

EDGE

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

Midwest Equipment & Supply serves all types of customers from its Springfield, Mo., location

See article inside . . .



NEXT-GENERATION HYBRID EXCAVATOR

Komatsu makes significant improvements to what remains the world's only hybrid excavator

See article inside . . .



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Phil McCoy



Dear Valued Customer:

The construction season is fully upon us, and we at RoadBuilders hope you're off to a good start. We're prepared to help in any way we can, whether it's equipment purchase or rental, parts or service.

We've said it many times: we're proud of the equipment manufacturers with which we associate ourselves. All are among the leaders in the construction and mining industries when it comes to production, efficiency and reliability.

For example, Komatsu continues to set the pace in hybrid machinery. It was the first — and still the only — manufacturer in production of a hybrid excavator. Before others even have their first such excavator on the market, Komatsu is introducing its second-generation model, the HB215LC-1.

You've also heard a great deal in the past year about interim Tier 4 standards that went into effect January 1. Komatsu did more than just put in new, lower-emission engines. It added standard features that make its new models more efficient, allowing you to get the same or better production with less fuel, less soot and lower NOx emissions.

Komatsu is about more than just the machinery. It's always looking for ways to improve your bottom line with new technology, such as KOMTRAX, and has worked to make many new machines "plug-and-play." That means they're equipped so that all you have to do is bolt on your GPS system and activate it.

This issue of *The RoadBuilders' Edge* has some informative articles that will give you insights into the new machines and technology Komatsu has to offer. As the economy continues to improve, and you begin to look for new equipment, we hope you'll consider these machines. Keep in mind, bonus depreciation and additional expensing are still available for tax savings in 2011.

As always, we're prepared to support the new machines, as well as any machinery in your current fleet. Contact one of our branch locations to learn how we can be of service to you.

Sincerely,
ROADBUILDERS MACHINERY AND SUPPLY CO., INC.


Phil McCoy
President

**Always looking
for ways
to improve your
bottom line**



The RoadBuilders'

EDGE

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



NEW!

To see video of machines in action look for this symbol and go to www.RoadBuildersEDGE.com

IN THIS ISSUE

OFFERING YOU MORE

Discover Midwest Equipment & Supply, a Division of RoadBuilders that offers used equipment sales, rental and service from its Springfield, Mo., location.

INDUSTRY EXTRAVAGANZA

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GUEST OPINION

The Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) says transportation funding should focus more on highways and roadways. Find out why.

EXCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGY

Learn all about Komatsu's second-generation hybrid excavator, the HB215LC-1.

EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENTS

See how Komatsu's new Tier 4 excavators help improve your bottom line while meeting the new interim standards.

NEW PRODUCTS

Read about Komatsu's new D65-17 dozers, which have several new features that make them more efficient and productive.

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OFFERING YOU MORE

FULLY OPERATIONAL

Midwest Equipment & Supply serves all types of customers from its Springfield, Mo., location



Ryan Sutherland,
General Manager

Walk through the shop area at Midwest Equipment & Supply on any given day and you'll find technicians working on a wide variety of machinery. Not only do the types of equipment vary, but each may carry a different brand name.

"We service anything that operates, whether it's dirt-related, trucking or crushing and screening," said Service Manager Tom Everett. "We have the ability to do that because our staff has more than 60 years experience in working on equipment. They have the knowledge and skills to do just about anything."

Everett leads the eight-person service staff in experience with more than 30 years himself. The last two have been with Midwest Equipment & Supply, RoadBuilders' used equipment sales and rental location in Springfield, Mo. Completed three years ago, the facility has five service bays and a wash bay, staffed by four shop technicians.

Located just off Interstate 44 at T Highway, about eight miles west of Springfield, Mo., Midwest Equipment & Supply offers easy access in and out to pick up and drop off equipment. The five-acre location offers used equipment sales, rental, service and parts for all types and brands of machinery.

In addition, Midwest Equipment & Supply has three full-time field technicians who offer on-site service with fully equipped trucks. Available around the clock, field technicians can perform everything from routine service items, such as oil and filter changes, to emergency work.

"They can do about anything in the field that can be done in the shop," noted Everett. "That's an advantage to customers who want to limit their downtime by not transporting a machine to the store and back again. We'll work with them on a convenient time to do the routine services. For example, we can perform service after hours when a machine isn't in production."

A full lineup

If a customer needs to bring a machine to Midwest Equipment & Supply, getting into and out of the five-acre site is easy. It's located just off Interstate 44 about eight miles west of Springfield at T Highway. General Manager Ryan Sutherland, who helped get the location up and running, said the location is ideal for serving customers in southwest Missouri, northwest Arkansas and southeast Kansas.

"We're serving about a 150-mile radius, offering sales, rentals, parts and service," said Sutherland. "In addition to me, we have two full-time sales managers: Jerry Freitag and Jason Baer. Each works with customers to find them the right piece, or pieces, of equipment to meet their needs, whether it's a short- or long-term rental or purchase of a piece of used equipment.

"They both handle any type of equipment, but they also have their specialties," added





Shop technician John Heun works on a dozer engine at Midwest Equipment & Supply.



District Sales Manager Jerry Freitag (above) is the company's paving equipment specialist. (Left) District Sales Manager Jason Baer serves as a forestry specialist for Midwest Equipment.

Sutherland. "Jerry is our asphalt paving specialist and Jason is our forestry specialist."

Midwest Equipment & Supply's inventory is expansive, with a full lineup of used excavation, aggregate crushing and screening, scrap handling, asphalt

Continued . . .



A Midwest Equipment customer puts its rental machinery to work at a 400-acre jobsite in Branson, Mo., where the Branson Sports and Entertainment Complex will be built.



Field technicians, including Brad Choate, provide on-site service with fully equipped trucks that allow them to do almost anything in the field that can be done in the shop. Midwest Equipment & Supply has three field service technicians who cover about a 150-mile radius of Springfield.



Midwest Equipment & Supply's yard has ample space for customers to bring in and take out machines.

Parts and service teams keep machines running

... continued



(L-R) The service team includes Service Manager Tom Everett and technicians Steve Gaynor, David Brill, John Heun, Butch Core and Justin Montgomery. The group brings more than 60 years combined experience to customers.



(L-R) The parts department consists of Parts Manager Tom Miller, Charlie Farmer and Dwayne Thornton. Combined, they have more than 50 years experience.

Midwest Equipment & Supply has a large inventory of used equipment that includes Komatsu machinery.



paving and compaction machinery, as well as specialty items, such as hammers and other attachments. Sutherland noted that each piece is fully inspected before and after rental, so customers can be confident that a machine is ready to go to work when they buy or rent.

"We're constantly building our inventory through a variety of means," stated Sutherland. "We also have access to the hundreds of machines available for rent or sale through other RoadBuilders locations. With that, and our commitment to providing the best customer service in the area, our business has exploded in the three years we've been here."

A large parts inventory

With that much equipment out on rent, plus an increasing overall fleet, keeping a fully stocked parts inventory on hand is essential. Parts Manager Tom Miller relies on his more than 30 years experience in the parts industry and has two, full-time parts staff members.

"It's always going to be a work in progress, but we have a couple of years of history now that guides us to what we need to have on hand," said Miller. "For example, this area has a lot of very rocky and abrasive soils, so ground-engaging tools wear down very quickly. Sometimes in a day's time.

"Of course, we have routine items, such as filters, at all times and we can get most specialty parts within a day or two," added Miller.

More growth ahead

Sutherland said Midwest Equipment & Supply is not done growing.

"RoadBuilders has always had a good reputation for providing quality service to back up its equipment. We bring that same commitment to our used and rental machines. Word about what we offer and how we value productivity and uptime has gotten around quickly. It's helped us expand quickly, and we believe that's going to continue to be the case." ■

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SUCCESSFUL CONEXPO

Construction industry's premier event draws record international crowd and associated events



Dave Grzelak, Komatsu America President and CEO, addresses the crowd at the company's opening day press conference.

Another successful CONEXPO/CONAGG has come and gone. It hosted a record-high 860 co-located events, such as the ICON Expo for the concrete products industry, and posted a new high number of international registrations, which made up 24 percent of the total number of event registrants.

More than 2,000 indoor and outdoor exhibits were available to attendees, many of whom spent the entire week checking out the latest in technology and equipment at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Manufacturers unveiled several new machine models, including ones that meet interim Tier 4 standards that went into effect Jan. 1.

Among them was Komatsu, which not only debuted interim Tier 4 machines, but its second-generation Hybrid excavator, the HB215-1. It improves upon the proven production

Komatsu's 30,000-square-foot display area was one of the largest and featured several new interim Tier 4 machines as well as a new Hybrid excavator, the HB215-1.



and fuel savings of its first-generation Hybrid PC200LC-8 which it replaces (see related article).

Komatsu's display was dominated by the introduction of interim Tier 4 machines with several of the more than 20 pieces on display fitting the new standards. Among them were interim Tier 4 excavators (PC240LC-10, PC360LC-10, PC490LC-10) and dozers (D65EX-17, D155AX-7) as well as a new wheel loader (WA380-7) and an HM300-3 articulated truck, all featured in one of the largest exhibit areas at the event. Also on display was an interim Tier 4 engine that allowed for an up-close view of the technology that went into making it.

One of the newly branded Komatsu forestry products was also unveiled at CONEXPO, the XT430 with a Komatsu processing head. The company recently announced its forestry machines will carry the Komatsu name, dropping the old Valmet brand. Komatsu also highlighted its forklift machinery, which is made at the company's Newberry, S.C., manufacturing facility.

Additional parts of Komatsu's 30,000-square-foot display area included a theater presentation that highlighted product features and service programs. It allowed attendees to stand on circular pods and choose from a menu of videos on several topics to watch. KOMTRAX technology, a parts and service counter, video game center and a company store with die-cast models and apparel were part of the exhibit.

Komatsu's exhibit space was in the North Hall, which featured earthmoving equipment that CONEXPO organizers had grouped together for easier navigation through the



A parts and service area was set up in Komatsu's display to highlight the company's support capabilities.



An interactive video display allowed attendees to stand on pods and select from a menu of topics about Komatsu.

expo. Other product concentration areas included lifting equipment, asphalt paving and production, aggregate processing and heavy-duty trucks and mixers. Sub-specialties such as engines, hydraulics, lubricants, tires and components had designated areas as well.

Technology, technology, technology

More than 100 educational seminars were available for similar categories, including Aggregates, Asphalt, Concrete, Construction Project Management, Equipment Maintenance and Safety, among others. Those not able to attend a seminar didn't necessarily miss out, as they could catch it using technology, such as LiveCasts and podcasts.

With technology playing an increasingly larger role in construction, CONEXPO set aside an exhibit area that displayed the latest construction-related software, hardware and peripherals, including GPS-based grading systems and machine management.

While new technology and equipment took center stage, there were familiar aspects to past CONEXPO events, including the International Forum and the Safety Zone, along with others. The triennial event will return to its familiar location at the Las Vegas Convention Center March 18-22, 2014. ■



Thousands attended CONEXPO at the Las Vegas Convention Center. One of the construction industry's premier events, it's held every three years.



Attendees could climb into machines, and Komatsu specialists were on hand to help answer any questions.



Instructor/Developer Bill Weidemann explains Komatsu's interim Tier 4 technology.

More chances to see the latest in equipment

If you're interested in seeing more new equipment and technology, there are several upcoming opportunities, including ICUEE. Held October 4-6 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, it's considered the premier international demonstration exposition for the construction and utility industries.

Attendees not only see the latest in equipment, but have a chance to climb in and try it out. There will also be educational seminars, a fleet management pavilion and co-located events, such as the H2O-XPO and the iP Safety Conference and Expo.

MinExpo will return to the Las Vegas Convention Center September 24-26, 2012. Held every four years, it's the most comprehensive exposition dedicated to the mining industry. More than 38,000 visitors from more than 100 countries are expected to attend. ■

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MISPLACED PRIORITIES?

AED says administration's transportation funding should focus more on highways and roadways

In his 2012 fiscal-year budget, President Barack Obama proposed a six-year, \$556 billion surface transportation package. The amount represents a substantial increase in transportation funding and includes an immediate \$50 billion cash infusion to create jobs, a proposed national infrastructure bank and a heavy emphasis on expanding high-speed rail.

The \$556 billion proposal is nearly double the \$285 billion package authorized in SAFETEA-LU, the last highway bill, which expired in September 2009. Legislation to establish a new, multi-year investment highway blueprint has languished in Congress for the past two years.

The call for such a substantial increase continues the administration's recent focus on transportation investment as a way to create jobs and ensure America's long-term economic competitiveness — even as it raises questions about misplaced priorities. The president's proposal would allocate \$53 billion for high-speed rail and \$30 billion to establish a national infrastructure bank over the next six years. Yet the mainstay of our nation's transportation network, roads and highways, are largely neglected beyond vague promises of support.

Also conspicuously absent from the president's budget are new funding mechanisms. User fees, the most viable option for providing guaranteed, long-term funding for surface transportation, have been dismissed as a non-starter by the president. Instead, Obama's proposal seeks to find funds by consolidating highway programs and hoping for a congressional bipartisan funding mechanism.

In sum, the president's transportation budget document is long on rhetoric, short on the details, and, in some respects, appears divorced from the new political realities in Washington. For example, despite broad public support for smaller government, Obama has proposed spending increases without making tough choices to pay for them. And despite the fact that many Republicans oppose high-speed rail, the administration made it the centerpiece of its transportation program.

AED shares the administration's belief that substantial investments in surface transportation are needed to ensure our long-term economic competitiveness. However, we have a clear difference of opinion about priorities.

With all that said, keep in mind that this is just the first salvo in a long battle. The highway reauthorization story will continue to develop in the weeks ahead, as the House and Senate hold additional hearings and roll out their own proposals. Stay tuned. ■

This article is from the Associated Equipment Distributors, a trade association representing companies in the distribution, rental and support of equipment. Its members account for more than \$15 billion of annual sales of construction equipment and related supplies and services in the U.S. and Canada.

The Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) says the president's proposal doesn't put enough emphasis on surface transportation, such as roadways and highways.



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EXCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGY

NEXT-GENERATION HYBRID EXCAVATOR

Komatsu makes significant improvements to what remains the world's only hybrid excavator

Last year, Komatsu introduced the industry's first hybrid hydraulic excavator to the North American market. This year, it's releasing the HB215LC-1, an updated hybrid that features significant improvements over the original model.

"The original hybrid model is an excellent machine — a good digger that's approximately 25 percent more fuel-efficient than the traditional PC200," noted Komatsu Excavator Product Manager Armando Najera. "We learned a lot from our first hybrid model. We now have more than a million operating hours in the field with that original hybrid. The information we gained and the feedback we got from customers led to significant improvements in the second-generation HB215LC-1."

Key improvements include:

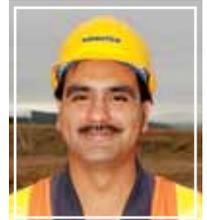
- A service valve to power hydraulic attachments;
- An enhanced monitor panel;
- Improved serviceability;
- A five-year/7,000-hour warranty on hybrid powertrain components.

The HB215LC-1 delivers fuel savings that average 25 percent compared to a similar-size, non-hybrid excavator. And, on jobs where there's lots of swinging, fuel savings can be much higher than that. It's also a huge step forward from an environmental standpoint, reducing CO₂ emissions by almost 17 tons annually (based on operating 1,500 hours per year) compared to a conventional PC200.

"The phrase 'win-win' is over-used, but in this case, it's exactly what users get," said Najera. "The new hybrid provides the same

performance with lower fuel costs and less environmental impact. As fuel costs continue to go up, the owning and operating costs of the HB215LC-1 become more and more favorable."

For more information on the Komatsu HB215LC-1, including an explanation of Komatsu hybrid technology, call your sales representative or our nearest branch location, or go to www.komatsuamerica.com/hybrid. ■



Armando Najera,
Komatsu Excavator
Product Manager

Brief Specs HB215LC-1 Hybrid Excavator

Operating Weight	Power	Bucket Capacity
47,530 pounds	139 hp	1.57 cu. yd.



The HB215LC-1, Komatsu's second-generation hybrid hydraulic excavator, has a service valve to power attachments and is 25 percent more fuel-efficient than a similar-size conventional excavator.



TIER 4

From Komatsu—The Engine **Experts**



The new **Tier 4 engines** from Komatsu are designed and built by the experts who have set the standard for dependability, long life, low operating costs and fuel efficiency.

Dependability

- Hardware and control systems designed and built by Komatsu

Operator Ease

- Diesel Particulate Filter regenerates automatically with no action required by the operator

High Performance

- Engine acceleration is noticeably faster due to Komatsu Variable Geometry Turbocharger
- Automatic emission controls maintain same performance levels during regeneration

Robust controls

- Hydraulic actuators provide trouble-free, precise control of Exhaust Gas Recirculation and Komatsu Variable Geometry Turbocharger

Low Maintenance Costs

- Identical drain intervals
- Only two new maintenance items: Closed Crankcase Ventilation and Komatsu Diesel Particulate Filter

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EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENTS

TIER 4 EXCAVATORS

Added features help your bottom line while meeting new interim standards

Low emission standards don't have to equate to decreased production or efficiency. Komatsu proves that with its new PC240LC-10 and PC290LC-10 excavators, which feature interim Tier 4 engines that reduce particulate matter and NOx emissions while making you more profitable.

"Users won't sacrifice any production with these new machines," said Product Manager Doug Morris. "What they will see is better efficiency, with up to 10 percent less fuel consumption compared to the Tier 3 models they replace."

The PC240LC-10 replaces the PC220LC-8, while the PC290LC-10 takes the place of the PC270LC-8. Both new machines are powered by Komatsu's interim Tier 4 engine technology that features a Komatsu Diesel Particulate Filter (KDPF), Variable Geometry Turbocharger and Cooled Exhaust Gas Recirculation, among other technologies that reduce emissions and add efficiency. Both have increased horsepower and operating weight compared to previous models.

Komatsu didn't simply replace the engine and model numbers with the PC240LC-10 and PC290LC-10. The new excavators use advanced hydraulic-matching techniques to better optimize the engine and hydraulic performance.

"With low-speed matching, higher displacement pumps can deliver a higher flow amount at lower engine speeds," explained Morris. "In addition, the machine can adjust the engine speed based on the flow output for better efficiency."

Improved in several ways

Working modes on the new excavators are set through a new easier-to-use, high-definition, seven-inch monitor panel that also has a

new Eco Guidance feature, which provides operational information and advice for maximizing economy. It also keeps the operator aware of KDPF condition, as well as offering enhanced maintenance monitoring.

"Along with the other new features, these excavators come with Level 4 KOMTRAX that has additional information compared to its predecessors. They have a whole host of other new features, including a new reach boom and arm on the PC290LC-10 that offer an additional one to two feet of working range," noted Morris. "The cabs are improved, and we made them easier and quicker to service and maintain. So, we went well beyond just adding a new engine in order to provide machines that are not only better for the environment, but better for the bottom line." ■



Doug Morris,
Product Manager

Brief Specs on Interim Tier 4 Excavators

Model	Operating Weight	Horsepower	Bucket Capacity
PC240LC-10	55,256 lbs.	177 hp	1.85 cu. yd.
PC290LC-10	66,756 lbs.	196 hp	2.13 cu. yd.

Komatsu's new interim Tier 4 excavators have low-speed matching, allowing users high flow even at low speeds. They are also more fuel-efficient without sacrificing productivity.



LOADERS

From Komatsu - The Loader Experts



Komatsu Wheel Loaders deliver high productivity, low fuel consumption, easy maintenance and superior operator comfort. The WA200PZ-6, WA250PZ-6 and WA320PZ-6 feature Komatsu's electronically controlled Hydrostatic Transmission (HST) with Komatsu's PZ (Parallel Z-bar) linkage.

- HST delivers high power, excellent response and low fuel consumption
- The PZ linkage provides parallel lift, high breakout force and high lift capacity
- Variable Traction Control with S-Mode reduces tire slippage
- Dynamic braking eases operation and extends wet-disc brake life

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NEW PRODUCTS

NEW D65-17 DOZERS

Komatsu's list of productive features doesn't stop with Interim Tier 4 engines

When Interim Tier 4 standards went into effect, Komatsu wasn't satisfied with simply putting a compliant engine into its new D65-17 dozers. While the three new models all meet the EPA interim Tier 4 requirements to reduce soot and NOx emissions, they have additional features that make them more efficient while maintaining productivity.

Last year, Komatsu rolled out its Tier 3 D65s that increased horsepower to 205, while lowering fuel consumption by as much as 10 percent compared to previous models. The new D65-17 models built upon that efficiency by lowering fuel consumption an additional 5 percent while maintaining horsepower with a new automatic transmission with lockup torque converter. It automatically transfers engine power to the transmission, offering greater powertrain efficiency.

"Users understand that new standards are inevitable, but they don't want them to affect performance or uptime," said Product Manager Bruce Boebel. "They can be confident the new Komatsu D65-17s will not only produce like previous models, but do it with less fuel consumption."

Operators can select from two gearshift modes — automatic and manual — to fit the appropriate application: automatic for general dozing offers a choice of four forward and reverse speeds, while manual for dozing and ripping rough ground offers three. The automatic transmission shifts to the optimal gear range based on working conditions and load.

An excellent combination

Komatsu's innovative SIGMA blade, which is designed keep more material to the center for 15-percent better productivity compared to a Semi-U, is available for the standard EX and

wide-track WX models. Customers can equip those models, as well as the low-ground-pressure PX, with a power angle tilt (PAT) blade, which can be adjusted six ways for added versatility and productivity. A new toggle switch allows the operator to easily angle the blade.

Komatsu also redesigned the joysticks for maximum control, offering a relaxed posture and superb fine control to minimize operator fatigue. A newly designed cab is larger, with an operator's seat that's three inches higher and four inches closer to the blade for excellent all-around visibility. A new seven-inch, high-resolution LCD monitor displays all machine information and is integrated with the interim Tier 4 technology.

"These dozers are at the top of the class, not only because of the new features, but also the proven systems we integrated," said Boebel. "The D65-17s are a great combination of new technology with the best of the previous models, and they're cleaner and greener." ■



Bruce Boebel,
Product Manager

Brief Specs of the Komatsu D65-17 Dozers

D65EX-17
44,355 lbs.
205 hp

D65PX-17
47,335 lb.
205 hp

D65WX-17
45,945 lbs.
205 hp



The new D65-17 dozers have several new features, including an automatic transmission with lockup torque converter that automatically transfers engine power to the transmission for greater powertrain efficiency.

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PEORIA MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS

Komatsu's mining-truck plant focuses on quality haulers that meet the toughest standards

Early this year, Komatsu's Peoria Manufacturing Operations (PMO) surpassed the 1,000-unit mark for production of its popular 930E electric mining truck. It's a major accomplishment, especially considering the massive size of the 320-ton haulers, which are approaching their 15th year on the market and have become the best-selling, ultra-class mining trucks in the world.

It's even more impressive considering that PMO produces more than the 930E at the Peoria facility. Each day, more than 600 employees do everything from design and engineering, to assembly of five truck models — the 200-ton 730E, the 240-ton 830E, the 280-ton 860E-1K, the 930E and the 360-ton 960E-1K — which are shipped to some of the world's largest mines.

Globally, the demand for these trucks continues to climb as coal, copper, gold and other types of mines ramp up production. In turn, Komatsu's PMO is looking to increase its capacity. Currently, the PMO produces one to one-and-one-half trucks per day. Soon, it plans to up that to two trucks per day. As part of the effort, it's in the process of expanding with a new 20,000-square-foot addition in the works.

"We've developed our processes to the point of being able to assemble a truck in about half the time we did a decade ago, and with demand up, that's very significant," said Jerry Potter, who oversees the process of putting the trucks together as Manager of Manufacturing Operations. "With the expansion, I'm confident we'll be able to meet our production goals."

In addition to expanding the facility, PMO is in the process of hiring new staff members to join an experienced team that's focused on quality, especially considering the mining trucks it produces frequently run 24 hours a

day, seven days a week and routinely rack up more than 100,000 hours during a lifetime.

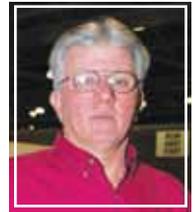
"Next to safety, quality is our utmost priority," said Doug Springer, Manager Product Quality. "We have 14 inspectors who oversee everything but, technically, everyone in the assembly line is an inspector. Anyone who believes there's a potential quality issue can stop the manufacturing process until it's resolved. Our goal is always zero issues that would affect performance, reliability and longevity of Komatsu mining trucks."

Welding is critical

Springer notes that welding is one aspect that's especially critical during the fabrication of the truck frames, which are considered the backbones of the trucks. Three shifts a day with about 60 welders on each shift are used to put up to 1,000 pounds of welds into a truck. Each welder must meet exacting standards.

Continued . . .

One of the critical aspects of building a Komatsu mining truck is superior welding of the frame. Each weld is ultrasonically tested and thoroughly inspected before a frame moves into the assembly process.



Jerry Potter,
Manager of
Manufacturing
Operations



Doug Springer,
Manager Product
Quality



Quality components go into Komatsu trucks

... continued

"We do a lot of training for new hires, and we are constantly evaluating," said Theresa Kline, Superintendent of Welding. "We ultrasonically test welds to ensure they pass before a frame moves on for assembly."

Senior Welding Engineer Ed Spadoni added, "Proper welding is critical because if not done right, it affects the structural integrity of the truck, which in turn affects its life and function. Our mining customers work around the clock to meet production goals, so any extra bit of downtime is detrimental. We work with them to ensure we're meeting their strict standards."

Quality components

While welding is taking place on truck frames, truck components such as hoists, cylinders, rear and front suspension and brake systems are assembled. PMO produces its front

suspension systems in house, but works with suppliers for other components.

"The mines rely on us for quality equipment and that starts with quality components," said Mark Schatsiek, who recently moved into the position of Superintendent of Logistics after serving as Superintendent of Components for several years. "Just as the mines have exacting standards for us, we have stringent requirements that our vendors must meet. When a truck goes into production, we start by putting all the necessary components into a kit that's brought to the assembly area where our staff puts it together. We're running two shifts a day."

With those components and the frames ready, the rest of the truck heads to another assembly area where it really takes shape. During the course of a few days, the electrical assembly, cab, deck supports, fuel tanks, control cabinets, hydraulics and other related items come together into a final product.

"Once we have it all put together, we thoroughly test a truck for proper function," explained Mike Drew, Superintendent of Assembly. "Then we disassemble it because a truck is too large to ship as a unit. The pieces are put on railcars or trucks to be shipped to their destination." ■



Theresa Kline,
Superintendent
of Welding



Ed Spadoni,
Senior Welding
Engineer



Mark Schatsiek,
Superintendent
of Logistics



Mike Drew,
Superintendent
of Assembly

Once the frame meets PMO's stringent standards, the truck is moved to assembly where it takes shape with installation of the cab, electric assembly and control cabinet.



Quality components make up the truck, including the wet-disc brakes which are assembled at PMO.

NEW FORESTRY SERIES

Upgraded features provide increased durability in XT models

Strength and durability are essential to production in the forest. That's why Komatsu designed its new XT series of feller/bunchers and harvesters with increased durability and added productivity features.

Komatsu's new models, the XT430-2, XT430L-2, XT445L-2 and XT450L-2, replace its former Valmet brand FX/FXL series. Leading the upgrades on the new XT series is an improved undercarriage that increases track system durability. Among the new features are roller guards extended to the front and back with better track-shoe-support-plate clearance to reduce track-chain side loading on uneven ground.

Further upgrades include cutouts added to the track frame, which reduce debris packing and improve roller maintenance; better track drive sprockets with mud/snow relief to reduce packing; new, full-length track slider plates that provide a larger surface area for extended life; two additional bottom track rollers on the XT430L for better weight distribution and improved roller and track link life; and a 20-percent-increased idler recoil spring preload on the XT430L to maintain better track tension and positive sprocket engagement.

Komatsu also enhanced the swing systems with a swing drive that now runs in a sealed grease bath for better pinion lubrication. In addition, improved gears with better hardening provide longer life. An updated swing bearing with dowels and swing-machinery pilot hole provide better swing gear alignment and easy adjustment when servicing. An added grease fitting to the swing drive case helps extend bearing life.

The XT series — built at Komatsu's Chattanooga Manufacturing Operation — is designed for simpler servicing, including a relocated engine oil filter to make it easier to change and relocated swing-bearing lubrication points for easier access. ■

Forestry products will now bear the Komatsu name

Komatsu forestry products will now carry the Komatsu name after years of being branded as Valmet. The Komatsu forestry line consists of a wide range of products, including feller/bunchers, harvesters, forwarders and heads.

"With the strength of the Komatsu brand, we will provide excellent value and service support to our forestry customers and dealers," said Norio Kido, Executive Vice President, Forestry Products. "We understand our customers' needs, and our dedication to technical innovation, combined with Komatsu's industrial tradition, manufacturing technology and quality assurance, means we can deliver the best the forestry industry has to offer." ■



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MACHINE MONITORING PAYS OFF

Clearing contractor relies on Komatsu excavators with KOMTRAX to maintain productivity

Because Jaski Inc. covers such a large territory, Owner Luc Tremblay says people often think the company is much larger than it is. Founded in 2001 as a forestry contractor — Tremblay now focuses on land clearing, mainly for power companies — Jaski, Inc.'s territory is about 300,000 square miles, but Tremblay has only five Komatsu PC78 and PC138 excavators equipped with brush cutters in his fleet.

"People see our machines on the side of the road clearing brush away from power lines or for better visibility on the roadways and assume we have about 200 machines," said Tremblay, who made the transition to land clearing and brush cutting about six years ago. "In truth, we're all over the place, covering such a large territory to ensure we take care of our customers. Our projects range anywhere from a few acres up to 100."

In most cases, Jaski has only one machine working on any given project. Despite hundreds of miles distance between jobs, Tremblay has confidence jobs will get done quickly and efficiently. Part of the reason is a group of experienced operators. The other is that those operators are using late-model Komatsu excavators equipped with KOMTRAX, Komatsu's remote machine-monitoring system.

"Obviously, there's no way I can get to every job, so I have to trust my operators and my equipment," said Tremblay. "Neither lets me down. The reliability of the Komatsu excavators has been a vital part of our success. The first one I bought was a PC78 because it had an extra hydraulic pump and offered continuous flow-on-demand to operate the brush cutter. I haven't looked at another brand since."

KOMTRAX a "must have"

Each time Tremblay buys a new Komatsu excavator, he works closely with his Komatsu distributor to equip the excavators for brush-cutter attachments. The distributor also tracks his Komatsu machines using KOMTRAX, as does Tremblay. The system comes standard and is free for the first five years on nearly every new Komatsu machine.

"It's a must-have for us," stated Tremblay. "KOMTRAX helps me track maintenance and stay up-to-date with it, which is vital to me. I can also track fuel consumption and per-hour production. Having that information allows me more accurate bidding compared to doing it manually. The combination of the Komatsu excavators and KOMTRAX has really helped make Jaski a more efficient, reliable and profitable company." ■

Komatsu's KOMTRAX system lets users track critical machine information, even in the most remote locations, from their computers. It's standard on nearly all new Komatsu equipment, and available as a retrofit for older machines.



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TECHNOLOGY YOU CAN USE

A WINNING COMBINATION

Komatsu dozers and Topcon 3D-MC² put you to grade in fewer passes

If you could be four times more productive with your dozer and potentially eliminate the need for an additional grading machine, would that be an advantage? It's possible when your Komatsu dozer is outfitted with Topcon's 3D-MC² machine-control system.

"Traditional finish grading without any machine-control system generally takes multiple passes at low speeds," said Komatsu Marketing Engineer Jason Anetsberger, noting that Komatsu worked closely with Topcon to optimize performance of Komatsu dozers with Topcon machine-control systems. "Standard 3D technology typically allows users to double

their speeds compared to a manual dozer. The 3D-MC² system doubles the speed again."

The 3D-MC² system uses the same easy-to-use interface as previous Topcon 3D machine-control systems, according to Anetsberger. It allows operators to get to grade in even fewer passes, decreasing fuel usage and machine wear, while improving per-yard costs and profits.

"It's as easy to use as any previous system," noted Anetsberger. "Customers tell us that even the newest operators are able to grade nearly as well as skilled veterans of the 3D-MC² system. It works really well with our efficient dozers to cut the time it takes to reach grade. That's a huge advantage for their bottom line."

Komatsu dozers equipped with Topcon's 3D-MC² machine-control system can help you get to grade up to four times faster compared to a manual dozer. Most new Komatsu dozers can be ordered Topcon "plug-and-play" equipped, meaning they are ready for the user to simply bolt on a Topcon system.



"Plug-and-play"

Most new Komatsu dozers can be ordered Topcon "plug-and-play" equipped, meaning all the user has to do is bolt the Topcon 3D-MC² system onto the machine, calibrate, and it's ready for use. The system uses Topcon's GX-60 control box, GPS+ antenna, MC-R3 receiver and a new 3D-MC² sensor, all paired with advanced controlling software to provide position updates up to 100 times per second. The MC² sensor combines a gyro, compass and inertial sensor to measure the X, Y & Z position as well as the roll, pitch and acceleration of the dozer.

"No matter how you look at it — either as four times faster production over a manual dozer or two times better than existing 3D technology — the 3D-MC² system improves efficiency and can have a significant, positive impact on the amount of materials you push and/or place," explained Anetsberger. "Because it's that much faster, in essence, the user is getting the production of two machines in one, and it may even replace the need for a motor grader." ■

FUNDING CUTS LOOM

FY 2011 budget shows decrease in commitment to water appropriations

Future funding levels for water infrastructure remain uncertain as Congress continues to battle over the Fiscal Year 2011 budget and will soon take up the fight for 2012. Under continuing resolutions, funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) have remained inadequate, according to industry experts.

A continuing resolution passed in December 2010, allowed for \$690 million for the CWSRF and \$830 million for the DWSRF through the first seven months of this year. Compared to a similar time frame last year, that represented a cut of about \$500 million in funding. Projected out over the entire FY 2011, it would be a cut of nearly \$2 billion.

President Obama pledged to cut spending levels in his 2012 budget. His budget request showed a total cut of 27.4 percent, the largest coming from the DWSRF at 28.3 percent or \$390 million compared to FY 2010 — the last year for a full-year appropriations bill. The CWSRF would take a \$550 million hit (26.2 percent). A Rural Water and Waste Program would be cut by \$150 million, or 27.7 percent.

Americans view water systems as more important than other services such as energy, according to National Geographic Web site article that highlights a survey done by the water engineering and infrastructure firm ITT. According to the survey, 95 percent viewed water as most important, and 85 percent said government entities should invest more in repairing aging pipes and treatment facilities.

Bad grade

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gives the nation's water infrastructure

system a D- grade. A 2007 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency report said there were an estimated 240,000 water main breaks and 75,000 sewer overflows annually. The EPA says 30 percent of the nation's water pipes are 40 to 80 years old, and 10 percent are older than 80 years.

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that 1.7 trillion gallons of water are lost every year at a cost of \$2.6 billion. The ASCE estimates \$255 billion over the next five years would be the cost of fixing the problems of inadequate water distribution and sewer systems. ■

Funding for water infrastructure will take a significant hit if cuts in the fiscal budgets are implemented. It's estimated that more than \$255 billion is needed to fix inadequate systems throughout the next five years.



NEWS & NOTES

Lack of skilled workers could hinder future global economic growth

Manpower Inc. research shows that a lack of skilled workers is a hindrance to future economic growth, with the shortage being the No. 1 or No. 2 challenge in six of the world's 10 largest economies. Skilled trade workers include electricians, carpenters, welders, bricklayers and plumbers, among others.

The company says employers, governments and trade groups need to collaborate on strategic policies that can alleviate such worker

shortages, according to a Yahoo! Finance article. The article noted that as older skilled workers retire, there are fewer younger people to fill those jobs, and many of those younger workers have attached a stigma to such work.

Education to address the stigma would help, according to the article, which suggests that students be shown that blue-collar work can be lucrative. For example, skilled plumbers can make as much as \$75,000 per year. ■

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BETTER DAYS AHEAD

Komatsu's Ed Powers sees continued growth and optimism in construction industry

QUESTION: As we all know, the construction industry has been hit hard the past several years. Where does it stand now?

ANSWER: Many have referred to the past few years as the "Great Recession," however, we're optimistic that recovery is in motion. Throughout our entire 2010 business year, the construction equipment market grew an average of 32 percent in North America, compared to 2009. Another key indicator, tracked monthly, is our North American hour utilization. Our 2010 per-month utilization, tracked through our 23,000 KOMTRAX-populated machines, exceeded 2009 and 2008. In some cases we are comparing the hours to an all-time market low in 2009, but it's positive and deals are being made. We're expecting the same level of recovery throughout 2011 and beyond.

In speaking with contractors at CONEXPO in March, the majority were very optimistic, indicating that business had been picking up steadily and asking, 'When can Komatsu deliver?' There remain some lagging indicators, such as our housing market and unemployment, but the worst is behind us. We can attribute a good portion of our 2010 recovery to Uncle Sam's tax incentives, such as the extension of the Depreciation Bonus, accompanied by Sec. 179. What's encouraging is that this incentive is extended through 2011 with even larger matching dollars.

QUESTION: Often, as recovery happens, businesses start buying equipment. As users begin adding to their fleets or replacing older machines, why should they choose Komatsu?

ANSWER: After the recent wake-up call this industry experienced the last three years, we've all become much more after-market cautious. Today, the customers' primary focus is their after-sales efficiencies, as well as their owning and operating costs. This creates a perfect opportunity

Continued . . .



Ed Powers, Vice President and General Manager, Construction Equipment Division

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.

After graduating from the State University of New York in 1988, Ed Powers started at Komatsu in the finance department, which included collections.

"The goal was always to find a way to help customers keep their machines. That may have meant restructuring a payment schedule or some other method that allowed the user, who may be behind, to continue using that machine until things turned around. During the economic downturn the past couple of years, Komatsu has kept the same philosophy with positive results."

April 2011 marks the start of Ed's 24th year with Komatsu, including the past three as Vice President and General Manager, Construction Equipment Division. His prior responsibilities included Vice President of Construction Equipment Sales, West Region Construction Equipment Manager, Director of North America Sales Utility Division, Region Manager of Rental Services, Deputy Regional Sales Manager and Finance Field Representative. During his career, he also earned his MBA at Keller Graduate School of Management in Chicago, Ill.

"I've had a very well-rounded experience throughout my career with Komatsu. This has helped me see the equipment industry from all perspectives, but primarily from the customer's point of view. Seeing things from customers' perspectives, and listening to their needs has made me a better decision-maker and emphasized the value of relationships."

Ed and his wife, Berta, will soon celebrate their fourth wedding anniversary and their daughter, Joselyn's, first birthday.

Komatsu technology leads the way

... continued

for Komatsu, as the world's most technically advanced manufacturer of earthmoving equipment, to step up, stop talking about it and prove that we manufacture the most reliable and lowest cost-per-hour products in the industry.

As most know, we don't spend a lot of money advertising our brand. We'd rather put those dollars into research, development and being the leader in innovation. As a result, we were the first to introduce a hybrid excavator, which has been shown to be as reliable and efficient as our traditional excavators, with 25-percent to 40-percent fuel savings. We are already rolling out our next generation of hybrid models before most OEM's even introduce their first.

When it comes to telematics, no other OEM has Komatsu's experience with remote asset management. With more than 200,000 machines reporting globally, Komatsu knows about a customer's technical problem before the operator does. Between Komatsu customers and our highly engaged dealer network, we are using KOMTRAX information to improve machine utilization and reduce owning and operating costs.

Komatsu's investment in research and development has given us another opportunity to show our strength as a leader. We are excited to be launching several interim Tier 4 products this year, with engines ranging from 175 to 750 horsepower. Once again, our engineers have not only met stringent governmental emissions regulations, but also improved machine

performance and fuel efficiency. As this industry continues to introduce Tier 4 technology, two key concerns lie in the marketplace — the cost of maintenance and its reliability.

How is Komatsu going to differentiate itself from the competition? We are so confident in our technology and our distributors' service capabilities that we are going to offer a three-year complimentary maintenance care package for all Tier 4 products. A key component to the servicing and reliability of our Tier 4 products will rely on KOMTRAX, which will help customers manage required maintenance and provide constant preventive support. That is peace of mind!

QUESTION: What else is Komatsu doing to benefit customers?

ANSWER: It's all about the relationship and the after-market support. You can't have one without the other. Komatsu's strongest asset is its dealer network, with more than 300 locations across North America. Of those, 70 percent have been in business for more than 50 years. As a manufacturer, our job is to provide our dealers with ongoing support, training and the tools they need to earn credibility and establish lasting relationships.

The key word is "earn." Today it's not only about premium parts and service, but preventive maintenance practices (KOMTRAX), financing, used equipment, resale value and overall value propositioning. It's not just about closing the deal, but knowing customers' short- and long-term aspirations and how Komatsu can assist in achieving those aspirations. The relationship doesn't end when the machine is delivered. Rather, it continues to grow.

Today's technically advanced products and our customers' level of sophistication require a team effort between the dealer and manufacturer. The quality of the OEM is reflected in its dealers, and our customers recognize and expect it. That is what differentiates a manufacturer — its dealers, the quality of their people, and their commitment to product support. I am confident that Komatsu offers those qualities, so now instead of simply asking customers for their business, we can ask for the opportunity to earn it.

The bottom line is — we can manufacture the most technically advanced machine in the world, but if we can't support it, it's worthless. ■

Komatsu's second-generation hybrid excavator, the HB215-1, was introduced at CONEXPO. In 2011, Komatsu will also introduce excavators, wheel loaders, articulated trucks and dozers that meet interim Tier 4 engine standards.



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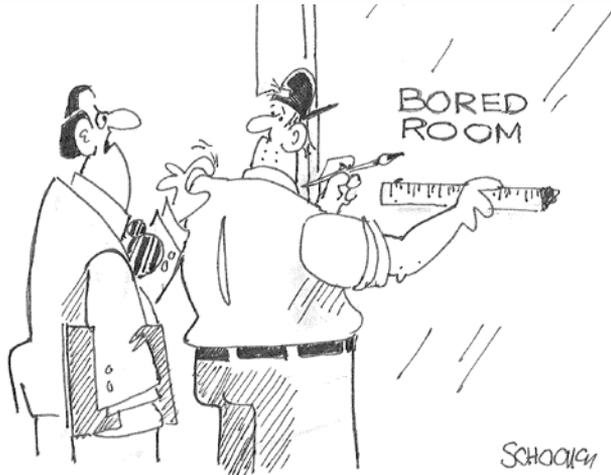
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On the light side



"Hold it right there, Peterson!"



"I can't find anything wrong with it ... believe it or not ... I think the bulldozer is just 'dozing.'"



"Malcolm, must you bring your work home with you?"

Did you know...

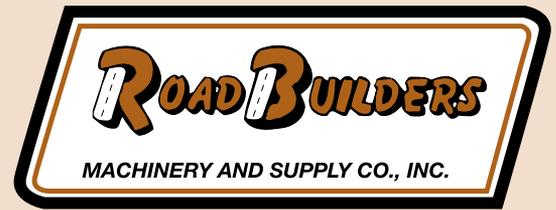
- The average American motorist spends six months during his/her lifetime waiting for red lights to turn green.
- U.S. Interstate 80, the main coast-to-coast route across America, passes through 12 states. From east to west, they are New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and California.
- Roller coasters are classified by the U.S. Patent Office as scenic railways. The classification was first used for roller coasters in 1886.
- Fort Knox is located on Bullion Boulevard.
- The longest street in the United States is in Los Angeles, where Figueroa Street runs for 30 miles.
- In 1901, Connecticut passed the first statewide automobile legislation in the U.S., setting a speed limit of 15 mph on country highways and 12 mph on highways within city limits.
- There are 6,000 windows and 1,575 steps in the 102-story Empire State Building.
- Teflon was placed between the steel framework and the copper skin of the restored Statue of Liberty to prevent corrosion.

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. NIRGADG _____
2. TIRLKOFF _____
3. SOSIMENI _____
4. HAFRIGETS _____
5. TIRFEL _____
6. NAEACMIH _____

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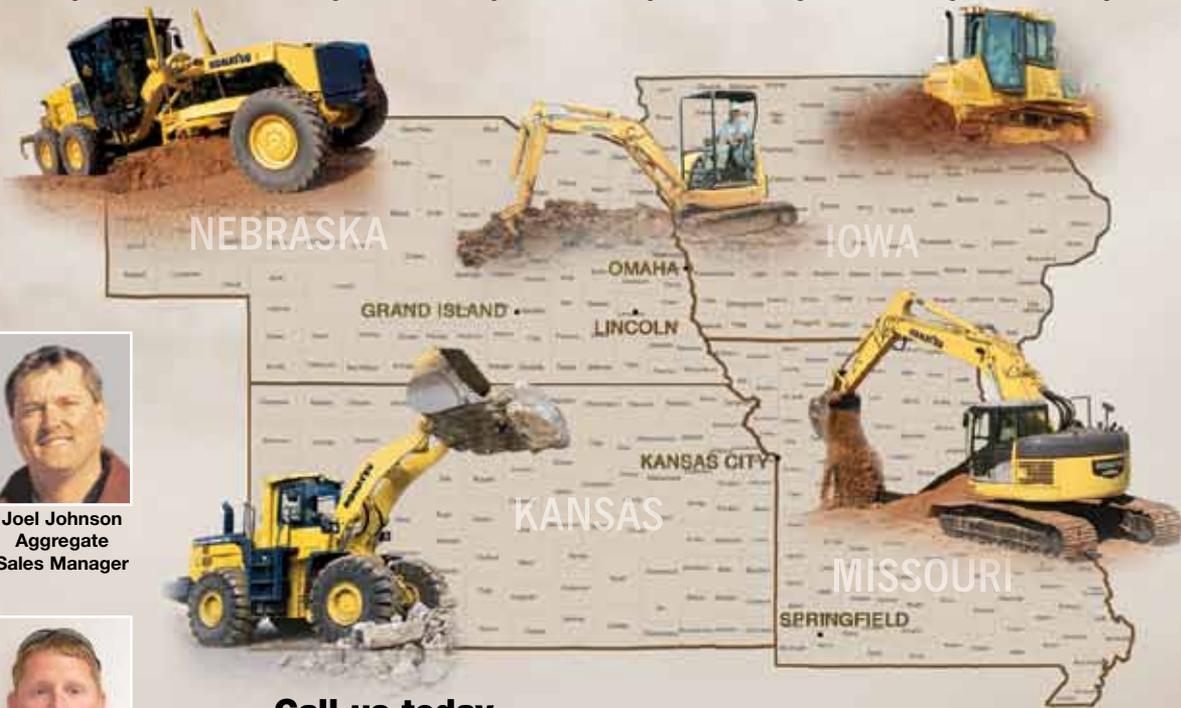
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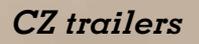
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