



Tractor Times

A publication for and about Tractor & Equipment Company customers

2011 No. 4



Also inside ...
Montgomery
branch customer-
appreciation
event recap

NEW MACHINES BOOST YOUR PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY

Interim Tier 4 truck,
excavator save fuel,
reduce emissions

See articles inside . . .



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dan Stracener



**TRACTOR
&
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Dear Valued Customer:

As we begin the new year, we're optimistic that the construction industry will begin a strong push toward growth. There have been some positive signs lately that show the industry is experiencing growth. As it does, that's going to mean more need for equipment that can get the job done as efficiently as possible.

In the past few months, Komatsu rolled out many of its new interim Tier 4 machines. In this issue of your *TEC Tractor Times*, we spotlight a new excavator, articulated truck and dozer. Komatsu not only changed the engines in these machines to meet emissions standards, but, in many cases, lowered fuel consumption while increasing horsepower and operating weight.

These machines have additional components that require maintenance, and Komatsu is backing up the technology with an industry first — its Komatsu CARE Maintenance Program that provides complimentary services on new interim Tier 4 machines for three years or 2,000 hours.

Our skilled, factory-trained, service personnel take great pride in ensuring your machinery remains productive with as little downtime as possible. We do that on Komatsu machinery and the other manufacturers' lines we carry, as well as competitors' machines.

If you'd like more information about any products or services we offer, please don't hesitate to call us or stop by one of our branches. We're here to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Stracener'.

Dan Stracener
President

**We're optimistic
about the future**



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2011 No. 4

IN THIS ISSUE

CRAWFORD GRADING & PIPELINE, INC.

Read about this Luthersville, Ga., firm that specializes in sewer/water work and satisfied customers.

A SPECIAL THANKS

Look through the photos from the TEC Montgomery branch customer appreciation event.

GUEST OPINION

See what the AED has to say about transportation funding.

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Here's an overview of the current funding situation for surface and air transportation and a look at potential funding sources.

NEW PRODUCTS

Check out the features and benefits the new Komatsu PC360LC-10 excavator offers, including more efficient excavation.

Find out how Komatsu made its new interim Tier 4 HM300-3 articulated haul truck more productive with a larger payload capacity and reduced emissions.

PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT

Lower emissions and less fuel consumption are just two of the features of Komatsu's new D155AX-7 dozer that make this interim Tier 4 model more efficient than its predecessor.

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CRAWFORD GRADING & PIPELINE, INC.

Luthersville, Ga., firm specializes in sewer/water work and satisfied customers



Herbert Crawford,
Founder/Owner



Matt Crawford,
Office Manager

When Herbert Crawford first bought a used track loader a little more than 20 years ago, he initially just planned to do odd jobs here and there. At the time, he was working as a foreman for another contractor, but when things got slow one winter, Crawford was able to get some jobs that he could do all by himself. As one job led to another, it became clear that he could be successful with his own company, so in 1991, he left his other job and started Crawford Grading & Pipeline, Inc.

Today, the company still does grading, as well as demolition and excavation, but make no mistake — sewer and water work is Crawford Grading & Pipeline's specialty. From its home base in Luthersville, Ga., about 60 miles south of Atlanta, Crawford Grading & Pipeline does large and small pipeline work throughout Georgia and much of Alabama.

"We lay sewer, water and storm-drain pipes and we build pump stations," said Herbert. "Our goal, and I believe our reputation, is

that we try to exceed the expectations of our customers in every respect. That means, the highest-quality work and topnotch service. Above all, we always live up to our word. When we say we're going to do something, you can take that to the bank."

"That's something my dad has always emphasized," said Herbert's son, Matt Crawford, who oversees office and administrative duties for Crawford Grading & Pipeline. "I believe his honesty and integrity are the main reasons we're still in business today. Obviously, it's not the easiest time to be in construction. Much of the work we've done during the past few years is for repeat customers who've continued to come to us because they know they're going to get a quality job and they know we're going to treat them right."

Crawford Grading & Pipeline will take on small, one-day residential jobs, as well as multimillion-dollar municipal or commercial jobs that may last for a year or more. "No job is too large or too small," insisted Matt. "If you want us to take a look at something and give you a price, we'll be happy to do it."

Large jobs

Through the years, Crawford Grading & Pipeline has done many jobs at nearby Fort Benning. Recent large jobs also include installing sanitary sewer, domestic water and fire lines for a new Kraft Foods plant in Atlanta and a large distribution center in Bessemer, Ala.

"We've developed some good relationships with general contractors," noted Herbert. "We work closely with them to deliver our portion of the job in the time frame they want. One of the frequent complaints about subs is that

Fire hydrants from various Crawford Grading & Pipeline jobs line the front of the company headquarters in Luthersville, Ga.





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These Crawford Grading & Pipeline operators use a Komatsu PC228 tight-tail-swing excavator and a compact PC35 to run a sewer line to an elementary school in Newnan, Ga. "In my opinion, Komatsu excavators are the best," said owner Herbert Crawford. "They're really well-made and seem to outlast other brands."

they're not reliable. Well, we are. We show up when scheduled. We do quality work. We finish on time. And that's why we have customers who regularly turn to us to do their sewer and water work."

"When we're working as a sub, we're typically not going to be on the job from start to finish," added Matt. "We adapt to the general contractor's schedule. We get our part done, then clear out so he can do his thing. Then we come back to do another section and so on. We devote whatever manpower is necessary to get the job done in the time allotted. In Bessemer, we usually have two crews but if at some point we need three or four, that's what we'll send over."

Productive, reliable work force

The nation's economic downturn has impacted employment at Crawford Grading & Pipeline. In 2006 and 2007, the company employed about 70 people. Today, it employs about 40.

In addition to Herbert and Matt Crawford, management personnel include Field Superintendents (and brothers) Harris and Stuart Stokes, and Estimator Eric Farabaugh. "Our lead guys bring plenty of experience to their jobs," reported Herbert. "They've been with us a long time and we rely on them to help us keep everything running smoothly."

Crawford Grading & Pipeline currently runs six pipe crews (three or four men per crew) and a dress-up crew. The company also has three truck drivers and two shop mechanics.

"We believe all of our people — operators, laborers, drivers and mechanics — are among the best in the area," acknowledged Matt. "Most of them have been with us for 10 to 16 years and they share our work ethic. They truly are a large factor in our success."

Longlasting excavators

When it comes to hydraulic excavators, which are primary machines for Crawford Grading & Pipeline, the company turns largely to Komatsu units from Tractor & Equipment Company in Forest Park.

"I bought my first Komatsu in 1996, and today we probably have 15 or so Komatsu excavators," reported Herbert. "I've run just about everything that's out there and, in my opinion, Komatsu excavators are the best. My favorite thing about them is that they're really well-made and seem to outlast all the other brands. We usually get 8,000 to 10,000 hours from an undercarriage, which I consider to be outstanding."

To help improve versatility, Crawford Grading & Pipeline has added two Komatsu PC228 tight-tail-swing excavators to its fleet.



Eric Farabaugh,
Estimator

Continued . . .

Growth at Crawford Grading & Pipeline

... continued

"We get in some tight spaces, such as working on the shoulder of a road," Herbert explained. "The PC228s are great because we don't need to worry about swinging out into traffic. All our operators like them because in addition to being able to work in close quarters, they're also powerful, stable machines. We really like them."

"We used a PC228 on a job at the Atlanta Regional Airport (formerly Falcon Field) in Peachtree City," added Matt. "We were putting in 3,100 feet of 20-inch, ductile, iron pipe in very close quarters. The tight-tail-swing Komatsu worked great for us there."

In addition to the excavators themselves, Herbert Crawford says he appreciates the support he gets from Tractor & Equipment Company.

"Our TEC Sales Rep, Mack Brice, takes good care of us and is a good friend as well. We have our own mechanics, so we try to do most of the machine maintenance and repairs ourselves, but when we need TEC, they respond very well. For example, we recently took a cylinder to them to repack, and they had it back to us in half a day, which is outstanding."

Optimistic about the future

From its founding in 1991 until about 2008, Crawford Grading & Pipeline had experienced consistent growth.

"We grew steadily until the recession hit in 2008," Herbert related. "We've scaled back a bit since then, but we're still in business and we're still doing OK."

"Herbert deserves much of the credit for that," said Superintendent Harris Stokes. "Years ago, he had the foresight to get us into the industrial and public-works markets, along with the subdivisions and private commercial work we were already doing. Then, when the private work went away, we were already set up to do the municipal and bonded work that's carried us the last few years."

"When the economy picks back up again, our intention is to resume our previous growth pattern," commented Herbert. "But I don't see us adding many services. We'll stick primarily with pipe work because that's what we know best."

Matt Crawford says he's optimistic about the future.

"One thing my dad has always stressed is to do good work and treat people right — and if we do that consistently, we'll have clients who come back to us job after job. Being in business 20 years says a great deal about the work we do and the relationships we've established.

"We certainly want to, and plan to, keep the business going," Matt continued. "We like this line of work. We like our customers. It's just a matter of getting the economy jump-started. When that happens, we think there will be plenty of work from pent-up demand, and we believe the history we have with our customers will put us in position to get our share of that work." ■

(L-R) TEC Sales Rep Mack Brice works closely with Crawford Grading personnel, including Superintendent Harris Stokes, Owner Herbert Crawford and Office Manager Matt Crawford. "Mack and TEC have given us excellent support through the years, which we appreciate," said Herbert.



Crawford Grading & Pipeline primarily does pipe work but also does other jobs in the Luthersville/Newnan area, including this house demolition.

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A SPECIAL THANKS

TEC CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

Large crowd gathers at TEC's Montgomery branch for steak fry, prizes and more



(L-R) LeeBoy Regional Representative Brian Hall, TEC Regional Sales Manager Joe Patton and Ricky Ward of Red Eagle Sand & Gravel in Montgomery, Ala., discuss the LeeBoy products offered by TEC.



TEC Montgomery Branch Manager David Maddox (right) congratulates YETI cooler winner Tom Bledsoe of Bledsoe Mining in Baker Hill, Ala.

Tractor & Equipment Company (TEC) recently held a special customer-appreciation event at its Montgomery, Ala., branch facility. More than 200 guests made their way to the evening event to enjoy juicy steaks hot off the grill and all the tempting side dishes.

TEC employees cooked steaks for their customers using the same TEC custom mobile grill that the company put to use extensively to prepare meals for those that were devastated by the tornadoes that swept through Alabama last spring.

A number of representatives from Komatsu, Dynapac, LeeBoy, Fecon, Wirtgen, Schwarze and others turned out to lend their support for the hugely successful event and supplied additional door prizes. Some manufacturers also brought pieces of equipment for guests to demo.

Customers had the opportunity to win plenty of door prizes, including \$50 Bass Pro Shop gift certificates and YETI coolers. The coolers were a big hit as they can keep ice frozen for two to five days.

"We were truly blessed to have such a great turnout," said Montgomery Branch Manager David Maddox. "The manufacturers were a tremendous help in putting on this event and we certainly appreciate them. They, and the entire TEC Montgomery branch staff, simply wanted to say thank you to our customers and show them just how important they are to us. We were extremely grateful that so many were able to take a break from their busy schedules to stop by and spend some time with us." ■



Harry Ward of Ward & Ward in Auburn, Ala., (left) and TEC President Dan Stracener discuss the latest construction trends in the Alabama market.



TEC Montgomery Branch Service Manager Keith Watkins (left) and Harry Lambert of Lambert Materials in Tysonville, Ala., share a few laughs.



(L-R) TEC Montgomery Service Technician Buddy Coleman; Ben Weaver of Southeast Cherokee Construction in Montgomery, Ala.; TEC Regional Sales Manager Joe Patton; and Reuben Gardner of Reuben's Construction Co. in Prattville, Ala., pause for a photo.



Bob Candee of FECON (left) presents prize winner John Brown of J.C. Brown Construction in Prattville, Ala., with a \$50 Bass Pro Shops gift card.



TEC Montgomery Branch Manager David Maddox (left), presents prize winner Pete Stanfield of Stanco Inc. in Montgomery, Ala., with a YETI cooler.

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GUEST OPINION

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Congress temporarily extends transportation funding; a multi-year bill should be a priority

In September, the Senate approved the Surface and Air Transportation Extension Act of 2011 (H.R. 2887). The bill, which the President signed, extends the surface transportation and airport construction programs until March 31, 2012, and January 31, 2012, respectively. Had the programs lapsed, the Highway Trust Fund would have lost \$100 million per day in gas tax revenue and more than 1.6 million jobs would have been at risk.

“AED applauds Congress for putting politics aside and moving forward with extensions of federal transportation construction programs,” said Associated Equipment Distributors President Toby Mack. “This legislation ensures that the hundreds of thousands of workers who build and maintain our highways, bridges and airports can continue their work, at least temporarily.”

Given the current political situation in Washington, this is an important victory. House Republican leaders, who previously advocated cutting the highway program, were willing to go along with the deal, recognizing the massive job losses that would result from funding cuts.

The bill effectively extends highway and FAA construction programs at current spending levels. “While the extension is welcome news, it falls short of giving the construction and equipment industries the certainty essential to recovery and job creation. By delaying action on a new multi-year highway bill, Congress is putting off much-needed investment in the infrastructure the U.S. economy needs to grow and flourish,” Mack said.

As further evidence that the Hill is waking up to the need for action on highway reauthorization, a memo on job creation by House GOP leadership released last September cited infrastructure spending as a possible area for bipartisan cooperation saying, “Congress and the President should spend the next few months working out a multi-year transportation authorization bill.” ■

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

Congress passed a bill that extends surface transportation and airport construction funding through January 31, 2012. The Associated Equipment Distributors believe a long-term bill is a necessity.



INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

There's a need for infrastructure investment, but how to fund it remains in question

Congress passed and the President signed an act that provides an extension of funding for surface and air transportation. It came as welcome news to construction companies, their subcontractors and suppliers who work in those sectors, but the reality is that they can only breathe a sigh of relief for a short period of time.

The Surface and Air Transportation Extension Act of 2011 only provides monies into the first quarter of 2012 — another short-term mechanism for funding, much like what Congress has done since the previous highway bill expired in September of 2009. That means the fight for dollars to build the nation's infrastructure will be brought up again soon.

This comes at a time when numerous studies show America's highways, bridges, airports and other modes of transportation are suffering from a serious lack of investment. An American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) report shows that to bring the nation's surface transportation infrastructure up to tolerable

levels, about \$1.7 trillion is needed between now and 2020. Current funding levels fall short of that total by \$846 billion or \$94 billion per year, according to the report.

The results of underfunding are stark, the report notes. It will cost the economy 870,000 jobs and suppress growth of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by more than \$3 trillion by 2020. It will also cost American households and businesses more than \$129 billion in vehicle operation, delays, accidents and environmental damage.

"Clearly, failing to invest in our roads, bridges and transit systems has a dramatic, negative impact on America's economy," said ASCE President Kathy J. Caldwell, P.E., F.ASCE. "The link between a nation's infrastructure and its economic competitiveness has always been understood. But for the first time, we have data showing how much failing to invest in our surface transportation system can negatively impact job growth and family budgets. This report is a wake-up call for policymakers because it shows that investing in infrastructure contributes to creating jobs, while failing to do so hurts main street America."

According to a study by the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis, inadequate infrastructure systems also contribute to health problems. The analysis looked at health costs resulting from higher emissions associated with road congestion. Results showed traffic-related air pollution as a contributing factor to heart attacks and strokes, with emissions from idle vehicles causing nearly 4,000 premature deaths.

It also costs the country in terms of stature. A World Economic Forum report in 2007-2008 ranked our nation's infrastructure systems sixth best in the world. In a new report released in September 2011, the U.S.

The nation's transit systems, including roads and rail, are in need of repair. One study shows \$1.7 trillion is needed during the next eight years to bring infrastructure up to tolerable levels.





slipped to 16th. A government report said America spends about 2 percent of GDP on infrastructure, about half what it did 50 years ago and well below other global leaders.

Gas tax increase unlikely

A recent Market Watch article, "How to fix crumbling U.S. roads, rails and airways," pointed out that "Deficits in the U.S. trust funds that support the country's Interstate system and civil aviation have been widening for years, as tax revenue failed to keep up with inflation. To fill the gaps, Congress has been taking cash from the general fund.

"But tax revenue for the general budget has declined as well because of the economic recession and the Bush-era tax cuts, and now Congress is determined to eliminate the shortfall by reducing spending across the board," it continued. "For every \$1 billion pulled from the U.S. budget for highways, an estimated 30,000 jobs are lost, according to a 2007 report from the Department of Transportation."

The ASCE report noted a modest investment would go a long way, saying an amount "equal to about 60 percent of what Americans spend on fast food each year, would: protect 1.1 million jobs, save Americans 180 million hours in travel time each year, deliver an average of \$1,060 to each family and protect \$10,000 in GDP for every man, woman and child in the U.S."

The gap in funding isn't likely to decrease soon, and may widen further. The national 18.4-percent gas and 24.4-percent diesel per-gallon taxes haven't been raised in nearly



Numerous roads and bridges have been rated as structurally deficient or in need of repair, causing our nation's global rank to fall from sixth to 16th in terms of infrastructure systems.

Funding for surface and air transportation was extended into 2012, but long-term plans remain elusive.

two decades, and the recession has meant less driving, which in turn means less fuel purchased. More fuel-efficient cars and new standards to further improve fuel efficiency equate to even fewer fill-ups.

Potential funding sources

So where will the money come from to repair and replace an ever-increasing deterioration of the nation's surface, air and other transit systems?

Given the economic and political climates, an increase in the gas tax isn't likely any time

Continued . . .

Various funding sources offer potential solutions

... continued

soon. Alternate funding methods have been discussed, but there are no sure bets right now. Past research from a survey by the firm HNTB showed Americans preferred tolling to increased gas taxes.

HNTB's Pete Rahn said tolls will likely be a more prominent source of future funding. The organization's survey revealed most of the nation supports highway tolls with 82 percent saying the rate should be a dollar or less for every 10 miles on an Interstate. Fifty-six percent of those said the rate should be less than 50 cents.

Sixty-six percent of the people polled by the organization said they would like their toll money to go toward relieving congestion issues, with 41 percent saying they would support their toll money going to road and bridge repair. Others said they would like to see the money go toward dedicated truck lanes or adding lanes to existing roads.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act — also known as the stimulus bill — that was passed in 2009 funded some road construction projects during the past two years. In a speech before Congress last September, the President proposed additional spending on infrastructure as a way to boost the economy.

One idea he mentioned was an "infrastructure bank" that would provide loans or loan guarantees for transportation and other projects. The idea has been brought up several times before, including bills proposed by congressional

leaders. One put forth in the Senate would make the bank an independent government entity with congressional oversight. The proposal would give the bank a one-time appropriation of \$10 billion that would lead to more than \$600 billion in future projects.

The rest of the money would come from private investments in the infrastructure bank. Investors could partner with local, state and regional governments and propose a project to the bank, which would determine its worthiness based on factors such as public demand and support and the ability of the project to generate revenue that would pay back investors.

If deemed a worthy project, the bank would loan up to 50 percent of the total cost, making the bank another investor. Loans would be repaid through revenue generated from the project, which may come from such sources as dedicated state taxes, fees, tolls and passenger tickets.

PPPs

These "public-private partnerships" (PPPs) have already worked together on some state-level projects. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, PPPs are agreements that allow private companies to take on traditionally public roles in infrastructure projects, while keeping the public sector ultimately accountable for a project and the overall service to the public. A government agency typically contracts with a private company to renovate, build, operate, maintain, manage or finance.

"Though PPPs are not optimal for many transportation projects, they have been shown to reduce up-front public costs through accelerated or more efficient project delivery," said the organization. "PPPs don't create new money but instead leverage private-sector financial and other resources to develop infrastructure."

Not everyone agrees on how to pay for the infrastructure investment, but most everyone agrees that something has to be done.

"We can no longer ignore the growing liability our aging roads present to U.S. economic competitiveness and the mobility of our citizens," said HNTB's Rahn. "Americans are feeling the pain, every day, as they commute and cross the nation's highways and bridges." ■

Several funding sources have been proposed, including public-private partnerships, which allow companies to pair with government entities as investors in a project. Known as PPPs, they have been used on state-level projects around the country.



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.

Once again, Komatsu leads the industry. No other construction equipment manufacturer offers a complimentary maintenance program like this.

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NEW PRODUCTS

MORE POWER, LESS FUEL

New Komatsu PC360LC-10 offers more efficient excavation

Efficiency is the name of the game when it comes to moving dirt. Now, a new player in the excavation game, Komatsu's interim Tier 4 PC360LC-10 excavator, has taken the lead. Using its proven Tier 3 platform, Komatsu added features to provide greater efficiency with lower fuel consumption, improved operator comfort and enhanced serviceability, all of which maximize productivity while lowering operating costs.

In addition to meeting interim Tier 4 engine standards, the 257-horsepower PC360LC-10 uses an integrated design with Komatsu-exclusive hydraulic pumps, motors and valves. The design has a closed-center, load-sensing hydraulic system that uses variable speed matching to adjust engine speed based on the pump output. To make the excavator even more efficient, Komatsu enhanced the hydraulic system to reduce hydraulic loss and fuel consumption.

Komatsu lowered the fuel consumption while providing additional horsepower (compared to its predecessor, the PC350LC-8) with a larger-displacement engine that features an advanced, electronic control system to manage air-flow rate, fuel injection, combustion parameters and aftertreatment functions. An integrated Komatsu Diesel Particulate Filter (KDPF) reduces emissions without interfering with machine performance.

"Komatsu's mid-size excavators have always been considered the top of their size class, and the PC360LC-10 fits right in," said Product Manager Doug Morris. "Users will find it an excellent digger for speciality work, such as trench and large foundations, as well as for productive bulk excavation. It also has good power to run attachments, such as demolition grapples or hammers."

Strong, comfortable cab

A new, strong, ROPS-certified cab has a reinforced pipe-structure framework with viscous damper mounts for low vibration. A high-back, fully adjustable seat uses air suspension and is heated for improved comfort. An auxiliary input and two 12-volt ports are standard.

"Outside the cab, the PC360LC-10 has handrails that surround the upperstructure for easy access to service points," noted Morris.

"We want users to get maximum production with minimal downtime. The PC360LC-10 delivers just that," he concluded. ■



Doug Morris,
Product Manager

Brief Specs on PC360LC-10

Model	Operating Weight	Horsepower	Digging Depth
PC360LC-10	79,930 lbs.	257 hp	26 ft., 10 in.

"Komatsu's new PC360LC-10 excavator offers excellent digging power for large trenches as well as bulk excavation," said Product Manager Doug Morris. "It also has good power to run attachments, such as demolition grapples or hammers."

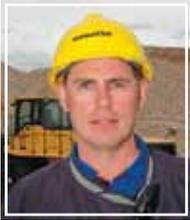
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NEW PRODUCTS

NEW ARTICULATED TRUCK

Increased load capacity among more productive features of Komatsu's new HM300-3 truck



Rob Warden,
Product Manager

When Komatsu made changes to its articulated dump trucks to meet interim Tier 4 regulations, it took the opportunity to also make the trucks more productive. Case in point, Komatsu's new HM300-3. The artic truck now reduces emissions and offers increased capacity compared to its predecessor model.

Komatsu also increased operating weight, while maintaining a maximum ground speed of 36.4 miles per hour in order to move more material in the same amount of time. "The HM300-3 has a low, nine-foot, three-inch loading height, so it matches up well with 30-ton to 60-ton hydraulic excavators and five-yard to seven-yard wheel loaders," said Product Manager Rob Warden. "In addition, it has two, single-stage,

body-lift cylinders that give it a 70-degree dump angle. It's a very efficient and productive truck that fits well into load-and-carry applications."

The HM300-3 features a new Komatsu Traction Control System (KTCS) that automatically provides optimum traction when operating in soft ground conditions. The HM300-3 continually monitors machine performance and detects changes in momentum due to soft ground conditions. When a change in momentum is detected, the inter-axle differential lock applies automatically, activating KTCS. KTCS monitors tire slippage with sensors located on four wheels. If slippage occurs, the four independent brakes automatically apply as necessary to regain traction.

In addition, a Komatsu Advanced Transmission with Optimum Modulation Control System (K-ATOMiCS) offers a six-speed, fully automatic transmission that selects the ideal gear based on vehicle speed, engine rpm and shift position. It results in powerful acceleration, smooth downshifting and synchronized engine speed when climbing slopes. K-ATOMiCS also helps keep the load in the body and increases productivity.

A new cab design on the HM300-3 provides a more comfortable and quiet work environment, including a rounded front dash panel with easy-to-reach switches. A redesigned dashboard and relocated, air-ride seat improve visibility. From the new, high-resolution monitor, the operator can modify settings, such as reversing the fans or selecting the starting gear.

"A newly designed engine hood provides convenient access to service points and improved forward visibility," Warden pointed out. "Of course, it has the same standard features, such as KOMTRAX, that make it a true Komatsu machine, so we know users will find the HM300-3 a valuable addition to their fleets." ■

Brief Specs on HM300-3 Artic Truck

Model	Operating Weight	Load Capacity	Ground Speed
HM300-3	116,823 lbs.	22.4 cu. yds.	36.4 mph



Komatsu's new interim Tier 4 HM300-3 articulated haul truck provides greater load capacity and a new traction-control system that automatically provides optimum traction when operating in soft ground conditions.

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PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT

NEW D155AX-7 DOZER

Interim Tier 4 model builds on already productive features for greater efficiency



Bruce Boebel,
Product Manager

On its surface, Komatsu's new D155AX-7 dozer is much like its predecessor: the operating weight, net horsepower and blade capacity all remain the same. However, many comparisons stop there as the new interim Tier 4 D155AX-7 offers lower emissions, yet maintains low fuel consumption for reduced per-yard costs.

Coupled with a highly efficient, automatic transmission, the new interim Tier 4 engine uses advanced electronic control to manage air-flow rate, fuel injection, combustion parameters and aftertreatment function for optimal performance. The automatic gearshift transmission and lock-up torque converter transfer engine power directly to the transmission, providing a 10-percent decrease in fuel consumption compared to conventional models. The D155AX-7 uses a much larger cooling package

with improved airflow to keep the engine running cool in harsh working conditions.

"Even in the toughest working conditions, the D155 remains efficient and productive," said Product Manager Bruce Boebel. "It meets all the interim Tier 4 standards for reduced emissions, without sacrificing the excellent power previous D155 models have become known for in dozing and ripping applications where mass quantities of material are involved."

To fit the application at hand, operators can choose from automatic or manual gearshift modes: automatic for general dozing and manual for dozing and ripping in rough ground. The automatic gearshift transmission shifts to the optimal gear range based on working conditions and load.

Auto blade pitch, ripper controls

Equipped with Komatsu's unique SIGMA dozer blade, the D155AX-7 has a capacity of 12.3 cubic yards. While that's the same as the previous model, Komatsu incorporated a new, automatic, blade-pitch function that reduces operator effort and increases efficiency. With the flip of a switch, it sets blade-pitch position between digging and dump positions with no additional lever movements. Operators can set the blade-pitch control through the seven-inch HD monitor to automatically return to the digging position when they select reverse.

"A new ripper-control lever is more ergonomic for increased operator comfort," said Boebel. "Like our other interim Tier 4 machines, we didn't stop with just putting in a new engine. Komatsu worked with customers to identify features that would improve their dozing and ripping performance. We believe we've made a dramatic improvement with the D155AX-7." ■

Komatsu's new D155AX-7 dozer features an automatic blade-pitch function that increases operating efficiency and reduces operator effort. The new dozer is interim Tier 4 compliant and maintains the same low fuel consumption as the D155AX-6.



POINTS OF INTEREST

ENGAGING EXCAVATION

Komatsu's KMAX tooth system offers cost-effective solution in a large range of applications

In 2003, when Komatsu introduced its KMAX tooth system, it was limited to six tooth styles strictly for excavators. Today, those numbers have expanded to more than 20 ground-engaging tools for both excavators and wheel loaders — PC120 to PC800 and WA150 to WA800 — that handle a wide range of applications.

"There's a right fit for virtually anyone who does excavation or similar types of work, whether they need teeth for digging in clay or rock, or they need something with good penetration into a pile, such as quarry work," said Gary Jones, General Manager Product Support & Marketing for Hensley Industries, a Komatsu company that produces the KMAX tooth system. "The number of styles we have is a direct result of listening to our customers' needs and cost-effectively crafting teeth that meet those needs."

The KMAX tooth system, which now comes on Komatsu buckets, is cost-effective for several reasons, said Jones. Chief among them is durability, which is achieved through superior heat treatment that hardens KMAX teeth to the core, as opposed to some teeth that have hard exteriors but are soft on the inside.

"That gives our teeth a longer life, allowing use to 60 percent of wear as opposed to the usual 40 percent before replacement," said Marketing Manager Brent Dennis. "Heat treatment to the core is one part of the equation. Another is our streamlined design that allows KMAX teeth to offer better penetration of the material while staying sharper longer. That means added efficiency and durability for lower owning and operating costs."

Fast, easy, safe

When teeth need to be changed, the process is fast, easy and safe. Users simply need a socket wrench to unlock the reusable, non-load-bearing fastener in order to remove the tooth from the adapter on the bucket. After placing the new tooth on, it's easy to tighten it back down. In most cases, the process takes less than a minute.

"We believe it's the best system on the market because there are no pins to be hammered out," said Jones. "Our teeth are designed so that if users see uneven wear, they can flip the teeth."

"While KMAX teeth are first-fit on Komatsu machinery, the KMAX system can adapt for use on other brands," Dennis pointed out. "If you add it all up — durability, better penetration of material, speed of tooth changes, safety — we're convinced the KMAX system offers the best tooth value in the industry." ■



Gary Jones,
GM Product Support
& Marketing,
Hensley Industries



Brent Dennis,
Marketing Mgr.,
Hensley Industries

www.TECTractorTimes.com

NEW!



Komatsu's KMAX tooth system offers durability in more than 20 tooth styles for a wide range of excavators and wheel loaders. It's easy and safe because the system requires only a socket wrench — no pins to hammer — to remove and replace teeth from the adaptors.



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KOMATSU & YOU

FORECASTING THE FUTURE

GM says PMO continues to expand production to meet present, future global mining demand

QUESTION: There have been a few sparks in construction, but overall activity remains low. How's mining?

ANSWER: Mining has been strong for quite a while now. We are producing more than four or five times the number of trucks we did just 10 years ago. It's probably more than many of us here at Peoria Manufacturing Operations (PMO) thought was even possible back in 2002. Mining continues to be very strong globally, so there's a great demand for the five Komatsu mining trucks we manufacture.

QUESTION: How are you meeting demand?

ANSWER: Taking into account several factors, such as historical trends, current mining and what we see down the road, we update our forecast frequently. More recently, our firm-order backlog is very strong and we are able to see the future more clearly. We're basing our production on what we believe the long-term trends will be. Again, we expect mining to remain strong, so we're being proactive.

Most of our operations are running around the clock to ensure we meet our production goals and the demand for our mining trucks, which is globally very high. Because demand is so high, we added a second assembly line and further refined our processes to make them even more efficient. That's allowed us to double the number of trucks produced a day, and we're working to further increase that.

QUESTION: Why are Komatsu mining trucks in such demand?

ANSWER: Komatsu trucks have always been at the top of the class in terms of per-ton costs because they're not only efficient, but reliable and have a long life cycle. A big reason why is because the trucks are electric-drive as opposed

Continued . . .



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.

Jim Mathis, General Manager of Manufacturing, Komatsu Peoria Manufacturing Operation (PMO)

Jim Mathis has returned to his roots. Mathis is a General Manager of Manufacturing at Komatsu's Peoria Manufacturing Operation (PMO), where he has spent most of his career with Komatsu.

Mathis started at PMO in 1984 as Production Scheduler and moved his way up to Superintendent of Component Manufacturing. In 2008, he was promoted to Director of Manufacturing Administration, which meant a move to Komatsu America's headquarters in Rolling Meadows, Ill.

"I've spent my entire adult life with Komatsu," Mathis said. "I'm very happy to be returning to Peoria and getting the chance to work with many of the same people I worked with during the 20 years I was here before. I can't say enough good things about the people who work here. Their hard work, dedication and commitment have helped PMO expand its production capacity greatly."

Mathis, along with another general manager, oversees a staff of more than 600 salaried and hourly workers at PMO, where five models of electric-drive, mining haul trucks are produced. He's responsible first and foremost for safety, then quality, followed by production, delivery and profit and loss.

"It's a challenge, but one that I enjoy," said Mathis. "I've seen many changes through the years that have made our equipment better, both in production and reliability. There's nothing more satisfying than knowing we're building a truck that's going to help a customer be more profitable."

Mathis completed an MBA at Peoria's Bradley University a few years ago, while working at PMO. Jim and his wife, Suzanne, have five children, the youngest of which started her freshman year of college last fall.

Komatsu — at the forefront of technology

... continued

Komatsu's Peoria Manufacturing Operation works around the clock to ensure timely assembly and delivery of five sizes of mining trucks.



Some of the world's largest mining trucks, including electric-drive 830Es are assembled at PMO. "It's been proven that our trucks work longer with less downtime. That makes a huge difference to a mine that's running 24 hours a day," said Jim Mathis, General Manager of Manufacturing at PMO.



to mechanical. It's been proven that our trucks work longer with less downtime. That makes a huge difference to a mine that's running 24 hours a day. Our customers tell us that.

Of course, many other features have been a direct result of our working with customers and listening to their needs to incorporate those into our trucks. Based on their recommendations, we've integrated convenience features, such as ramp-style staircases to the driver's cab rather than a ladder hanging on the side.

QUESTION: Komatsu has built its reputation for mining trucks based on the foundation of reliability. What does the factory do to ensure each truck reinforces this reputation?

ANSWER: It's important to recognize that product quality begins with unrivaled design, followed by rigorous testing and confirmation. Only then can manufacturing truly excel at producing high-quality products and deliver reliability to our customers. We make countless quality checks and confirmations every day on every truck throughout the production process. This also includes the critical role our suppliers play in supporting us. It's not something special or unique. It's what we do every day with every process.

QUESTION: What does the future hold beyond Tier 4?

ANSWER: In some sense, Komatsu is already there and has been for quite some time. We've been developing, producing and testing autonomous haul trucks — trucks that run without a driver — for several years. They are already being used in active mines. That's a huge technological advantage for the customer because it keeps costs down, and for us because it puts us at the forefront of the mining equipment industry.

We've always been strong in technology, especially in tracking machine usage, function, production and maintenance with our KOMTRAX PLUS system. It allows both us and the customer to see how a truck is being used so we can build future machines based off that information and customer recommendations. We never stop trying to improve. ■



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EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT

END EXCESSIVE IDLING

Komatsu personnel explain how non-productive hours negatively affect your machinery



Rizwan Mirza,
Manager,
KOMTRAX,
ICT-Construction
Business Division



Goran Zeravica,
Distributor Operations
Development Manager,
ICT-Construction
Business Division

Equipment monitoring systems, such as Komatsu's KOMTRAX, provide valuable information on machine functions, including hours, fuel consumption, machine location, trouble warnings and more. All items are important, but there's one function that's often overlooked, and Komatsu's Goran Zeravica and Rizwan Mirza are on a mission to let users know that it may be the most important one of all.

"Owners and operators don't seem to take idle time into account as much as they should," emphasized Zeravica, Distributor Operations Development Manager, ICT-Construction Business Division. "It has a huge impact on owning and operating costs, in many cases driving up those costs well beyond what they should be."

Studies show that a rather large percentage of a machine's working hours are spent idling rather than actually working. According to Mirza and Zeravica, the industry average is about 37 percent of time idling. "If that's the average, it means there are machines out there idling well above that, sometimes in the range of 50 percent or more," said Mirza, Manager, KOMTRAX, ICT-Construction Business Division. "In nearly

every case, it would be better to shut the machine down when it's not in production and reduce the idle time."

Idle time adversely affects machines in several ways. "The most obvious is the amount of wasted fuel," Zeravica noted. "But something else to think about is the number of unnecessary hours being put on that machine. That drives up owning and operating costs, too."

"Letting a machine idle means reaching service intervals sooner, thereby raising owning and operating costs even more," added Mirza. "Tier 4 machines will increase the need to eliminate idling because the Komatsu Diesel Particulate Filter (KDPF) must be cleaned/serviced at 4,500-hour intervals, according to Komatsu's recommended specifications. In addition, idling for extended periods prevents the KDPF's passive regeneration system from meeting optimal temperatures for maintaining cleanliness. The result could be additional active regenerations consuming more fuel or additional KDPF cleanings at less than 4,500 hours."

Warranty affected

Piling up the hours idling also hurts your bottom line from a warranty standpoint. Idle hours count against the warranty clock just as productive hours do. If you're idling, you'll reach the end of the extended warranty period sooner.

"That's something that hardly ever crosses most users' minds, and it should be at the forefront of their thinking," Zeravica pointed out. "One other area most don't consider is resale value. If you have a five-year-old machine to sell or trade with 10,000 hours as opposed to 5,000 or 6,000, you're obviously going to get less for it. Bottom line, machine owners and operators need to take a proactive approach to idling. If the machine isn't producing, shut it down." ■

Letting a machine idle can cost you in many ways, including everything from wasted fuel to resale value.



INDUSTRY NEWS

LOST REVENUE

Analysis shows proposed fuel-efficiency standards would reduce highway funding

Proposed new fuel-efficiency and emissions standards for everything from cars to light- and heavy-duty trucks could have a detrimental effect on transportation funding, according to an American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) analysis. It predicts that revenues could fall by a total of more than \$75 billion for state, federal and local highway, bridge and transit improvements.

ARTBA says the new standards, announced late last July, would be the equivalent of eliminating all federal highway funding for nearly two years. One proposal calls for an increase to an average of 54.5 miles per gallon for new cars and light trucks between 2017 and 2025.

ARTBA's analysis assumes the mpg requirement will be phased in at 5 percent per year during that time frame. That is on top of a current increase in fuel standards that was announced last year, which increases the average mpg increase from 28.3 to 34.1 by 2016. ARTBA Vice President of Economics and Research Dr. William Buechner estimates that would cost the Highway Trust Fund about \$9 billion, with another \$65 billion or more lost by the latest proposed standards.

The Highway Trust Fund's primary revenue source is federal gas and diesel taxes collected from motorists filling up their vehicles. Therefore, lower motor-fuel sales mean less money in the coffers.

New standards for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, developed by the Department of Transportation and the EPA with input from the trucking industry, environmental groups and state governments, are slated to go into effect between 2014 and 2018. Most tractor-trailers will be required to reduce fuel consumption

and emissions by up to 20 percent by model year 2018. Heavy-duty pickups require about a 15-percent reduction.

The projection is that these new standards will reduce oil consumption by 530 million barrels of oil, cut carbon emissions by about 270 million metric tons and save an estimated \$50 billion in fuel costs.

"Like everyone else, we are supportive of efforts to reduce carbon emissions and improve fuel economy," said ARTBA President Pete Ruane. "However, from a public-policy perspective, this is a classic case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing. It's irresponsible to advance such proposals without acknowledging and attempting to mitigate the adverse effect they would have on the areas of federal responsibility, like making infrastructure improvements that improve safety, reduce traffic congestion, create jobs and help grow the economy." ■

Proposed new fuel-efficiency standards could cost billions in lost revenue that goes toward highway and other transportation funding, according to industry groups.



SIDE TRACKS

On the light side



"That's it, no more casual Fridays!"

"Mr. O'Reilly couldn't be here today. I'm his attorney."



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.TECTractorTimes.com

1. P R I R P E _ _ _ _ P _ _ _
2. T A M O K U S _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ U
3. L I R A X A U Y I _ _ _ _ X _ _ _ _ _
4. P E G A R L P _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ L _
5. G I L I N D _ _ D _ _ _ _ _

Did you know...

- George Washington was the only unanimously elected U.S. president.
- The average human body contains enough:
 - iron to make a three-inch nail,
 - sulfur to kill all fleas on an average dog,
 - carbon to make 900 pencils,
 - potassium to fire a toy cannon,
 - fat to make seven bars of soap,
 - phosphorous to make 2,200 match heads,
 - and water to fill a 10-gallon tank.
- The average mature oak tree sheds approximately 700,000 leaves in the fall.
- Snails move at a rate of approximately 0.000362005 miles per hour.
- A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
- A typical lightning bolt is two to four inches wide and two miles long.
- The Hoover Dam was built to last 2,000 years. The concrete in it will not even be fully cured for another 500 years.

MORE INDUSTRY NEWS

AGC lauds EPA's decision to back off on new stormwater rule

The Associated General Contractors applauded the EPA's decision to temporarily withdraw limits on the amount of dirt it will allow in stormwater from construction sites. At the same time, the organization is pushing for the EPA to not impose the measure altogether.

"The fact that the EPA recognizes the serious flaws in the data supporting its efforts to impose a rigid, one-size-fits-all limit on the amount of dirt in rainwater leaving construction sites is encouraging," said AGC

Chief Executive Officer Stephen Sandherr. "Indeed, contractors are already required to take significant measures to ensure that dirt — clean, uncontaminated dirt — does not escape from project sites. Setting a specific limit on how much dirt should be in rainwater will only force contractors to spend billions more on new dirt-busting measures that may not work; expose firms to costly lawsuits from outside groups; and put them at risk of receiving tens of thousands in daily fines." ■

MINExpo less than a year away

MINExpo, the world's largest and most comprehensive show dedicated to mining is set for this fall. MINExpo International 2012 will be held September 24-26, 2012, at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Registration for the event opens in January.

MINExpo takes place once every four years and features companies, products and services related to the mining industry. Nearly 40,000 people from more than 100 countries are expected to attend the show, which has exhibits in 11 halls in three buildings, along with outdoor space. ■

Group highlights condition of rural roads

The national transportation research group TRIP recently released a report that details the conditions of rural America's transportation infrastructure and its impact on the country, saying 12 percent of the nation's rural roads were in poor condition, while 43 percent were in fair condition.

It also found 13 percent of the nation's rural bridges were structurally deficient, meaning there is significant deterioration of the bridge

deck, supports or other major components. Ten percent rated functionally obsolete, no longer meeting current highway design standards.

Nearly 60 percent of auto fatalities occur on rural roads, and the report cited opportunities to improve safety, such as installing wider shoulders and rumble strips. Other infrastructure needs were also highlighted. The full report is available at www.tripnet.org. ■

Required NLRB poster now available online

A new poster notifying employees of their rights under the National Labor Relations Act is available on the National Labor Relations Board's Web site and at its regional offices. Currently only available in English, nearly all private employers are required to post it.

Workplaces where at least 20 percent of the work force is not proficient in English, must also post a version in both English and a foreign language. The Board has said it will provide foreign language translations if a business requests. The website is www.nlrb.gov/poster. ■

THE PEOPLE INSIDE

LONGEVITY PLUS

Retired TEC officers celebrate Judy Gamel's 45-year history with TEC in Anniston



TEC President/CEO Dan Stracener presented Administrative Assistant Judy Gamel with a bond in honor of her 45 years of service to TEC and its Anniston branch.

Gathered to celebrate Judy Gamel's many years of service to TEC are (left to right) Jim Waitzman Jr., retired CEO; Ollis Stracener, retired VP/General Service Manager; Judy Gamel; Jim Waitzman, retired CEO; Tommy Howle, retired VP/Branch Manager; Bill Roberts, retired CEO and Gerald Carroll, retired VP/General Service Manager.



TEC recently honored a longtime employee who has been behind the scenes at TEC's Anniston's branch for 45 years, working to keep the operation running like a machine — smoothly and efficiently.

That person is Judy Gamel, who recently celebrated her 45th anniversary with TEC — a new record for employee service. To honor her, TEC President/CEO Dan Stracener and several retired TEC officers gathered for lunch at the Anniston branch. And, in turn, Judy honored the esteemed group by cooking the meal.

As an administrative assistant, Judy not only handled office duties but through the years, she helped out regularly in the parts, service and sales departments. She showed the ropes to new employees, including everyone from shop workers to managers and officers. Tommy Howle, retired Vice President and Anniston Branch Manager from 1986 to 2004, said, "Judy practically trained four branch managers. She always made the transitions easy for new people."

"Judy is truly one of the most dedicated employees this company has ever had," acknowledged Dan Stracener. He presented her with a bond to thank her for her many years of service to TEC and its customers.

In addition to Tommy Howle and Dan Stracener, others honoring Judy at the luncheon included retired CEOs Jim Waitzman, Jim Waitzman Jr. and Bill Roberts; Ollis Stracener, retired VP/General Service Manager and first service manager in Anniston; and Gerald Carroll, retired VP and General Service Manager, who also served as the first Anniston branch manager. ■

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Komatsu WA450-6, A44024, 2007, 3,454 hrs\$185,000



Komatsu PC400LC-7L, 60065, 2006, 3,926 hrs\$195,000

EXCAVATORS

Komatsu PC55MR-3, 15317, 2009, 1,672 hrs\$42,500

Komatsu PC160LC-7, K41416, 2006, 2,295 hrs.....\$92,000

Komatsu PC228USLC-3EO, 40183, 2007, 3,619 hrs\$115,000

Komatsu PC228USLC-3, 30908, 2004, 5,581 hrs\$82,500

Komatsu PC300LC-7EO A88775, 2007, 4,675 hrs.....\$155,000

DOZERS

Komatsu D39PX-21A, 2430, 2008, 1,621 hrs\$72,000

Komatsu D51EX-22, B10642, 2008, 2,922 hrs\$95,000

Komatsu D61PX-15EO, B46113, 2009, 2,128 hrs\$165,000

Komatsu D61PX-15EO, B45156, 2007, 2,707 hrs\$125,000



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