

SURFACE DRILLING AND LOADING



The new Cat 990K wheel loader offers more power and increased payload for greater productivity and fuel efficiency. It also features a redesigned cab that delivers a superior operator interface and a quiet environment, and several new features promote operator and maintenance technician safety and performance. Designed as an optimum loading tool for trucks such as Cat's 773, 775 and 777 ranging from 54 to 91 t capacity, the new 990K also features engine configurations to meet customer needs worldwide. The 990K builds on the proven features of previous models and replaces the 990H

slippery ground, minimising wheel spin and tyre wear.

Intelligent excavation

Collisions involving mining equipment are a significant concern for all mining operations. Most often these incidents result in damaged equipment and downtime for repairs. However, severe incidents can involve injuries and even loss of life. SAFEMine's Collision Avoidance and Traffic Awareness System provides vehicle and equipment operators with information on the location of nearby vehicles and provides an audible alarm if an approaching vehicle is on a collision course. The system monitors the full 360° around the vehicle and vehicle locations are indicated on an LED display.

Reducing the number of collisions is one way of measuring the effectiveness the system, and

range. The operator has full control over the load for increased safety and productivity. Double seals on all linkage pins retain lubricating grease and prevent dust for outstanding durability and long machine life, and the TP linkage geometry provides excellent bucket roll-back angles for increased stability and less spillage.

For enhanced durability, these machines are

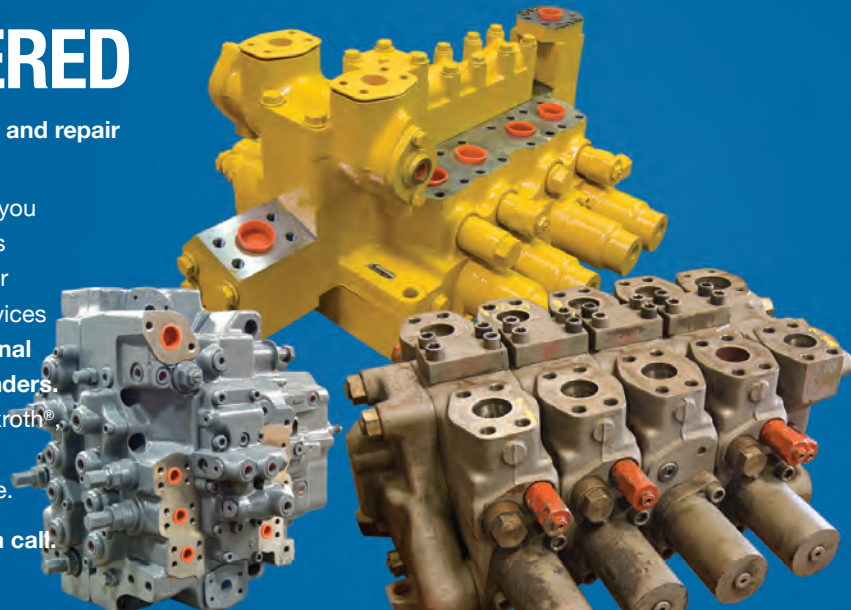
equipped with a counter shaft transmission that can endure high levels of stress, and various tailored settings can be selected by the operator to match all applications from short cycle truck loading to long distance load and carry operations. They are also equipped with a 100% differential lock on the front axle, which provides outstanding traction and rimpull on soft and

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Volvo CE's new L60H, L70H and L90H are equipped with an Eco-pedal featuring a pushback mechanism that engages when engine rpm is about to exceed the most economic operating range. The operator senses the resistance and reduces pressure to continue within this range. If full engine speed is needed, the push-back mechanism can be easily overridden. These wheel loaders feature load sensing hydraulics that perfectly match power to the application, increasing fuel efficiency and precision. This system makes power available for rimpull, providing easier penetration for increased productivity. With help from the variable displacement piston pumps and precision control levers, hydraulic power is delivered according to demand

vehicles with this technology, often with very short payoff periods.”

Efficiently allocating trucks to shovels and managing drills and all the other equipment in a surface mine is of course vitally important for a productive operation. Modular Mining Systems, the global leader in the delivery of real-time

many mines report significant improvements. For example, the Maintenance Superintendent at the Premier mine in Western Australia reported, “Premier had a 53% reduction in metal-to-metal contacts within the year following SAFEmine full implementation...” In another example, at the 2014 Queensland Mining Industry Health & Safety Conference, Peabody reported a reduction in incidents at its Burton mine. In the 12 months that preceded the SAFEmine system, the mine experienced 14 machine-to-machine incidents.

After SAFEmine was implemented, there were only two incidents at the mine over the next two years.

A second measure involves changes in operator behaviour. Studies indicate that operators may have changed their driving behavior to reduce the number of alarms generated. A study recently done in a major mine in South America showed that 98% of the



521 operators believed that SAFEmine CAS is a useful tool for keeping them and their colleagues safe. Moreover, 97% say that the information presented on the collision avoidance system is sufficient and easy to interpret.

SAFEmine, part of Hexagon Mining, says that with over 20,000 systems installed at 50 mining operations worldwide, its intelligent Traffic Awareness and Collision Avoidance technology “significantly increases safety for operators of all types of equipment and light vehicles. An analysis of costs of vehicle incidents versus the cost of SAFEmine implementation shows tangible benefits of protecting workers and

computer-based mine management solutions, has seen some interesting sales recently.

Modular's DISPATCH® Fleet Management System (FMS) is being implemented by Constructora Excon at the Toconao lithium mine in Chile. Situated on the Salar de Atacama (the largest salt flat in Chile and the third largest in the world) the mine is managed by Excon and owned by SQM, the largest lithium producer in the world. It produces 3 Mt/y of material and has an anticipated life expectancy of at least 50 years.

Since implementation began in 2014, the mine quickly realised measurable gains – such as maintaining production targets with 7% fewer trucks in operation. “We are encouraged by the progress thus far, and we anticipate even greater results from the DISPATCH system going forward”, said Cristian Infante, CEO, Excon, last October.

With a fall in lithium prices, the mine had to adjust its costs and focus on optimising productivity. “We were impressed with the sophistication of the DISPATCH system,” said Miguel Martinez, Assistant Manager of Operations at Toconao. The ability to measure numerous parameters, monitor activity in real-time, and optimise production were leading influences in the mine's selection of the DISPATCH FMS. “From our office, we can know

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