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# DIRT TALK

A PUBLICATION FOR AND ABOUT POWER MOTIVE CUSTOMERS • 2013 NO. 3

## SUMMERS CONSTRUCTION

Adam Summers knew early on  
that he wanted to have equipment  
and be a contractor

See article inside . . .



**KOMATSU**®

Adam Summers,  
President



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bob Davis



Dear Valued Customer:

This year marks the beginning of Tier 4 Final implementation with the introduction of smaller engine-horsepower machines, such as utility equipment. Larger equipment begins rolling out next year. It's taken a long time and a great deal of innovative engineering to get to this point, but the efforts have been well worth it, especially when it comes to Komatsu equipment.

Not only has Komatsu met the stringent emissions standards of each new tier level, it has engineered machinery that's more productive and efficient. It's added innovative technology such as KOMTRAX, which helps lower owning and operating costs by allowing you to monitor machinery and proactively schedule service or address productivity issues, including excessive idle time. Komatsu furthered its efforts to lower your costs by introducing Komatsu CARE, which provides complimentary scheduled service on Tier 4 Interim machines.

Now, the manufacturer has taken innovation a step further with the introduction of "intelligent" machines, the first of which you can read about in this issue of your Power Motive *Dirt Talk* magazine. We're excited about the new D61i dozers that offer integrated 3D grade control without the blade-attached mast and cables you see in traditional machine-control grading systems. Tests show this revolutionary design can further reduce operating costs and increase even the most rookie operator's productivity. Details are in the article.

If you're interested in a D61i or any other machine, there is an advantage to purchasing this year. Enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 extended the 50-percent bonus depreciation for most property placed in service before 2014. It also extended increased Sec. 179 expense levels of \$500,000 with a phase-out amount beginning at \$2 million. After this tax year, those numbers are scheduled to significantly drop. For additional information, talk with your sales representative, or call your nearest Power Motive branch.

As always, if there's anything we can do for you, please call or stop by one of our locations.

Sincerely,  
POWER MOTIVE

*Bob Davis*

Bob Davis, President

**Taking  
innovation  
a step further**



"The Product Support People"

# DIRT TALK

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# A SALUTE TO A POWER MOTIVE CUSTOMER

## SUMMERS CONSTRUCTION

### Adam Summers knew early on that he wanted to have equipment and be a contractor



Adam Summers,  
President

**A**dam Summers remembers going with his grandfather, a machine operator, to a pit in Commerce City and riding on a dozer with him. Adam was six years old at the time, and from that point on, he knew what he wanted to do with his life.

"I wanted to have my own equipment and do earthwork," he recalled. "I earned a construction management degree from Colorado State University. After graduating, I worked for a few construction companies to learn how they did things, then I started my own company, Summers Construction, in 2006."

He started the company with a small handful of employees but grew to nearly 30 people before the bottom fell out of the economy in 2009.

This Summers crew uses a Komatsu PC138 on a project at Vallagio at Inverness, an upscale development in southern metro Denver near Centennial.



"By late 2010, we were back down to about half-a-dozen people. Work was very slow, and many of our larger competitors had already closed their doors; I thought I might have to do the same thing. Fortunately, we were able to line up a couple good-sized jobs, which allowed us to hold on until the economy began to improve."

During the depths of the recession, Summers relied heavily on family, including his grandfather, Al "Sonny" Summers, who, decades earlier, had inspired Adam toward a construction career.

"He came out of retirement and worked for me as an operator," said Summers. "I tried to pay him, but he wouldn't accept any money. My mom, Sharon Summers, came to work here too. She ran the office while my brother Matt and I ran the field operations. I would not be here today without the support I received from my family during those lean years."

Today, Aurora-based Summers Construction employs approximately 16 people. The company's primary focus is underground utilities – sewer, water and storm drain – but recently the company started doing more full-site development projects that include demolition, grading and erosion control.

"We run two crews, and we're capable of doing a wide range of work," said Summers. "We specialize in highway, municipal and commercial projects. This year, we've seen an increase in residential work as well. As a company, we will go wherever the work takes us – from metro Denver down to Colorado Springs or up to northern Wyoming."



#### ► VIDEO

Summers Construction offers full site services, such as this large warehouse project in Louisville, where operators use a Komatsu PC300 and a WA320 to do utilities, grading and erosion control. "I'm a big fan of Komatsu equipment," said President Adam Summers. "It's productive, reliable and lasts a long time."

### Reliable and responsive

Summers Construction will do jobs as small as \$5,000 and as large as \$1.5 million, but Summers says the company's sweet spot is in the \$500,000 to \$1 million price range.

"That size project is ideal for us because we can commit a crew to the job for a couple of months – then just stay on-site and knock it out. Our crews are very knowledgeable, and when we commit to a time line and finish date, you can be sure it's going to be done.

"Our greatest strengths as a company are reliability and responsiveness," Summers added. "When we get asked to bid on a project, we respond quickly and get our bid in on time. If we get the job, we commit to a start and end date, and we never over-promise. When we say we'll do something, we want to be able to deliver on-time and on-budget every time. And during construction, I make it a point to stay in touch with the owner or GC so there are never any surprises on either end."

Summers Construction required all of those assets for one of their signature projects



#### ► VIDEO

for the Wyoming DOT. The company was commissioned to help relocate a portion of Highway 85 in Newcastle, Wyo.

"The highway was originally built in a low, creek area and was shifting toward a nearby hotel/resort property," Summers noted. "The relocation was to mitigate a potential slide into the hotel. We handled all the storm sewer and box culverts, as well as a new water line to the hotel. It consisted of laying very large pipe – 96-inch and 72-inch RCP – and large, 8x6 box culverts. We also did two creek diversions and shored up a pond. It was a high-profile and fast-track job that we performed very well."

*Continued . . .*



Go online or scan this QR code using an app on your smart phone to watch video of Summers Construction machines at work.

# Summers Construction looking to grow

...continued



Juan Chavez,  
Foreman



Jorge Cisneros,  
Foreman

## Productive Komatsu equipment

In order to complete projects like the highway relocation in a timely and efficient manner, Summers Construction uses Komatsu equipment from Power Motive Corporation. The company has two Komatsu wheel loaders (WA250 and WA320) and two Komatsu excavators (PC138 and PC300), as well as several Komatsu utility machines.

"Komatsu makes good equipment," said Summers. "They're productive, reliable and last a long time. Our operators love the excavators, mainly because Komatsu has the most responsive hydraulic power of any brand. They also like the wheel loaders because they're fast, comfortable and have very productive features including hydrostatic transmissions."

## Superior service from Power Motive

In addition to preferring Komatsu equipment, Summers says he's a big fan of Power Motive.

"Since our very first dealings, Power Motive has treated us like we were important to them. Obviously, many companies are a lot bigger than we are. Other dealers treated us like second-class citizens compared to

(L-R) Summers Construction President Adam Summers, his grandfather Al "Sonny" Summers, Operations Manager Robert Johnson and Power Motive Sales Rep Tony Krekeler. "From day one, Power Motive has been there for us," said Summers. "In my experience, their service to the small business contractor goes well beyond what other dealers provide."



those larger companies. But Power Motive never did; they treat us just like they treat the big guys. In addition, their service to the small business contractor goes well beyond what other dealers provide."

Because of their long-term, trusting relationship, Summers Construction bought a Repair and Maintenance Program (RAMP) from Power Motive for its three newest Komatsu units.

"They track our machines through KOMTRAX and call us to schedule maintenance whenever it's needed," said Summers. "When they're out here, they inspect our machines too and let us know what to look for in the coming months. We rely on Nate Rutter, who runs Power Motive's RAMP program, and our Sales Rep Tony Krekeler to take good care of us – and they do."

## Proud of accomplishments and looking for more

Despite the dip Summers Construction experienced in 2009 and 2010, Summers says his company has far exceeded his biggest dreams.

"Just owning my own business and doing millions of dollars worth of work each year is more than I ever expected. I'm definitely proud of what we've accomplished, but that doesn't mean we're through growing. I'm not looking to become a huge company, but I'd like to add a third crew in the next year or two so we can do more, and possibly larger, jobs. But of course, just adding revenue is not what we're all about. As much as I love the work, I've got to make money on each job, so margin will always be our primary goal."

"I'm optimistic that we can do both – do more work and do it profitably. We are bidding several projects right now, and since contractors are busier than they've been in a few years, margins are up as well. Our primary consideration will be to control what we can control – do good work, do it on time and on budget, and keep our customers happy. As long as we do those things, I think we'll be able to continue to grow, and we'll be around for many years to come." ■

# LOADERS

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The WA380-7 Tier 4 Interim Wheel Loader is a class leading performer with improvements in production, fuel efficiency, operator comfort and serviceability.

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- Large capacity torque converter with lock-up provides 10% fuel savings.
- New 7" LCD multi-function monitor panel provides easy access machine diagnostics.
- Komatsu CARE provides complimentary Tier 4 maintenance, including Komatsu Diesel Particulate Filter exchange. Contact your Komatsu distributor for details.

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# DETERMINING OPERATING COSTS

## How to get a better picture of your total costs for more accurate bids and profitable projects

Industry estimates put owning costs at 25 percent to 30 percent of the total machine owning and operating picture. These costs, which include finance, interest, depreciation and tax, tend to be fairly straightforward. The remaining balance – 70 percent to 75 percent – includes labor, fuel, parts, repairs, operator expenses and other related items that make up the operating component, which is more variable and more comprehensive.

Figuring operating costs is the more difficult of the two because so many factors go into them. For example, an excavator may be used in several applications, each of which probably causes costs to fluctuate. The same machine may be used in performing demolition and running attachments, such as hammers, shears and thumbs. It may not take any more power or fuel than digging, but the conditions put more

**Labor, fuel, parts, repairs, operator expenses and other related items make up operating costs, which are considered the largest part of owning and operating a machine. It's essential to know these costs to create accurate bids.**



stress on a machine and may require added maintenance and repair.

Even digging isn't so straightforward. Ground conditions can vary greatly within one particular geographic area, and even on a jobsite itself. A trench could have different types of soils, as layers of topsoil, clay and rock could be encountered at varying depths.

Finally, where a machine is in its life cycle makes a difference. A new machine is going to cost little in repairs, therefore, more of its production time is going to profit. An older unit that's paid for may seem like it's more profitable. However, it could be more prone to breakdown and run less efficiently. There's a chance it's making money, but not as much as the owner thinks, if it needs frequent repair.

### Factor in the operator

The person running the machine has to be figured into the operating costs as well. A more experienced operator will obviously be more productive than a rookie, but will also likely cost more per hour in wages.

Another item to consider with operators is how they operate and take care of a machine. While many of today's machines have several working modes designed to match applications for maximum efficiency, longtime operators may be accustomed to always running at full power and idling during nonproductive times. That adds to maintenance and repair outlays.

### Applying history, modern technology for savings

Experience plays a valuable role in getting to true operating costs. Factoring in historical trends and data from past projects is a good starting point for determining how to approach the next estimate and final bid. Accurate records



Figuring operating costs can be challenging because a particular machine may perform multiple tasks, such as an excavator that's used to dig and set pipe. Contractors must consider how each application affects production and fuel usage, and use other critical information to better calculate accurate operating costs.

of conditions and information on how operators and machines have worked and been used under similar circumstances provide a solid reference point.

Relying strictly on past project costs has shortcomings, however. For example, if personnel don't provide information, such as fuel usage, hours of production versus idle time and maintenance records, it's difficult to get a true cost picture. It's not always feasible for an owner to visit a jobsite, especially if multiple projects are spread out over a large area. Fortunately, during the past few years, improved technology, such as Komatsu's KOMTRAX system, allows owners and their personnel to monitor information remotely, including the mode a machine worked in, how often a machine idled, fuel usage, production factors and other critical information. Reports from these systems, along with other records, can be very useful for future reference.

Having this information allows contractors to address cost-saving practices such as shutting a machine down during nonproduction times or training operators to use a more efficient working mode. Over time, operating costs may be lowered, profit increased and more competitive estimates produced.

Technology, in the form of bidding and estimating software, can help produce accurate bids. Programs designed to work with jobsite plans allow users to trace existing and proposed elevations, then the programs will calculate the amount of earth to move by cut, fill or both. Users should take into account that calculations can be off by a few percentage points and programs don't always factor in types of soil, obstructions or other items that may affect production. A site visit should be made to evaluate those factors.

On a visit, users can set up a GPS system to create a picture of the existing site. That information then goes into a design file of the proposed project to create a model used to estimate how much earth to move. That file can also be used with a 3D machine-control system, which provides accurate grading and reduces costs associated with material overages, staking and surveying.

Calculating true operating costs that accurately reflect what to charge for individual machines on each job takes practice, but it's a business component that every contractor needs to master in order to produce accurate bids that result in profitable projects. ■

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# CLEAN DIESEL DELIVERS

## New technology helps dramatically reduce emissions during the past decade

For the last decade, diesel technology has undergone a fundamental transformation to near-zero emissions, based on ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel, advanced clean-burning engines and new emissions-control technology. These advancements have occurred across the board — from the smallest industrial engine to the increasingly popular clean-diesel cars, commercial trucks, off-road machines and equipment, maritime vessels and locomotives.

The results of these efforts are clear because, according to the EPA, diesel engines account for only a small portion of the national particulate matter (PM) emissions inventory — less than 6 percent.

These last 10 years were truly the decade of clean diesel and the results are visible today. New highway diesel truck engines have near-zero emissions of particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) — a remarkable 98 percent less than 1988 models. It is also noteworthy that truck and engine manufacturers are not only producing near-zero level emissions, but these vehicles are also consuming on average 5-percent less fuel.

Just how significant is this accomplishment? Consider that it now takes 60 of today's clean-diesel, heavy-duty trucks to equal the particulate emissions of one 1988 truck — a 60-1 ratio.

Similar reductions in emissions of particulates and NOx are well underway and will be completed by 2014 for the wide range of off-road engines found in everything from small construction equipment and farm machinery to freight locomotives, marine vessels, work boats and very large off-road machines and mining equipment.

The new generation of clean-diesel technology is not only meeting its emissions-reduction targets but is also exceeding them. Further contributions will come as more new-technology engines and equipment are put into service in the years ahead.

Just as the EPA's March 2012 Black Carbon Report to Congress stated that new diesel technology will play a role in helping reduce black-carbon emissions by 2030, new diesel technology will play a major role in helping meet the Clean Air Act standards for soot. ■



Allen Schaeffer,  
Executive Director  
of the Diesel  
Technology  
Forum

New engine technology in equipment, such as Tier 4 Interim machinery, helped reduce emissions of particulate matter to near zero during the past decade, a 98-percent reduction since 1988, according to Diesel Technology Forum Executive Director Allen Schaeffer.



## INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS

# D61i-23: A REVOLUTION IN DOZING

## New *intelligent Machine Control* dozers maximize production, lower costs with fully automated blade control



Jason Anetsberger,  
Product Manager,  
Intelligent Machine  
Control

*Komatsu's exclusive intelligent Machine Control (iMC) is a fully integrated, factory-installed, 3D machine control system.*

*It provides automatic grading from start to finish and is designed to increase productivity while reducing material costs.*

**W**hen contractors started using 3D machine control, they quickly realized the efficiency and productivity advantages the systems provided, including reduced operating and material costs. Komatsu takes the technology to the next level with the introduction of its first *intelligent Machine Control* dozers, the D61EXi-23 and D61PXi-23.

"Dozers equipped with conventional aftermarket 3D machine control are easy to spot on the jobsite, because they're the ones with a mast or masts attached to the blade and cables running from a mast to the cab," explained Jason Anetsberger, Product Manager, Intelligent Machine Control. "Komatsu eliminated those by integrating the 3D machine control technology into the machine, with sensors located in the cylinders and a cab-top antenna. Unlike traditional machine control systems, Komatsu's *intelligent*

*Machine Control* is fully integrated and factory-installed."

Components of the integrated *intelligent Machine Control* system include robust stroke-sensing hydraulic cylinders and a chassis-mounted enhanced inertial measuring unit, as well as the cab-mounted antenna and in-cab control box. Designing the GPS components into the machine improves durability, and the cab-top antenna provides accurate surface data by measuring actual elevations as the dozer continuously tracks during operation. The system measures progress in real time.

### Seamless mode switches

The *intelligent Machine Control* D61i-23 dozers provide automatic blade control from rough cut to final grading. Inside the cab, an easy-to-use operator interface uses design files and interacts with the dozer's machine-system controls, including blade control – the D61i comes standard with a power-angle-tilt blade – and tractive-effort management. As the dozer approaches final grade, it automatically and seamlessly switches from rough dozing to finish grading.

"Typically, users rough cut to within a few inches of final grade before turning on the automatics of their machine control system to get to final grade," said Anetsberger. "That's because if the operator uses traditional machine control in automatic during rough cut, the machine tries to push or cut too much material, and, inevitably, the tracks slip. That can reduce productivity, cause unnecessary wear on the tracks, increase fuel usage and increase overall owning and operating costs."

"We're reducing or eliminating those issues with the D61i," he added. "During rough cut, if



The integrated *intelligent Machine Control* system features stroke-sensing cylinders and a cab-top antenna that eliminate the traditional mast(s) and cables associated with 3D machine control. Operators can also select modes to match material conditions.



## ► VIDEO

Komatsu's new D61i-23 dozers provide grade control from rough dozing to finish grading. The integrated 3D machine control system automatically raises and lowers the blade to provide maximum production with reduced track slip and better fuel efficiency.

### Brief Specs on *intelligent Machine Control* Dozers

Models	Net Hp	Operating Weight	Blade Capacity
D61EXi-23	168 hp	39,441-41,381 lbs.	4.5-5.1 cu. yds.
D61PXi-23			

the system senses the blade has excess load, it automatically raises to minimize track slip and maintain forward momentum. The blade also automatically lowers to push as much material as possible, so it's designed to maximize production under all situations."

The advantages of the new Komatsu *intelligent Machine Control* dozers are significant, with field tests showing efficiency improvements of up to 13 percent compared to conventional aftermarket machine control systems, depending on factors such as operation and conditions.

"Machine owners can realize those benefits even with less-experienced operators," said Anetsberger. "Operators can make changes through a simple touch-screen control box. To ensure maximum productivity and efficiency, they can adjust machine control settings from presets to allow for material conditions. Four dozing modes – cut and carry, cutting, spreading and simple grading – are available, along with light, normal and heavy load modes."

Anetsberger noted that the new technology has similarities to traditional aftermarket machine control systems. "Customers' base stations and project design files are still necessary to operate the new D61i dozers. In addition to the unique

benefits of the D61i-23, all of the key benefits of conventional machine control remain, such as less staking and lower surveying costs."

### 100-percent Komatsu supported

Not only does the customer benefit from the improved efficiency and durability of the D61i-23's integrated machine control system, but also from the service and support aspect. Komatsu and the local Komatsu distributors fully support the factory-installed *intelligent Machine Control* system. The customer can rest assured that Komatsu is 100-percent behind both the base machine and the on-machine *intelligent Machine Control* technology.

"As with other Tier 4 Interim machines, the D61i-23 dozers are backed by Komatsu CARE, which provides complimentary scheduled maintenance and complimentary KDPF exchanges. In addition, each Komatsu distributor will have a dedicated Technology Solutions Expert (see related story) whose responsibilities include initial calibration of the machine and ongoing support. Our extensive field testing shows these intelligent dozers can make any user productive and efficient, and we encourage anyone looking for that to demonstrate one." ■



Go online or scan this QR code using an app on your smart phone to watch the D61PXi-23 dozer in action.

# Komatsu distributors' staff support new technology

.. continued

## Technology Solutions Experts ready to help you deploy 3D machine control systems

**W**hen buying a new machine, confidence comes in knowing that the distributor and manufacturer will stand behind it with strong support. That's always the aim of Komatsu, and it's taken additional measures with the introduction of its new *intelligent Machine Control* D61i-23 dozers.

"The D61i dozers feature fully integrated, 3D machine control components that Komatsu factory installs," said Ron Schweiters, Product Marketing Manager of Komatsu's recently formed Intelligent Machine Control Division. "Our iMC Division goals include making equipment owners and operators aware of technology, such as 3D machine control systems, that is proven to lower owning and operating expenses by increasing productivity and reducing material costs."

Komatsu's new *intelligent Machine Control* dozers build on those attributes with an integrated system that eliminates the mast, or masts, and cables associated with conventional, aftermarket

3D machine control grading systems. The D61i-23 dozers instead have a cab-top antenna, stroke-sensing cylinders and a chassis-mounted enhanced inertial measuring unit, among other items. All were designed to exacting standards with durability in mind.

"Whenever new technology is introduced, there's a bit of trepidation, and we want to take that away by letting customers know we're fully prepared to back those machines," said Mike Salyers, Product Marketing Manager, iMC. "One way we're doing that is through dedicated Technology Solutions Experts (TSE). The TSE plays a key role in helping customers understand the technology and how they can implement it into their fleets."

Part of the support they provide is the initial calibration of the new *intelligent Machine Control* machines. TSEs have spent numerous hours training to make this critical step go smoothly. Once calibrated, the machines are ready to work,

providing automated blade control from initial rough cut to final grade.

"From that point, the D61i dozers work much like traditional dozers, communicating with the user's own machine control base unit and design files," said Salyers. "The TSEs can help with these steps, too, by working with operators to dial-in the project, select proper modes based on site and material conditions and maximize productivity and fuel economy. They can also support traditional machine technology." ■



Komatsu distributors now have Technology Solutions Experts, whose role is to provide initial setup of the new D61i-23 dozers, along with ongoing support. They've spent many hours training to ensure customers' technology needs are met.

# Innovative. Integrated. Intelligent.



## D61i-23

### Next Generation Machine Control

No Masts

No Cables

No Connections

Factory installed Intelligent Machine Control –standard on the new D61i-23.  
Automated dozing –1<sup>st</sup> to last pass with finish grade performance.  
Intelligent blade assistance minimizes track slip and improves efficiency.

Komatsu – Customer driven solutions.



Conventional  
Machine Control



Scan here to see the video.

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## HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

# *intelligent* MACHINE CONTROL EXPERIENCE

### New dozers take center stage at Komatsu event

Customers and Komatsu distributor personnel got an up-close look at the future of *intelligent Machine Control* technology during a recent iMC experience event focused on the new D61i-23 dozers (see related articles for more detailed information) at the Komatsu Training & Demonstration Center in Cartersville, Ga.

During the event, attendees had the opportunity to see the innovative technology that provides fully automated blade control from rough cut to finish grade, as well as operate the D61PXi-23 models. The new dozers feature factory-integrated 3D machine control that functions without the blade-mounted mast(s) and cables associated with conventional aftermarket systems.

Additionally, Komatsu highlighted the latest Topcon technology for productivity reporting and remote machine monitoring at the Training & Demonstration Center. In it, attendees could see software designed to work with GPS systems to track production in real time.

"In my many years with Komatsu, I've seen the development of numerous innovative machines

and new technology, but I believe this is the most exciting product I've ever been involved with," said Peter Robson, Director of Intelligent Machine Control. "The efficiency improvement, greater value and simplicity of operation of the D61i-23 exemplify the leading innovations that customers have come to expect from Komatsu. It was a pleasure to see so many interested in this new machine and the technology behind it. The feedback we received was very positive, and many who attended saw how the D61i-23 could be a valuable asset to their operations." ■



Peter Robson,  
Director of Intelligent  
Machine Control



Komatsu demonstrated the latest Topcon software designed to work with machine-control systems so users can track production data in real time.

Attendees had the opportunity to see and operate new D61PXi-23 dozers with integrated 3D machine control technology that requires no blade-mounted mast(s) or cables running from mast(s) to cab.



# COMPLIMENTARY TIER 4 SERVICES



Komatsu CARE for Komatsu Tier 4 Interim models is a new, complimentary maintenance program designed to lower your cost of ownership and improve your bottom line. It provides factory-scheduled maintenance on the machines for the first three years or 2,000 hours, whichever comes first. This includes up to two exchange Komatsu Diesel Particulate Filters. Be sure to contact your Komatsu distributor for all the details.

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## NEW PRODUCTS

# NEW MATERIAL HANDLERS

## Robust design provides excellent lift capacity, maximum efficiency in heavy-duty applications

Just because you're working in tough applications, you shouldn't have to sacrifice fuel economy or productivity. You don't have to with Komatsu's new PC390LC-10 and PC490LC-10 material handlers that provide excellent lift capacity and efficiency for scrap yards, terminals and other bulk-material-handling applications.

"Komatsu material handlers are built using the best features of our PC390 and PC490 base excavators, which are proven performers," said Senior Marketing Engineer Sue Schinkel. "For example, the engine pumps, valves and cylinders work together for maximum efficiency and productivity. There's also a material-handling package built into the base machine for superior lift capacity, speed and balance."

Several features contribute to maximum lift capacity, including heavy counterweights; reinforced revolving and center frames; and larger boom and arm cylinders. Load-holding valves are also standard for added protection on the boom and arm cylinders. Two- or three-piece fronts are available, and both incorporate a reinforced box-section design that uses high-strength alloy steel.

"We beefed up the X-frame assemblies, making them very robust," said Schinkel. "The material handlers can pick up as much over the side as they can from the front, and carry that load a full 360 degrees. That's a distinct advantage in a scrap yard where the working area may be very tight. In applications not involving maximum lift, the operator can use a Smooth boom-mode setting for more precise positioning operations."

### High-efficiency pumps

For greater efficiency, the PC390LC-10 and PC490LC-10 material handlers have large-displacement, high-efficiency pumps that

provide higher flow output at a lower engine speed. Optimized Hydraulic System valves adjust work equipment speed – boom raise, arm in and grapple/bucket open-close – for smooth, precise operation.

Controlling the work equipment is easy, using the multifunction buttons on the operator control levers for grapple open-close-rotate and magnet discharge-charge. Operators can improve visibility to the application with a 78-inch cab riser that has manual tilt for transportation.

"When Komatsu designed its Tier 4 Interim machines, it took the opportunity to look beyond meeting emissions requirements and build machines that offer a combination of greater horsepower and fuel economy," said Schinkel. "We've brought that same intent to these new material handlers, and the results and feedback have been very positive." ■



Sue Schinkel,  
Senior Marketing  
Engineer



Go online or scan this QR code using an app on your smart phone to watch the PC490LC-10MH in action.

Brief Specs on the Komatsu Material Handlers			
Model	Net Hp	Operating Weight	Reach
PC390LC-10MH	257 hp	92,940-95,010 lbs.	46-48 ft.
PC490LC-10MH	359 hp	126,530-128,940 lbs.	54-55 ft.



Beefed up X-frame assemblies, along with other robust features, allow Komatsu material handlers to pick up as much over the side as they can from the front, and carry that load a full 360 degrees. That's a distinct advantage in a scrap yard where the working area may be very tight.

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## NO IDLING

# SHIFT IN PRACTICE SAVES MONEY

## Initiative changes contractor's view of idle time, its effect on bottom line

**W**hen Wade Williams bought his first piece of equipment eight years ago, he didn't put much thought into starting an excavation business. He just wanted to clean up around the farm.

"Neighbors saw I had an excavator and started coming to me asking if I'd do some work for them," said Williams, who is a one-man operation with Wade Williams Dozer Service. "The next thing I know, I'm cleaning up fence rows, clearing timber, ditching and building pads. I still do a lot of that private farm work, as well as working with farmers and the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) on soil-conservation projects that are put out for bid. Things really took off."

Williams quickly began adding equipment, including a Komatsu excavator. He currently owns a PC240LC-10 excavator and a D51 dozer. "I've run other brands, but what I've found is that Komatsu is hands-down the leader when it comes to both equipment and support. They've shown me ways to increase my bottom line, including bringing idle time to my attention. I really never gave it much thought before."

Komatsu and Williams' local distributor contacted him about participating in Komatsu's No Idle Initiative, which was designed to increase awareness of excessive idle time and easy ways to reduce it. Starting from a baseline idle time, Komatsu tracked participants over several months to chart and reward their progress. Williams earned a "Best of the Best" award, given to companies that reduced their overall idle time to 15 percent or less.

"My distributor sent me monthly reports showing a breakdown of idle time versus run time and documenting how much idling dropped," said Williams. "It makes so much

sense, and I'm grateful they brought it to my attention. It opened my eyes to how much excessive idling was costing me in terms of wasted fuel, unproductive hours that contributed to more frequent service intervals, and unnecessary wear and tear."

"Participating in the initiative changed my way of thinking long-term," he added. "As a one-man operation, I'm moving back and forth between machines, and I'd often leave one machine running while I worked in another. Instead, when significant nonproduction time is coming, I idle a machine for a few minutes to let it cool down, then shut it off, as opposed to just leaving it idle until I come back to it. Now, idle time is always on my mind." ■

**Wade Williams, Owner of Wade Williams Dozer Service, said participating in Komatsu's No Idle Initiative changed his practices when it comes to idling. "It opened my eyes to how much excessive idling was costing me ... now, idle time is always on my mind."**



**Wade Williams,  
Owner, Wade Williams  
Dozer Service**





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## AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

### Komatsu Exec VP Manufacturing says customer input, strong engineering result in better machinery

**QUESTION:** During the past few years, several new machines have been introduced, and many more are coming soon. Where does the manufacturing of these machines begin?

**ANSWER:** It starts with ideas from our engineering teams as well as input from our customers. Building a new model begins with a goal in mind to improve upon the previous base machine's already-proven performance and incorporate enhancements customers tell us they believe would make our equipment better. From that, we build a prototype and test it extensively, looking for further ways to provide more efficiency and productivity. By doing that, we ensure that when a machine goes into production, it will certainly meet and, we hope, exceed customer expectations.

As an example, our customers told us they would like machines that are plug-and-play ready to accept GPS machine-control systems. We have several models equipped with that as standard. We're now taking it a step further with our new *intelligent Machine Control* D61i-23 dozers, which feature integrated 3D control and a cab-top antenna that eliminates the masts on the blade and cables to the cab. Our thorough testing shows significant improvement in efficiency and productivity, even from operators with little or no experience.

**QUESTION:** It seems technology like this continues to play a greater role in machinery. Why is that?

**ANSWER:** It does, and we recently put together a new ICT (Intelligent Control



*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.*

**Ken Furuse,**  
Executive Vice President,  
Manufacturing

Ken Furuse joined Komatsu 31 years ago and has worked extensively in production planning and plant management, spending much of his time in Japan and throughout Europe. He was named Executive Vice President, Manufacturing, Komatsu America Corp., in January 2013 and is responsible for overseeing manufacturing operations, including U.S. plants in Peoria, Ill., Chattanooga, Tenn. and Newberry, S.C.

"One of Komatsu's greatest strengths is listening, especially to our customers who have guided many positive changes to our machinery throughout the years," said Furuse. "Our world-class engineers incorporate customers' input into building what I believe are the most efficient and productive machines in the construction and mining industries. It's why Komatsu has become a top equipment manufacturer with an ever-growing presence. I'm very pleased with how far we've come, but I'm equally, if not more, excited about where we're going."

One aspect Ken is especially enthusiastic about is increased technology. "Komatsu remains keen on developing and integrating new technology into our equipment, such as our new *intelligent Machine Control* dozers and KOMTRAX monitoring system. Both are shown to directly improve production while reducing owning and operating costs, which, in turn, improves the user's bottom line."

Ken and his wife, Ikuko, celebrate 28 years of marriage this year, and they enjoy playing golf together and taking nature walks. Ken is also an avid mountain hiker and has scaled about 70 peaks in his native Japan.

*Continued ...*

# Komatsu: a leader in technology that benefits users

*...continued*

Komatsu has manufacturing plants in Illinois, Tennessee and South Carolina that build construction and mining equipment for U.S. and world markets.



Executive Vice President, Manufacturing Ken Furuse said talking and listening to customers helps drive improvements in new Komatsu machinery.

Strong engineering practices and customer input not only help Komatsu meet emissions standards, but they make machinery more efficient and productive in the process, according to Furuse.



Technology) Division designed to promote and help customers implement these types of technology into their fleets and practices because it's proven to improve productivity and reduce owning and operating costs.

Komatsu continues to be very proactive when it comes to technology, and we're seeing benefits both for customers and for us as a manufacturer. KOMTRAX plays a major role, and we've continued to expand upon it from the perspective of customers, again, with their input. Now customers can use that information to track production, such as idle time and work load.

**QUESTION:** How else is Komatsu working for greater efficiency in the manufacturing process?

**ANSWER:** We've increasingly engineered genuine Komatsu OEM components and systems into our equipment. These systems work in harmony and increase efficiency. Even with that approach, we still partner with outside suppliers for a variety of items, and this is a good thing because they also bring us new ideas that lead to improvement. Our goal is to use the highest-quality local and regional suppliers as this reduces environmental impact and costs associated with transportation.

**QUESTION:** Where is Komatsu in terms of meeting Tier 4 Final emissions standards?

**ANSWER:** Our approach with each emission standard was not only to meet it, but design and manufacture machines that improve upon previous models. Because we're a strong engineering company, Komatsu has done that and our data proves it.

Initial Tier 4 Final machines begin rolling out this year with smaller engine-horsepower models, and larger machines are coming in subsequent years. As with past standards, we're on track to meet or exceed the deadlines of Tier 4 Final. ■

## APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

# KOMTRAX GOES MOBILE

## New Komatsu smart-device app revolutionizes fleet monitoring

During the past decade, technology in fleet management has gained prominence, and Komatsu has led the way with KOMTRAX. The remote machine-monitoring system allows users to log onto a secure Web site and track their equipment. Komatsu has now taken the next step with an app that lets users see critical machine information on their Apple or Android smart phones or tablet devices.

"Construction has always been a highly mobile field, and the KOMTRAX Mobile app plays right into that," said Rizwan Mirza, Manager, KOMTRAX. "Similar to traditional KOMTRAX, users can find information that helps them make decisions that can potentially help reduce their owning and operating costs without being tied to an office or laptop. Many equipment users now carry a mobile device, so we evolved KOMTRAX to the mobile world."

Mirza said Komatsu worked directly with KOMTRAX users to pinpoint information that would be most helpful to them through a mobile platform. Valuable data available through the KOMTRAX app includes machine usage, idle time, fuel consumption, cautions, locations and much more. "Most important, our customers will have the ability to directly contact their distributors," Mirza explained. "The app features 'hot keys' for customers to contact their PSSR, sale rep, service manager, parts counter and local KOMTRAX coordinator."

"Just like traditional KOMTRAX, our distributors and customers can see if a machine has any health issues or is idling too much," Mirza noted. "They can then make a phone call to schedule the service, or talk to the operator about better operating practices, such as shutting off during nonproduction. Wherever cell coverage or Internet access is available, users at one jobsite can see what's happening with their machines at other jobsites via the KOMTRAX Mobile app."

### Getting the app is easy

Getting the app for an iPhone, iPad, Android phone or tablet is as simple as downloading it free from the app stores. Users can then request access by filling in basic information such as name, title, company name, email address and phone number. Komatsu then verifies and sets up an ID and password that let users enter the world of KOMTRAX Mobile.

"Smart devices became a necessary part of the construction industry because they made information more accessible and allowed better and faster business communication," Mirza pointed out. "Smart phones have increasingly become popular because they allow easy access to valuable information through the Web or via apps, so users can get information about their business needs. Now, with our KOMTRAX app, business owners, or anyone they give their permission to, can track their equipment's overall performance and health. We encourage all those who are interested to contact their local Komatsu distributor." ■



Rizwan Mirza,  
Manager, KOMTRAX



**Apple App**  
Direct link to  
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connect



**Android App**  
Direct link to  
download and  
connect



Komatsu's new KOMTRAX app for smart phones and other mobile devices provides fleet management information, such as machine usage, idle time, fuel consumption, cautions, locations and much more.

# SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT

## ASCE raises infrastructure grade to D+, says increased investment is a critical need

**A**merica's infrastructure grade only marginally improved, according to the latest Report Card issued by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Issued every four years, ASCE gave the nation a D+ this year compared to a D on its last report in 2009.

The ASCE Report Card is a comprehensive assessment of current infrastructure conditions and needs with assigned grades and recommendations for improvement. It's based on criteria such as capacity, condition, funding, future need, operation and maintenance, public safety, resilience and innovation.

The American Society of Civil Engineers' most recent Report Card graded the nation's infrastructure a D+, a slight improvement from the D it gave in its last report in 2009.

"A D+ is simply unacceptable for anyone serious about strengthening our nation's economy; however, the 2013 Report Card shows that this problem can be solved," said ASCE President Gregory E. DiLoreto, P.E. "If we want to create jobs, increase trade and assure the safety of our children, then infrastructure investment is the answer."

Six of 16 sectors measured saw some improvement: solid waste, drinking water, wastewater, roads, bridges and rail, with rail showing the biggest jump from a C- to a C+. Bridges also received a C+, which was the highest ranking for any sector except solid waste with a B-.

ASCE cited efforts by cities and states to address roads, bridges, drinking water and wastewater system upgrades, as well as private investment and short-term federal funding increases as reasons for improvements in some areas. It added that investment in funding infrastructure overall falls far short of what's needed.

According to the report, an estimated \$3.6 trillion investment by 2020 is necessary for significant improvement. Based on current funding levels, there would be a shortfall of \$1.6 trillion.

"We must commit today to investing in modern, efficient infrastructure systems to position the U.S. for economic prosperity," said DiLoreto. "Infrastructure can either be the engine for long-term economic growth and employment, or it can jeopardize our nation's standing if poor roads, deficient bridges and failing waterways continue to hurt our economy."

The full report can be found online at [www.infrastructurereportcard.org](http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org). ■





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## MORE INDUSTRY NEWS

### Innovative infrastructure bank bill introduced with bipartisan support

**T**hanks to its innovative way of establishing funding, a new congressional bill to establish an infrastructure bank is in the works and has bipartisan support. If passed, the Partnership to Build America Act would create the American Infrastructure Fund with an initial \$50 billion investment from selling bonds. Issued bonds would have a 50-year term with a fixed interest rate of 1 percent, and bonds would not be guaranteed by the government.

Introduced by John K. Delaney, D-Md., and cosponsored by 13 Republicans and 13 Democrats, the bill would provide an option for local governments that have been searching for long-term financing. They could apply for loans to fund transportation, energy, water and

other infrastructure projects, paying back the loans at market rate.

The bill is designed around a public-private partnership that would encourage corporations based in the U.S. to purchase bonds in exchange for tax-free repatriation of overseas earnings. At least a quarter of the projects funded must be of a public-private partnership, with at least 20 percent of funding from the private sector.

Sponsors and supporters see the bill as a way to address infrastructure funding shortfalls. A recent report by the American Society of Civil Engineers estimated that a \$3.6 trillion infrastructure investment is needed in the United States by the year 2020. ■

### AGC study highlights work-zone vehicle crashes and their costs

**A**n Associated General Contractor's work-zone crash study showed 38 percent of work zones experienced a vehicle crash last year, with 21 percent forcing a temporary shutdown. A third of those lasted two or more days.

Eighteen percent of crashes injure construction workers and 8 percent are deadly, according to AGC's report. More than two-thirds of those surveyed believe tougher penalties for moving violations in work zones would reduce those numbers. ■

### Use of recycled asphalt materials on roadways brings big savings to taxpayers

**T**axpayers saved more than \$2 billion, thanks to the use of reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) and shingles (RAS) in new pavement, according to a survey by the National Asphalt Pavement Association and the Federal Highway Administration. It showed that about 67 million tons of RAP and 1.2 million tons of RAS were put back into the pavement mix.

The study said the use of RAP and RAS saves millions of barrels of liquid-asphalt binder, reducing the need for that product as well as aggregates. It also allows pavements to be produced at lower temperatures, which results in lower energy demands and fewer emissions. About 19 percent of all asphalt produced in the U.S. in 2011 was made using warm-mix technology. ■

# SIDE TRACKS

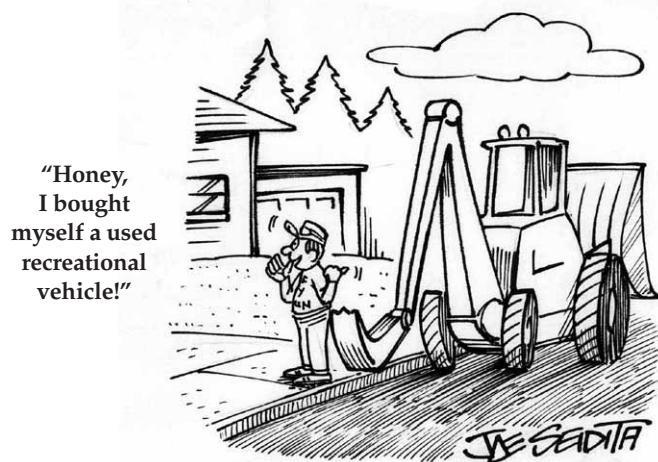
## On the light side



"Can you put in an elevator?"



"How will all this 'fiscal cliff' and 'debt ceiling' stuff affect my allowance?"



## 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.PowerMotiveDirtTalk.com](http://www.PowerMotiveDirtTalk.com)

1. B J O \_ \_ \_

2. H P S O \_ \_ \_ P

3. R R E A B \_ \_ B \_ \_

4. L E R L O R \_ \_ L \_ \_

5. E M N O A R F F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ N

## Did you know...

- Men who kiss their wives in the morning live five years longer than those who don't.
- The Sahara Desert expands at about one kilometer per month.
- The state with the longest coastline in the continental U.S. is Michigan.
- In Japan, watermelons are grown into the shape of a square so they are easier to stack and transport.
- Oak trees do not have acorns until they are 50 years old or older.
- By weight, bone is five times stronger than steel.
- The word "news" is actually an acronym standing for the four cardinal compass points - North, East, West, and South.
- The distress code "Mayday" comes from the French word, M'aide, which means "help me."
- Coconuts kill more people in the world than sharks do. Approximately 150 people are killed each year by coconuts.
- Europe is the only continent without a desert.

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2009 D65EX-15 with cab,  
AC, SU blade and  
multi-shank ripper  
**\$136,000**



2006 PC300LC-7 with AC, 10'  
6" arm, 33.5" track pads, 55'  
2.5-cu.-yd. bkt, quick coupler  
**\$155,000**



1999 CAT D4C with OROPS,  
PAT blade, 3-shank ripper  
**\$29,000**



1996 Deere 650G with cab,  
heat, PAT blade,  
3-shank ripper  
**\$38,000**



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4WD, 44" reach, bkt,  
forks and personnel basket  
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2009 JCB 527-55 with cab,  
AC, 4-wheel steer, 4WD,  
18' 4" reach, forks  
**\$40,000**



2006 WA500-6 with cab, AC,  
joy-stick control, 8-cu.-yd.  
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additional counterweight, AM/  
FM stereo, good rubber  
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