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Industry Scoop

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Mill Creek Aggregates

Family business supplies high-quality materials to customers



K-Five Construction Corporation uses a pink-wrapped WIRTGEN W 220 XFi cold milling machine.



IAAP Sustainability Committee hosts an event at Ozinga Materials Inc.'s Henry, Ill., location.



Matthew L. Roland



Dear Valued Customer:

For years, GPS grade control has been used to enhance production and efficiency. Those employing integrated systems on their machines are assisted in increasing their production time by not having a mast or cables to take down or put up.

If you still have conventional excavators and are not using a grade control system, you may benefit from GPS by retrofitting those machines with Komatsu's Smart Construction 3D Machine Guidance. The solution is also now available as a factory install on new machines. As you're looking to upgrade your fleet, it is a good consideration. Read the article in this issue to learn more about the advantages of 3D Machine Guidance.

You can even get 3D Machine Guidance on a new Komatsu compact hydraulic excavator. These smaller machines pack a punch and are designed to drive high production in confined spaces, helping to reduce the need for hand digging. They are fast and versatile, and you can equip them with attachments for demolition and other tasks.

Another helpful solution is Komatsu's Smart Construction Remote, which allows users to send design file updates directly to targeted machines remotely from the company's offices. Files can also be sent from a smartphone. Smart Construction Remote allows users to remotely assist operators as well. Inside, see how one company saves time and reduces expenses when updating plans with Smart Construction Remote.

You can also read about the benefits of remanufactured parts, including cost savings and promoted sustainability. Discover how SRC of Lexington Inc. works closely with Komatsu and its dealership network to provide high-quality remanufactured parts that help extend equipment life.

There are also valuable articles about mental health awareness and support, as well as bonus depreciation.

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

Sincerely,
Roland Machinery Co.



Matthew L. Roland,
President

**Consider
retrofitting your
excavators**

Industry Scoop



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Building a legacy

Fourth-generation family business Mill Creek Aggregates supplies high-quality materials to customers throughout Central Illinois

For nearly 90 years and through four generations, Mill Creek Aggregates has been serving customers' material supply needs in Central Illinois. Vice President John Tarble said a specific job was the catalyst for his grandfather Van Tarble to open a quarry in the mid-1930s.

"He was the county superintendent for highways in Clark County at the time, and they were going to build a road, but there was no aggregate market," John noted. "He started a quarry near Clarksville to service that project. In the 1950s, he moved operations to Marshall, and that was named Quality Lime Company."

When reserves ran out at the Quality Lime location, Van and his son, Martin, moved operations again. They purchased a quarry near Charleston, Ill., that became Charleston Stone Company, which expanded when another quarry was purchased just across the Embarras River in the early 1960s. The two locations were eventually combined into one in 1999.

Van passed away in 1972, and Jerry Tarble, John's brother, came on board full time. Jerry and Martin acquired additional reserves at the

Quality Lime location in Marshall, Ill., and opened it back up in 1974. It has been in continuous operations since then. Upon Martin's passing in 1983, Jerry took over as the president, and John joined operations the following year.

Sources of pride

Today, Mill Creek Aggregates has four locations. In addition to Quality Lime Company and Charleston Stone Company, Mill Creek Aggregates includes Casey Stone Company and Mid Illinois Quarry, which are both in Casey, Ill. Each location carries a wide range of materials, from manufactured sand to riprap, with CA6 road base being its most in-demand product.

"Quality Lime and Casey Stone really are more in the commercial markets," John indicated. "We do work with the state and asphalt contractors out of those quarries. Mid Illinois and Charleston Stone are more oriented toward state work and concrete and asphalt plants. We have several main products, but we also do specialty items upon request. For example, we are working on making railroad ballast for a customer. Being a small company that can service those needs is something that we have always been proud of."

Another source of pride for the Tarbles is the legacy of quality they have built and maintained through the generations. John's son, Josh, is now part of that legacy as the company's sales representative.

"We strive for a high level of service such as making sure our loader operators load efficiently and are careful when loading customers' trucks; we believe that's what ultimately keeps customers coming back" said Josh, who joined the family business full time about four years ago. "They can count on us for consistency in gradation and quality. We have our own testing facilities and quality control manager, and we send materials off to third parties as another quality check."

The Tarble family legacy extends to Josh's wife, Leslie, and his sisters, Whitney and Mackenzie, who formed a separate company known as 3 Sisters Logistics LLC that does a lot of material delivery for Mill Creek Aggregates.

John proudly commented, "The 3 Sisters trucking company has really helped in terms of our ability to get rock to customers more quickly and our ability to deliver to those that are a little



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(L-R) John Tarble and his son, Josh, represent the third and fourth generations of their family to operate Mill Creek Aggregates, which includes four locations: Quality Lime Company, Charleston Stone Company, Casey Stone Company and Mid Illinois Quarry.





▶ VIDEO

Mill Creek Aggregates uses a standard Komatsu WA500 wheel loader and a Komatsu WA500 yard loader to load trucks for 3 Sisters Logistics — a separate company owned by members of the Tarble family — at the Quality Lime Company quarry in Marshall, Ill.

further away than before. That’s been a big bonus to our business.”

Growing Komatsu fleet

Mill Creek Aggregates uses Komatsu equipment at every stage of its operations, including a D155AX dozer for stripping overburden to expose the raw limestone. The Quality Lime, Casey Stone and Mid Illinois quarries each have about 20 feet of overburden, and Charleston Stone has approximately 60 to 90 feet. Once that is out of the way, the stone is drilled and blasted, and Mill Creek Aggregates uses Komatsu PC490LC excavators to load the loosened materials onto trucks — including a Komatsu HD605 mechanical haul truck at Mid Illinois — to be hauled to the crushers.

“From an operational standpoint and maintaining a high level of production, we want equipment that’s going to give us high uptime,” stated Josh. “We are still a relatively small operation, so being able to handle the needs efficiently is also important to us. Komatsu delivers for us.”

According to John, that has been the case since Mill Creek Aggregates started using Komatsu wheel loaders several years ago. The company currently uses a standard WA500 wheel loader and a WA500 yard loader to move



With a Komatsu PC490LC excavator, an operator picks up material.

materials from the crushers to the stockpiles and load trucks. Operators can fill most trucks in two to three passes, depending on the materials.

“We go way back with Komatsu loaders because they have always given us great

Continued...

'We have built a solid partnership'

... continued

production," said John. "Our first ones were purchased from Ray Roland when he was our Roland sales rep. During the past several years, we have worked with Territory Manager Zach Edwards. He's been fantastic about helping us find the equipment we need and cultivating our business. He and Roland have been very helpful with financing, as well as ensuring they have good parts availability when needed. They also have a good technician team that comes and works on our equipment if we need help. We have built a solid partnership with Zach and Roland, and that's been a big difference in why we have added more Komatsu equipment."

Focused on maintaining quality

The last two years have been the biggest in Mill Creek Aggregates' long and storied history in terms of sales, and demand for its products continues to grow. John doesn't see that changing in the foreseeable future.

"The next three years look really good," John declared. "We've had some solid growth the past couple of years, and we are taking a pause to focus on ensuring that we can continue to offer a high level of service with what we have before we worry about any more expansion. We think there are opportunities, and we are open to them if they make sense, but we are not actively seeking to get bigger at this point."

Mill Creek Aggregates' main goal has always been to provide excellent customer service. Josh, who worked for the company growing up but left to pursue another career before returning, noted that the small changes Mill Creek Aggregates has made over the years have only enhanced the company's service quality.

"There have been some updates over the years like adopting technology such as digital tickets and upgrading equipment, but from an operational standpoint, things were pretty much the same as when I left," commented Josh. "I think that says a lot about Dad and Jerry and the professionalism they have always brought to their business approach, and that translates to excellent customer service." ■

**The opinions expressed here are from the end user as quoted. The results described herein are those of these end users under certain conditions. Individual results may vary.*



Roland Machinery Territory Manager Zach Edwards (center) talks with Mill Creek Aggregates Vice President John Tarble (left) and his son, Josh Tarble, who is a sales representative for Mill Creek Aggregates.

An operator hauls material from the pit to the crusher with a Komatsu HD605 mechanical haul truck.





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Wrapped for a cause

Chicago-based K-Five Construction Corporation raises cancer awareness with pink-wrapped WIRTGEN mills

It's hard not to notice a pink milling machine, and that's what K-Five Construction Corporation is banking on as it uses its new WIRTGEN W 220 XFi to raise awareness of breast cancer while the company is out chewing up old asphalt. The highly visible large mill is a tribute to K-Five Construction founder George B. Krug, who passed away from cancer five years ago.

The WIRTGEN W 220 XFi cold milling machine is the second mill K-Five Construction has custom wrapped in pink. The company did the same to the first WIRTGEN mill it purchased in 2020 from Roland Machinery Company, a W 220 Fi. Right away, K-Five Construction received several calls asking about the machine, so they knew the idea of using it to raise awareness was working. Continuing the tradition by wrapping the W 220 XFi made perfect sense.

"We are a tight-knit family here at K-Five, and we want to show support for those things that have affected us personally," said Head of Operations Mark Lindbloom, noting that the company also supports organizations and events such as Toys for Tots, American Cancer Society and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. "The pink mills are just a part of that. We also are involved in community efforts such as participating in breast cancer walks and encouraging our staff, customers and the general public to donate to any foundation or organization they choose to, whether it is for breast cancer or other forms of cancer."

Lindbloom said he has seen cancer affect several K-Five Construction staff members during his 36 years with the Chicago-based company that was founded in 1977 by George B. Krug and his siblings: Kitty, Jody, Rob and Bill. George's son Robert G. Krug is now the president and co-owns the company with Jennifer Krug McNaughton, George's daughter and the executive vice president. They represent the fourth generation of the Krug family to work in the construction industry.

Encouraging construction careers

In addition to breast cancer, K-Five Construction is raising awareness about careers in the construction industry. The company actively encourages both men and women to consider construction in general and especially K-Five Construction as a place to work.

"There are real advantages, including the possibility of a high-paying career without the time and cost of going to college and potentially coming out thousands of dollars in debt," emphasized Marketing and Development Coordinator Georgia Schulte. "There are numerous opportunities for initial and ongoing training that can lead to advancement, and in an area like Chicago, there is always work to be done."

Schulte continued, "As a company, K-Five Construction provides incentives in addition to great pay and advancement opportunities such as health benefits and a commitment to having high-quality equipment. We invest in our people and the tools they need to get the job done. In addition, we are committed to sustainability and green practices by focusing on recycling materials, which we know many people take into consideration as they look for a company to work for that aligns with their values."

K-Five Construction is especially interested in promoting construction to women.

"We understand that construction has been seen as a male-oriented industry for a long time, but that perception is changing, and we believe we are leading the way," Schulte said. "During the past decade, K-Five Construction and the industry as a whole have really evolved to make space for women. Many of K-Five Construction's leadership positions are held by women. From the very top offices down to the field level, we



Watch the video about breast cancer awareness

K-Five Construction Milling Foreman Ed Mesko (left) talks with Roland Machinery Company Technical Product Support Trainer Sam Buse.





▶ VIDEO

K-Five Construction operators use a pink-wrapped WIRTGEN W 220 XFi cold milling machine on a project in Romeoville, Ill.

support and value the growth of women in the workspace.”

Going in the right direction

According to Milling Foreman Ed Mesko, one of the best things about construction is the ability to operate high-tech machines, including the W 220 XFi that features technology such as MILL ASSIST automatic mode for maximum cost-efficiency. It also has an intuitive human/machine interface.

“We prefer the WIRTGEN mills for sure, especially this new one,” commented Mesko during a mill and overlay project on 135th Street in Romeoville where K-Five Construction was milling 3.75 inches deep. “It has a 12.5-foot head, so it’s great for mainline milling. It has more horsepower than the other brand we replaced it with. That, along with some new improvements, increased our production. We really like the LEVEL PRO ACTIVE feature because it makes grade control very easy. You can quickly change settings and customize it to the job. It has great visibility too.”

K-Five Construction worked with Roland Machinery Territory Manager Kevin Woulfe



to purchase the W 220 XFi, and members of Roland Machinery’s Road Material Solutions Group assisted with setup and training on the mill’s features.

“Things are changing rapidly in the construction industry, especially technology, which has been a challenge to keep up with, but you have to,” said Equipment Manager Jon McDonnell. “Roland Machinery, with the equipment they offer and the support that they give us, helps us move forward, which is the direction we want to go.” ■

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Watch the video about the WIRTGEN W 220 XFi



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Understanding the importance of sustainability

IAAP Sustainability Committee event at Ozinga Materials Inc.'s Henry location highlights practices geared toward achieving carbon neutrality

For nearly 100 years, Ozinga has been providing concrete and aggregate products and solutions to customers throughout the Midwest from dozens of locations across Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois. Recognizing that in order to maintain that legacy, the fifth-generation business is committed to using sustainable practices and is helping others do the same.

Ozinga Materials Inc., a branch of Ozinga, recently teamed up with the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers (IAAP) Sustainability Committee to host an event at Ozinga Materials' Henry, Ill., location, so those in attendance could better understand the importance of sustainability in the industry. Ozinga Materials has been a leader in sustainability practices and has won multiple Certificates of Achievement in Environmental Excellence from IAAP. Ozinga is working toward being carbon neutral by 2030.

"Sustainability means we meet the needs of today while leaving something for future

generations," statedCarolynn Kloese, Operations Analyst for Ozinga Materials and Chairperson on the IAAP Sustainability Committee. "When it comes to sustainability, it's really important that all hands are on deck. That's what we wanted to convey, as well as to show some of the practices Ozinga has implemented in our goals to lower our carbon footprint."

Kloese continued, "Today's event was about the river, the sand and the sustainability. The focus was how we can marry what we do in our day-to-day work and our roles on the planet and become more sustainable, and what tools we can put in people's hands to learn more about being sustainable."

Barging ahead

Located on the Illinois River about two hours southwest of Chicago, Ozinga Materials' Henry location is a model for those looking for ways to implement sustainability practices. It houses a pit for mining sand and aggregates and is home to Middle River Marine, a sister



Discover more at
RolandIndustryScoop.com

Continued...



▶ VIDEO

Carolynn Kloese, Operations Analyst for Ozinga Materials and Chairperson on the IAAP Sustainability Committee, gives a presentation at the committee's sand, rivers and sustainability event.

'Sustainability is something we are all striving for'

... continued

company that barges materials up and down the river, including to Ozinga Materials' ready-mix plants in Chicago.

"Our purpose at Henry is to mine and create a water port for commerce via barge, rail and truck," said Jeff Radack, Vice President and General Manager of Ozinga Materials. "Barging is big for us because it's a much more efficient and sustainable way to move materials. It reduces congestion in the city because there is less truck traffic. We're moving six to 12 barges out per week. We invited industry folks — equipment suppliers, partners and other aggregate suppliers — to see our practices and hopefully learn something new about sustainability."

Middle River Marine President Aaron Halcomb said the company and Ozinga Materials are learning from others in the aggregate industry as well. Middle River Marine is also working with legislation to make sure that it is a sustainable part of the supply chain.

"In our experience, we are 30% more efficient using barging versus railcar and over 1,000% more efficient compared to trucking," said Halcomb. "Now, we still need railcar and trucks to move materials to their inland destinations, but we are cutting down those means considerably. We like our space, and we feel very good about what we do for the environment."



Ozinga Materials' Henry, Ill., quarry is located along the Illinois River and transports materials via barges. This image is a future rendering of the final project. It is still being mined today.

Learning for all

Roland Machinery Company is an associate member of IAAP and was among those invited to attend the event. Ozinga Materials has purchased equipment from Roland Machinery with the help of Territory Manager Jeff Mikus, such as a Komatsu WA500-8 wheel loader that it uses to load trucks, material bins and its barges, as well as a Kleemann MR 130 mobile impact crusher. Mikus also helped Ozinga Materials with a demo of a Komatsu HB365LC-3 hybrid excavator.

"This is a great opportunity to get a firsthand look at what Ozinga is looking forward to with the future and how we can help them in their efforts to be more sustainable," said Mikus. "I saw it as a way for us and our partners like Komatsu to think about ways to better engineer equipment to meet customers' needs and be more sustainable moving forward."

Komatsu Senior District Sales Manager Jenkins Davis gave a presentation on Komatsu's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050, which includes designing new products and solutions such as Smart Construction and Smart Quarry that help increase efficiencies and reduce emissions.

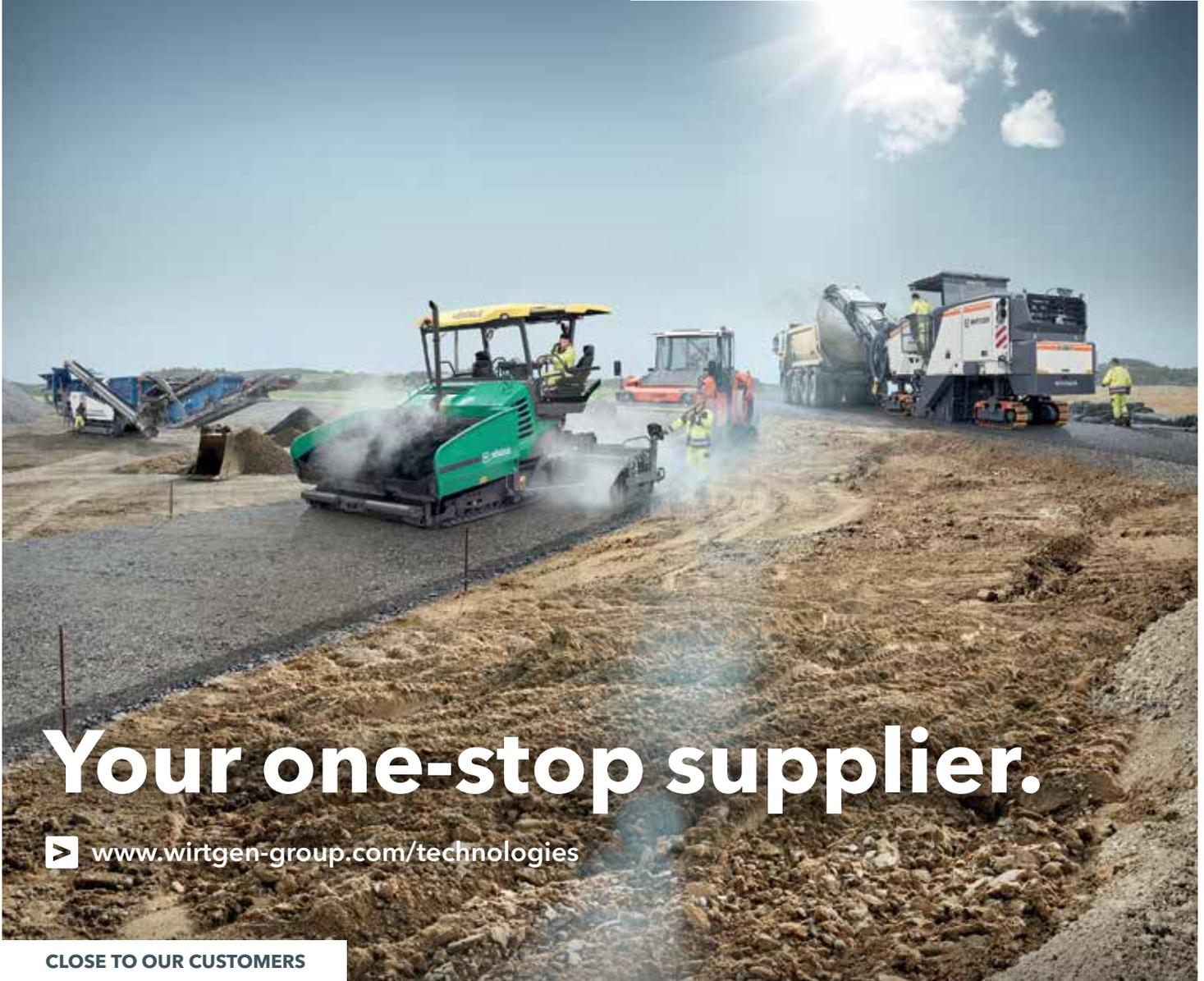
"It was interesting to see that the audience understands the challenges manufacturers face in achieving sustainability goals without sacrificing productivity," said Davis. "Sustainability is something we are all striving for, and the things we learn from each other will add value as we proceed down this path together to accomplish our objectives. Events like this that show what customers like Ozinga are doing are very helpful, and I really appreciate being a part of it."

Davis' presentation was one of several during the event that hit on topics from manufacturing to best practices to the power of using native plants. Jess Koetzle, Assistant Director of IAAP, noted that more than 60 people attended the event, and IAAP is planning another one.

"We know that these materials are needed in order to build roads, bridges, homes and infrastructure," said Koetzle. "We want to be able to use them while protecting the environment, being fiscally responsible and giving back to our communities. This is a way to educate those in and out of our industry about what companies like Ozinga are already doing and get ideas about how we can do more." ■

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Raising awareness and offering support

CONEXPO-CON/AGG joins the movement to shed light on mental health

CONEXPO-CON/AGG, North America's largest construction trade show, is shining a light on mental health issues in the construction industry. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by professionals in the field, the organization has launched a comprehensive resource hub dedicated to mental wellness.

A recent report, Construction Working Minds White Paper 2024,¹ showed that 83% of construction workers have experienced some form of moderate to severe mental health issue. Findings show that compared to other industries, construction ranked first in pain reliever abuse and marijuana and heroin use. The industry ranked second in substance use disorders and heavy drinking. The report noted that construction workers are at particularly higher risk for opioid addiction and overdose deaths.

These statistics follow a 2020 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report² from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that found that 40% of U.S. adults reported struggling with mental health or substance abuse and 11% seriously considered suicide.

The construction industry has one of the highest rates of suicide at 53.3 per 100,000 U.S. workers. That rate is four times greater

than the national average and five times greater than all other construction fatalities combined, according to the CDC and reported by the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC).³

"We cannot stand by while a silent epidemic of suicide takes place within our industry," said Stephen E. Sandherr, former CEO of AGC. "We want to reduce the stigma of mental health issues in this industry, let people know it is okay to ask for help and, ultimately, save lives."

The AGC Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Task Force compiled a wealth of tools and resources, including a series of videos telling the stories of industry professionals who have struggled with mental health. Those are available at <https://www.agc.org/mental-health-suicide-prevention>.

Know the signs

There are several warning signs for suicide. Seek help if you notice these symptoms in yourself, and look out for these red flags in your crew, so you can guide them to support and resources. A list of warning signs from the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention⁴ includes:

- Feeling sad or depressed most of the time
- Talking about feeling trapped or wanting to die
- Extreme mood swings
- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Decreased self-confidence
- Feeling hopeless and helpless
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Feeling anxious, agitated or reckless
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Talking about being a burden to others

Warning signs specific to construction workers include:

- Decreased productivity
- Increased conflict among co-workers
- Near hits, incidents and injuries
- Decreased problem-solving ability
- Increased tardiness and absenteeism

For those facing mental health challenges, crisis helplines are available, like 988.





The construction industry is facing an ongoing mental health crisis with a report saying that 83% of construction workers have experienced some form of moderate to severe mental health issue.

Changing our approach

CONEXPO-CON/AGG's initiative aims to change the industry's approach to mental health by providing actionable resources, sharing inspiring personal stories and offering practical advice for both employers and employees. With a focus on creating a supportive community, CONEXPO-CON/AGG is committed to bringing awareness to the mental health struggles prevalent in the construction sector and fostering an environment where seeking help and discussing mental wellness is normalized and encouraged, according to the organization.

"The construction industry is filled with professionals committed to precision in everything they do," said CONEXPO-CON/AGG Show Director Dana Wuesthoff. "This level of attention and care must also be given to the mental health of all construction professionals. CONEXPO-CON/AGG is committed to breaking down stigmas and creating a future where mental health isn't an afterthought but the cornerstone of our industry."

CONEXPO-CON/AGG's new comprehensive resource hub can be found online at

<https://www.conexpoconagg.com/mental-health>. Content includes the award-winning CONEXPO-CON/AGG podcast in which Denis Cashman, Co-owner of Stone Etc. Ltd., shares his battle with addiction and his journey of recovery. Another episode, featuring Priestly Demolition President Ryan Priestly, tackles managing the stress of construction and how to maintain a work/life balance in an industry that doesn't always make it easy to sit back and appreciate achievements, the organization noted.

Other resources and articles available in the CONEXPO-CON/AGG resource hub include Tips for How to Support Your Employees' Mental Health, How to Reduce Stress in Construction, and Breaking the Stigma: Talking About Mental Health in Construction. ■

1. <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://workplacesuicideprevention.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/20240315-FINAL-FINAL-CWM-White-Paper.pdf>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6932a1.htm>
3. <https://www.agc.org/mental-health-suicide-prevention>
4. <https://www.preventconstructionsuicide.com/get-informed>

Editor's Note: If you are in a mental health crisis, call or text 988 to speak to a crisis counselor now. You can also text HOME to 741741 to reach the Crisis Text Line and speak to a live, trained crisis counselor.



An easy, affordable way to bridge the technology gap

Smart Construction 3D Machine Guidance equips legacy machines with 3D guidance and payload monitoring — tools to drive accuracy and efficiency at your job site.

Learn more about this exciting new solution at komatsu.com/en/technology/smart-construction/3d-machine-guidance/



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Bring 3D to conventional excavators

Drive productivity by giving operators high-precision data with Komatsu's Smart Construction 3D Machine Guidance

Are you looking for an easy way to improve your conventional excavator's grading performance? Access to 3D advantages offered by Komatsu's Smart Construction 3D Machine Guidance can help by quickly providing operators with the latest design data, effectively measuring payload volume and load counts as well as monitoring production from the office.

Smart Construction 3D Machine Guidance is an entry-level technology solution that brings 3D to conventional excavators, giving operators in the field and managers in the office access to 3D design and topography data that help drive accuracy and promote optimized operations. Using a global navigation satellite system, a machine can determine where it is on the job site and what the target grade is as well as eliminate the need to set up a laser or bench every time the machine moves.

"3D Machine Guidance is an indicate-only system that plays nicely between a standard excavator and Komatsu's Intelligent Machine Control excavators with factory integrated semi-automatic grade control," explained David Yim, Solutions Manager for 3D Machine Guidance with Komatsu's Smart Construction team. "A major benefit of 3D Machine Guidance is that the operator can dig only what's needed, so there's no wasted production and reduced material handling. That allows the operator to be more efficient, saving time and money in the operation."

3DMG Basic, Steer To Indicator

Yim noted that Smart Construction 3D Machine Guidance — formerly Smart Construction Retrofit — has new features such as 3DMG Basic that will eliminate the need for a project file.

"After a project has been localized, an operator can touch the bucket to the ground to create a flat plane surface directly from where the cutting edge is," said Yim. "They can also touch point A then point B and create a sloping surface. Another new feature is the Steer To Indicator that offers horizontal guidance along with vertical guidance. That's a powerful tool for those working in utility applications."

Smart Construction 3D Machine Guidance helps lower the costs of bringing technology into your operations with compact and modular kits that fit most sizes of Komatsu excavator models, including the HB365LC-3 hybrid excavator.

"It is now available as a factory-installed option on new machines or as an add-on through your Komatsu distributor," Yim indicated. "3D Machine Guidance can also be installed and used on many OEM brands of excavators. We encourage anyone who's looking for a system that will improve the production and efficiency of their conventional excavators to contact their distributor about adding 3D Machine Guidance." ■



Watch the video



Komatsu's Smart Construction 3D Machine Guidance is an entry-level technology solution that brings 3D to conventional excavators, giving operators in the field and managers in the office access to 3D design and topography data that help drive accuracy and promote optimized operations.

▶ VIDEO



From tight quarters to open spaces

Komatsu compact excavators deliver high production in a wide range of applications

To get high production in confined spaces, you need the right equipment that lets you dig without worrying about hitting structures or obstructions. Komatsu's compact hydraulic excavators offer the design and engineering to get the job done, according to Komatsu Business Development Manager Taimoor Khan.

"Our compact excavators are sized right for work in close quarters whether it's next to a house or a building, in a lane of traffic, or near trees or other sensitive environmental elements," said Khan. "They are built to the same engineering durability requirements as our larger construction and mining excavators. They are quick and reliable, and all come with rubber tracks that reduce ground impact and marring of paved surfaces."

Four models are available, ranging from the 24.4-horsepower PC30MR-5 to the 38-horsepower PC55MR-5. All can be equipped with buckets for digging or a variety of attachments for use in demolition, landscaping and other applications. All are available with open or closed cabs.

"Which one best fits your operations depends on how you plan to use it," stated Khan. "All are equipped with the hydraulic lines to easily switch attachments or run a thumb. That gives customers versatility with the ability to do several jobs with one machine."

In addition to tight quarters, Komatsu's compact excavators can be used for production in open spaces.

"We see a lot of customers use these machines on larger construction sites where you may not need the power and footprint of larger excavators such as shallow utility digs," said Khan. "With proper ventilation, you can also use them for indoor applications. There is a wide range of uses beyond just utilizing them for tight spots."

Add 3D Machine Guidance

Adding Komatsu's Smart Construction 3D Machine Guidance can further increase productivity and efficiency. The add-on kit is an indicate-only system that brings 3D to most conventional Komatsu excavators, giving operators 3D design and topography data that help drive accuracy and promote optimized operations.

"3D Machine Guidance adds further value to these high-quality, dependable compact excavators," noted Khan. "If you are looking for production in a utility-sized machine, these make a great addition to your fleet and are backed by a two-year or 2,000-hour warranty." ■



Watch the video

Quick Specs

Model	Horsepower	Operating Weight	Bucket Capacity
PC30MR-5	24.4 HP	6,812-7,143 lbs.	0.07-0.21 yds ³
PC35MR-5	24.4 HP	8,201-8,532 lbs.	0.07-0.24 yds ³
PC45MR-5	38 HP	10,737-11,001 lbs.	0.07-0.21 yds ³
PC55MR-5	38 HP	11,354-11,618 lbs.	0.07-0.24 yds ³

Komatsu's compact hydraulic excavators work in a variety of applications, especially on job sites with limited space.



▶ VIDEO



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Tax-advantaged machinery purchases

Bonus depreciation drops to 60%; machinery must be purchased and placed into service by midnight Dec. 31

This year, bonus depreciation dropped to 60% under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Bonus depreciation is available for both new and used equipment bought and placed into service by the end of the year. Eligible qualified property includes depreciable assets that typically use the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) with a recovery period of 20 years.

Bonus depreciation is meant to encourage businesses to invest in new equipment and machinery by providing them a tax incentive to do so. With the percentage of bonus depreciation dropping, now may be a good time to consider making a purchase.

Higher amounts for Section 179

An additional advantage of bonus depreciation is that it has no limit on the amount. It can

be used in conjunction with Section 179 expensing, another tax savings vehicle, that does have a cap.

The Section 179 deduction limit was raised to \$1,220,000 for 2024, an increase of \$60,000 compared to 2023. After that amount, the expensing percentage begins to reduce. The total equipment purchase limit for this year is \$3,050,000, up from \$2.89 million last year.

Bonus depreciation, which is generally taken after the Section 179 spending cap is reached, will continue to phase down from 60% in 2024 to 40% in 2025, 20% in 2026 and 0% in 2027. ■

Editor's Note: This article is for informational purposes only. To learn more about how to take advantage of these tax savings, contact your tax adviser or equipment dealer for more information.

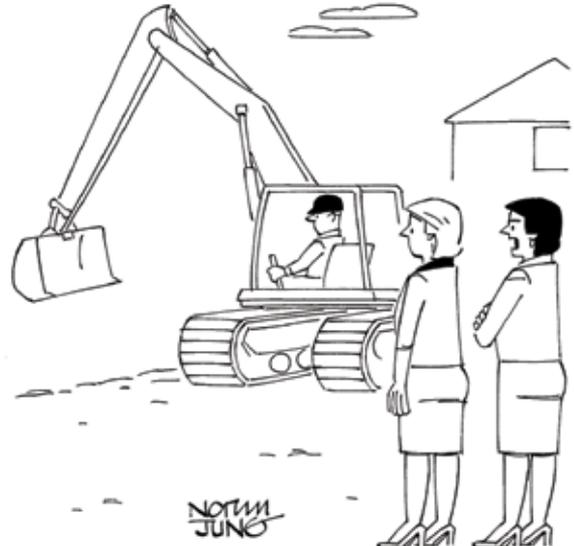
You can take 60% bonus depreciation on eligible new and used equipment purchased and placed into service by midnight on Dec. 31.



On the light side



"MY DAD'S A CONTRACTOR, SO HERE'S A WRITTEN ESTIMATE."



"I ASKED MY HUSBAND TO DIG A GARDEN, BUT HE ALWAYS GOES OVERBOARD."



"DID YOU GET THE PROPER PERMITS?"

Did you know?

- The Newby–McMahon Building, commonly referred to as the World's Littlest Skyscraper, is in Wichita Falls, Texas. It is only 40 feet tall.
- Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards.
- A single day on Venus is approximately 243 Earth days long.
- Dolly Parton wrote the legendary songs "Jolene" and "I Will Always Love You" on the same day.
- The U.S. National Highway System contains 6 billion tons of steel.
- Lemons float, but limes sink.
- The period from June through August in 2021 was the hottest on record in the United States, exceeding even the Dust Bowl summer of 1936.
- The Japanese word *kuchisabishii* is the act of eating when you're not hungry because your mouth is lonely.
- The Ancient Romans used to drop a piece of toast into their wine for good health, which is why we "raise a toast."
- The actors who voiced Mickey and Minnie Mouse got married in real life.

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.RolandIndustryScoop.com

1. NLPA _____
2. TACS _____
3. UTC _____
4. PELSO _____
5. TOMEER _____



See the answers

Extend equipment life at a reduced cost

Komatsu and SRC of Lexington Inc. work together to provide high-quality remanufactured parts

SRC of Lexington Inc. works closely with Komatsu and its dealership network to provide high-quality remanufactured parts that help extend equipment life. The approximately 100,000-square-foot facility in Lexington, Ky., specializes in remanufacturing heavy equipment components for the mining and construction sectors.

Adam Trebolo, Director of Sales and Marketing at SRC of Lexington, detailed the comprehensive processes and technologies that define the facility's operations.

"Typically, we remanufacture components like engines, transmissions, hydraulic pumps and motors," Trebolo explained. "We take old, worn-out parts and completely disassemble them. Parts that can be reused are machined back to the original specifications, and new original equipment manufacturer parts are used for those that can't be salvaged."

There are many benefits of remanufacturing, including cost savings and promoted sustainability.

"Remanufacturing reduces the total cost of ownership significantly," Trebolo emphasized. "Replacing an old engine with a remanufactured

one is much cheaper than buying a new machine, and it ensures the equipment is ready for another long service life. Remanufacturing also uses significantly less energy than producing new components. We reuse most of the iron, and we recycle what we can't use, so it's a more environmentally friendly option."

The facility's operations are meticulously organized to ensure quality and efficiency.

"When we receive a core, it's first inspected and identified," said Trebolo. "The disassembly process is kept separate from the assembly to maintain cleanliness, and every part undergoes thorough inspection and machining to meet original equipment specifications."

A cornerstone of SRC of Lexington's success is its pivotal relationship with Komatsu, which has existed since the facility's inception.

"This factory used to be a Komatsu plant until the financial crisis in 2009," Trebolo recounted. "We persuaded SRC to buy the operation, and since then, we've been a separate company but still closely aligned with Komatsu. They are our largest customer, but since then, we've taken on business from other OEMs, as well as some work directly with mines on other products."

Investing in technology

SRC of Lexington's cutting-edge technology contributes significantly to the plant's capabilities.

"We use advanced techniques like metal buildup for worn surfaces and high-end machining to ensure parts are restored to their original dimensions," elaborated Trebolo. "Our coordinate measuring machine and 3D printers aid in precision and efficiency."

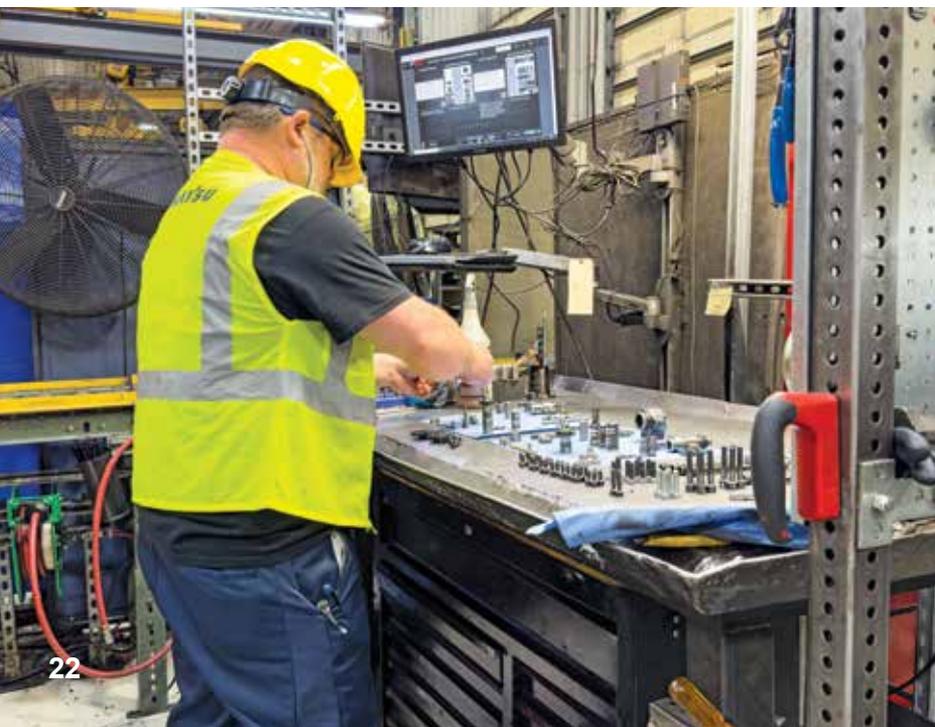
Trebolo added, "One thing that really makes us unique is we have our own electronic work instruction system software, Task Forge, which ensures every step in the remanufacturing process is followed meticulously. We've developed detailed photo instructions that guide technicians step by step. With over 100,000 steps in our system, we can ensure consistency and quality across all processes."

The facility's focus on lean manufacturing and continuous improvement is evident in its collaboration with the University of Kentucky and Toyota.



Watch the video

To ensure consistency when remanufacturing components, SRC of Lexington employees use Task Forge, an electronic work instruction system software that ensures every step in the remanufacturing process is followed meticulously.





At SRC of Lexington's facility, an employee tests the hose pressure and quality of a remanufactured engine.



An SRC of Lexington employee uses a 3D printer inside the facility's clean room.

"We work on eliminating waste and improving efficiency," stated Trebolo. "For example, we've synchronized the assembly process for similar hydraulic pumps, reducing labor and increasing competitiveness in the market."

Safety, dedicated employees

At SRC of Lexington, safety is paramount.

"We're really proud of our safety record here," Trebolo declared. "We've gone over 1,600 days without a lost-time accident, and we prioritize safety to ensure everyone goes home the same way they came in."

Employee ownership is another unique aspect that drives commitment and quality.

"As an employee-owned company, everyone here has a stake in our success," said Trebolo. "This ownership mentality ensures that our employees are dedicated to producing the highest-quality products."

With a focus on quality, efficiency and sustainability, SRC of Lexington continues to be a leader in remanufacturing capabilities. Its partnership with Komatsu and investment in advanced technology ensure that it remains at the forefront, delivering high-quality, cost-effective solutions to its customers. ■



▶ VIDEO

Taking precise measurements to return components to OEM standards is a key step in SRC of Lexington's operations.

Remote resolutions

Smart Construction Remote helps Burks Excavation Corporation of Idaho save time and reduce expenses when updating plans

Burks Excavation Corporation of Idaho recently finished one of several complex ski-related projects the company has done during its nearly 30 years in business. The approximately six-month job included developing an 1,800-foot-long ski run that sloped from 28 to 35 degrees, lift enhancements, and new snowmaking areas.

To complete the project, Burks Excavation Corporation of Idaho used Komatsu Intelligent Machine Control (IMC) equipment with factory-integrated GPS machine control. General Manager Cody Allison created the project's design files that were uploaded to the machines, base stations and rovers.

Allison said projects like the ski resort are why Burks Excavation Corporation of Idaho added Komatsu's Smart Construction Remote, which allows users to send design file updates directly to targeted machines remotely from the company's offices. Files can also be sent from a smartphone. Smart Construction Remote allows users to remotely assist operators as well.

"It would have taken several hours to drive to the resort and back to do an update,"

said Allison. "With Remote, it can be done in a matter of minutes, so we are saving time and the costs that go along with driving to the job site. The update is done automatically, so the operator doesn't have to stop. Another great feature is that if there is an issue or the operator has a question, we can remotely access the screen in the machine, see exactly what they do in real time, and quickly resolve whatever it is without them having to wait for someone to come out to the site."

Well worth it

Allison estimated that Burks Excavation Corporation of Idaho uses Smart Construction Remote two to three times per week to send files and collaborate with operators.

"If you add up the time and expenses we save by using Remote, it's significant," said Allison. "It's relatively inexpensive. Basically, if you use it one time, it pays for itself. It's well worth the investment." ■

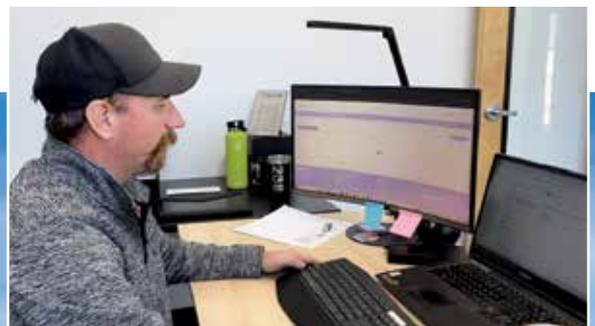
**The opinions expressed here are from the end user as quoted. The results described herein are those of these end users under certain conditions. Individual results may vary.*



Watch the video

Burks Excavation Corporation of Idaho General Manager Cody Allison uses Komatsu's Smart Construction Remote to send plan updates to the company's Komatsu Intelligent Machine Control (IMC) equipment from his office.

▶ VIDEO





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Nearly two-thirds of highway contractors report vehicle crashes

During the past year, 64% of highway contractors reported that motor vehicles crashed into their construction zones, putting motorists and workers at risk, according to the results of a new highway work zone study conducted by the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) and Heavy Construction Systems Specialists LLC (HCSS). Association officials and construction workers urged drivers to slow down and be careful while driving through construction zones and pushed public officials to enhance work zone safety laws.

“Bad driving behavior and lax work zone safety laws don’t just put construction workers at greater risk,”

said AGC Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Shoaf. “Our new data shows drivers and their passengers are in even greater danger from highway work zone crashes.”

Shoaf noted that:

- 24% of respondents reported experiencing five or more crashes in the past 12 months
- 29% of reported work zone crashes resulted in an injury to a construction worker
- More than twice as many firms — 66% — reported experiencing a crash that injured drivers or passengers ■

Respondents name cybersecurity as top risk

According to the 2024 Commercial Construction Risk Report from QBE North America, 42% of respondents identified cybersecurity as the top risk their firms face, and 40% said it was the risk they were least prepared for.

“Our goal was to identify and evaluate the primary risks threatening the success of commercial construction projects,” said Ryan Powers, SVP, Head of Construction at QBE North America. “Through this report, we aim to highlight these critical concerns

and examine the industry’s level of preparedness in mitigating these key risks.”

The report surveyed 500 commercial general contractors and construction managers, and it showed some other top concerns:

- Cost overruns (35%)
- High interest rates (33%)
- Labor shortage and lack of skilled personnel (28%)
- Economic downturn (28%) ■



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High-quality system

Optional Komatsu Traction Aid Winch ensures continued production with low impact on steep terrain

When harvesting and forwarding in steep terrain, a traction aid winch is a useful complement to ensure a productive workday while also considering the impact on the forest. The Komatsu Traction Aid Winch is a high-quality system based on more than 20 years of experience of winch use in the Alpine regions of Europe. It provides extra tractive force and grip, and it enables the machine to navigate inaccessible terrain.

Available as an option on the Komatsu 875 forwarder and the Komatsu 931XC harvester, the winch has a well-considered design that helps simplify the workday. Thanks to its compact dimensions, it has no adverse impact on maneuverability or visibility. The winch is easily removed during servicing or when driving on flat terrain. It also has a hydraulic tilt that makes it easy to tilt the winch downward when opening the hood or adjusting the rope angle.

Komatsu designed the winch to be well-integrated into the rear frame. The Komatsu 875 has an integrated crane tilt option, which helps to compensate for any lean of the machine up to 22 degrees and thereby

better maintains the crane's slewing torque on steep ground.

The winch is controlled with a remote, and several operating modes are available to optimize winch use.

The capstan principle

The system is based on the well-proven capstan principle, which means that the winch has a separate drum for rope storage while the capstan unit provides the tractive force. This solution provides even traction regardless of how much rope is left on the drum. It also causes less wear on the rope, resulting in a longer service life. Additionally, it has a feeder unit that ensures that the rope is always tensioned inside the winch.

Anchor point monitoring

One new feature is that the system has been complemented with anchor point monitoring, which meets the requirements of the new ISO standard (EN ISO 19472-2:2022 and EN 17067:2018) for traction aid winches. This system warns the operator if the anchor tree moves, so the machine can be secured. ■



Available as an option on the Komatsu 875 forwarder and the Komatsu 931XC harvester, the Komatsu Traction Aid Winch is a high-quality system that provides extra tractive force and grip to the standard model. It is designed to help the machine navigate even tougher terrain than without the option.



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PSSR Jeff Frazer enjoys helping customers keep their equipment in top shape with solutions and parts for nearly all applications

Jeff Frazer grew up around construction, working for his dad's excavation company as a laborer, a shop assistant and a part-time operator. While he had the opportunity to stay on, Frazer decided to forge his own path. The first step was enlisting in the U.S. Navy where he learned about diesel and hydraulic equipment.

"I spent a lot of time working on trucks and equipment in general," said Frazer of his time in the Navy. "It was a great experience, and it really set me up for life after the service. After I got out, I took a job with a truck shop working on over-the-road trucks. I worked there for several years before a buddy of mine from the Navy suggested I apply at Roland, and I got on as a shop tech."

Frazer started working at Roland Machinery Company's Bridgeton, Mo., shop about 10 years ago. It wasn't long before he was on the road performing field service.

"I really didn't think I was going into that at first, but Roland presented the opportunity and there was no going back," Frazer recalled. "The experience of working directly with customers and getting to know them was

great and really set me up again for the next stage of my career."

Next stage

The next stage for Frazer began in March 2023 when he moved into a product support sales representative (PSSR) position. He helps a wide mix of customers in two Missouri counties and nine counties in western Illinois meet their parts, service and repair needs.

"My customer base includes several limestone quarries, power plants, construction companies, scrap yards and demolition contractors," said Frazer. "Fortunately, Roland has the capabilities and knowledge to take care of all those industries and more. What really stands out is that we can customize plans, schedule service, and keep customers stocked with parts and ground engaging tools to fit whatever need they have. We can do that with the brands we carry and help with other brands as well. I like being able to help customers find solid solutions to their equipment needs."

Frazer and his wife have two children and enjoy spending time together as a family. He also likes to hunt and fish as well as help his father work on equipment from time to time. ■



**Jeff Frazer,
PSSR,
Roland Machinery
Company**



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PSSR Jeff Frazer (right) talks with Chris Wessel in the Bridgeton, Mo., shop about a current machine being repaired.

▶ VIDEO





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STK# KM2022362, 649 HRS, DeForest, WI



2016 KOMATSU 931.2 \$275,000
STK# VT2022024, 9946 HRS, Escanaba, MI



2022 KOMATSU WA320-8 \$205,000
STK# KM2022647, 533 HRS, Springfield, IL



2020 KOMATSU PC210LC-11 \$149,500
STK# KM2023069, Springfield, IL



2014 KOMATSU D37PX-23 \$99,500
STK# KM2023250, 2204 HRS, Palmyra, MO



2017 KOMATSU 931.2 \$305,000
STK#VT2023001, 10,292 HRS, Escanaba, MI



2005 HYPAC C766 \$11,500
STK# ZZ2023210, 8837 HRS, Bolingbrook, IL



2014 KOMATSU PC210LC-10 \$154,500
STK# KM2023319, 3628 HRS, Eau Claire, WI



2020 KOMATSU PC210LC-11 \$239,500
STK# KM2022040, 682 HRS, Bolingbrook, IL



2011 WIRTGEN W120F \$149,500
STK# WG2024000, 6214 HRS, Columbia, MO



2008 VALMET 840.3 \$95,000
STK# VT2022063, 25,466 HRS, Escanaba, MI



2020 CAT D3 \$135,000
STK# CT2024012, 1170 hours, DePere, WI



2015 KOMATSU PC228USLC-10 \$135,000
STK# KM2021516, 4061 HRS, DePere, WI



2021 VOLVO EC750EL \$359,500
STK# VO2024002, 6329 hours, Escanaba, MI

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