

DIRT TALK

A PUBLICATION FOR AND ABOUT POWER MOTIVE CUSTOMERS • 2014 No. 4

MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC.

The utility division of this
Cheyenne firm specializes
in "unique" pipe jobs



Bob Straszheim,
Owner/President

Keith Zabka,
Owner/VP

KOMATSU®

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bob Davis

**New machines
are only one
part of our
offerings**



Dear Valued Customer:

The construction sector continues to strengthen, although it's not growing as quickly as most of us would like. During the first half of the year, non-residential starts were up 2.4 percent, compared to the same period last year, led by heavy-engineering work that saw a 13-percent gain. Commercial starts remained down, compared to the previous year, but came back strong in the summer. Based on history, housing is only about half of what it should be, according to Reed Construction Data, which reported that may soon change for the better. Why? Because the Federal Reserve's bond-buying program ended, and interest rates are expected to rise by next summer. When that happens, usually those sitting on the sidelines jump into the market and buy houses before rates significantly climb. In turn, that boosts sales of retail items such as furniture and appliances.

A rise in housing starts would obviously be good news for the construction industry, and that growth could include new development work, which typically leads to increased commercial and other types of construction. That potentially means moving mass amounts of material, and if that's your forte, Komatsu has new Tier 4 Final machines designed to do it more efficiently. You can read about some of those new machines in this issue of your Power Motive Dirt Talk magazine.

Among the new Komatsu Tier 4 Final machines is the PC490LC-11 excavator, which maintained the powerful lifting capacity and stability of the Dash-10 model, and features lower emissions and enhancements that maximize productivity, serviceability and fuel economy. It has all the same great benefits of its predecessor but offers reduced owning and operating costs. You'll find similar attributes in the new D155AX-8, even with an increase in operating weight.

Other new products include the WA200-7, which delivers the benefits of previous standard- and PZ-model wheel loaders in one machine. For those who work in the woods, Komatsu has two harvesting heads for greater logging capacity and efficiency.

If you are in the market for any of these products and financing is something you are interested in, we can help with that. Komatsu Financial offers several ways to help you acquire machinery and will even work with you to finance repairs. If you want to learn more about Komatsu Financial, I encourage you to read the Komatsu & You article.

Whether you need parts, service, equipment or financing, please call or stop by one of our branch locations today.

Sincerely,
POWER MOTIVE

Bob Davis

Bob Davis, President

DIRT TALK

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Learn about Komatsu's new WA200-7 wheel loader, which provides the benefits of the standard and PZ models in a more efficient package.

PRODUCT FOCUS

Find out how Komatsu enhanced the new Tier 4-certified D155AX-8 for greater efficiency and reduced owning and operating costs.

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A SALUTE TO A POWER MOTIVE CUSTOMER

MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC.

The utility division of this Cheyenne firm specializes in "unique" pipe jobs



Keith Zabka,
Owner/VP



Bob Strasheim,
Owner/President

In 1984, Bob Strasheim, Bob Hemenover and Jim Portz started a commercial plumbing and heating company, Mechanical Systems, Inc., (MSI) in Cheyenne, Wyo. Early in 1985, Keith Zabka joined them, bringing with him the ability to do exterior site utilities such as sewer, water, gas, pump stations and lift stations. Although Hemenover and Portz have sold their portions of the business, both still work for MSI when it fits their schedules. Meanwhile Strasheim, who serves as President of MSI, and Zabka, who serves as VP, recently celebrated the company's 30th year in business.

"Many partnerships don't last this long, so we think it's a pretty good accomplishment," said Zabka. "We've all remained friends and continue to have a great working relationship. We're proud of the fact that we're still in business together and still like each other."

He's also proud of the growth that's occurred at the company during the past three decades.

"When we started, it was just the four of us – we bid the work, managed the work and did the work. Today, we have a payroll of 85 people. I don't think any of us had any idea that we would be this big. We just went to work every day, did the best job we could and added people as we needed them. Throughout the years, we've been able to grow quite a bit."

MSI works primarily in Wyoming and will go as far as Rawlins to the west and Casper to the north, but most of its work is centered in Cheyenne and Laramie. Zabka estimates that about 60 percent of the company's business is on the mechanical plumbing and heating side with about 40 percent coming from utility work. Sometimes both sides work together on the same job, but not always.

"I would say our jobs on the utility side tend to be somewhat unique rather than run-of-the-mill municipal sewer and water projects," said Zabka. "We tend to shine on jobs that require some special planning and/or coordination with other contractors."

Examples of projects where MSI excels were a job tying SWAN Ranch (an industrial park near Cheyenne) into the city water supply, and one installing "purple pipe" throughout Cheyenne so that sewer water could be treated and re-used for irrigation purposes.

"Currently, we're doing a large job at the University of Wyoming for a new STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) building," said Zabka. "We're putting in pipe to supply steam for the building. We excel at this type of job

Estimator/Project Manager Paul Steed (left) and Labor Superintendent Craig Goble are key personnel in Mechanical Systems' utility division.





▶ VIDEO

Mechanical Systems Operator Lewis Judd uses a Komatsu PC228 on a pipe job at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. "It's a good machine," said Judd. "In an excavator, I want power to be able to pick things up and dig, and this Komatsu does that very well."

because it requires welders from our mechanical side, as well as a pipe crew from our utility side. It's pre-engineered pipe with 10-inch steel and 16-inch casing. It's a unique job that requires both of our divisions to work hand-in-hand."

MSI has many long-term employees including Project Manager/Estimator Paul Steed and Labor Superintendent Craig Goble. "Because of the type of specialty projects we do, we need talented and experienced people, and thankfully, we have many people who fit that description," said Zabka.

Komatsu excavator impresses

Last year, MSI bought its first Komatsu excavator, a tight-tail-swing PC228.

"Our salesman John Custer brought it out for us to demo," said Zabka. "I ran the machine, and we had many of our operators run it also. We were all impressed with it, so we bought it. We've had it for more than a year, and we're still impressed.

"Number one, we're impressed with its reliability. We use it every day, and we've had virtually no problems with it. Number two, it's a very fuel-efficient excavator. And number three, which may actually be number one, it has great power. It digs well and lifts well. Recently we used it with the bucket still on to pick up a 14,000-pound lid, and it did it with ease. Head-to-head, against a comparable,



Owner/VP Keith Zabka (left) works with Power Motive Sales Rep John Custer. "We've been pleased with Power Motive and with the PC228," said Zabka. "Head-to-head, I'd say the Komatsu outperforms a comparable, competitive brand we have."

competitive model we have, the Komatsu PC228 outperforms the other brand."

Future growth

Regarding the future, Zabka says he doesn't anticipate much more growth for MSI, but adds, "You never know.

"We never thought we'd be this big. I guess we could decide to add other services, such as earthwork, but we don't have any plans to do that at the present time. I think our main concern is to keep busy with our current people at our present level and give our clients the best job we can every time. If that requires us to grow, that's what we'll do." ■



Go online or scan this QR code using an app on your smart phone to watch video.

www.PowerMotiveDirtTalk.com

CHEYENNE OPEN HOUSE

Power Motive opens sixth branch location, first in Wyoming



Bob Davis,
President



Mac Blount,
Vice President

The Power Motive Cheyenne branch team includes Service Manager Steve Simnitt (left) and Parts Manager Charles Barker.

Power Motive's distribution territory has always included southeastern Wyoming. Now the company has a physical presence there with a new branch. They celebrated by hosting an Open House with customers at the facility in September.

"We've had plans for a Cheyenne branch for a number of years, but we put them on hold when the economy hit the skids in 2009," said Power Motive President Bob Davis. "Now, with the energy industry strong and general construction growing, it's the perfect time for

us to be here. The purpose is to allow us to better serve our existing customers, as well as attract new ones."

"Wyoming has always been important to Power Motive," added Vice President Mac Blount. "Having a branch here will improve our parts and service capabilities. Our customers will definitely notice a time savings and a cost savings."

Located on the east edge of town, just off of I-80, the Cheyenne branch is a 10,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art, concrete, tilt-up facility. It features four service bays with 10-ton overhead cranes, two drive-through wash bays and a fully paved yard and parking lot. Initially, the branch will be staffed with a



Sales Rep John Custer (left) and PSSR Roudy Redenbaugh will be based out of the Cheyenne branch.

The new branch is located on the east edge of Cheyenne, near the I-80 Campstool Road exit.



(L-R) Jason Alexander, Jason Leonhardt, Tony Scott and Mike Relyea are Cheyenne branch service technicians.





4 Quarters Excavation President Dave Cummings (right) and semi driver Steve Dietrich.



(L-R) Power Motive's Roudy Redenbaugh shows Nestor Gallardo, Nathan Reimer and Ciarra Buelow of Rocky Mountain Landscaping around the new branch.

service manager, a parts manager, a machine salesman, a PSSR and four technicians.

"That's our starting point" said Davis. "We'll increase staff as we grow the business." Added Blount, "We'll also have a large rental fleet that I think contractors in the region will appreciate. We're certainly happy to be here and hope this demonstrates our commitment to our customers in the region." ■



(L-R) Wes Peters, Robert Nation, Earl Nation, Corey Pounds and Matthew Naio of Aztec Construction are ready for lunch at the Open House.

(L-R) Power Motive Fleet and Rental Manager David Kellerstrass and VP Mac Blount award a grand prize gift certificate for a shotgun to Steve Depoorter of Knife River. Power Motive distributed dozens of prizes at its Open House.



Customers line up for a barbecue lunch of burgers, brats and all the fixings as part of the Cheyenne Open House festivities.



Service Manager Steve Simnitt (left) visits with Steve Forkner of Forkner Construction.



John Pinello of Simon Contractors (left) and Rod Jensen of Knife River Corp.



(L-R) Komatsu's Armando Najera meets with Territory Unlimited's Tim Bebo and Bedrock Drilling's Matt Medeiros.



James (left) and Darrell Rhodes of Level Excavating.



(L-R) Power Motive Sales Rep Jeremy Griebel enjoys lunch with Eric Viera and Steve Hixson of Bestway Concrete.



Derek Baker of Inberg-Miller Engineers shows his son Ben the inside of a Komatsu WA500 wheel loader at the Open House.

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MORE THAN A PAYCHECK

A career in construction offers young people the chance to craft a legacy and take pride in a job well-done

Looking back at my own career, I can't imagine where I would be today without the construction industry. The impact it's had on me is indescribable. That is why I am such an advocate today, and I am committed to sharing with others the many lucrative and gratifying career paths in our industry.

Career opportunities in the construction industry are endless, and the rewards are great.

One young man who spoke at this year's Construction Industry Institute's Annual Conference is a 23-year-old welder earning \$30 an hour. I hear this kind of story all the time – people in their 20s and 30s who choose to be craft professionals who earn above-average salaries, have stable employment and have the ability to advance and grow within their companies – all without student debt! All four young craft professionals who spoke at the conference referenced a high level of pay, a reliable profession, no student loan debt and pride in what they do, as the four main reasons they chose a career in construction.

Encouraged by their passion

I am always encouraged to hear young craft professionals talk about their careers because they are so passionate about their work and what they contribute to the industry. They enjoy their professions and take great pride in being part of something bigger.

One young lady who works as a welder for a large industrial contractor proudly showed me a building she worked on and described how she was specifically requested to work in a certain area of the building because of her expertise. That building is now part of her

legacy, and it will be there for years to come for her children and grandchildren to see.

I have seen so many examples of young people who enter the industry and work their way into management and even company ownership in a short period of time. In what other industry can a person experience opportunities like these? ■

This article is reprinted with permission from "Breaking Ground: The NCCER Blog" at blog.nccer.org. Diane Greene is the Executive Director of the Build Your Future initiative at the National Center for Construction Education and Research. The initiative focuses on recruitment, training and placement of candidates into the construction industry. Greene has more than 25 years of experience in human resources and training, almost exclusively in the education and construction industries.



Diane Greene,
Executive Director,
Build Your Future,
National Center
for Construction
Education and
Research

Construction can be a high-paying, rewarding career, and the industry should continue promoting that to young people, according to Diane Greene, Executive Director of Build Your Future. It has and will continue to do that through camps and by other means, such as the Construction Challenge at CONEXPO. For more information about students and construction, see the Focus on the Future article in this issue.



TRAINING TOMORROW'S WORKERS

As the number of available workers shrinks, the construction industry turns to education

A recent survey conducted by the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) showed two-thirds of construction firms reported experiencing labor shortages between July 2013 and July of this year. Additionally, 25 percent said the inability to find enough workers forced them to turn down work.

"As demand for construction rebounds, many firms are finding that the pool of available workers is pretty shallow," said Stephen E. Sandherr, AGC's Chief Executive Officer. "Retiring older workers, strong demand in

other sectors of the economy and fewer young people seeking careers in construction are combining to create workforce shortages for many construction firms."

For five consecutive years, skilled craft-worker positions have been the toughest to fill in America, according to Build Your Future, an initiative of the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), which promotes career and technical education (CTE). That's despite 27 percent of those with post-secondary licenses and certifications earning more than someone with a bachelor's degree. The average skilled craft professional makes \$6,200 more annually than recent college graduates, according to Build Your Future.

Reasons for a tight labor market

The tight labor market has been good for the skilled workers who are employed, with 70 percent of companies saying they are paying more than they did last year. As the pool of available workers continues to shrink, paychecks will likely continue to rise. So why is there such a shortage of workers?

The Great Recession is one reason. Construction was hit particularly hard with an unemployment rate that reached nearly 30 percent. The lengthy downturn caused many to seek work in other fields. The industry was already growing older, with the average worker's age in the mid to late 40s when the downturn began in 2008. In 2012, the average age of a tradesperson was 56. Many older workers simply retired and never came back.

Another reason is perception. For decades, construction had a stigma as hard, dirty work. Youngsters were encouraged to avoid the construction industry. For instance, in 2012

For five consecutive years, skilled craft-worker positions have been the toughest to fill in America. The shortage of workers has forced some companies to turn down work.





Retiring older workers, strong demand in other sectors of the economy and fewer young people seeking careers in construction are combining to create workforce shortages, according to Associated General Contractors CEO Stephen Sandherr. The tight labor market has been good for skilled workers, with 70 percent of companies saying they are paying more than last year.

only one in three parents encouraged a trade, according to SkillsUSA. In student surveys from a decade ago, construction ranked near the bottom of fields they wished to enter.

Attracting younger workers

The last 10 years, especially the past few, have seen a major push to attract younger workers, from elementary school through college age. Groups such as NCCER host career days to show students the value of construction work and how the industry can be a great fit for their skill sets. They're also getting the word out through online videos and advertising and through materials teachers can use in the classroom.

One of NCCER's Build Your Future campaigns aims to "shift the public's perception about careers in the construction industry to reflect the wide range of professions available." (See the Guest Opinion article in this issue, from Build Your Future Executive Director Diane Greene.) Others include making career and technical education a priority in secondary schools and providing a path from ambition, to training, to job placement as a craft professional.

"As an industry, we must educate the public about the vast career opportunities available in

the construction industry and provide tangible opportunities for individuals to learn skills that will help them build a successful career," said Don Whyte, President of NCCER, who recently partnered with other organizations to offer a Build Your Future Scholarship.

The campaign notes that CTE programs such as welding, electrical or carpentry add hands-on elements to the high school academic experience and can also lead to an industry-recognized credential. "CTE students are significantly more likely than their non-CTE counterparts to report that they developed problem-solving, project completion, research, math, college application, work-related, communication, time management and critical thinking skills during high school," according to the Association for Career & Technical Education.

Harvard Graduate School of Education's Pathways to Prosperity Project predicts that by 2018, 2.7 of 8 million jobs in manufacturing and construction will require a post-secondary credential.

Promoting the "cool factor"

The industry isn't only talking up lower-cost educational opportunities and higher earning potential of careers in construction. It's also

Continued . . .

Educating younger workers is a great return on investment

... continued



The number of women in construction hasn't changed much since the 1970s, but recently, more groups have been focusing on attracting more girls and women to the industry.

promoting the "cool factor," especially the technology that's gained a significant foothold. Companies are using digital plans, video simulation, virtual reality and machinery that's guided by GPS, which is easier to operate and more comfortable.

When it comes to equipment, the industry is comparing much of today's machinery to the joystick video game consoles that many students use or have used in the past, and they are also highlighting how technologically advanced the equipment is compared to even a few years ago.

During the recent Manitoba Construction Career Expo, the Campfire Union and Manitoba Construction Sector partnered to offer students a virtual-reality simulation of running a tower crane from the perspective of the operator inside the cab. It allowed them to see what it would be like to pick up and drop loads of steel beams. Several programs designed for operation of other types of construction equipment, such as dozers and excavators, are also available. Students in engineering programs are also using tablets, laptop computers and software as part of the design-and-build process, often putting plans in digital format that equipment operators plug into GPS systems used for automated grading and digging.

Organizations and companies such as Komatsu America agree that training younger workers for tomorrow's construction and equipment-maintenance jobs is vital.



"Construction work is somewhat different from what it was," said Ken Simonson, AGC Chief Economist, in a recent Advertising Age article. "There is much more use of laser and GPS-guided equipment, building information modeling and other things that require computer skills and the use of technology that was not common before the recession."

Increasing the number of women

One element of the construction industry before the recession that's similar today is the lack of women. Federal data shows only about 2.6 percent of the 7.1 million workers in construction are women, about the same as in the 1970s. An industry goal is to dramatically increase that percentage with greater awareness in school and by using programs such as MAGIC (Mentoring a Girl in Construction) camps that feature hands-on activities with construction projects, women speakers and engineers, and female construction and project managers.

During Engineers Week, February 22-28, 2015, DiscoverE (formerly National Engineers Week Foundation), will host a Girl Day on February 26, and the group is encouraging others to do the same. DiscoverE said, "Girl Day is a movement that shows girls how creative and collaborative engineering is and how engineers are changing our world. With hundreds of events happening each year, together we are driving the conversation about girls and engineering."

It's all part of a broader effort to show the work force what the future of construction has to offer, including high-paying, rewarding jobs that build the country's roads, bridges, buildings and other structures.

"In the business world, we look for the ROI (return on investment) in the resources we expend, and investing in the future sometimes requires vision that does not immediately translate to the bottom line," said Katrina Kersch, Senior Director and COO of NCCER in a blog post, 'The ROI of Partnering with Education' on the organization's Web site. "Investing our time, talents and resources to partner with education means that our industry is willing to invest in our own future." ■

STRONG AND EFFICIENT

New PC490LC-11 excavator provides powerful lift capacity while reducing emissions

The government introduced air-quality regulations in the early 1990s, which required manufacturers to begin the process of reducing emissions. Komatsu built a solid foundation when it introduced its Tier 1 engine platform, and it continued to add technology that's met each subsequent emission standard while further reducing fuel consumption and improving performance.

Komatsu's new Tier 4 Final-certified PC490LC-11 is no exception. It delivers the same powerful lifting capacity and stability of the popular Dash-10 Tier 4 Interim model while lowering emissions and maintaining the operating weight, horsepower and bucket capacity.

"The previous PC490 increased horsepower, operating weight and lift capacity compared to the model it replaced," said Kurt Moncini, Product Manager, Excavators. "We started with that platform and enhanced this new

model to maximize productivity, serviceability and fuel economy, so users get high levels of performance with the same or reduced owning and operating costs."

KOMTRAX® enhancements

Komatsu designed the Tier 4 Final engine for increased efficiency, using its already-proven technology from the Interim models and integrating a selective catalytic reduction (SCR) system. The engine uses an advanced electronic-control system to manage air-flow rate, fuel injection, combustion parameters and aftertreatment functions to optimize performance, reduce emissions and provide advanced diagnostic capability.

Komatsu's Tier 4 Final engines use DEF (diesel exhaust fluid) for treating NOx emissions. When it's injected into the exhaust stream as required,



Kurt Moncini,
Komatsu Product
Manager, Excavators

Continued . . .

Quick Specs on the Komatsu PC490LC-11 Excavator

Model	Operating Weight	Net Horsepower	Bucket Capacity
PC490LC-11	105,670-110,220 lbs.	359 hp	1.47-4.15 cu. yds.



The PC490LC-11 features a heavy-duty undercarriage and counterweight that contribute to high lift capacity and lateral stability. Operators can increase lifting force by 7 percent by choosing Lift Mode, which boosts hydraulic pressure.

PC490LC-11 builds off predecessor's strong attributes

... continued

it works with the heat of the exhaust and the SCR catalytic converter to convert NOx into harmless nitrogen and water vapor that expel out of the exhaust pipe. Komatsu also enhanced KOMTRAX® to monitor the new Tier 4 Final emissions package components and process.

Other new features of KOMTRAX® in the PC490LC-11 include the Operator Identification System, which allows operators to input an identification number so equipment managers can track specific users, set parameters for individual operators, shifts, attachments and more. An Auto Idle Shutdown function helps improve operating costs by reducing unnecessary idle time. It alerts operators to excessive idle time, giving them a warning prior to shutting down the machine.

"Auto Idle Shutdown and the Operator Identification System increase efficiency and reduce wasted hours and unnecessary fuel consumption, which increase owning and operating costs," said Moncini. "Another standout feature of the enhanced KOMTRAX® system is a switch to cellular, which provides greater bandwidth, more efficient communication

and allows operator ID set-up information to be sent to the machine."

Heavy-duty components

The PC490LC-11 maintains the productivity features of the Dash-10, including a heavy-duty undercarriage and counterweight that contribute to high lift capacity and lateral stability. A variable-track gauge option increases both the lift capacity and lateral stability up to an additional 10 percent. To account for that, it has strong undercarriage components, including links, rollers, shoes, idlers and center frame. A reinforced, revolving frame and large-capacity swing bearing provide further strength. Operators can increase lifting force by 7 percent by choosing Lift Mode, which boosts hydraulic pressure.

Lift Mode is one of six available working modes, allowing operators to match machine performance to the application. Additional modes include Power, Economy, Breaker, Attachment Power and Attachment Economy.

The PC490LC-11's enhanced hydraulic system helps reduce hydraulic loss, resulting in better efficiency. Additionally, Komatsu designed and produces all major components of the hydraulic system, including pumps, motors and valves. The integrated design employs a closed-center, load-sensing system that uses variable-speed-matching technology.

"Variable-speed matching adjusts the engine speed to hydraulic pump output, allowing the engine to operate at the most efficient rpm," said Moncini. "It also has a hydraulically driven reversible cooling fan that varies its speed in response to coolant, hydraulic oil and ambient temperatures for greater efficiency.

"Like other Tier 4 products, the PC490LC-11 is backed by Komatsu CARE, which provides complimentary scheduled maintenance for the first three years or 2,000 hours, with work done by certified technicians who also perform a 50-point inspection," Moncini added. "Komatsu met the Tier 4 Final standards while maintaining the strong attributes of the predecessor model. We believe users will see the added benefits, even those who are currently or have previously used the Interim model." ■

Komatsu's new PC490LC-11 provides the same powerful lifting capacity and stability of the popular Dash-10 Tier 4 Interim model while lowering emissions.



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NEW PRODUCT

'ONE MACHINE, ALL APPLICATIONS'

Komatsu's new WA200-7 wheel loader provides benefits of standard and PZ models in a more efficient package

Having one machine that provides production in earthmoving, sand and gravel applications, as well as the lifting capacity to move pipe and other materials is a distinct advantage for a wheel loader. Komatsu's new WA200-7 provides these, in a powerful Tier 4 Interim package that builds upon the proven technology of its predecessor.

Komatsu's WA200-7 uses the versatile PZ "parallel Z-bar linkage," which provides large breakout force for quick and easy bucket filling. It also keeps loads level during lift and has high tilt forces to handle large attachments, making it an ideal machine for fork applications, such as moving pallets.

"The WA200-7 is one machine for all applications," said Craig McGinnis, Komatsu Product Specialist, Wheel Loaders. "It combines the best of both the standard and PZ Dash-6 models but has many improvements. One of the biggest changes is Komatsu's proprietary Tier 4 engine technology that further reduces fuel consumption by up to 3 percent compared to the already-low level of the Dash-6 series. It also uses a Komatsu Diesel Oxidation Catalyst (KDOC) that reduces particulate matter through 100-percent passive regeneration, which does not interfere with daily operation."

McGinnis notes that Komatsu designed the KDOC to last through the engine's lifetime, and it also engineered the WA200-7 with no diesel particulate filter. Additionally, Komatsu provides complimentary scheduled maintenance through its Komatsu CARE program for the first three years or 2,000 hours.

Enhanced operator comfort

To enhance operator comfort, Komatsu designed the WA200-7 with a roomy cab. The work equipment is controlled by a

multifunction mono-lever that includes a forward-neutral-reverse switch and an integrated proportion-control switch for third-spool-equipped loaders.

"As with other Komatsu wheel loaders, the WA200-7 has a highly efficient and responsive hydrostatic drive train with variable-speed control and the Komatsu Traction Control System," said McGinnis. "The dynamic braking effect of the HST practically eliminates brake wear, which further reduces maintenance costs. We encourage anyone looking for an all-purpose loader to check out the WA200-7. Its versatility, production and low owning and operating costs make it the leader in its size class." ■



Craig McGinnis,
Komatsu Product
Specialist, Wheel
Loaders

Quick Specs on the Komatsu WA200-7 Wheel Loader

Model	Operating Weight	Net Horsepower	Bucket Capacity
WA200-7	25,342-26,070 lbs.	126 hp	2.6 cu. yds.

Komatsu's new WA200-7 uses the versatile PZ "parallel Z-bar linkage," which provides large breakout force for quick and easy bucket filling. It also keeps loads level during lift and has high tilt forces to handle large attachments, making it an ideal machine for fork applications, such as moving pallets.



NEW TIER 4 FINAL DOZER

Enhancements give D155AX-8 greater efficiency, reduce owning and operating costs



Chuck Murawski,
Komatsu Product
Manager, Dozers

When you already have one of the most productive and efficient dozers in the 260 hp-plus size class, it's not necessary to completely overhaul it to meet the newest tier standard. You simply build on an already successful platform and enhance it like Komatsu did with the D155AX-8, which is Tier 4 Final certified with the addition of selective catalytic reduction (SCR).

The D155AX-8 maintains the horsepower and blade capacity of its predecessor, with about a 2.5-percent increase in operating weight," said Chuck Murawski, Komatsu Product Manager, Dozers. "Despite the increase in weight, the new model reduces fuel consumption while providing the same powerful production of the Dash-7 it replaces."

Quick Specs on the Komatsu D155AX-8 Dozer

Model	Operating Weight	Net Horsepower	Blade Capacity
D155AX-8	89,300 lbs.	354 hp	12.3-15.6 cu. yds.

Komatsu's new D155AX-8 dozer features an automatic gearshift transmission, which shifts to the optimal gear range based on work conditions and load, and a lock-up torque converter that automatically transfers engine power directly to the transmission.



Both power and fuel efficiency come from Komatsu's automatic gearshift transmission, which shifts to the optimal gear range based on work conditions and load, and a lock-up torque converter that automatically transfers engine power directly to the transmission. Operators can select from automatic or manual gearshift modes to fit the application. Automatic is for general dozing, and manual is for dozing and ripping in rough ground.

Komatsu continues to significantly improve productivity and operation with an electronic-control power train system, including the Hydrostatic Steering System that provides powerful turns under various work conditions. Counter-rotation is available while in neutral, for minimum turning radius, providing excellent maneuverability. When operating in adverse conditions such as uneven ground, the K-bogie undercarriage system keeps the correct alignment between the rollers and links for a smoother ride and longer component life.

More material with less power

The D155AX-8 is equipped with a dual-tilt and power-pitch SIGMADOZER blade, which gives it a high blade capacity, improves dozing performance and increases productivity up to 15 percent, compared to a conventional semi-u blade. The blade improves soil-holding capacity and reduces digging resistance for a smoother flow of material, allowing larger amounts of soil to be dozed with less power.

"The D155 dozer's popularity comes from its ability to cost-effectively move massive amounts of material, and this new model does that with a further reduction in owning and operating costs," said Murawski. "Komatsu covers scheduled maintenance for the first three years or 2,000 hours through Komatsu CARE, which includes a 50-point inspection at each interval." ■

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INCREASED LOGGING CAPACITY

Komatsu introduces new robust C-Series “carry style” harvesting heads

Forestry operations are always looking for increased logging capacity, as well as machinery that’s durable and reliable, and Komatsu’s new C-Series “carry-style” harvesting heads deliver on all counts. Two models are available, including the high-capacity C144 and the versatile, all-around C93.

The C93, available installed on Komatsu 911.5 and 931.1 harvesters, replaces the 350.1 and offers significant improvements for better handling of thinning projects, as well as tough-limb and multi-stem harvesting applications. It has a recommended working diameter of 6 to 15 inches and a maximum cutting capacity of up to 23.6 inches.

The C144’s recommended working diameter is 8 to 20 inches, with a 28-inch maximum cutting diameter. It’s available on Komatsu 931.1 and 941.1 harvesters. The C144 and the C93 can be installed on other carriers as a loose head.

Efficient control systems

The C93 and C144 harvesting heads also feature Komatsu’s new Constant Cut™ saw-control system with a saw bar (29.5 inches on the C93 and 32.5 inches on the C144) that includes a 19cc saw motor with an integrated valve to deliver precise control of hydraulic flow and pressure.

MaxiXplorer™ 3.1 is also standard and a complete system for machine control, head control, cross cutting and administration.

“Customers choose which head is right for them based on the diameter and weight of the timber they harvest,” said Steve Yoltz, Komatsu Manager, Marketing Forestry. “Komatsu heads may also fit multiple machines, giving users several options while reducing the number of machines and attachments needed. Our distributors can guide customers to the harvesting head that is best for them.” ■



New C-Series “carry style” harvesting heads feature Komatsu’s Constant Cut™ saw control system with a saw bar that includes a 19cc saw motor with an integrated valve to deliver precise control of hydraulic flow and pressure.

MaxiXplorer™ 3.1 is also standard and a complete system for machine control, head control, cross cutting and administration.



Quick Specs on the Komatsu Harvesting Heads

Model	Weight	Max. Cutting Diameter
C93	2,138 lbs.	23.6 in.
C144	3,086 lbs.	28 in.

CUSTOMER-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

VP of Operations says Komatsu Financial offers much more than loans for purchasing new equipment



Tim Tripas,
Vice President of Operations,
Komatsu Financial

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.

Tim Tripas joined Komatsu 23 years ago after graduating from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, with a degree in English. "My parents encouraged me to take classes that interested me, so in addition to English, I took a lot of business and law classes. That gave me a well-rounded background and set me up well to join Komatsu Financial."

His first responsibilities included working on audits and collections before becoming a regional operations manager, followed by director of operations. In 2004, he helped set up Komatsu Finance Europe, then returned to the United States in his present role as Vice President of Operations. He oversees all functions of finance, including credit applications, funding, audits, leasing and more.

"One of the things I'm most proud of is that 8 out of 10 Komatsu machines sold in North America are now financed through Komatsu Financial," said Tripas. "That's due to a very concerted effort by our personnel to get out and meet customers face-to-face at their jobsites, offices and our distributor locations, so we know their businesses and can tailor programs to meet their needs. I believe Komatsu makes the best equipment in the business, so building a world-class finance company that helps customers put that machinery in their fleets and finances the parts and service to keep them producing is a priority."

Tim and his wife, Alissa, have a daughter, and he enjoys spending time with his family outside of work. He also sneaks out to golf on occasion.

QUESTION: Why should a customer consider Komatsu Financial for financing equipment instead of going with an outside lender?

ANSWER: All we do is finance Komatsu equipment through Komatsu distributors. That puts us in a unique position to better understand customers' opportunities and the challenges they face compared to an outside lender that finances everything from homes to airplanes. Being an equipment manufacturer, we also know the construction and mining marketplaces better, which allows us to be more flexible on the front-end when setting up the financing and on the back-end if customers hit a bump in the road. At Komatsu Financial, either on the front end or after the sale, our first question is always, "How can we help?" For those reasons, the number of companies that turn to Komatsu Financial for their equipment needs has continued to increase.

QUESTION: How much of an increase have you seen?

ANSWER: More than 80 percent of all new Komatsu machines sold in North America are financed by Komatsu Financial. That is up from about 60 percent five years ago.

QUESTION: How have you been able to achieve that?

ANSWER: We've taken a much more customer-oriented approach, including getting out in the field and meeting directly with dealers and customers to understand how we can better serve their needs. That contact has helped us develop a lot of great programs that are different than what the typical marketplace has to offer. For example, if a customer has a lease that's greater than 24 months, we'll let them out of it six months early, as long as the customer is buying another piece of Komatsu equipment.



More than 80 percent of all new Komatsu equipment sold in North America is financed by Komatsu Financial. That is up from about 60 percent five years ago.



Komatsu offers cost-effective and viable financing solutions for new and used equipment purchases and leases, as well as parts and service needs.

So, a customer may have a D51 dozer and would really like a larger size or a new D51i-22 *intelligent* Machine Control dozer. With this program, we completely forgive the final six months of payments on the existing lease, to allow for the additional machine purchase. Nobody else in the industry does anything like that.

QUESTION: Could you give some other examples?

ANSWER: In talking with customers, many said they desired the flexibility of paying over time for repairs or service work from their dealer. We developed a parts and service financing program that's a true loan. Some competitors have similar financing, but in reality, it's a credit card that charges higher interest. Komatsu Financial's program lets customers finance the first \$50,000 at zero percent for 15 months with no payments for 90 days. That allows the customer to bring the equipment into the shop, get it fixed and get the equipment back and working before a payment is due. Additionally, on this or any other product from Komatsu Financial, there is never a pre-payment penalty.

Another example is our Flex Lease. Customers make a 36-month commitment, but every year on the anniversary of the lease, they have the option to return the equipment. That grew out of a customer telling us, "I think I need a machine for three years, but I know for sure I need it for one." The advantages are obviously that if a situation changes, they can opt out, and if customers choose to stay in the lease, their rate continues to be what it was from the day the lease started. It's been well-received,



especially in light of the past few years when we've seen a big shift from ownership toward leasing. We have several other attractive leasing options if that's the route a customer wants to go.

QUESTION: Do you finance used equipment?

ANSWER: Absolutely. We'll finance new and used equipment as long as it's a product a distributor sells and not a competitive brand. Our focus is on helping build successful relationships with our distributors and their customers, and financing new and used equipment, leases and parts and service contributes to that. We consider Komatsu Financial a facilitator in the process, and we're willing to do whatever we can to help customers be successful. ■

Komatsu has a parts and service financing program that lets customers finance the first \$50,000 at zero percent for 15 months with no payments for 90 days. That allows customers to bring the equipment into the shop, get it fixed and get the equipment back and working before a payment is due.

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SHORT-TERM FUNDING

Last-minute bill keeps Highway Trust Fund from insolvency

A short-term measure passed and signed just before the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) was about to run out of money provides nearly \$11 billion for road and transportation projects. The bill – H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 – is a nine-month extension to the previous highway bill, MAP-21, that expired in September.

H.R. 5021 expires in May 2015, giving lawmakers a chance to work through a longer-term bill. While proposals for a broader measure had been brought up, including a \$302 billion, four-year bill from President Obama, Congress eventually passed H.R. 5021, which authorized a transfer from the general fund to pay for it.

The current short-term measure is funded by a budget maneuver known as “pension smoothing.” It allows corporations to reduce contributions to employee retirement plans. In turn, the government’s tax revenues increase because companies can no longer take tax deductions for the contributions.

Traditionally, the HTF is funded from the 18.4-cents-per-gallon gas tax. In recent years, revenues have fallen short, forcing transfers from the general fund to pay for road repairs and construction. The tax hasn’t been increased in more than 20 years, and as cars have become more fuel-efficient and people drive less, the gas tax hasn’t kept up with needed transit spending.

Another ‘crisis’ next spring

Congress will need to address revenues next spring when it takes up transportation funding. Lawmakers have proposed several ideas, including raising the gas tax and

indexing it to inflation, charging drivers a per-mile fee, more tolling and combinations of all of the above.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said he was disappointed in the short-term fix.

“This latest band-aid expires right as the next season begins, setting up another crisis next spring,” said Foxx. “So in the coming months, the Department will again be required to prepare cash-management procedures in anticipation of repeating the same Highway Trust Fund insolvency crisis. Americans deserve a multi-year transportation bill that provides the certainty that businesses and communities deserve, creates jobs and makes necessary policy updates to lay the foundation for lasting economic growth.” ■

A short-term bill provides nearly \$11 billion in funding for transportation projects and runs through May of 2015.



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MORE INDUSTRY NEWS

Executive order grants workers additional rights

President Obama signed an executive order requiring federal contractors to give workers additional rights in labor disputes. Contractors must now give workers information to determine whether their paychecks are accurate and allow workers a judge instead of an

arbitrator during sexual assault hearings and civil-rights grievances.

The order follows other labor-related executive actions that require federal contractors to pay workers at least \$10.10 per hour and bar them from discriminating against gay and transgender workers. ■

AGC offers members private insurance exchange

The Associated General Contractors of America now offers member firms in the commercial construction industry a nation-wide private insurance exchange. CEO Stephen Sandherr said that the exchange was developed in collaboration with an outside company and features comprehensive insurance coverage from major insurers. It was designed to reduce costs and administrative burdens.

“Because the exchange offers a broader range of options than what’s typically available to individual firms, employers

and their employees will get more of the benefits that meet their particular needs,” said Sandherr. “Instead of struggling with unpredictable insurance premiums, employers will be able to define the amount they will provide to their employees for health and other insurance benefits and then direct their employees to an online store where they will have more options than they have had in the past. The new private exchange, unlike many public exchanges, will provide employees with the guidance and support they need to make good decisions.” ■

NCCCO launches boom truck operator certification program

The first phase of a new Certification of Crane Operators (CCO) program designed specifically for boom truck operators is now available from NCCCO (National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators). The new CCO Boom Truck – Fixed Cab operator certification is a subcategory of the CCO Telescopic Boom – Fixed Cab certification.

CCO Boom Truck – Fixed Cab was developed specifically for the industries that use these machines, such as building

supplies, HVAC, sign installation and tree maintenance.

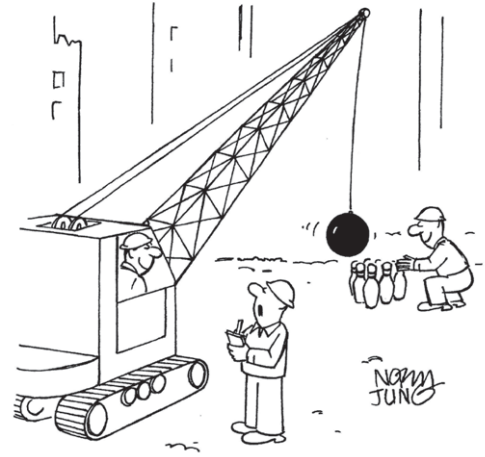
“While boom trucks have a wide variety of users and applications, many machines don’t operate in typical construction applications, but are engaged in activities such as delivering materials and equipment,” said Joel Oliva, NCCCO Manager, Program Development and Administration. “This new program is designed specifically to address the unique needs of boom truck operations.” ■

SIDE TRACKS

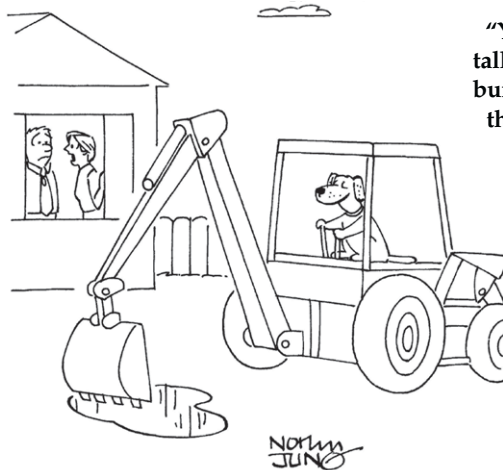
On the light side



"The minimum wage is being upgraded, so how about the minimum allowance?"



"That last strike put you two pins up!"



"You'll have to talk to him about burying bones in the backyard."

Did you know...

- President Lincoln proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day in 1863. Christmas became a national holiday in the United States in 1890.
- Glass takes one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times.
- First occupied by John Adams in 1800, the White House has witnessed one presidential wedding, five first-family weddings, 11 births and seven presidential funerals. Recent additions include John F. Kennedy's swimming pool, Richard Nixon's bowling alley and Bill Clinton's running track.
- The largest gold nugget ever found was discovered in 1869. It weighed 173 pounds and was named The Welcome Stranger.
- Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450° F.
- Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.

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

1. B U R C _ _ _ R _ _
2. T R O M O _ _ _ T _ _ _
3. A R E R P I R _ _ _ _ I _ _
4. L A P A S T H _ _ S _ _ _ _ L _ _
5. N A E D L I E D _ D _ _ _ D _ _ _ _ _

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THE PEOPLE INSIDE

NEW MACHINE TECHNOLOGY

Meet Power Motive's new Technology Solutions Expert Mike Snedigar



Mike Snedigar,
Technology
Solutions Expert

Power Motive has hired Mike Snedigar as a Technology Solutions Expert (TSE) to help customers get the most out of their Komatsu machines. Mike started in September and is available to help customers throughout Colorado and southeastern Wyoming understand and fully utilize Komatsu's new *intelligent* Machine Control (iMC) dozers and the KOMTRAX machine-operating system.

"Technology has become a very important aspect of equipment, but many contractors are not fully using the technology that's built into the machines," said Snedigar. "It's my job to help them see what the technology can do for them and show them how to use it."

Power Motive will soon be offering Komatsu's revolutionary D61i-23, D51i-23 and D39i-23 dozers that feature integrated and fully automated blade-control systems.

"Many contractors use GPS grading technology, but the Komatsu system is built-in at the factory, which means no masts to bump or cables to snag

and no daily setup and teardown. It gets you from rough-cut to final grade faster. When one of the new dozers goes out to a job for the first time, whether it's a sale or rental, I'll go with it to make the initial setup and explain the system to the operator. It's very user-friendly, so the training usually takes just one day. After that, I'm available by phone to answer any questions they might have."

While the *intelligent* Machine Control dozers are relatively new, KOMTRAX has been standard on all Komatsu machines for many years. Still, many contractors are not taking full advantage of it.

"KOMTRAX can do much more than locate a machine and get hours remotely. It can report idle time, work mode, fuel consumption and more," said Snedigar. "With KOMTRAX, you can get a good handle on how your operator is running the machine, which, of course, can significantly impact productivity and profitability. I'll be happy to show any customer how to use KOMTRAX more effectively."

A native of Illinois, Mike earned a degree in computer networking. He learned about *intelligent* Machine Control dozers and KOMTRAX at the Komatsu Training Center in Cartersville, Ga. He says he's happy to be working and living in Colorado.

"I spent all my life in Illinois, and I was ready to try a new lifestyle. The weather is a little milder and, of course, the mountains are great. I enjoy hiking and skiing. Coming to Denver was an excellent opportunity for me, and I look forward to working with contractors throughout the Power Motive territory."

You can reach Mike at (303) 242-6250 or e-mail him at msnedigar@powermotivecorp.com. ■

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





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2012 Komatsu HM300-2
S/N C008150, 4,542 hrs., AC,
tailgate, new Yokohama radials



2013 Komatsu WA320-7
S/N C010112, 171 hrs., cab,
AC, ride control, QC, comes
with new 12' Dymax snow
blade and GP bucket, full
machine warranty



2006 Komatsu HD605-7
S/N C009978,
16,315 hrs., AC, emergency
steer, traction control, auto
lube, fast fuel, retarder



2011 Komatsu PC270LC-8
S/N C010146, 5,108 hrs.,
AC, 10' arm, aux. hyds, QC,
rear-view camera



2010 Komatsu PC350LHD-8
S/N C010145, 7,304 hrs., AC,
10' 6" arm, hyd thumb, aux.
hyds, QC, rear-view camera,
95% UC, 42" bucket



2012 Komatsu D65WX-17
S/N C010193, 2,793 hrs., cab,
AC, Sigma blade, MS ripper,
very good PLUS UC, factory
wired for Topcon



2004 Extec RoboTrac
S/N C010267, 1,845 hrs., track-
mounted scalping screen, Duetz
engine, Grizzly bars, 1" and 3"
cloths for the screen



2011 Komatsu PC450LC-8
S/N C008962, 5,639 hrs., AC,
9'9" arm, variable-gauge UC,
78" bucket, Lincoln auto lube



2013 Komatsu WA200-6
S/N C009700, 3,158 hrs., cab,
AC, pin on GP bucket with BOCE



2007 JCI FT2650
S/N C007926, 3,673 hrs.,
26"x50" jaw, 400 TPH



2011 Komatsu D39EX-22
S/N C010139, 1,636 hrs.,
cab, AC, PAT blade, ripper,
high-back suspension seat



2006 WA500-6
S/N C006502, 12,401 hrs., cab,
AC, joy-stick control, 8-cu.-yd.
bucket with BOCE, ride control,
additional counterweight,
AM/FM stereo

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