down an industrial warehouse to



For smaller demolition work, Blessing Construction relies on this Komatsu PC138 excavator. “Its size allows us to get into areas where the larger excavators won’t fit,” said Project Manager Scott Blessing.

removing outbuildings on farms,” said Scott. “As with concrete removals, we’re recycling a good percentage of the materials from tear-downs. We separate the steel and iron and take it to scrap yards. Of course, much of the concrete goes back to our yard but in some instances, we crush and reuse it on site. We’re taking less and less material to the landfill.”

Including the demolition, crushing and concrete work, Blessing Construction employs about 50 people who are split into multiple crews. Many of the initial workers Ron Blessing hired remain on staff. In addition to Scott, he cites Office Manager Emily Burchell as a key employee.

“A business like this is only as good as the people who work for it,” emphasized

Continued . . .



Scan this QR code using an app on your smart phone to watch video of Blessing Construction’s machines at work.

Sterling reputation brings new and repeat customers

... continued



Scott Blessing,
Project Manager

Ron. "I believe I have the best in the business, hands-down. Many people have been here a decade or more, but a fair number only have a few years or less on staff. It's a really good mix that allows me to pair more experienced workers with the newer people. That's allowed me to develop some 'home-grown' talent and a dedicated group. I can't say enough good things about them and their role in the company's success."

RoadBuilders and equipment impress

Blessing also credits RoadBuilders for its help in attaining and maintaining much of Blessing Construction's equipment fleet. Working with Grand Island District Sales Manager Tony Randone, Blessing Construction has added Komatsu excavators (a PC300HD, a PC300, a PC200 and a PC138) and a WA450 wheel loader, as well as Metso and McCloskey crushing and screening equipment.

"One of the biggest factors in my buying decisions is dealer support, and Tony and RoadBuilders haven't let me down since I purchased the PC300 about six years ago," reported Ron, who also rents and has purchased NPK breakers and processors and Ingersoll-Rand

products from RoadBuilders. "In fact, that's why we looked at Komatsu in the first place. I didn't feel I was getting the best service, and I talked with another company that used Komatsu. They said I should contact Tony. RoadBuilders has provided us great service after the sale, so we've continued to work with them from sales, rental and service standpoints. They take good care of us and they have quality equipment."

Blessing Construction uses the Komatsu excavators in all aspects of the business, especially demolition. "Komatsus have good power and they're durable," said Scott Blessing. "They also give us versatility because we can dig, run a breaker or use a thumb. For smaller jobs, the PC138 really comes in handy. We use it often for breaking concrete. Its size allows us to get into areas where larger excavators won't fit, and it is productive without the risk of the counterweight swinging into an obstruction."

"At the crushing yard, we have the PC200 dedicated to breaking oversized material, while the WA450 wheel loader moves between the crusher and the stockpiles, as well as loads trucks," added Ron. "We have some fairly sizeable piles, and the loader has good power to make the climbs."

Not affected by downturn

The downturn in the economy the past few years has not affected Blessing Construction. Ron said revenues remained consistent, and in some cases, grew. He credited hard work — he's very hands-on and works alongside employees — and a focus on always providing a quality job.

"The volume of demolition and crushing work will probably continue to grow," predicted Ron. "During the past few years, we've seen our paving work stay consistent and the other types of projects grow; at some point it might become a 50-50 split. Having that diversity is a great asset."

"I've always believed that the finished product is our best form of advertising," he concluded. "Giving customers more than they expect by providing a high-quality job in a fair and honest manner goes a long way. Customers call us back repeatedly and spread the word about us. In turn, we have numerous repeat customers and are gaining new ones based on our reputation. As long as we do that, we'll continue to be successful." ■

Blessing Construction Owner/President Ron Blessing (left) works with RoadBuilders District Sales Manager Tony Randone to purchase and rent equipment. "One of the biggest factors in my buying decisions is dealer support," said Blessing. "Tony and RoadBuilders take good care of us, and they have quality equipment."



At its Recycle Center, Blessing Construction uses Metso and McCloskey screening and crushing equipment to make four products it uses for its own projects and sells to other contractors.





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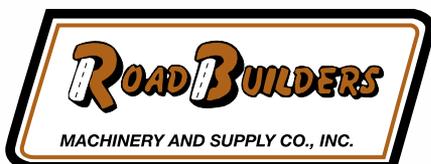


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NEW HIGHWAY BILL

Two-year bill brings some certainty to surface transportation, transit construction

Congress passed and the President signed a bill in midsummer that funds highway and other transit projects, providing money for roads, bridges and other infrastructure for 27 months. Dubbed MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century), the measure comes nearly three years after the previous highway bill, SAFETEA-LU, expired in September of 2009.

Since then, nine, short-term funding extensions kept some money flowing to transportation projects. But industry organizations all complained that the lack of a long-term bill was adversely affecting contractors by creating uncertainty at the state and local level.

The bill totals \$120 billion, covering the remainder of this fiscal year, which ends September 30, and the next two fiscal years. Attached to it was a student loan deal to keep

interest rates at the current 3.4-percent rate for one year at a cost of about \$6 billion.

The measure provides \$40.4 billion in highway investment for fiscal year 2013 and \$41 billion for 2014. It includes \$12 million each year to support new pavement technologies to speed the adoption of cost-effective, sustainable pavement, as well as improve pavement design, maintenance and construction, according to the National Asphalt Pavement Association.

Construction and equipment industry groups had lobbied Congress hard for passage of a measure before the November election. It's hoped that the new bill will be a job creator for an industry that's seen unemployment well above the national average.

Faster environmental reviews

Both sides compromised to complete the deal.

Republicans dropped the Keystone Pipeline from their original proposal. They also agreed to abandon language that would have blocked the Environmental Protection Agency from regulation of ash generated by coal-fired power plants.

Democrats agreed to halve the time allowed for environmental reviews. This will mean speedier approval of projects and will shorten the length of time it takes to complete highway and bridge projects, which is estimated at an average of 13 years, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. They also conceded on a funding issue regarding new bike paths and pedestrian safety projects.

The law gives states additional flexibility in spending federal money, imposes new safety regulations and expands a federal loan guarantee program to encourage private investment in transportation projects, according to a Yahoo

MAP-21, the new highway bill, provides funding for bridges and roads while allowing faster approval for such projects.





The new \$120 billion highway bill, passed by Congress in late June, is good news to the construction industry. The funding will provide some much-needed stability to the highway market, bringing jobs and certainty to contractors, equipment dealers and other industry suppliers.

News article. Private investment may well be needed, as estimates show the current gas tax does not cover the cost of transportation programs. Forecasts say revenue will continue to decrease with people driving less and greater fuel efficiency of cars and trucks.

Industry reaction

Industry groups praised Congress for passing the 27-month Highway Bill. But almost all concur that Map-21 doesn't go far enough. They want certainty past 2014.

"The leadership of the House and Senate should be congratulated for getting the conference report done," said National Asphalt Pavement Association President Mike Acott. "The additional year of funding will bring short-term certainty for the highway market and, at the very least, will help sustain jobs in the asphalt-pavement industry."

"This is a long-awaited, positive development for the construction equipment industry," said Associated Equipment Distributors Chairman Larry Glynn. "Contractors around the country have been on life support over the last few years. This bill will provide much-needed certainty for contractors, dealers and suppliers."

"The members of Congress that worked so hard to craft this message understand the benefits to our economy," said Stephen

E. Sandherr, Chief Executive Officer of the Associated General Contractors of America. "Today's legislative accomplishments must be seen, however, as the start of a broader effort to address the long-term funding challenges that still threaten the federal transportation program. That is why we look forward to resuming our work on an even longer-term transportation measure that includes key revenue reforms, as soon as Congress returns."

Long-term needs

The new transportation bill comes on the heels of recent information that predicted the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) would likely give the nation's infrastructure a D grade when it releases its next report in 2013. The last report card in 2009 put our infrastructure shortfall at \$2.2 trillion. It's assumed that figure will be considerably higher in 2013.

"The report card isn't saying we don't spend money on infrastructure; it's saying we should be spending a greater amount," said ASCE President-Elect Greg DiLoreto in a recent Bloomberg article. "As civil engineers, we feel we are stewards of the infrastructure. It's what we know best. It's just like a doctor telling you that you have a heart condition. We're taking it to the concrete and saying, 'America, you have a mortar and bricks problem with your infrastructure.'" ■

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REACTION TO HIGHWAY BILL

Measure contains “good news and bad news” says Transportation Association leader

The new highway bill that Congress passed in late June was welcome news throughout the construction industry. However, it was not the long-term, significant funding measure that many believe is needed. The following article is from Pete Ruane, President and CEO of the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA).

In the short term, the bill will provide stability in federal funding for state and local transportation projects. The elimination of earmarks should also accelerate the speed at which federal funds impact the market for transportation improvements. That’s the good news.

The bad news is there is no new money. And even with their federal funds, we are now in a situation where 28 states have invested less in highway and bridge projects over the past 12 months than they did in prerecession 2008, even when adjusted for inflation.

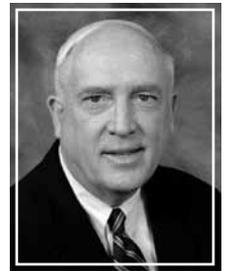
We view this bill – as we believe congressional leaders do – as just “Step One,” which is making the significant program and policy reforms needed to restore public confidence in how the federal government is investing their money in transportation and mobility.

“Step Two” is coming to grips with how to fund the nation’s investments in transportation infrastructure and mobility over the longer term. That tough job remains. And it will require the same bipartisan, bicameral leadership and cooperation that was ultimately demonstrated on this bill.

Our mission is crystal clear: to do everything possible to ensure that the proper level of transportation investment is viewed as a core

priority as the looming, larger discussion and legislative activity begins in earnest on Capitol Hill to define the proper role of the federal government in the 21st century and how it utilizes the public’s money.

We commend Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), Senate Environment & Public Works Committee Chair Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), EPW Ranking Member Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.), House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica (R-Fla.), and T&I Committee Ranking Member Nick J. Rahall (D-W.Va.) for their steadfast and dogged determination to get the job done. ■



Pete Ruane,
President and CEO,
American Road &
Transportation Builders
Association (ARTBA)

Although Congress finally passed a new, bipartisan, highway bill, many believe it doesn’t provide the long-term stability needed to support transportation infrastructure.



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NEW PRODUCTS

EXCAVATOR EXCELLENCE

Greater fuel efficiency, lower emissions make Komatsu's new PC210LC-10 even better than its popular predecessor

When Tier 4 Interim standards were announced, the challenge was to take already proven and productive machinery and reduce emissions without losing performance. Komatsu's new PC210LC-10 excavator does just that, with greater fuel efficiency as a bonus.

"The previous PC200 models, which the PC210LC-10 replaces, were popular because they were proven to be among the most productive excavators in their size class," said Komatsu Product Marketing Manager Brian Yureskes of the 47,000-pound-class PC200 excavators. "They're good machines in a wide range of applications. That holds true with the new PC210LC-10, with several added benefits, including up to 10 percent better fuel efficiency, depending on the application."

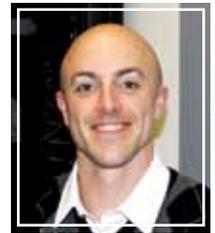
Yureskes notes that Komatsu achieved better fuel economy through advancements in engine and hydraulic-pump control technology, utilizing a combination of both newly designed pumps and advanced matching techniques. Komatsu did it without sacrificing power, as the PC210LC-10 maintains the same digging forces and lifting capacity of the previous model.

"The machine has larger displacement pumps, which are capable of providing higher flow at lower engine speeds," explained Yureskes. "Because the pumps are able to generate more volume per revolution, the engine speed does not need to be as high in order to achieve the same amount of hydraulic flow. That reduces fuel consumption by allowing the machine to operate at a lower engine speed without compromising pump flow.

"With variable-speed matching, the machine makes slight adjustments to engine speed

based on the amount of hydraulic flow the application requires. Whenever high flow is required, such as during heavy digging or trenching, the engine speed will adjust to accommodate the flow demand. In lower-flow applications, such as leveling or fine grading, engine speed will slightly reduce in response to the lower hydraulic work load. Previous models would operate at consistent engine speeds regardless of hydraulic demand, so fuel consumption was consistent even during low-flow applications. This slight reduction in engine speed improves fuel efficiency."

Like other new Tier 4 Interim excavators, the PC210LC-10 has increased operating weight and net horsepower compared to its predecessor. Both are about 10-percent higher compared to the PC200LC-8. An optional, lighter counterweight is available



Brian Yureskes,
Product Marketing
Manager, Excavators

Continued . . .

Komatsu's Tier 4 Interim PC210LC-10 provides up to 10 percent better fuel efficiency, depending on application, while maintaining the productivity of the PC200LC-8.



Improvements abound in new PC210LC-10

... continued

to accommodate regional transportation regulations. The PC210LC-10 also has 13 percent more drawbar pull, which improves steering and maneuverability.

Eco Guidance, Komatsu CARE

Additional new features of the PC210LC-10 include an enhanced LCD color monitor with improved resolution. Through the monitor, operators can set the proper working mode and program the attachment control, with the ability to store up to 10 attachments. It also has an Eco Guidance feature that gives the operator information on ways to improve fuel economy.

"We want operators to maximize productivity in the most economical way so their per-yard, per-ton costs are the lowest possible," noted Yureskes. "There are times when maximum output is necessary, but often it's unnecessary, and the operator can run the machine in a different mode that uses less fuel. Eco Guidance alerts them to those situations. It will also alert them to excessive idling, showing that it might be better to shut a machine down to save fuel and operating hours."

Once the PC210LC-10 reaches its routine service intervals, the work is covered by Komatsu CARE. This exclusive program

provides complimentary, factory-scheduled maintenance for the first three years or 2,000 hours, performed by distributor technicians using genuine Komatsu parts and fluids. Serviceability is improved with the addition of handrails around the upper structure, a rear-opening hood, battery-disconnect switch, swing-out cooler and improved diagnostics through the monitor.

"Komatsu CARE ensures that those service intervals are done properly, with the goal of longevity, reliability and lower owning and operating costs throughout the lifetime of the machine," said Yureskes. "In addition, we provide two, complimentary Komatsu Diesel Particulate Filter (KDPF) exchanges at 4,500-hour intervals. Komatsu and its distributors track the service intervals through KOMTRAX 4.0, then set up the scheduled maintenance."

The KDPF is one of several components that reduce emissions on the Tier 4 Interim PC210LC-10. Through passive and active regeneration, the KDPF uses heat to burn soot. Other components include the Komatsu Variable Geometry Turbocharger (KVGTT) and the exhaust gas recirculation system. Komatsu designed the components to work in harmony for maximum efficiency.

Cab improvements

Komatsu further boosted productivity by improving the operating platform in the PC210LC-10 with an integrated ROPS cab designed to minimize noise. A high-back, heated, air-suspension seat provides more comfort for the operator.

"We saw the new emissions standards as an opportunity to build a machine that not only meets regulations, but improves upon what users have already come to know as the leader in its size class," summarized Yureskes. "We believe that anyone who uses the new PC210LC-10, whether for digging trenches, mass excavation, clearing, demolition, landscaping or a host of other applications, will find it to be a class leader. We encourage anyone who's interested to try one out. We're confident that the results will speak for themselves." ■

The PC210LC-10 has increased operating weight, net horsepower and drawbar pull, compared to its predecessor.



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- Enhanced operator environment improves comfort and machine control.
- Komatsu CARE provides complimentary Tier 4 maintenance, including KDPF exchange filters. Contact your Komatsu distributor for details.

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D65-17

From Komatsu – The Dozer Experts



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- Efficient Komatsu Tier 4 Interim engine and automatic shift transmission with lockup torque converter maximize productivity while saving fuel.
- PLUS (long life) undercarriage is standard, further reducing our already low operating costs.
- Komatsu CARE provides complimentary Tier 4 maintenance, including KDPF exchange filters. Contact your Komatsu distributor for details.

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CUSTOMER COMMENTS

TIER 4 TESTIMONIALS

Here's what users are saying about Komatsu's new interim machines and their technology

The past couple of years saw the introduction of Tier 4 Interim emissions standards for many machines used in the construction industry. Regulations required reducing Nox by 45 percent and soot by 90 percent. With new technology, Komatsu achieved the standards while improving production and fuel efficiency as well. Komatsu also introduced KOMTRAX 4.0 and Komatsu CARE, a program that offers complimentary scheduled service on Tier 4 Interim machines. Here is what a few of the users of these innovative new wheel loaders, dozers, articulated trucks and excavators have to say about the machines.

"We're very impressed with the new Tier 4 machines, because they're as productive as previous pieces in that size, with greater fuel efficiency. The PC360 is very powerful and also smooth to operate. We use the D65s quite often for discing-in drilling mud on the farms, and they have good power to get through that heavy material. One of our operators, who's very loyal to another brand, called in to tell us how much he liked the D65 and claimed it was his machine now. That said a lot to us." — **Brian Foster, Equipment Manager, J.W. Hughes Excavation, Inc., a multifaceted contractor that works in the Texas oil market.**

"It was practically a foregone conclusion that we'd purchase Komatsu; it was just a matter of which machine was the right fit. We decided that the Tier 4 Interim machines fit the best, not only in terms of productivity, but meeting the tough California emissions standards. I have to admit, I was never a Komatsu guy, but working with ERSI and using these machines has made me a believer. They have good reach, power and stability. Our operators love them." — **Sonny Centeno, Senior Project Manager for**

Environmental Remediation Services' West Coast operations, which was set up about a year ago. An East Coast-based company, ERSI has used Komatsu equipment in its demolition operations for several years.

"I am very impressed with the improvements made on the new D65-17. The Sigma blade allows more ground to be moved during a longer push. Because the ground we move can be hard, we use the ripper quite often, and the D65 has the power to get through it." — **Carl Morgan, President of Morgan Tools, which builds locations for gas and oil companies in the Southwest. Morgan Tools is a longtime Komatsu user and now has three Tier 4 Interim D65-17 dozers.**

Continued . . .

New Tier 4 Interim machines, such as the PC490LC-10 excavator, have proven to be as or more productive than their predecessors, with greater fuel efficiency.



Users seeing fuel savings with Tier 4 Interim equipment

... continued

“The first dozer proved reliable, and that really made us look at Komatsu as we added machines. Each one we’ve owned or rented has cemented that reliability. I admit, there was some apprehension with the new Tier 4 machines because of the new technology. But they’ve proven to be just as good as any piece of Komatsu equipment we’ve ever had.”

— **Mark Sellin, President, Sellin Brothers, Inc.**

A Minnesota-based excavation contractor, Sellin Brothers is a longtime Komatsu equipment user, including excavators, dozers and wheel loaders, in both its highway and underground utility divisions.

“When we first started looking for a machine to replace one of our PC220s, we wanted another one. Our sales representative talked to us about the PC240, which replaced the PC220. We were hesitant at first because the PC220 has always been a reliable performer. The PC240 has a lot of new technology, and that made us a little apprehensive, but our sales rep, distributor and Komatsu said they would stand behind it. In less than a year, we’ve put more than 1,100 hours on it without any issues. It’s proven to be just as effective as the machine it replaced, with less fuel usage. We’re sold.” — **Edwin Coggins, Co-owner of Coggins Farms & Produce, which grows and harvests several crops in the southeastern United States and uses the PC240LC-10 to clear trees and stumps.**

KOMTRAX 4.0

“I can log onto the computer and get a lot of information about a machine, such as what time it started in the morning, what rpm it’s running at, how much fuel it is using per hour, etc. It also gives us a level of security. Some of our jobs take us into tough areas, and with KOMTRAX, I can use a geofence to prevent a machine from starting between certain hours if it’s not supposed to be running at that time. KOMTRAX is a great tool.” — **Sonny Centeno, Senior Project Manager, Environmental Remediation Services**

“KOMTRAX is a very valuable tool that provides us with useful information. I can see actual working hours versus idle time and fuel consumption. That allows me to address any productivity issues I see with the operator, showing them ways to maximize fuel economy and production.” — **Mark Sellin, President, Sellin Brothers**

“A light on the monitor indicates the Komatsu Diesel Particulate Filter is regenerating. Other than that, I can’t even tell it’s happening. I can keep working with no loss of performance, which I’ve found is all-around better than other excavators I’ve run.” — **Davey Stabler, Operator, Coggins Farms & Produce. ■**



Komatsu’s Tier 4 Interim machines come with KOMTRAX 4.0 and Komatsu CARE, a program that provides complimentary scheduled services.

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AUTONOMOUS AGREEMENT

Large Australian mining operation to use huge Komatsu driverless trucks

Komatsu and Rio Tinto, one of the largest mining companies in the world, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to take the next step in large-scale implementation of the Komatsu Autonomous Haulage System (AHS), with the two companies committed to deploying a minimum of 150 Komatsu AHS trucks. Built at Komatsu's Peoria Mining Operations, delivery of equipment will begin this year.

Rio Tinto has been testing the Komatsu AHS, the world's first commercial, autonomous, mining-haulage system, since December of 2008 at its West Angelas mine in the Pilbara region of Australia. During the trials, the AHS technology demonstrated clear value to the business, especially in the areas of health, safety and productivity.

"We're extremely excited to expand the Rio Tinto fleet to at least 150 AHS trucks in its Western Pilbara operations by the end of 2015," said Komatsu Ltd. President and CEO Kunio Noji. "Komatsu and Rio Tinto are global partners and have developed a strong alliance throughout the years. We are confident that our leading-edge technology will accelerate Rio Tinto's Mine of the Future™ objectives through improving safety and mine operations."

Revolutionizing mining

The 930E-AT autonomous trucks enable users to haul 320-ton payloads without a driver. The dump trucks, which feature a 2,700-hp (rated brake power) engine, are equipped with vehicle controllers, a high-precision GPS system, an obstacle-detection system and a wireless network system. The trucks are operated and controlled via a supervisory system.

"This announcement further reinforces our longstanding alliance with Komatsu," said Tom Albanese, Chief Executive of Rio Tinto. "Autonomous haulage is an important component of our Mine of the Future™ program. These new, 150, autonomous trucks will work with our pioneering Operation Centre that integrates and manages the logistics of 14 mines, three ports and two railways.

"These technologies are revolutionizing large-scale mining, creating attractive, high-tech jobs and helping us improve safety and environmental performance, while reducing carbon emissions," he added. ■

Komatsu's 930E-AT electric, autonomous, haul truck can carry a 320-ton payload without a driver.



A CLOSER LOOK

DEMO DAYS

Tier 4 Interim machines among highlights of Komatsu's latest customer event



Bob Post,
Director of Marketing

Customers and Komatsu distributor personnel recently got an up-close look and a chance to operate equipment at the Komatsu Training & Demonstration Center in Cartersville, Ga. More than 15 machines were on site during the three-day event.

Featured were several of Komatsu's new Tier 4 Interim machines, including D65EX-17, D65PX-17

and D155AX-7 dozers, as well as PC240LC-10 and PC490LC-10 excavators. Excavator models also included Komatsu's second-generation hybrid excavator, the HB215LC-1.

Other Tier 4 Interim machines included WA500-7 and WA380-7 wheel loaders and an HM400-3 articulated haul truck. In addition, a PC650LC-7 excavator, WA250PZ-6 and WA600-6 wheel loaders, GD655-5 motor grader, HD605-7 rigid-frame haul truck, and D39PX and D51PX dozers were available for demonstration.

Customers also had the opportunity to tour Komatsu's Chattanooga Manufacturing Operations, where six excavators and seven models of forestry equipment are manufactured. Educational seminars led by Komatsu personnel at the Training & Demonstration Center provided valuable information about effective and efficient excavation practices.

"Demo Days has always been a popular event because it gives customers the opportunity to operate equipment and see how it stacks up," said Bob Post, Director of Marketing for Komatsu. "They walk away with a good sense of how a piece of Komatsu machinery can fit into their operations. It also provides us with valuable feedback, so it's a true win-win." ■

Among the many models on display and ready for operation was the WA500-7 wheel loader.

A Tier 4 Interim machine, the WA500-7 features SmartLoader

Logic that automatically provides the optimal amount of torque based on need.



Komatsu introduced several new Tier 4 Interim excavators during the past year, including the 257-horsepower PC390LC-10 that has better drawbar pull, increased lift capacity and lower fuel consumption compared to its predecessor model.



In addition to demonstrating equipment, attendees could tour Komatsu's Chattanooga Manufacturing Operations where several models of excavators and forestry machines are built.



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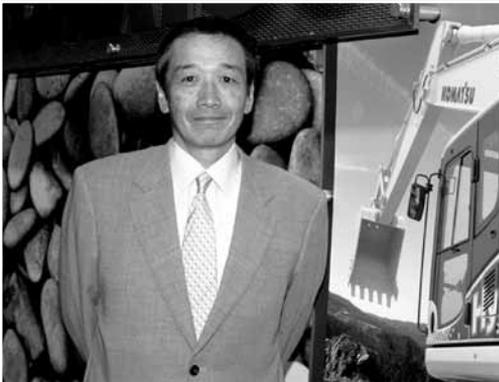


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LISTENING TO CUSTOMERS

Equipment users provide valuable insights, says new Komatsu America President/COO



This is one of a series of articles based on interviews with key people at Komatsu discussing the company's commitment to its customers in the construction and mining industries — and their visions for the future.

**Noboru Sato,
President/COO of
Komatsu America Corp.**

New Komatsu America Corp. (KAC) President and COO Noboru (Nob) Sato has been with the company for more than 30 years, but his experience with the company goes back much further. As a child growing up, he often visited the family farm.

“My uncle used a Komatsu bulldozer to cut out a mountainside and level the land to farm ground. When we visited, I would ride along with him while he worked the crops,” said Sato. “When I grew up, I wanted to work for a leading company and travel the world. Komatsu has given me the opportunity to do both.”

As President and COO, Sato is responsible for managing Komatsu operations related to construction and mining. He took over the position April 1, after serving as Executive Officer and President of the Overseas Marketing Division at Komatsu Ltd for four years. Before that, Sato was Executive VP, Marketing at KAC for five years.

“My previous positions allowed me a great deal of time to talk with customers, which is something I enjoy,” he noted. “That one-on-one interaction provides valuable information. Because they’re the ones directly using our machines, customers often have great insight. Many of our marketing and service strategies have come as a result of that input. I enjoy talking with customers to learn their visions for their businesses, then asking what we can do to help meet them.”

In his leisure time, Sato enjoys playing golf and recently took up cooking.

QUESTION: You’ve been with Komatsu many years. How have your experiences prepared you to be President/COO?

ANSWER: I have extensive sales & marketing experiences from my long history with Komatsu. I always think and take actions from a customer perspective, such as what are our customers’ goals and expectations from Komatsu and its distributors, and how can Komatsu meet their expectations. I keep those things in mind and bring them to the President/COO role. That “boots on the ground” philosophy provides us with invaluable feedback.

QUESTION: What do you believe Komatsu does especially well?

ANSWER: We’re an equipment manufacturer, so “Job One” for us is making great equipment. We believe our products are the most unique and unrivaled machines available. We’re always striving to make them even more productive and efficient.

Having such great products requires a significant investment in our technology initiatives, which we also believe are unique and unrivaled in the industry. Komatsu is a strong engineering company with a commitment to technological innovation. Proven examples of our dedication include machines that are plug-and-play ready for GPS grading systems; KOMTRAX, the first machine-monitoring system installed as standard equipment; our Tier 4 Interim engines that customers tell us are truly superior; our autonomous haul trucks and our second-generation Hybrid Excavator.

In addition, we believe we’re the best when it comes to proactive product support. Our distributors do an outstanding job of focusing on customer satisfaction and deserve a great



Innovative products such as hybrid excavators, including the second-generation HB215LC-1, set Komatsu apart, according to company President Noburo (Nob) Sato.

deal of credit for Komatsu being a leader in support programs, including Komatsu CARE, which was introduced with our Tier 4 Interim machines.

QUESTION: What benefits does the Komatsu CARE program offer?

ANSWER: It provides complimentary scheduled service that assures the customer those services are done correctly with no out-of-pocket costs. Also included are two diesel particulate filter exchanges. The distributor tracks the machine and schedules the service at a beneficial time.

The program also benefits us. Tier 4 Interim technology is new, including componentry. Komatsu CARE allows us to track this technology and see first-hand how it's working. What we're learning from that, along with what our customers are telling us, is that it's performing very well.

QUESTION: What do the construction and mining markets look like now?

ANSWER: Some segments of the construction market are strong, including the energy sector with the oil boom. Other construction segments, such as roads and housing, are seeing an increase, but are still behind where they were several years ago. Some states, and even municipalities, are increasing their infrastructure work, but we need more on a national level. As for housing, I believe that will make a strong comeback next year.



Komatsu America President Noboru (Nob) Sato said he believes Komatsu is the best in the industry when it comes to product support, citing programs such as Komatsu CARE, which provides complimentary scheduled maintenance on new Tier 4 Interim machines.



Komatsu America President Noboru (Nob) Sato says it's vital to listen to customers as they provide valuable feedback on ways to improve Komatsu products.

There is some concern as coal mining has softened somewhat here in the U.S., due largely to low natural gas prices. However, in the long term, I see mining remaining strong for several years. ■

WHAT'S YOUR IDLE TIME?

KOMTRAX team points out benefits of shutting a machine down during nonproduction



Rizwan Mirza,
Manager, KOMTRAX,
ICT Business Division



Goran Zeravica,
Manager,
Distributor Operations,
ICT Business Division

Having an accurate picture of how long your equipment is idling can have significant advantages. But how do you know if it's idling too much? KOMTRAX can help by providing detailed information that will show your machinery's productive operation versus idle time.

"In 2007, we started a push to get owners and operators to think about idle time and how it affects the bottom line," said Goran Zeravica, Manager, Distributor Operations. "It's paying off, as our information shows that idling time has gone down somewhat. But it's nowhere close to where we would like it to be."

Komatsu's KOMTRAX team would like it to be near zero. Estimates show that the average machine spends nearly 40 percent of its working time at idle. Zeravica and Rizwan Mirza, Manager, KOMTRAX, said that excessive idling has several negative implications.

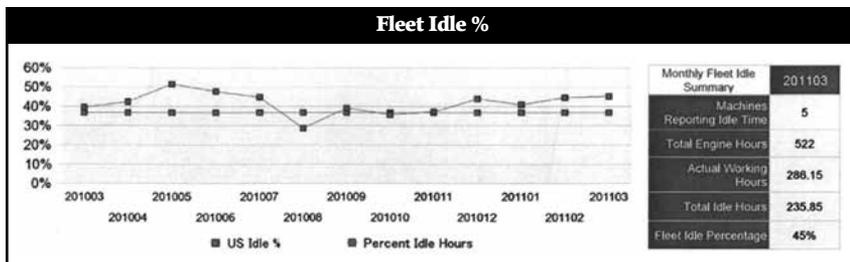
"To start with, idling is an incredible waste of fuel that eats into profits," pointed out Mirza. "Then consider that those nonproductive hours are putting the machine closer to the next service interval at a faster pace. The per-yard and per-ton cost of the project goes up. It affects resale value as well. Limiting idle time means fewer hours, which equals a higher resale value."

How do you stack up?

Komatsu offers a complimentary, detailed, monthly report with easy-to-read charts and graphs highlighting key items, including how a machine's idle time compares with the average of all machines it tracks.

"A simple graph shows owners if their machines' idle times are above, below or average, when compared to the national average," explained Zeravica. "Of course, we want them to be below average, and eventually we want to get the overall idle-time average below 10 percent. Customers tell us these reports are helpful because they give them a better understanding of how efficiently their fleet is operating and the costs associated with idling."

For more information about KOMTRAX or to receive reports, contact Zeravica or Mirza at gzeravica@komatsuna.com and rmirza@komatsuna.com. ■



A monthly fleet report from Komatsu offers detailed information about machine use, including idle-time percentage compared to the average of all machines KOMTRAX monitors.



NEWS & NOTES

Landscape society study shows benefits of green infrastructure

A report from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and other organizations shows major benefits of green infrastructure, including reduced costs of treating large amounts of polluted runoff, as well as improving public health by reducing bacteria and pollution in rivers and streams.

Dubbed "Banking on Green: How Green Infrastructure Saves Municipalities Money and Provides Economic Benefits Community-wide," the report is aimed at the need to quantify the economic benefits of such infrastructure. It further showed a reduction in energy expenses, along with reduced flooding and flood damage.

"For many decades, landscape architects have been helping communities large and small manage their stormwater with innovative green infrastructure solutions, such as green roofs, rain gardens, bioswales and pervious pavements," said ASLA Executive Vice President Nancy Somerville. "The case studies and the cost analysis in this white paper clearly demonstrate that green infrastructure techniques are proven to be cost-effective at managing stormwater, preventing flooding, improving water quality and promoting public health. Landscape architects will continue to implement these projects in more and more neighborhoods across the country." ■



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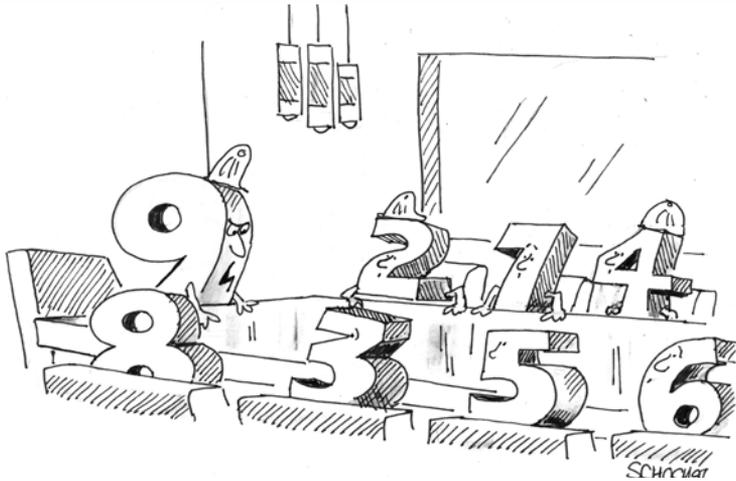
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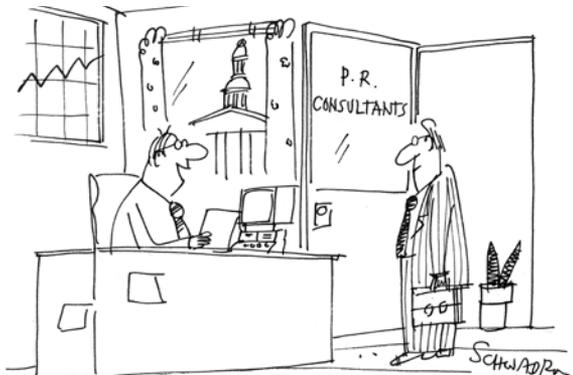
On the light side



"I think it's time we stood up to be counted!"



"Er... can we get in there, pop?"



"Your resumé is pure baloney. How'd you like to write political speeches?"

Did you know...

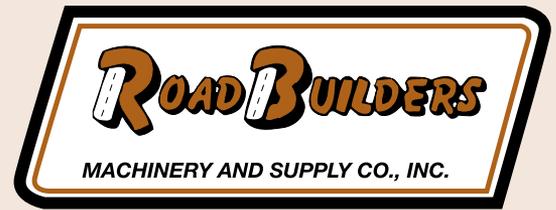
- Benjamin Franklin had only two years of schooling — one year in grammar school and one with a private teacher.
- Jumbo, PT Barnum's famous 6-ton elephant consumed 200 pounds of hay per day.
- The famed Greek philosopher Socrates was trained to be a stonemason.
- A cough releases an explosive charge of air that moves at speeds up to 60 mph (a sneeze can exceed 100 mph).
- An average human scalp has 100,000 hairs (a human being loses an average of 40-100 strands of hair each day).
- Honey is the only food that does not spoil. Honey found in the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs has been tasted by archaeologists and found edible.
- Interstate 80 passes through 12 states — New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and California.

Brain Teasers

Unscramble the letters to reveal some common construction-related words. Answers can be found in the online edition of the magazine at www.RoadBuildersEDGE.com

1. E U L F _ _ E _
2. L D L I R _ _ I _ _
3. P R T U P S O _ _ P _ _ _
4. R O T M I S E A T E _ _ _ _ _

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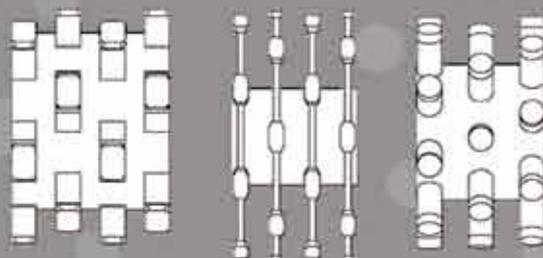
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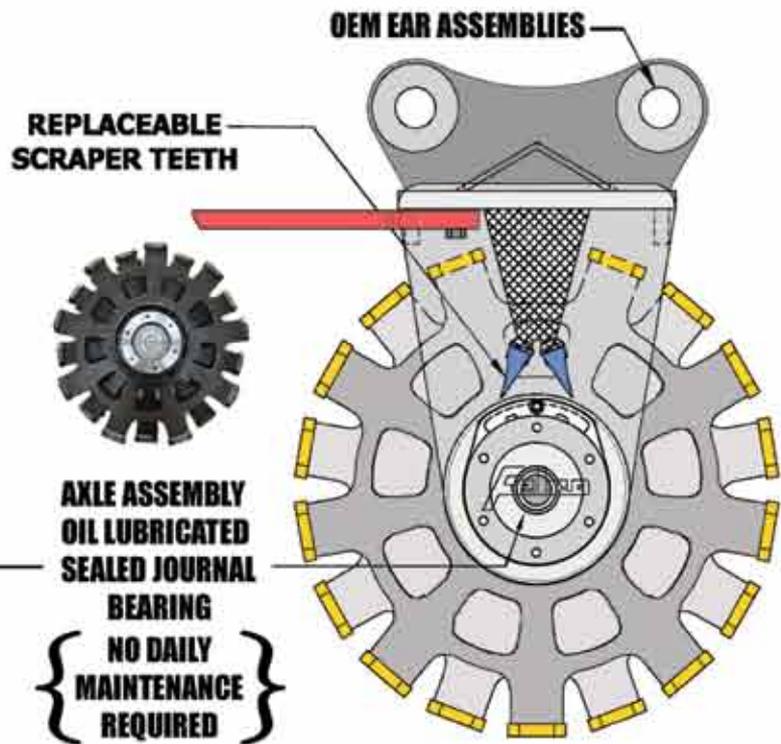
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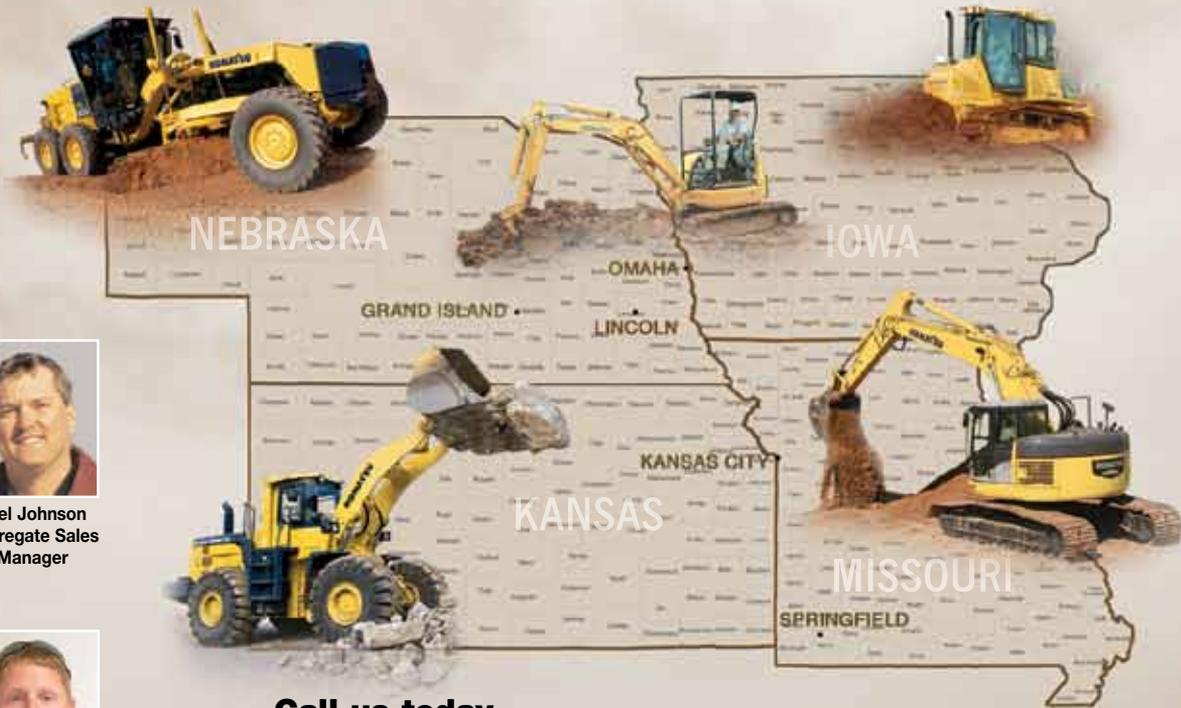
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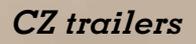
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