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Great Lakes Logging & Heavy Equipment Expo showcases new machines

N.B. West Contracting Co. Inc.

Firm provides asphalt and concrete services

Jim Fitzgerald, President Chris West, Vice President

A Message from the President



Matthew L. Roland

Ready for the latest construction innovations?



Dear Valued Customer:

CONEXPO-CON/AGG — the largest equipment show in North America — is about to return. We're excited to learn about the latest innovations in machines and technology for the construction industry. If you've attended before, you understand the value of the show. If you haven't, we encourage you to check it out. This issue includes a preview of CONEXPO-CON/AGG that has information about where our manufacturing partners' exhibit spaces will be located.

As one of the leading manufacturers at CONEXPO-CON/AGG, Komatsu will showcase some of its most innovative machines and Smart Construction solutions. Inside, you will find an article about how Komatsu's largest intelligent Machine Control (iMC) 2.0 excavator, the PC490LCi-11, helps minimize over-excavation to empower operators to dig straight to grade quickly and accurately.

Drones can also be a solid investment for your business. We can help you learn about using Komatsu's Smart Construction Drone to survey and measure your sites.

Even though these new technologies increase efficiency and production, it still takes well-maintained equipment to get the job done. A PM (preventive maintenance) clinic provides a detailed inspection of your machines to help keep them running like new. Call our service department or your sales representative to set one up.

There are also articles that feature new products that can help your business increase production, including Komatsu's new HD1500-8E0 mechanical haul truck.

As always, if there is anything we can do for you, please feel free to contact one of our branch locations.

Sincerely, Roland Machinery Co.

Matthew L. Roland, President





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N.B. West Contracting Co. Inc. provides asphalt and concrete services, focuses on sustainability



Jim Fitzgerald, President



Chris West, Vice President

N.B. West Contracting Co. Inc. has steadily grown into a large general contractor with approximately 160 employees in the St. Louis, Mo., area and is at the forefront of sustainable roadway construction. The company handles asphalt paving, concrete work, sewer work, milling, excavation, grading, bridge repair, and more.

"Nothing's been a big change overnight just small, slower, calculated growth as time goes on," said N.B. West Contracting Vice President Chris West, who is the grandson of the company's founders, Mary and Norman Bradford West.

Prior to marrying, the pair met when Norman was working for Mary's father as a truck driver at the family's paving company.

"She liked the industry and grew up in it," explained Chris. "My grandfather enjoyed driving trucks, and they had a dream of starting a business together."

Norman and Mary moved to St. Louis, Mo., to start the business in 1956, and eventually settled into a location on historic Route 66.

The company initially focused on driveway and parking lot projects, and in the early 1970s, it purchased its first asphalt plant in Bourbon, Mo. By the end of the 1970s, N.B. West Contracting had two more asphalt plants in House Springs, Mo., and Pacific, Mo.

During the 1990s, their son Larry — Chris' father — stepped in as the head of the business. The company expanded to include more roadway projects, and 2001 marked the beginning of the company's general contracting concrete division.

N.B. West Contracting moved its headquarters to Pacific, Mo., in 2020. It also added a portable asphalt plant and its fifth stationary asphalt plant this year in St. Clair, Mo.

Currently, Larry is the CEO and part of a management team that includes President Jim Fitzgerald and Corporate Controller Tammy Turner.

Sustainable roadways

N.B. West Contracting is passionate about sustainability and has established itself as a leader in asphalt mix recycling.





To supply an asphalt plant with material, operator Dave Mabe utilizes a Komatsu WA500 wheel loader. "I like the steering and controls," said Dave. "This is the first machine I've run without a steering wheel, and I like that it gives me more room and more visibility. We use the WA500 to load trucks and move material at the asphalt plant."

"We've done trial projects for MoDOT (Missouri Department of Transportation), cities and municipalities over the years, and something that's been really on the forefront now is crumb rubber," said Chris.

Crumb rubber consists of processed tires, and N.B. West Contracting uses it in its asphalt mix. The company has found that crumb rubber creates a better mixture and a more durable road. N.B. West Contracting is the second company in the state to modify its asphalt mix with crumb rubber.

"There are miles of roads that we can use the recycled mix on to make them more sustainable and durable, and we've been on the leading edge in Missouri," remarked Chris. "We want to continue pursuing that."

Reliable machines

To acquire equipment, N.B. West Contracting works with Roland Machinery Company and Territory Manager Craig Ferris. The company's current fleet includes Komatsu WA430, WA470, WA480 and WA500 wheel loaders. "We want the best piece of equipment for our crews," said Chris. "We want something that's easy to maintain and is reliable, which is why we go to Roland. The Komatsu wheel loaders are very reliable, and that's why we've continued to buy them. Our operators really like running them, and they have good fuel consumption. We have Komatsu machines at most of our asphalt plants along with one that travels with the portable plant or helps process millings near work sites."

N.B. West Contracting began its milling division in 2007 with a WIRTGEN W 1900 mill. The company now has several WIRTGEN cold milling machines, including two W 207 Fi models, a W 210 Fi, and a W 220 Fi. It also rents HAMM rollers for compaction from Roland Machinery.

"We use different-sized mills depending on the project," noted Chris. "We use one or two mills to do the main lane and shoulder work. A few years ago, we had a 4-inch mill and fill for the state that we needed to get off the highway quickly. We needed a heavier machine



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'Craig and Roland help us make the right choices'

... continued

like the WIRTGEN W 220 Fi that has more horsepower and can cut more consistently at a thicker depth.

"We believe WIRTGEN's far ahead of the competition. A lot of our roadwork is specific to quality, smoothness, and to being on and



(L-R) N.B. West Contracting's Chris West and Roland Machinery's Craig Ferris and James Jesuit chat at N.B. West Contracting's office in Pacific, Mo. "We want the best piece of equipment for our crews," said Chris. "We want something that's easy to maintain and is reliable, which is why we go to Roland."

WIRTGEN

MLOG

off the road in a quick timeframe," added Chris. "We need speed, horsepower, reliability and the ability to make the right cut. WIRTGEN provides all of that. Craig and Roland help us make the right choices based on our needs."

When testing new technology, Roland Machinery thinks of N.B. West Contracting.

"Sonic sensors measure the distance between the machine and ground and have been a huge part in creating smoothness for our road template by creating a more accurate cut," said Chris. "Between Roland and WIRTGEN, they're always there to help us figure out and try new technology."

Chris added, "You must have that support from Roland for a project to succeed and for us to be comfortable to bid future projects. No one wants to start a project and have major issues that are a hurdle to get over."

Growing workforce

Looking ahead, N.B. West Contracting wants to continue its pattern of growth and be a trendsetter in sustainable construction while developing a new generation of employees.

"We are going to tackle as much roadwork as we can," said Chris. "Right now, we are focusing on growing our workforce and training them."



ML06

Operator Preston Shepherd uses a WIRTGEN W 207 Fi cold milling machine to load a truck with millings. "It's very user-friendly," said Preston. "If you are standing on this side, it shows you the other side of the machine, so the groundman can virtually see the other side of the machine. It has great production and power, and I would recommend WIRTGEN over any other mill."

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Roland Machinery sponsors large display of forestry products at the Great Lakes Logging & Heavy Equipment Expo



Matt Roland, President, Roland Machinery Company



Dan Smith, Vice President of Product Support, Roland Machinery Company

The 76th annual Great Lakes Logging & Heavy Equipment Expo recently took place at the Resch Complex in Green Bay, Wis. The three-day event, put on by the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA), showcased the latest equipment and technology solutions in the forestry industry. Roland Machinery Company, in conjunction with Komatsu Forest, had a large display of machines and attachments that were located right across the street from Lambeau Field, home to the Green Bay Packers.

"This event is a real highlight of the year, and it's nice to have it back in Green Bay after several years in Escanaba (Michigan), and the backdrop is great," said Roland Machinery President Matt Roland. "This gives us an opportunity to show our commitment once again to the forestry industry. The most important thing is we get to see our friends and customers again. We spend a lot of time growing our businesses together, and this is another way for us to connect."

At the event, Roland Machinery and Komatsu Forest showcased Komatsu's new 951-1 six-wheeled harvester equipped with a C164 harvester head. The display of Komatsu equipment also included two eight-wheeled harvesters, a 931XC-3 and a 901XC-6; an 845 forwarder; and a WA270-8 wheel loader, which is often used in lumber mills and log yards. Roland Machinery and Komatsu Forest representatives were available to answer any questions the attendees had.

"We're showing the whole portfolio of the products we offer," stated Roland Machinery Vice President of Product Support Dan Smith. "We want our customers to know that the support for them is paramount for us. We're here to support them whether it's at the buying process or when they're out in the middle of the forest."

Challenge accepted

The event also included the Great Lakes Forwarder Operator Challenge, which was sponsored by GLTPA, Roland Machinery and Komatsu Forest.

About 20 competitors raced to complete a course with Komatsu 855-3 forwarders. The challenge included loading logs into the machine's bunk, moving logs between poles,



Roland Machinery and Komatsu Forest showcased harvesters, forwarders, attachments and a wheel loader during the three-day Great Lakes Logging & Heavy Equipment Expo held at the Resch Complex in Green Bay, Wis.



and stacking five smaller logs on top of each other. The top eight times in the initial round moved on to a head-to-head competition.

The top prize – \$1,000 and a hunting trip to Ohio – went to Alex Johnson of Cutting Edge Forest Products, who bested Jake Piwarski of Piwarski Brothers Logging in the final. Piwarski won \$500 as the runner-up.

Johnson actually operates an 855-3 for work, so he is very familiar with the forwarder.

"It's a really nice machine," said Johnson. "I didn't really have any big strategy other than to put the logs at the end in line ahead of time. That way you're not running your jib function as much. I'm excited to go to Ohio and do the deer hunt. I've never been down there deer hunting before."

Piwarski said his strategy was to stay calm and not panic.

"This was my second time doing it, so there was some familiarity, and I thought this course was a little easier," stated Piwarski. "I wasn't really focused on time, more on being smooth. I figured that would keep the time down."

Steve Anderson of Steve Anderson Forest Products, who won last year's competition, finished third this year. Bridge Creek Logging LLC owner Wendell Risser was fourth,



Attendees had the opportunity to chat with personnel from Roland Machinery and Komatsu Forest about the products on display.

and Manley Murray of Steve Anderson Forest Products was fifth.

Back to Escanaba

The next Great Lakes Logging & Heavy Equipment Expo is scheduled to return to the Upper Peninsula State Fairgrounds in Escanaba, Mich., on Sept. 7-9, 2023.

"We have participated in this event for more than 20 years, and we expect to be in Escanaba next year," said Roland. "We are looking forward to it and hope to see even more people there."



Discover more at RolandIndustryScoop.com

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Tackle demanding forestry processing environments with Komatsu's new PC230F-11 swing machine

Your forestry crews need equipment that can deliver exceptional performance in difficult environments, control downtime and drive productivity. The robust design of Komatsu's new fuel-efficient PC230F-11 swing machine lets operators delimb, cut and stack.

Operators can more easily move large trees with the PC230F-11's powerful swing system and large swing circle. The machine has a reach of up to 29 feet and high maneuverability to help drive productivity. An extra-rugged exterior protects against falling limbs with a 1.26-inch-thick polycarbonate front window and metal designed to withstand demanding environments. Heavy-duty service undercover guards, thick rear compartment doors, and a right corner guard with a standard tree deflector help protect the processor.

Designed with a high and wide undercarriage, powerful swing motor and ability to withstand high-debris conditions, the PC230F-11 is backed by excellent service, easy access to parts and an industry-leading warranty. When operators are working in high-debris conditions, the wide-fin radiator is protected by heavy-duty forestry screens and a variable-pitch reversible fan that helps improve airflow.

Operators can quickly adjust to sudden changes in load weight without losing productivity with the Auto Power Max feature. It automatically senses the difference and reacts with a 7-second burst of additional horsepower to help pull the trees during the delimbing process.

Komatsu's new PC230F-11 processor features a powerful swing system and large swing circle. It has a reach of up to 29 feet and high maneuverability to help drive productivity.

More fuel efficient

To reduce operator fatigue, the PC230F-11 provides a quiet, comfortable work environment. Cabs are climate-controlled and equipped with Bluetooth technology. The cushioned air-suspension seat can be heated and cooled.

The PC230F-11 can achieve exceptional performance with low fuel consumption thanks to a powerful PC290LL-class-size, factory-installed Komatsu Tier 4 Final engine.

Plus, operators can spend more time on the job and less time refueling with the additional fuel storage on the PC230F-11. The tank is in the rear of the carrier and built into the counterweight, which delivers double the fuel capacity. Because the fuel tank was moved to the rear, there is a large tool storage area on the side for the operator to store an extra 5-gallon bucket of oil, extra chains and other tools.

Learn more about the PC230F-11 and other forestry products at https://www.komatsu.com/ en/products/forestry/.



Quick Specs

Model PC230F-11

Net Horsepower 197 hp

Operating Weight 67,516 lbs.

Swing Torque 58,334 lbs.-ft.

11



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Guest Opinion

Safeguard equipment, keep insurance premiums in check with a few effective, yet simple, risk management steps

Tools and equipment used on construction sites are often subject to theft and vandalism — creating project delays and impacting costs. Over time, multiple claims may also increase insurance premiums. While not every loss can be prevented, there are improved methods for safeguarding construction equipment that go beyond fences and standard locks.

When creating a loss-prevention strategy, the following can help your construction clients protect their business property.

Anti-theft devices

Heavy equipment, vehicles and trailers, as well as areas where tools and building materials are kept, can be better protected during non-working hours when anti-theft/anti-vandalism devices are used. Options include high-security, pick-resistant locks that can be placed on steering wheels, axles and fuel tank caps. Other considerations can include the use of case-hardened security chains that can help secure smaller equipment, preventing items such as trailers from being easily moved off the premises.

Deactivation devices

These are simple, yet effective, tools for stopping thieves in their tracks. While there are many different types of deactivation devices on the market, the objective for each is the same: an immediate shutdown of equipment that is being tampered with, rendering it immobile.

GPS tracking devices

In the event of a theft, your clients have an improved chance of recovering stolen items if their equipment has a hidden GPS tracking device. Once the device is activated, law enforcement personnel can use the technology to reveal the equipment's location.

Night cameras

Nighttime security surveillance has vastly improved in recent years. Some of the best night camera security systems offer forward-looking infrared (FLIR) mapping that detects people, objects and vehicles on a construction site — even in inclement weather or low-visibility conditions. FLIR systems allow operations to be livestreamed from any location on a smartphone or other electronic devices.

Drones

Drones can assist in viewing or inspecting a job site when a suspicious activity has been detected or when an alarm has been triggered. Advantages over a security guard include the ability to patrol wide areas in less time and track a thief across long distances.

Deploying any of these methods can't guarantee that your construction client's equipment won't be damaged or stolen by thieves. However, they are good steps in the right direction. In many situations, occurrences can be reduced through appropriate risk management procedures. If an incident does occur, having the right insurance can help mitigate the financial impact of a loss. ■



Paul Hohlbein

About the Author: Paul Hohlbein is co-president of Builders & Tradesmen's Insurance Services Inc., an Amynta Group Company. To learn more, email Paul at phohlbein@btisinc.com.

Safeguarding your assets is essential to avoid vandalism and theft, which can delay projects and prove costly in other ways such as higher insurance premiums. Taking precautions can help protect your property.

Industry Event

CONEXPO-CON/AGG will return to Las Vegas with additional exhibit space, focus on latest industry innovations

North America's largest construction trade show is right around the corner. CONEXPO-CON/AGG will return to the Las Vegas Convention Center on March 14-18, 2023. Held every three years, it features the latest in innovation and equipment from all sectors of the industry.

In addition to the approximately 1,800 exhibitors spread across 2.7 million square feet of exhibit space, the show will also have more than 150 educational sessions that highlight the

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latest topics and industry trends. The sessions are grouped into tracks such as aggregates, asphalt, business best practices, earthmoving and site development, equipment management and maintenance, and more.

During the last show in 2020, construction of the new West Hall and adjacent Diamond Lot on the site of the old Gold Lot was underway, as was the Tesla-powered underground people mover called the LVCC Loop. Both projects are now completed, and CONEXPO-CON/AGG and the co-located International Fluid Power Exposition (IFPE) will make full use of them.

"AEM (Association of Equipment Manufacturers, a co-owner and operator of CONEXPO-CON/AGG) and our show committees of industry leaders are working to take advantage of everything that has changed in Las Vegas to deliver a top-notch event delivering the latest innovations and best practices to help construction pros take their businesses and careers to the next level," said Dana Wuesthoff, Show Director of CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2023. "Between the West Hall and Diamond Lot bringing a lot of displays



CONEXPO-CON/AGG gives attendees the opportunity to see and learn about the latest machinery and innovations in the construction industry. The experience includes the ability to climb inside of equipment and talk with industry experts.

OVERVIEW MAP





Komatsu will have one of the largest booths (W42044) in the West Hall with close to 20 machines and its Smart Construction solutions on display.

closer to the rest of the show as well as serving as a connector to the Festival Lot and the LVCC Loop making it effortless to get across the entire Las Vegas Convention Center, it's never been easier for attendees to see everything they want to learn about when they get here."

Easier to get around

With an additional 1.4 million square feet of indoor space — including 600,000 square feet of "technologically advanced" exhibit space — the West Hall will be a hub for earthmoving and material handling displays. Komatsu will have one of the largest booths (W42044) in the West Hall with close to 20 machines and its Smart Construction solutions on display.

The Diamond Lot will have a variety of exhibits such as business operations, hauling, portable power and underground construction.

The LVCC Loop will transport attendees and make stops in the South Hall, the Central Hall and the Diamond Lot. Attendees can use the on-site shuttle service to get from the West Hall to the Festival Lot, which has the show's largest exhibits.

Next Level Awards

Another new feature at CONEXPO-CON/AGG and IFPE is the inaugural Next Level Awards

Program, which will celebrate exhibiting companies that are pushing the boundaries to develop next-level products, technologies and services that advance the construction industry. During the show, 10 finalists will be highlighted, and attendees can vote on-site to determine the Contractors' Top Choice.

The awards program is open to all 2023 exhibitors in good standing that have created products or services for the construction industry that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Addresses a common industry need in a unique and innovative way
- Benefits the industry across multiple applications for industrywide adoption
- Positively impacts the safety, sustainability and workforce of the industry

"We are excited to recognize the innovative construction products that are taking the industry to the next level," said Wuesthoff. "Exhibitors, large and small, have an opportunity to be recognized for driving ideas and developing products or services to advance the industry. This is an exciting addition to CONEXPO-CON/AGG and IFPE, and we strongly encourage exhibitors to enter."



Register for the show at CONEXPO-CON/AGG'S website: https://www. conexpoconagg.com.

Product Insight

Which tight tail swing excavator is right for the job?



Kurt Moncini, Senior Product Manager, Komatsu

Ensuring high production when digging in tight spaces and confined job sites can be challenging. Machines with traditional counterweights may not be ideal because of the likelihood they could swing into an obstruction, making tight tail swing excavators a much better fit. However, with so many tight tail swing sizes and models available, choosing the right one for the job takes some careful consideration.

"Tight tails allow operators to be more efficient because they typically have better situational awareness and can concentrate on the task at hand while reducing the chances of swinging into an obstruction or into a lane of traffic," stated Kurt Moncini, Senior Product Manager, Komatsu. "Typically, the upper structure is revolving within the confines of the undercarriage, which is why they are great for a variety of tasks in urban areas, or where space is limited."

> What's the digging depth?

> > According to Moncini, digging depth is an important consideration when choosing the right-sized tight tail swing excavator.

"Pipe typically comes in multiples of 8-foot sections, so taking that into consideration, I always like to look at the 8-foot level bottom digging depth because that's the maximum depth I can dig and excavate an 8-foot flat bottom section of trench," said Moncini. "As an example, if the required pipe run trench depth is 10 feet, my most efficient machine size will be one that can excavate an 8-foot level bottom to that depth. I need

to size the machine accordingly and try to go with the smallest tight tail that will do the job most efficiently."

How much do I have to lift?

Lift capacity is another major factor in choosing the right excavator. While you want to be able to move the machine as little as possible, you need to consider what you may need to move on-site in addition to digging.

"If you are excavating utility trenches in an urban environment, there is a good chance you will have to handle trench boxes and set steel plates to cover up the trench at night, or you may have to pick up and install heavy concrete pipe or structures," said Moncini. "It's vital to have a machine with sufficient lift capacity to handle the job. Ideally, I really want to be able to handle over the side as much as I can lift in front."

Moncini added, "The heavier the required loads become, the bigger the machine I'm going to need. Having a machine that can also lift the materials off the trailer when they arrive is important too. I need to be able to lift, handle and place materials until it's time to use them, then have the ability to rehandle and lay them in the trench."

Do I want versatility?

"Most smaller machines come standard with a blade, which extends versatility," said Moncini. "The ability to push material and backfill is an added advantage and may be able to eliminate an extra machine on the job."

Moncini also added that a blade can help you get better over-the-front lift capacity.

Additional tight tail swing versatility can be achieved by equipping the excavators with attachments such as breakers, but you must properly size them to the machine.

"If the job calls for breaking up old pavement or other concrete structures, you should first size the breaker for the task, then ensure the excavator is big enough to handle it and has the correct hydraulic flow to operate it," said Moncini. "There are a wide range of attachments — from compactors to mowers and more — that you can use with a tight

To increase versatility, consider adding attachments such as blades or breakers to your tight tail swing excavators. Most of the machines are already plumbed and ready to run the right-sized attachments.



Komatsu manufactures eight tight tail swing models, ranging in size from the approximately 6,800-pound, 24.4-horsepower PC30MR-5 to the roughly 54,000-pound, 165-horsepower PC38USLC-11. "Tight tails allow operators to be more efficient because they typically have better situational awareness and can concentrate on the task at hand while reducing the chances of swinging into an obstruction or into a lane of traffic," stated Kurt Moncini, Senior Product Manager, Komatsu. "They are great for a variety of tasks in urban areas, as well as others, where space is limited."

tail swing. The good news is that most are already plumbed and ready for attachments."

Which boom design is right for me?

Komatsu manufactures eight tight tail swing models, ranging in size from the approximately 6,800-pound, 24.4-horsepower PC30MR-5 to the roughly 54,000-pound, 165-horsepower PC238USLC-11. There are five MR (minimum-radius) models and three US (ultra-short) models.

"The MR excavators have a swing boom, and the US models have a standard boom," Moncini noted. "Our MR design allows the operator to pivot the boom left or right to get right next to a structure and dig parallel to the tracks, so they are much more versatile. The advantage of a standard boom is that it's a little lower price point. Additionally, the standard boom overextends toward the back of the machine to tuck the bucket in tight."

What about tracks?

Track selection may play an important role when working in urban environments.

You want to avoid breaking up pavement, damaging sidewalks and ruining grassy areas.

"Having to fix an existing surface could be a major hit to your profit," said Moncini. "Our smaller tight tail swing excavators come standard with rubber-belted tracks. Not only do they minimize ground disturbance, but they are quieter and faster than steel tracks. Road liners, or conventional tracks with rubber pads, are very popular in our midsized to larger models when working on improved surfaces."

Who can I talk to?

For additional information, Moncini suggests consulting with your Komatsu distributor.

"Our distributors have the knowledge and expertise to help you determine the right-sized machine to most effectively get the job done," said Moncini. "Tight tail swings can be excellent tools for limited-space job sites and can also offer high production in open areas too. If you are not using them, consider checking them out to increase your versatility." Editor's Note: To learn more about Komatsu's tight tail swing excavators, visit https:// www.komatsu.com/en/ products/excavators.



Proprietary iMC 2.0 promotes significant productivity gains and is now available on Komatsu PC490LCi-11 excavator



Learn more

Quick Specs

Model PC490LCi-11

Net Horsepower 359 hp

Operating Weight 105,670-107,850 lbs.

Bucket Capacity 1.47-4.15 cu. yd.

Designed to lessen the skills gap between new and experienced operators and help improve the bottom line for contractors, Komatsu's largest intelligent Machine Control (iMC) 2.0 excavator, the PC490LCi-11, offers sophisticated productivity-enhancing automation. An excellent match for excavation, trenching, slope work or fine grading, the PC490LCi-11 helps minimize over-excavation to empower operators to dig straight to grade quickly and accurately.

Built on Komatsu's iMC platform and developed with input from leading construction companies, iMC 2.0 offers additional new features.

Upgraded iMC monitor

A new 10.4-inch iMC monitor features increased memory capacity, processing speed and pinch-to-zoom functionality in a smaller lightweight package for improved performance and ease of use.

Bucket angle hold control

The new bucket angle hold control helps operators reach final grade with speed and precision. It automatically holds the bucket angle to the design surface during arm operation, enabling operators to perform finish grading using only arm input.

Both features build upon the semi-automatic functions that were part of the first generation of iMC excavators, including the ability to switch from manual to semi-automatic mode. The existing technology and new features can help increase production and efficiency while reducing costs.

The PC490LCi-11 is Komatsu's largest intelligent Machine Control (iMC) 2.0 excavator. It's an excellent match for excavation, trenching, slope work or fine grading. New features include an upgraded iMC monitor and bucket angle hold control.



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Tech Talk

Five ways drones can help reduce costs and increase efficiency on construction sites

As technology continues to change the construction industry, a potentially dynamic investment companies can make isn't iron on the ground, but a drone in the sky.

Drones are more accessible than ever with relatively affordable prices and simple operating controls, which make it possible for any organization to start drone operation.

If you're ready to expand your fleet, here are five ways drones can help reduce costs and increase efficiency on your job sites.

1. Streamline communications

Being able to streamline information and connect your entire staff can help increase your workplace and job site efficiency.

With a timeline function, drones can take photographs from the same coordinates during the duration of a project to provide a timelapse of the progress. This can keep everyone up to date on the project's status. "The drone technology allows us to have somebody go out and drone sites two to three times a week," said Greg Sutton, Vice President of Operations at Aspen Earthworks Inc. in Reno, Nev. "Even if I can't get out here and see what production has happened on a site, I still feel like I visited the job site through the drone technology."

2. Spend less time surveying

Depending on the site, conventional surveying can take days — with drones, it can take minutes.

"I think the greatest change after adopting drones or being exposed to drone usage is using the high accuracy survey grade data that they provide," said Jason Anetsberger, Director of Customer Solutions at Komatsu. "Instead of having to walk a site or drive a site to map it terrestrially, they can now fly the site in a much larger area, in much higher resolution, in much less time, and get a highly

Continued . . .

With a drone, a company can quickly and accurately collect objective data of its job site, and that information can be used to help increase productivity and efficiency in the field.



'It was incredibly easy to get started'

... continued

accurate survey of that terrain. It has opened a whole new world for contractors to extract value from utilizing a drone."

A company can quickly and accurately collect objective data of its job site with a drone, and that information can be used to help increase productivity and efficiency in the field.

3. Get accurate material estimates

Having the incorrect number of materials for a project can waste time and money. On construction sites, drones can quickly provide a precise representation of the area, so you can get an accurate estimate of everything you will need for the project.

During a preconstruction flight, you can compare the real site to the engineer's model, which allows you to fix any miscalculations. By correcting those errors, companies can quickly see a return on investment.

"We had a customer recently who realized they had to move 40,000 cubic yards more than what the engineer quantities were saying they needed to do at the beginning of the job," said Jim Petry, Construction Project Modeler for Komatsu. "For them, that was a big revelation. That was the first time that they used a drone. They quickly found a lot of value in it. They can see where their cut and fills are on the site, where that is taking place, and if it's a large site, they can make better decisions on equipment."

With more accurate measurements in the early stages of projects, companies can adjust their

Drones are more accessible than ever with relatively affordable prices and simple operating controls, which make it possible for any organization to start drone operation.



fleets accordingly to help increase production and have more precise data collection throughout the process.

"Komatsu's Smart Construction Drone has enabled Aspen Earthworks to reach new levels," said Aspen Earthworks President Ryan Dustin. "With day-by-day information, it's enabled us to really dial in our estimating and our production rates that I believe have helped put us near the top of our market, and it was incredibly easy to get started. With that moment-by-moment information and real-time data, we can work with our project manager and superintendents to help us reorganize and redo the way we approach our dirt and utilities projects to increase efficacy."

4. Connect clients to every site

You can also use drone technology to quickly and accurately connect beneficiaries to the job site, which can help save time, avoid future headaches, and secure repeat clients.

"With drones, you can give clients confidence that they're getting the production that they're paying for," said Anetsberger. "That could help contractors secure future business. There's more trust in that relationship if you're feeding them near-real-time data or opening a digital twin, so they can follow alongside."

Plus, drones can reduce the amount of time spent providing documentation for invoices.

"Instead of spending a day doing that conventionally, you're doing the flight in just a few minutes and can accurately compare that against the last flight to be able to put their invoices forward and get paid as progress moves along," said Petry.

5. Create dynamic marketing content

Aside from using drones for surveying, they can also be used to collect photographs and videos on job sites, or even at the office, that can be used for marketing, recruitment and public relations campaigns.

The maneuverability of drones can create dynamic photographs and videos that a person on the ground simply cannot easily replicate. Also, you don't have to cut into your marketing budget for a camera.

While any drone can adequately survey, photograph and record a job site, Anetsberger and Petry recommend a robust model if you want high accuracy with good stability to get the most out of your investment.

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Tomahawk Construction utilizes Komatsu's Smart Construction Remote to control costs and maximize efficiency



Randall Hendra, Project Surveyor

A mix of private, commercial and Department of Transportation (DOT) work keeps Tomahawk Construction and its approximately 90 employees busy year-round in Fort Myers, Fla. Established as a premier site development firm nearly 20 years ago, Randall Hendra came on board in 2014 to oversee surveying operations.

"I had my own surveying company and saw early on how GPS technology cut into my traditional role of surveying and staking sites," said Hendra. "Instead of fighting change, I decided to learn what GPS could accomplish. Since joining Tomahawk, we've transitioned from staking jobs to utilizing GPS technology for all of our projects."

With multiple active job sites spread across the greater Fort Myers area, Hendra is constantly monitoring job site progression. He relies on Komatsu's Smart Construction Remote — a software system that allows you to transfer files, support operators and locate machines from your computer — to work efficiently and keep projects on schedule.

"We do a lot of subdivision work, which means plans are continuously updating and changing throughout the build," noted Hendra. "The demand for housing in the area means we're out the door and on the ground digging lakes and ponds before the plans are 100% finalized. With Smart Construction Remote, I'm able to update changes to our models and remotely send them to our GPS-equipped Komatsu machines without having to separately drive to each machine and install the file with a thumb drive.

"As soon as I upload the file to the machines, the operator can see the new plans and get to work," continued Hendra. "It's a huge time saver because I'm not driving an hour to each job site and tracking down each machine — it's just the stroke of a key, and I've saved myself half a day of work. From the operator's perspective, they're not wasting half a day following plans that have already changed. You can see how the cost savings and efficiency quickly build when you have multiple changes throughout the life of a project."

Expanding equipment

Tomahawk Construction currently utilizes approximately 10 Komatsu intelligent Machine Control (iMC) dozers and excavators.



A Tomahawk Construction operator cuts a road in the early stages of a project with a Komatsu D51PXi-24 iMC dozer. "In our experience, nothing works as well as Komatsu," said Project Surveyor Randall Hendra. "With Smart Construction Remote, I'm able to update changes to our models and remotely send them to our GPS-equipped Komatsu machines without having to separately drive to each machine and install the file with a thumb drive."





Project Surveyor Randall Hendra monitors Tomahawk Construction's Komatsu iMC machines as well as its Topcon-equipped machines from his desk with Smart Construction Remote. "Between tracking machines, uploading files and remotely supporting our operators, Smart Construction Remote paired with Komatsu iMC equipment has greatly increased our efficiency," said Hendra.

Soon, the firm will have about 30 machines capable of utilizing Smart Construction Remote because it works on Topcon systems as well as iMC machines.

"We've tried all brands of GPS-equipped machines, and in our experience, nothing works as well as Komatsu," stated Hendra. "You don't have to fix cables or masts or make little adjustments — you just set the dozer up, and it runs. You're also able to track where your machines are located, which impacts everything from efficiently moving machines between jobs to helping technicians locate machines for routine maintenance."

Operator support

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When an operator has a question about a project, Hendra can often use multiple Smart Construction Remote capabilities to resolve the problem quickly.

"Through Smart Construction Remote, on the monitor in my office I'm able to see exactly what an operator sees on the screen in their cab," explained Hendra. "If an operator calls and explains that he's grading a road and it's not a 2% cross slope, I'm able to see what his screen shows and see exactly where he is located on the job site. I can take that information and compare it to the model, make any changes, then upload a new model to the machine with the proper cross slope without leaving my desk."

Hendra added, "I can also control the screen for any machine. If an operator gets into a different machine than they typically run and wants the screens to look a specific way, I can remotely adjust that for them. I can also update menus and delete old files to make sure our operators are using the most up-to-date version. Between tracking machines, uploading files and remotely supporting our operators, Smart Construction Remote paired with Komatsu iMC equipment has greatly increased our efficiency."

**The opinions expressed here are from the end users who are quoted.



Proactive Approach

Preventive maintenance clinics ensure your equipment is calibrated to optimum levels for high production



Chris Wasik, Director, Life Cycle Solutions, Komatsu

Many factors impact your equipment's productivity and health, including ambient temperatures, the operating environment, operator habits, regular maintenance, the quality of fluids and filters, and working applications.

Ignoring any of these can accelerate component wear and cause costly, unexpected failures as well as unplanned, extended downtime. Overall performance and operating efficiency can also be affected when pressures and speeds cause longer cycle times. A heavier burden on mechanical systems drives up fuel burn rates too.

A thorough preventive maintenance (PM) clinic provides a detailed inspection of your equipment, including a look inside to measure pump pressure, engine speeds, blowby, idle and cycle times, oil quality, internal component wear, and more.

Minimize downtime

"The United States Department of Energy estimates a good proactive preventive maintenance program paired with thorough machine recalibration and inspection, such as a PM clinic, can significantly save operations and maintenance costs compared to a reactive approach during a machine's life," said Chris Wasik, Director, Life Cycle Solutions, Komatsu.

When pressures or speeds deteriorate beyond adjustable ranges, planned replacement strategies for key parts or components can bring the machine back to a nearly new level of performance as well as minimize repair costs and downtime, according to Wasik. Measurements taken are compared to Komatsu's recommended operating ranges and can usually be calibrated to optimum levels for better machine performance.

"For a more detailed list of system measurements and checks performed during a standard PM clinic, consult your specific machine's shop manual," Wasik advised. "Check with your Komatsu distributor or dealer for specials and incentives when they conduct a PM clinic on your Komatsu equipment." ■

A preventive maintenance (PM) clinic provides a detailed inspection of your equipment. Measurements are compared to Komatsu's recommended operating ranges and can usually be calibrated to optimum levels for better machine performance.





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Timber Talk

New Komatsu 951-1 six-wheeled harvester helps you harvest large hardwood trees



Rob Warden, Senior Product Manager, Komatsu

If you work in the woods, you want to know that your machine will be productive, even on tough assignments. Best suited for large hardwood tree harvesting, Komatsu's 951-1 six-wheeled harvester has robust features such as a multifunction hydraulic system, a powerful yet efficient engine, and excellent cold-weather starting.

One of the largest harvesters on the market at 50,243 pounds, the heart of the 951-1 is a 287-net-horsepower engine that features an ideal mix of power, torque and fuel economy. Komatsu optimized the engine for low working speeds, including a broad powerband and high-torque backup for challenging operations.

Despite its size, the harvester has excellent maneuverability thanks to key drivetrain technologies such as the Comfort Bogie

Quick Specs			
Model	Net Horsepower	Operating Weight	Tractive Force
951-1	287 hp	50,243 lbs.	52,156 lbf.

Komatsu's 951-1 is one of the largest harvesters on the market at 50,243 pounds. Despite its size, the harvester has excellent maneuverability thanks to key drivetrain technologies such as the Comfort Bogie system with high ground clearance and enhanced traction.



system with high ground clearance and enhanced traction.

"Like our other harvesters, the 951-1 features an auto-level cab to help keep it level, whether the machine is on flat ground or steep terrain," said Rob Warden, Senior Product Manager, Komatsu. "That keeps the operator comfortable and increases visibility during all operations, so they can be productive throughout their shift."

The 951-1 can also be paired with several high-performance Komatsu harvester heads to meet your specific needs. The most popular options for the 951-1 are the C144 and C164 carry-style heads as well as the S172 squeeze-style head. The C164 can handle trees with diameters of up to 36 inches.

Additional key features of the 951-1 harvester include:

- A three-pump hydraulic system that enables operators to perform multiple crane and head functions at the same time at full power, even when moving
- A powerful parallel crane with single control lever movement that extends the boom/arm on a parallel path and provides excellent lifting and slewing torque plus an industry-leading ±180-degree cab/crane rotation
 - A special diesel heater system that heats the batteries, engine coolant, DEF (diesel exhaust fluid) and hydraulic oil to help ensure easy starting in cold conditions
 - A spacious, automotive-quality cab that includes a large front window, an ergonomic seat, automatic climate control, sound-deadening measures, and heated and cooled meal storage
 - An electrically operated engine hood and service points, so you rarely need to climb onto the machine for maintenance

"We encourage anyone who is interested to contact their Komatsu distributor and learn more," stated Warden. ■

Industry Insights

Biden administration, DOT propose improvements to DBE regulations

The Biden administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) have proposed changes designed to improve the regulations of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program and the Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) program. Their plan would help modernize the programs, which are intended to prevent discrimination and remedy the continuing effects of past discrimination against small businesses owned and controlled by disadvantaged individuals.

The proposed updates would increase the personal net worth (PNW) limit from

\$1.32 million to \$1.6 million and exclude retirement assets from PNW calculations; simplify the interstate certification process; empower certified firms to better market themselves to prime contractors; and strengthen prompt payment monitoring and oversight requirements.

"For far too long, small and disadvantaged businesses have faced discrimination that costs them economic opportunities," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "These critical updates would help ensure that small and disadvantaged businesses continue to have a fair chance to compete for federally assisted contracts."



New Truck

Komatsu's HD1500-8E0 helps increase production at quarry, aggregate and mining operations, keeps operators comfortable



Sebastian Witkowski, Product Manager, Komatsu

Quick Specs

Model HD1500-8E0

Net Horsepower 1,570 hp

Operating Weight 550,229 lbs.

> Rated Payload 153.2 tons

Heaped Capacity 102 cu. yd.

Komatsu's new HD1500-8E0 mechanical haul truck delivers high performance with less fuel consumption than its predecessor. It is purpose-built to increase production and efficiency in multiple applications. Does your operation need an efficient 150-ton haulage solution that can deliver performance on grade while providing energy-saving technologies to help achieve lower fuel consumption? Komatsu's rigid frame off-highway haul truck, the HD1500-8E0, is purpose-built for mining, quarry and aggregate applications.

Delivering performance with a 1,570-nethorsepower, Tier 4 Final Komatsu engine, the HD1500-8E0 helps drive high levels of productivity. It has a seven-speed, fully automatic transmission with two configurable reverse speeds. Komatsu's advanced transmission with an optimum modulation control system provides electronic shift control with automatic clutch modulation. Optimized clutch engagement at every gear provides smoother shifting without losing torque, which offers a comfortable ride and helps reduce material spillage.

To promote productivity and control the life cycle costs of the truck, an integrated payload meter manages the payload of each hauling cycle by analyzing production volume and the working conditions of the machine.

"When designing the HD1500-8E0, Komatsu's focus was improving performance and durability and helping reduce total cost of ownership," said Sebastian Witkowski, Product Manager, Komatsu. "In addition to best-in-class speed on grade, and

KOMATCH?

downhill brake retarding performance, the truck has a host of new efficiency and operator environment technologies."

The HD1500-8E0 is equipped with hydraulic, wet, multiple-disc brakes on all four wheels that act as a highly responsive retarder, providing operators with confidence at higher speeds when traveling downhill. Operators can also control their downhill descent by setting a desired travel speed with the automatic retard speed control (ARSC), which applies the brake retarder to maintain the desired setting.

Easy maneuverability

With a tight turning radius of 36 feet, 9 inches, operators in the HD1500-8E0 can maneuver in and out of tight spaces when spotting to be loaded or positioning to dump. Komatsu's Traction Control System (KTCS) provides excellent control in loose or slippery haul road conditions by monitoring the rear wheels for slippage and automatically applying pressure to the independent wheel brake assemblies.

The redesigned cab features a seat heater and ventilator, and the hydropneumatic suspension gives operators the smooth and comfortable ride they need for long shifts. Designed with a convenient layout, the ergonomic cab is equipped with an air-suspension seat to help dampen vibrations, and the low-noise engine, fan clutch and cab sealing provide a quiet, low-decibel operating environment.

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2016 KOMATSU D155AX-8 \$379.500



2017 KOMATSU PC240LC-11 \$199,500 STK# KM21091, 2.747 HRS, EAU CLAIRE, WI



2013 KOMATSU 931.1 \$200,000 STK# VT20025, 10,652 HRS, ESCANABA, MI



2019 KOMATSU PC238USLC-11 \$199,500 STK# KM2021739, 2,618 HRS, BOLINGBROOK, IL STK# KM19566, 3,893 HRS, SPRINGFIELD, IL



2014 KOMATSU PC360LC-10 \$199,500



2002 LINK BELT 8000 \$59,500 STK# ZZ2022317, 25,198 HRS, EAST PEORIA, IL



\$349,500 2015 KOMATSU D155AX-8 STK# KM17233, 3,983 HRS, BRIDGETON, MO



2020 KOMATSU PC210LC-11 \$239.500 STK# KM2022040, 682 HRS, PALMYRA, MO



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2013 KOMATSU HM300-3 \$299.500 STK# KM19307, 6,000 HRS, SPRINGFIELD, IL







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