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S&K Dirtworks LLC



Kevin Garner,
owner



Jesse Humphries,
general manager

Mid-State Drilling LLC



Johnny Coleman,
owner



Stephen Crider,
general manager

A Message from Power Equipment Company



Andy Moon

**2022 looks
bright for
construction**



Dear Valued Customer:

We hope your 2022 is off to a wonderful start!

This year looks like another good one for construction. Industry economists and experts seem to agree that there will be growth overall, and the supply chain issues plaguing material acquisitions and driving up costs will ease in the latter half of 2022. They also believe that's when the impacts of the new infrastructure bill, which Congress passed in late 2021, will begin to take effect. We've highlighted some of the benefits of the bill, aka the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, inside.

Historically, construction and working remotely have not gone hand in hand. After all, dirt work doesn't get done and structures can't be built without workers on-site, right? In some cases, that's evolving. Komatsu is already at the forefront of this change with solutions such as Smart Construction Remote, Smart Construction Dashboard and the new intelligent Machine Control (iMC) 2.0 technology with an auto tilt IMU sensor. Inside, you will find more information about these products and how they help save time and reduce costs. Our Smart Construction experts can show you the advantages and help you implement these solutions into your operations.

There are several other interesting and informative articles to help your business, including tips on preparing your staff and equipment for the upcoming busy season.

As always, if there is anything we can do for you, please call one of our branch locations.

Sincerely,
Power Equipment Company

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Moon". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andy Moon,
President



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S&K Dirtworks LLC delivers total site development projects for Northwest Arkansas



Kevin Garner,
owner



Jesse Humphries,
general manager

Growing up, Kevin Garner was always around construction equipment. He soaked up knowledge about the construction industry, and by the late '90s, he was ready to branch out on his own. Today, Garner owns S&K Dirtworks LLC in Rogers, Ark.

"I started out operating a dozer and grading residential houses for a company in Arkansas," recalled Garner. "I got the wild idea to buy my own dozer and start working for myself. Pretty quickly, I realized I still needed a truck and trailer to move it with.

"In 1999, I added a dump truck and founded S&K Dirtworks," continued Garner. "My wife would clip bluetop pads with the dozer for commercial jobs while I drove the truck and did anything else needed. Soon after that, we began adding employees, and the business has grown from there."

Garner learned early on that surrounding himself with the right people was essential to being successful.

"When you're young you think you know everything, but I found out pretty quickly that I needed a team around me," stated Garner. "Jesse Humphries is my general manager and

pivotal to our company, but it's more than him or myself. Our employees are at the job site every day doing things the right way and are the reason we've established ourselves as a turnkey sitework provider for Northwest Arkansas."

S&K Dirtworks has three separate divisions: heavy equipment transportation, large-scale sitework and infrastructure. The company completes its own concrete and asphalt work as well.

"We are a total site development contractor," stated Garner. "Our logic is that taking on all aspects of a project in-house allows us to control the schedule, work more efficiently, and save the client and ourselves money. At the end of the day, we do our best to provide a quality product at a fair price."

From pasture to paradise

S&K Dirtworks focuses on commercial site development projects and is currently completing work on phase one of two at the Silver Leaf subdivision. The first phase includes 130 residential home pads over a portion of the 80 total acres.

"Until recently, Silver Leaf was a cow pasture," noted Garner. "We cleared the field and are

S&K Dirtworks utilizes a Komatsu PC210LC excavator at its Silver Leaf project. "The 210 is our most versatile excavator," stated Jesse Humphries, general manager. "It can go from digging a trench with a 2-foot bucket for our utility crew to loading off-road trucks with a 4-foot bucket and not lose productivity."





▶ VIDEO

An S&K Dirtworks operator moves large quantities of material using a Komatsu D61EXi-24 dozer at the Silver Leaf job site in Northwest Arkansas. "We have deadlines to meet, and the D61i machines help us operate faster and more efficiently to stay on schedule," said owner Kevin Garner. "I can eliminate the overhead from setting up hubs and whiskers as well as the cost for somebody to constantly check grade. Plain and simple, the D61s efficiently move large volumes of material and are trouble-free."

putting in streets, walking trails, a park with a clubhouse, water, sanitary sewer, storm drain and the housing pads. The finished product will be a high-end, planned community.

"Even though Silver Leaf will be a subdivision when it's completed, it's classified as a commercial infrastructure job," clarified Garner. "The assets are dedicated to the city once the project completes city inspection. We don't do anything classified as residential."

To complete the project, S&K Dirtworks relies on a mixed fleet of equipment.

"At the Silver Leaf project, we're using several Komatsu HM300 articulated trucks, a PC210 excavator and two D61EXi dozers," explained Jesse Humphries, general manager. "We operate a few different brands of equipment, but our Komatsu machines are the most reliable. They allow us to maximize our uptime and efficiency, which is key on larger projects like Silver Leaf."

"The 210 is our most versatile excavator," continued Humphries. "It can go from digging a trench with a 2-foot bucket for our utility crew to loading off-road trucks with a 4-foot bucket and not lose productivity. It is an essential machine to our fleet."

In 2020, S&K Dirtworks added its first Komatsu intelligent Machine Control (iMC) machine, a D61EXi-24 dozer. It increased productivity, so the firm bought a second D61EXi-24 iMC dozer the following year.

"We were using aftermarket systems on our machines, but after seeing how a fully integrated system works, we've been impressed," stated Humphries. "The machines arrived on-site ready to go, whereas it takes up to 60 days to get a non-iMC machine outfitted with an aftermarket system. It's less of a headache and more reliable."

"We have deadlines to meet, and the D61i machines help us operate faster and more



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Continued...

'D61s efficiently move large volumes of material'

... continued

efficiently to stay on schedule," added Garner. "I can eliminate the overhead from setting up hubs and whiskers as well as the cost for somebody to constantly check grade. Plain and simple, the D61s efficiently move large volumes of material and are trouble-free."

Humphries also appreciates the design of the D61EXi-24 dozer and commented, "The slant-nose design puts the operator in the center of the dozer with excellent visibility of the blade. Sitting in the center of the dozer improves the machine's balance and makes it

more comfortable to operate than competitive dozers. You can tell it was designed with the operator in mind."

Excellent support from Power Equipment

To find the right machines, S&K Dirtworks partners with Power Equipment Company.

"Our livelihood revolves around our people and our equipment," stated Garner. "We look for dependable equipment with a dealer that can support it. So far, Power Equipment has lived up to our standards and gone above and beyond for us."

The firm works with Brandon Crawford, a territory sales executive manager, and Tim Hooper, the Springdale, Ark., branch manager.

"We've had a relationship with Tim for a long time and recently began working with Brandon," commented Garner. "I can call either of them and know they will answer the phone and take care of us. The support they provide has been excellent."

Bright future

Garner plans to continue growing S&K Dirtworks, and he hopes that Humphries will take over the company someday.

"I want to slowly phase myself out and hand the reins over to Jesse," said Garner. "In the short term, the future looks bright for business in Northwest Arkansas. As long as the supply-chain issues can sort themselves out, we're set up well to continue growing and providing turnkey solutions into the future." ■



(L-R) Jesse Humphries, general manager at S&K Dirtworks; Brandon Crawford, territory sales executive manager at Power Equipment Company; Kevin Garner, owner of S&K Dirtworks; and Tim Hooper, Springdale, Ark., branch manager at Power Equipment, work together to find the right machines. "Our livelihood revolves around our people and our equipment," stated Garner. "We look for dependable equipment with a dealer that can support it. So far, Power Equipment has lived up to our standards and gone above and beyond for us."

Operators work in tandem to dump and push material with a Komatsu HM300 articulated truck and a Komatsu D61EXi-24 dozer. "We operate a few different brands of equipment, but our Komatsu machines are the most reliable," explained Jesse Humphries, general manager. "They allow us to maximize our uptime and efficiency, which is key on larger projects like Silver Leaf."





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Mid-State Drilling LLC provides geothermal and quarry drilling services throughout Tennessee



Johnny Coleman,
owner

From dropping out of college to running one of the largest blasting companies in Tennessee, Johnny Coleman has always preferred to do things his own way.

"I was a sophomore in college majoring in business when my father called me about a job opportunity," recalled Coleman, owner of Mid-State Drilling LLC. "My father was in the quarry industry and knew about a dealer position where he believed I could double the business in a year. At the time, I was already married and had a daughter. After doing the math on the money I could make, I quit school and went to work.

"I started in the spring of 1962 with a three-quarter-ton pickup truck as a dealer for one of the local blasting companies," continued Coleman. "I eventually purchased more equipment and started drilling water lines, basements and any other business that came my way. It was just me drilling and blasting every day."

Coleman received his contractor license in 1972 and began contract drilling. By 1978, he was able to purchase a larger machine and began blast hole drilling. In 2019, Coleman hired Stephen Crider as a general manager to oversee Mid-State Drilling's operations. Crider noted that the company has doubled in size since he joined. Today, there are approximately

100 employees between Mid-State Drilling and its sister company, Mid-State Construction.

"Our employees have been instrumental to our success over the years," stated Crider. "They laid the foundation and allowed the business to grow. Most of the people we hire now come from the coal industry and are miners by trade. They understand what it takes to be successful in this industry. Our customers prefer to work with us because we don't just sell blast holes, we sell service."

Versatile drilling

Mid-State Drilling primarily operates in Tennessee between Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville. In 2021, it blasted 1.3 million feet. Roughly a third of the company's projects involve geothermal drilling and the remaining two-thirds are quarry-related.

"The geothermal system is an energy-efficient option for schools, nursing homes or prisons," explained Crider. "Normally, we drill a 5.5-inch bore hole 300 feet into the ground before installing a closed-loop system that continuously pumps fluid through the loop. The natural temperature gradient below the surface creates a heat exchange and allows you to heat or cool a building. Within five years, our customers pay for the geothermal system through cost savings compared to their previous system."

An operator drills blast holes at a limestone quarry in Tennessee using an Epiroc FlexiROC D60 surface drill rig. "The D60 drill is the best drill for our application because it's tracked and can access uneven terrain," explained Stephen Crider, general manager. "It gives us a wide variety of hole sizes for drill stripping or drill production. On average, we can drill up to 3 feet per minute."





▶ VIDEO

Mid-State Drilling utilizes a fleet of six Epiroc FlexiROC D60 surface drill rigs to complete its quarry blasting and drilling projects. "We've tried other brands of drills, but the D60 outperforms the competition," stated Stephen Crider, general manager. "It has faster production, quicker hydraulics and is dependable. The machine gives us the flexibility to access any location safely and work reliably."



To drill blast hole shots for a recent limestone quarry job, Mid-State Drilling used a different process.

"The quarry called us to complete a blast designed by a blasting company," explained operator Emzy Williamson. "Based on the material and shelf, we vertically drilled 5.5-inch bore holes 45 feet deep in a specific pattern. Then, we added an extra 2 feet of depth to account for any material falling back into the hole when the drill is removed. Basically, if you're wanting a depth of 45 feet, you need to drill 47 feet. Once all the holes are bored, the blasting material is loaded, and the shot is completed."

The firm utilizes a fleet of six Epiroc FlexiROC D60 surface drill rigs to complete its quarry blasting and drilling projects. The D60 uses a down-the-hole (DTH) drilling method to create holes with diameters of 4.3 to 7 inches and maximum depths of 182 feet.

"The D60 drill is the best drill for our application because it's tracked and can access uneven terrain," explained Crider. "It gives us a wide variety of hole sizes for drill stripping or drill production. On average, we can drill up to 3 feet per minute."

"We've tried other brands of drills, but the D60 outperforms the competition," continued Crider. "It has faster production, quicker hydraulics and is dependable. The machine gives us the flexibility to access any location safely and work reliably."

Williamson added, "There are a lot of helpful safety features built into the drill. If you're inside the cab and get out of your seat and hit the rod changer button, the machine will drill the current rod down without doing anything else. If you had to get out of the cab while the machine was running, it would only drill 16 feet then blow air. If you hit a crack while



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Continued...

'The size of the D60 drills is excellent'

... continued



Emzy Williamson,
operator

drilling, the machine has an automatic jam. There are a lot of features that keep operators safe, especially inexperienced drillers."

Transportability is also an important factor because Mid-State Drilling works with multiple quarries and frequently moves its D60s between locations.

"The size of the D60 drills is excellent," noted Crider. "They're small enough to fit on a lowboy and easy to move around. That gives us access to any location our customers need us."

Great relationship with Power Equipment

Power Equipment Company was named the official Epiroc dealer for Tennessee in 2019. One of the first moves the company made was to name longtime Epiroc sales representative Stacy Lynn as the Power Equipment sales representative for Epiroc products. Mid-State Drilling appreciates their relationship with Lynn and increased support from Power Equipment.

"Before Power Equipment took over, we were constantly battling with Stacy about parts availability," noted Coleman. "Since the transition to Power Equipment, we've had virtually no problems. They keep an inventory of parts that maximizes our uptime and limits downtime.

"If something goes wrong, it's one phone call and we're back up within the hour," added

Crider. "Anytime we need something, Power Equipment is there for us. We have a great relationship with them and know that Stacy will take care of us."

Mid-State Drilling works closely with Lynn to keep its fleet of D60s updated.

"Our goal is to keep the drills under 6,000 hours and replace one per year," stated Crider. "We do that to provide our customers the best service. By purchasing and maintaining quality equipment, we can limit delays and keep them on schedule."

Ollie the Otter

While Coleman focuses on safety in the drilling industry, his wife, Carol, focuses on car safety for children. Her Ollie Otter Booster Seat and Seat Belt Safety Program teaches elementary school students in every county of Tennessee about car safety, with Ollie the Otter as the mascot.

"Tennessee passed a law in 2006, the year Carol founded the Ollie the Otter program, and it merges safety in cars and the construction industry," Coleman proudly expressed. "The orange barrel used for safety on job sites is exactly 4 feet, 9 inches. Children under that height must be in a booster seat. It's an easy and helpful way to keep our kids safe while driving." ■

(L-R) Power Equipment's Stacy Lynn works with Mid-State Drilling's Stephen Crider and Emzy Williamson to keep their Epiroc FlexiROC D60 surface drill rigs running. "If something goes wrong, it's one phone call and we're back up within the hour," said Crider. "Anytime we need something, Power Equipment is there for us. We have a great relationship with them and know that Stacy will take care of us."





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Andy Moon promoted to president

Power Equipment Company announces the promotion of Andy Moon to president following the retirement of Chris Gaylor at the end of February 2022. In his new role, Andy will continue to lead the sales force while also adding product support oversight and executive functions to his responsibilities.

"Andy has served as the vice president of sales throughout his 20 years with Power Equipment," stated Michael Brennan, CEO of Power Equipment. "He has built an industry-leading sales team and has wonderful relationships with our manufacturers, employees and customers. We are excited for Andy to lead Power in this period of continued growth."

Mike Paradis, chairman of Power Equipment, added, "Andy is a thoughtful leader and does an excellent job of balancing the competing demands of our industry."

Andy is committed to continuing the strong legacy and trust that Power Equipment has shared with its customers since 1946.

"It is truly exciting to be leading such a strong company — with great products, reliable partners and exceptional employees," Andy declared. "Providing our customers with an industry-leading level of service will continue to be our goal. My role is to support the Power team and remove any obstacles that keep them from achieving this."

Andy resides in Knoxville, Tenn., with his wife, Jennifer, and is the proud parent of three daughters: Kaylen, 27, who lives in San Francisco; Anna, 24, who lives in Austin, Texas; and Katie, 13. When Andy isn't working, he spends as much time as he can being Katie's biggest fan, by cheering for her volleyball and softball teams, as well as watching her sing and act in school/local productions. He occasionally sneaks in a little fishing or a round of golf. ■



Andy Moon,
president

New FHWA website provides information on IIJA

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently launched a new website designed to be a one-stop shop for state and local governments, transportation agencies and contractors seeking answers about the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). It's available at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/>.

"FHWA is committed to providing easily accessible information on the bipartisan

infrastructure law as the first of many steps we're taking to deliver the largest transportation investment in generations," said Stephanie Pollack, deputy federal highway administrator. "As this website is expanded and updated, it will be a great asset for states, counties, cities, towns and tribes seeking to take advantage of both formula and grant programs to modernize their infrastructure, improve safety and create good-paying jobs." ■

Senate, House panels working toward new WRDA bill

Key Senate and House committees are moving ahead with plans to draft a new Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to authorize billions of dollars for Army Corps of Engineers flood protection, river locks and dams, port dredging, environmental restoration and other civil works projects, according to an Engineering News-Record (ENR) article.

Lawmakers want to pass a bill by the end of the year and continue their practice of approving

a WRDA bill every other year. The most recent WRDA legislation authorized about \$10 billion in funding for 46 Corps projects in 2020. The Corps' annual budgets have raised significantly during the past five years. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which was signed into law last November, allotted more than \$17 billion to the Corps. Additionally, the Corps received \$5.7 billion in fiscal year 2022 from the disaster relief supplemental spending bill, according to the ENR report. ■



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Justin Kiser promoted to regional sales manager for East Tennessee

Power Equipment Company is pleased to announce the promotion of Justin Kiser to regional sales manager for East Tennessee. In his new position, Justin is responsible for leading the East Tennessee sales team, including the Knoxville, Kingsport and Chattanooga areas, and for the promotion and sale of new, used and rental equipment within that market.

"Justin has been a part of the Power family for two years as the corporate product support manager," said Andy Moon, the president of Power Equipment. "He has consistently delivered successful solutions and has developed relationships across the entire Power footprint during this time. Prior to joining Power, Justin had a successful 10-year stint at Rush Truck Centers in North Carolina with several positions of increasing responsibility.

"Justin is familiar with our customers, their businesses and our manufacturers," Moon continued. "I am excited to see him continue to grow as a leader with Power Equipment, and I look forward to supporting him as he moves into this new position."

Justin is looking forward to moving to a sales-focused role within the company.

"I have had the pleasure of working with and supporting all of the Power customers," said Justin. "My goal has always been to ensure we at Power are helping them grow their businesses. This new role allows me to continue these relationships while also building new ones for Power Equipment."

In his free time, Justin enjoys spending time with his wife, Catie, and his two boys, Asher and Tate — preferably outdoors. ■



Justin Kiser,
regional sales
manager for East
Tennessee

Brian Bourne hired as new sales manager for central and southern Arkansas

Power Equipment Company recently hired Brian Bourne as the new sales manager for central and southern Arkansas. Brian is responsible for leading the Little Rock, Ark., sales team in the promotion and sale of new, used and rental equipment within that market.

"Brian comes to Power Equipment with over 22 years of experience in the heavy equipment industry," said Andy Moon, the president of Power Equipment. "For many of our Arkansas customers, he will be a familiar face having worked with them through a previous company. His experience across sales, rental and management is invaluable, and we are grateful to have him as an integral part of our growing team in Arkansas.

"Having someone like Brian, who is familiar with the central and southern

Arkansas market and knows so many of our customers, is a huge asset for Power Equipment," continued Moon. "I look forward to working with him as we continue to expand our Komatsu presence."

Brian echoed this same enthusiasm and said, "I am grateful for this opportunity to continue to work in such a wonderful industry with great customers. Power Equipment has always had a great reputation for service, which means as we grow this market, I know we can support it. I am excited to work with the Little Rock team and fully intend to be with Power Equipment for years to come."

Brian resides in the Little Rock, Ark., area with his wife, Laura, and his two children, Lane and Kindall. When he is not working, you can find Brian attending one of his son's baseball games or his daughter's dance competitions. ■



Brian Bourne,
sales manager
for central and
southern Arkansas

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act brings historic investments

The recently passed \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), aka the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, will reauthorize surface transportation programs for five years and invest \$110 billion in additional funding to repair America's aging roads and bridges. With nearly \$40 billion dedicated to the latter, that is the single, biggest investment in bridges since the construction of the interstate highway system in the 1950s, according to the Biden administration.

Transportation safety programs will see \$11 billion in funding, including \$5 billion for the new Safe Streets and Roads for All program, established to help states and localities reduce crashes and fatalities in their communities. Another new program provides grants to community-owned utilities to replace leaky and obsolete cast iron and bare steel natural gas pipelines. In total, the infrastructure bill is projected to more than double funding directed to programs that improve the safety of people and vehicles.

Largest outlay for water systems

The spending package also includes the largest investments in other infrastructure

systems. To expand access to clean drinking water for households, businesses, schools and child care centers all across the country, \$55 billion will be dedicated to address water contamination and the replacement of lead pipes.

IIJA sets aside \$50 billion to protect against droughts, floods and wildfires, as well as weatherization, in an effort to increase the resilience of physical and natural systems from extreme weather events.

Modernizing for the 21st century

With major investments to connect rural areas, low-income families and tribal areas, \$65 billion will be dedicated to expanding broadband internet access. The bill includes provisions to make internet service more affordable and easier to compare prices.

An additional \$65 billion will modernize the nation's power grid and build thousands of miles of new, resilient transmission lines to facilitate the expansion of renewable energy.

Updates to the nation's power grid should allow more electric vehicles to be charged, and IIJA provides \$7.5 billion to build the

Airports are to receive \$25 billion to address repairs and maintenance backlogs, reduce congestion, and drive electrification and other low-carbon technologies. Ports, rail and buses are among the other public transportation sectors seeing significant funding for modernization.





Roads and bridges receive the largest amount of funding in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act at \$110 billion; nearly \$40 billion of which is dedicated to bridges. Transportation safety is to receive \$11 billion.

first-ever national network of electric vehicle (EV) chargers in the United States. This funding includes the deployment of EV chargers along highway corridors to facilitate long-distance travel, and within communities to provide convenient charging where people live, work and shop.

Updating public transit

In total, the new investments and reauthorization in IIJA guarantee \$89.9 billion in funding for public transit over the next five years — the largest federal investment in public transit in history. The legislation will improve accessibility to all users, bring transit services to new communities, and replace thousands of deficient transit vehicles with clean, zero-emission vehicles.

The legislation also invests \$66 billion in rail funding to eliminate the Amtrak

maintenance backlog, modernize the Northeast Corridor, and bring service to areas outside of the northeast and mid-Atlantic. Airports will get \$25 billion to address repairs, reduce congestion, and drive electrification and other low-carbon technologies.

Job openings

Additionally, the infrastructure bill will drive the creation of good-paying union jobs and grow the economy sustainably and equitably. Combined with the President's Build Back Better framework, it is estimated that, on average, 1.5 million jobs per year will be added for the next 10 years.

Opportunities for construction workers, truck drivers, architects, mechanical engineers and cybersecurity analysts, among others, are likely to increase. ■



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Your busiest time of the year is near. Make sure equipment and personnel are ready for maximum production

During the winter months, your machinery may have sat for a long period of time, or you may have kept working and just had routine services done during that time. Either way, it is vital to take steps to ensure your equipment is ready for the busy summer days that lie ahead.

Don't wait

If you have any outstanding work orders or operator repair tickets, finish them as soon as possible. Thoroughly inspect machines a few weeks before the schedule really heats up, and if you find any issues, address them right away. Remember, larger items such as undercarriages take more time to repair, so inspecting them well ahead of time is vital.

Buckets, blades, cutting edges and ground engaging tools such as teeth require attention, too. Make sure there are no cracks, chips or excessive wear that could affect safety and performance; replace if needed. Check that your attachment hoses and connectors are in good working order and ready for hydraulic fluids. Hook them up briefly, and run them to see if they are working properly.

Prepare staff members

Make sure employees are aware of schedules, procedures, emergency protocols, and the dangers and signs of heat-related illnesses. Employees should also know how to report maintenance items, the functions of new machines, and how to use them to maximize production and efficiency. Plus, make sure they have all the necessary personal protective equipment and that it is in good condition.

Stock up on parts

You should have an easily accessible store of basic maintenance items on hand such as grease, fluids, filters and belts. Having these on hand will save you from making frequent trips to the store, and decrease your overall downtime.

Clean the machine

Have you heard the adage that a clean machine runs better? True or not, you should wash your equipment to remove any dust and/or dirt buildup from storage or from use during the winter months. Cleaning can help you spot potential issues. Remove any debris,

Continued...

Thoroughly inspect your machinery before the busy construction season starts to ensure it is ready for maximum performance. Make sure everything is in working order and fluids are at their proper levels. Don't forget to check technology.



Replace damaged parts

... continued

including from the engine compartment. Look out for rodent and/or bird nests.

Don't overlook the inside of the cabs — clean the glass, and dust the consoles and dashes. Replace missing or damaged safety decals.

Charge batteries

If you stored batteries, be sure to check them. Before using them, ensure proper water acid levels and fill, if necessary. Batteries that were not charged during storage should be. Coating battery connections with an anti-corrosion spray can prolong system life. Replace batteries if you believe there is any doubt about their safety or reliability.

Check fluid levels

It is essential to keep fluids at proper levels. Make sure there is an operating and maintenance manual available in your machine year-round, and refer to it for guidance. Be sure to grease any points that require it.

As temperatures rise, you should switch to fluids that properly match the ambient temperatures. If the machine requires diesel exhaust fluid, draining it and refilling it with new fluids to maintain purity and concentration is highly recommended, regardless of if you used the machine during the cold winter months or not. Switch fuel to a summer blend such as No. 2 diesel, and drain the lines of any condensation.

Pay attention to hoses and filters

If fluids are the lifeblood, hoses are the arteries that carry it. Check them for abrasions and leaks; replace immediately if any are found.

Cold can affect filters, so consider replacing them with new ones, including air filtration and air conditioner filters, so operators have a cleaner, more comfortable environment. Dust and contaminants affect filter performance, so keep a close eye on them, and change them as often as necessary.

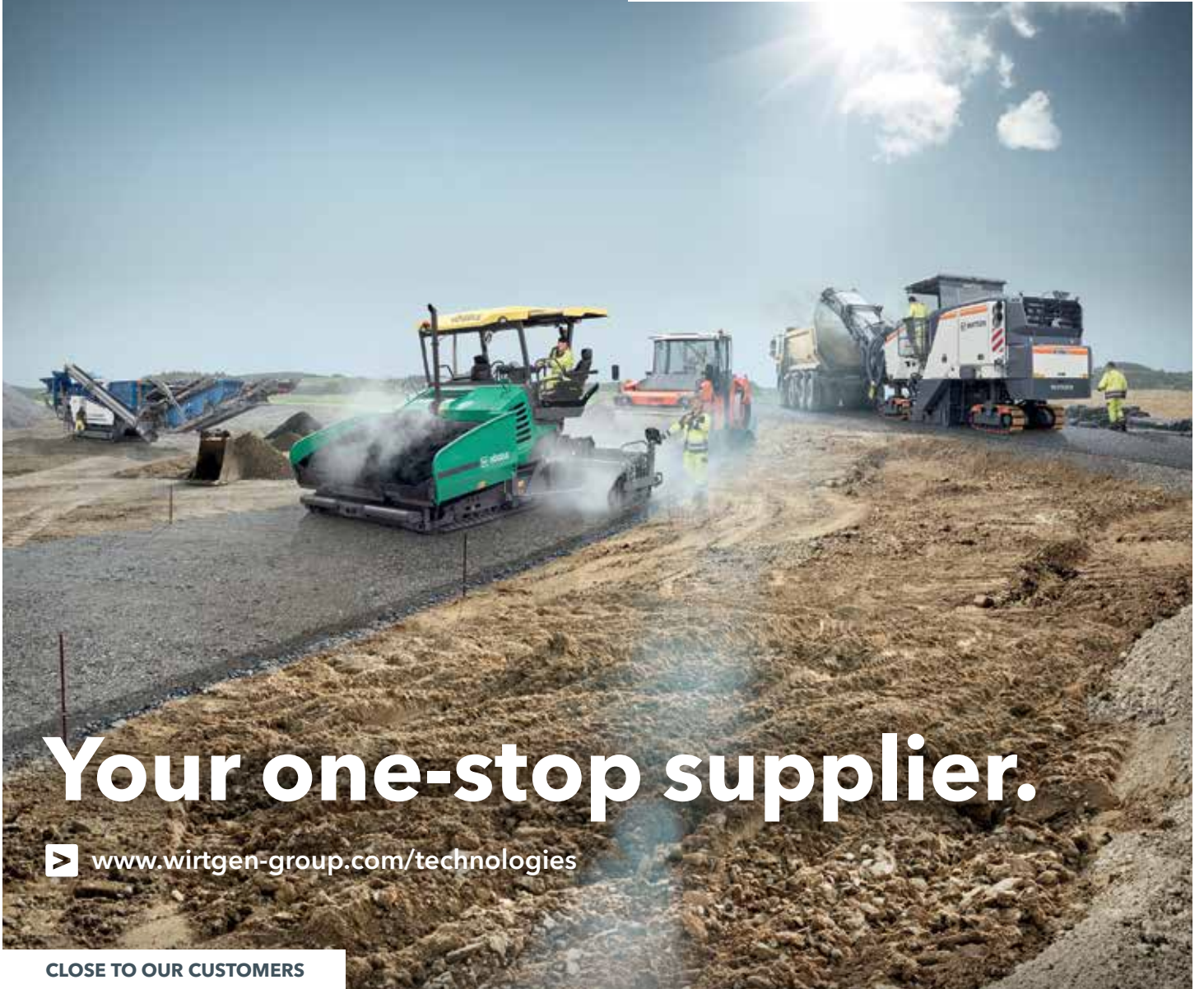
Don't overlook technology

Check the connections on your aftermarket GPS systems, as well as those that go with removable monitors. Turn the machine on, and test telematics systems to make sure you can monitor machines through your computer or smart devices. ■



During the busy season, your machinery and personnel work hard, so make sure both are ready ahead of time. Check your equipment's undercarriage, ground engaging tools, fluids, components and other critical items. Make sure staff members have all necessary personal protective equipment and that it is in good condition.





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Contractor reaches target elevation faster with new auto tilt bucket control that can follow unique design surfaces

Bobby and Allen Tripp spent countless hours running drag lines and operating dozers for their uncle while growing up on their family's farm. In 1997, the brothers transitioned from farm work when they established their own company, Tripp Bros Inc., which has steadily grown into a turnkey site development operation.

The firm's projects range from installing new construction infrastructure to resurfacing city and town streets. For maximum efficiency, the firm completes all aspects of a project in-house. To meet tightened grade tolerances and compensate for the declining number of experienced operators, the company has turned to GPS-equipped machines.

"The knowledge and skill lost from older operators leaving the industry — and with younger operators replacing them — GPS technology has become essential to our business," stated Bobby. "We rely on the technology to help our operators reach grade. Without our GPS-equipped machines, it would take us three times as long to complete the work."

At its residential jobs, which comprise 75% of the firm's current workload, creating as-built storm retention ponds is a challenge.

"The ponds are an environmentally conscious way to treat water before it's released from the site," noted Bobby. "Because each pond is unique, you can hardly dig them without diverting extra labor and equipment to keep it within tolerances."

Bobby continued, "We've found that with our Komatsu PC210LCi excavator with the new auto tilt bucket control, our operators can build the pond to grade more accurately than they could with a person shooting grade or checking them with a rover."

Maximum efficiency with iMC 2.0 with auto tilt bucket control

Bobby said that the new intelligent Machine Control (iMC) 2.0 technology on the PC210LCi-11, with the optional auto tilt IMU sensor, makes grading the ponds more efficient. By using Komatsu intelligent excavator auxiliary hydraulics, the auto tilt IMU sensor enables automatic control of the bucket/attachment angle to match the cutting edge of the surface.

Like all iMC excavators, the full bucket profile protects against over-excavation — even when the machine is not facing directly toward the target surface. With iMC 2.0 and the IMU sensor, the full bucket edge stays on the surface and automatically returns the bucket to a horizontal position for unloading.

"The machine is set up to tilt the bucket on its own and match a swale based on the design," explained Bobby. "We call it a 'one and done motion' because you don't have to go back and regrade the surface. The tilt bucket slopes, shapes and takes the pond to grade as you go."

"The auto tilt bucket control increases the machine's versatility and removes the need for an iMC dozer to check grade," added Alan Yoder, superintendent. "You're able to tilt the bucket instead of moving the machine to get the correct angle. Even our inexperienced operators find it easier to understand and control."

Bobby notes that the iMC 2.0 PC210LCi excavator improves Tripp Bros' efficiency contouring and crowning roads as well. "When we're undercutting a section of road, we can undercut the surface at a 2% fall and shape a crown in the road. The precision means we don't have to touch material twice. I haven't seen anything on another machine that compares to what this excavator can do." ■



Bobby Tripp,
president



Alan Yoder,
superintendent



Watch the video

Superintendent Alan Yoder excavates a storm retention pond using a Komatsu intelligent Machine Control (iMC) 2.0 PC210LCi-11 excavator with auto tilt bucket control. "The auto tilt bucket control increases the machine's versatility and removes the need for an iMC dozer to check grade," said Yoder. "You're able to tilt the bucket instead of moving the machine to get the correct angle."

▶ VIDEO



Smart Construction Remote helps you support your machines from anywhere, saving you time and expense



Mike Salyers,
senior product
manager, Komatsu
Smart Construction
solutions

Do you need to get data to your machines? Want to help your operators troubleshoot? If you have connectivity and Komatsu's Smart Construction Remote solution, you can do both from anywhere, optimizing your time and making workflows more efficient.

With Smart Construction Remote, construction site managers can help operators troubleshoot issues in real time by viewing the same data they do. Managers can add new files without the time commitment of traditional methods, and transfer design files to multiple machines on-site with one click.

"In today's world, we live by emails, text messages and live chats to get things done quickly, and visualize what needs to be accomplished," said Mike Salyers, senior product manager, Komatsu Smart Construction solutions. "Smart Construction Remote gives you similar capabilities. It's like a live support system for the machine and its operator, allowing you and the operator to make necessary adjustments while making sure the machine has the current information needed to complete a job — without allocating valuable resources and hours to get the machine up and running."

Salyers added that Smart Construction Remote has the capabilities to connect to all types of machines, including Komatsu intelligent Machine Control (iMC) equipment, machines equipped with select Topcon aftermarket systems, and select Topcon data collectors utilizing Pocket 3D field software.

Easy to get started

To get started using Smart Construction Remote:

- Visit Komatsu's My Komatsu webpage and login, or set up an account

- Navigate to the Smart Construction Marketplace (<https://smartconstruction.mykomatsu.komatsu/products>)
- Click on 'Smart Construction Remote' and add it to your shopping cart
- Input payment information when you're ready to check out

Once activated, click 'My Subscription.' When you open the application, the Smart Construction Remote screen will appear after logging in. Begin the activation process to add the machines you want connected to Smart Construction Remote. A red bell will appear on screen, and you can simply follow the prompts from there.

Once a machine has been activated, it can receive files and information remotely. Multiple files can be sent at one time and downloaded from the machine. If necessary, files can be deleted from the machine's control box.

If the operator needs assistance understanding if they are in the correct file or on the correct surface, or if there are issues that prevent them from working properly, Smart Construction Remote can be deployed, and managers can access the monitor and remotely correct machine settings or resolve issues.

"Smart Construction Remote's remote-control function is just like sitting in the cab of the machine, but in the comfort of your office, home or location," said Salyers. "A remote user can navigate the on-screen menus and make the necessary adjustment to the blade control's point

of emphasis, surface offsets, dozing modes and many more. Smart

Construction Remote can also be used as a training tool to show operators how they can perform desired operation by executing functions in front of them, so they can actually see what they need to do." ■

With Smart Construction Remote, construction site managers can help operators troubleshoot issues in real time by viewing the same data they do. New files can be added and design files can be transferred to multiple machines on-site with one click — without allocating valuable resources and hours to get the machine up and running, according to Mike Salyers, senior product manager for Smart Construction solutions.



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Visualize what's happening on your job sites in near real time



**Yoetzin Diaz,
Komatsu Smart
Construction
solutions manager**

Smart Construction Dashboard lets you visualize a job site's progress at any time, from anywhere. With Smart Construction Dashboard, contractors get a 3D graphic visualization of all design, drone and machine data to measure cut/fill, quantities and productivity.

Gaining insight into your job site's progress at any time and from anywhere reduces guesswork and enables faster decision making. Designed for daily use, Komatsu's Smart Construction Dashboard combines data from multiple sources to give you one comprehensive picture.

With Smart Construction Dashboard, contractors have a 3D graphic visualization of all design, drone and machine data to measure cut/fill, quantities and productivity. Site progress can be viewed with the timeline function (including playback) in terms of whole-site visual, cross-sections and individual measurements. You can confirm if a pre-bid topographical map is correct, track job site progress in near real time, document site conditions as evidence for change orders, and quickly and easily measure stockpile quantities.

"The 'data layers' option allows you to upload any design and drone files," said Yoetzin

Diaz, Komatsu Smart Construction solutions manager. "The measurement tab lets you create different measurements such as cut/fill, stockpile measurement and line measurements, including 2D cross sections to investigate specific areas of the site.

"There is so much more you can do with Smart Construction Dashboard to manage job sites," she added. "We highly suggest setting up an account and contacting your distributor's sales or Smart Construction representative to help guide you so that you get the most from this solution."

To get started, you'll need a My Komatsu account; set it up online (<https://smartconstruction.mykomatsu.komatsu/products>) or through your distributor. Once you have a verified account, sign in, find Smart Construction Dashboard, purchase it and click 'My Subscriptions' to begin. ■





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You can:

- Get more accurate job site data
- Easily track and analyze daily spending
- Track job site daily activity
- Make better business decisions

Insider Tip: "With Smart Construction Field you can quickly see if you are ahead, on schedule or behind to give you the ability to make faster decisions that affect production," said Bryce Satterly, Komatsu Smart Construction solutions manager. ■



Learn more about this and other Smart Construction solutions at <https://www.komatsu.com/en/site-optimization/smart-construction/#tab3>



A smooth approach for better productivity

A new modulation clutch in the WA900-8 surface mining wheel loader enables the operator to perform smooth approaches when loading trucks. This feature can also help reduce shock when shuttling between forward and reverse, which is particularly beneficial in v-cycle applications.

Automatic dig, semi-automatic approach and dump systems can reduce fatigue and allow operators to focus more on the path of machine travel.

Throttle lock allows operators to set engine speed. When enabled, auto-deceleration automatically decreases the engine speed to low idle when no operator inputs are applied to the controls and the transmission is in neutral.

All of those features can help improve your production and lower fuel consumption.

Insider Tip: "A high-lift configuration to pair with 150-ton trucks is available, as well as optional add-ons that include KomVision with radar object detection for a bird's-eye view of the machine and its surroundings," said Sebastian Witkowski, Komatsu product marketing manager. ■

See more productivity features of the WA900-8 at <https://www.komatsu.com/en/products/wheel-loaders/surface-mining-wheel-loaders/wa900-8/>



New feature reduces operator fatigue

Want to reduce operator steering input by 80%? Tilt steering control on Komatsu intelligent Machine Control (iMC) 2.0 dozers maintains power to the tracks and automatically tilts the blade for straight travel during rough dozing.

Additional benefits include:

- Reduced operator fatigue
- Greater reduction in track slip
- No surface undercuts

Insider Tip: "Use tilt steering control during heavy cutting applications and when simple grading is off," said Ron Schwieters, Komatsu senior product manager, iMC and hardware. ■



Learn more about tilt steering control and other technological advances in iMC 2.0 dozers and Smart Construction solutions at <https://www.komatsu.com/en/site-optimization/smart-construction/#tab5>





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2018 Komatsu PC238USLC-11, S/N 5188, 1,762 hrs.



2019 Komatsu PC490LC-11, S/N A42286, 3,156 hrs.

Year/Make/Model	S/N	Equip #	Location	Hours
Compaction				
2015 Hamm H11iX	H2100496	J00633	Nashville, TN	1,787
Dozers				
2016 Komatsu D39EX-24	95277	J00638	Louisville, KY	3,763
2018 Komatsu D39EX-24	95804	J00654	Corbin, KY	1,247
2016 Komatsu D39PXi-24	95052	J00641	Louisville, KY	3,821
2020 Komatsu D61PX-24	41167	J00634	Knoxville, TN	588
2019 Komatsu D155AX-8	100320	J00582	Louisville, KY	2,758
Excavators				
2020 Komatsu PC138USLC-11	56497	J00640	Paducah, KY	1,117
2019 Komatsu PC210LC-11	A12816	J00624	Paducah, KY	4,857
2018 Komatsu PC238USLC-11	5188	J00644	Little Rock, AR	1,762
2018 Komatsu PC238USLC-11	5501	J00645	Little Rock, AR	2,131
2021 Komatsu PC290LC-11	K73283	J00657	Little Rock, AR	1,729
2021 Komatsu PC290LC-11	K73261	PT34754	Little Rock, AR	1,766
2021 Komatsu PC290LC-11	A28249	PT34755	Little Rock, AR	1,824
2017 Komatsu PC360LC-11	A35922	J00636	Nashville, TN	2,743
2019 Komatsu PC360LC-11	A37408	J00659	Stanville, KY	2,995
2017 Komatsu PC490LC-11	A41569	J00649	Little Rock, AR	3,356
2019 Komatsu PC490LC-11	A42286	J00655	Memphis, TN	3,156
Hammers				
2018 Montabert V46SHD	V045H50649	J00599Z	Nashville, TN	2,392
Wheel Loaders				
2013 Komatsu WA150-6	81111	PTJ00314	Nashville, TN	5,402



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