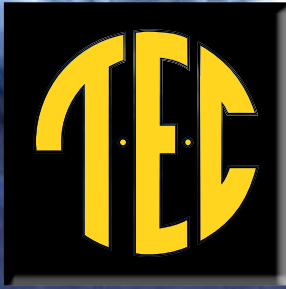
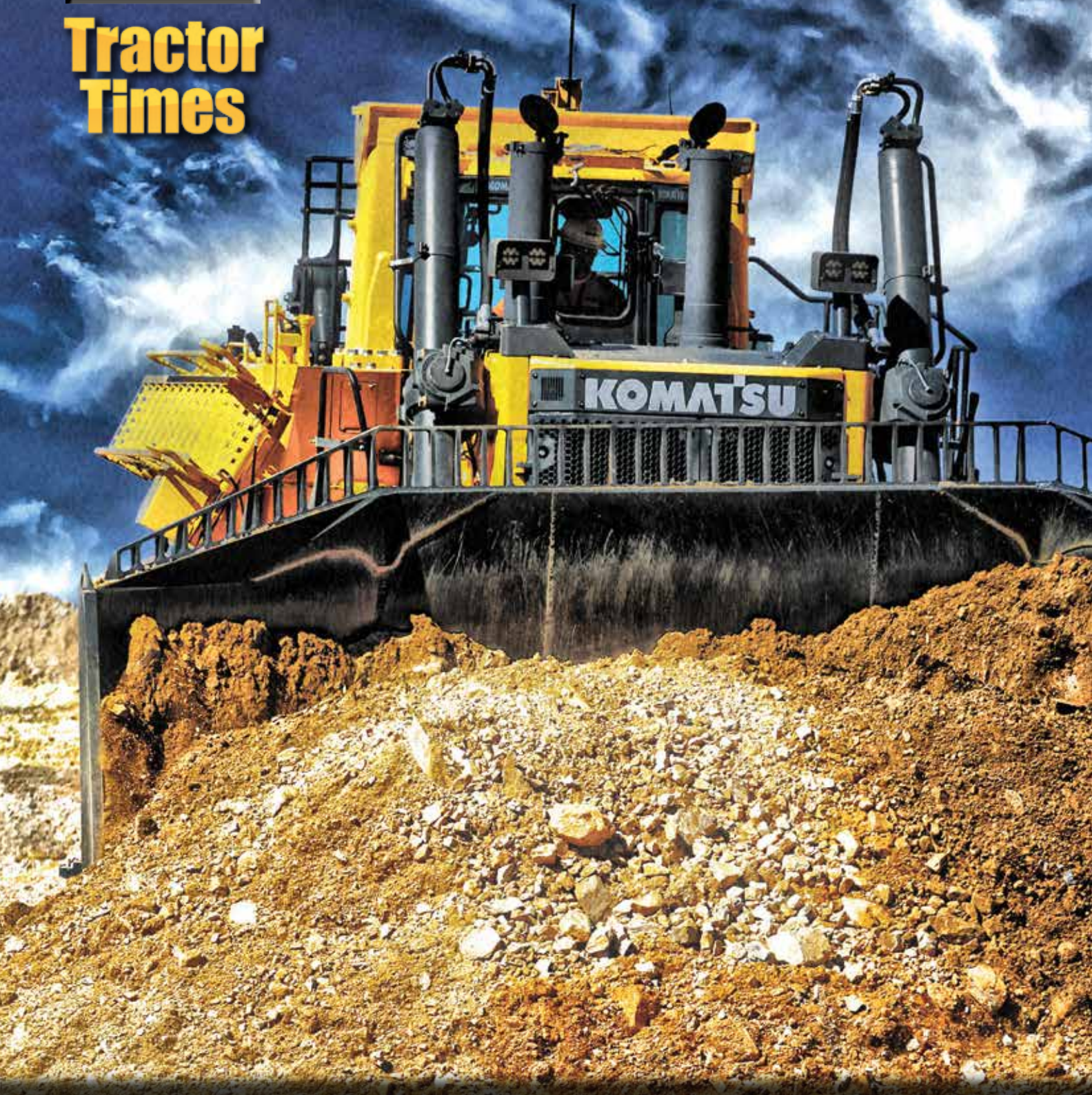


January 2023



# Tractor Times



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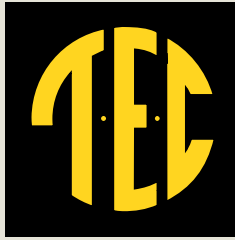


## A Message from the CEO



Chad Stracener

**Ready for  
the latest  
construction  
innovations?**



Dear Valued Customer:

CONEXPO-CON/AGG — the largest equipment show in North America — is about to return. We're excited to learn about the latest innovations in machines and technology for the construction industry. If you've attended before, you understand the value of the show. If you haven't, we encourage you to check it out. This issue includes a preview of CONEXPO-CON/AGG that has information about where our manufacturing partners' exhibit spaces will be located.

As one of the leading manufacturers at CONEXPO-CON/AGG, Komatsu will showcase some of its most innovative machines and Smart Construction solutions. Inside, you will find an article about how one Komatsu user is saving valuable time and money by uploading files remotely rather than driving to the job site, thanks to Smart Construction Remote.

Drones can also be a solid investment for your business. We can help you learn about using Komatsu's Smart Construction Drone to survey and measure your sites.

Even though these new technologies increase efficiency and production, it still takes well-maintained equipment to get the job done. A PM (preventive maintenance) clinic provides a detailed inspection of your machines to help keep them running like new. Call our service department or your sales representative to set one up.

There are also articles that feature new products that can help your business increase production, including Komatsu's new PC230F-11 processor.

As always, if there is anything we can do for you, please feel free to call or stop by one of our 20 branch locations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chad Stracener'.

Chad Stracener  
CEO



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**KOMATSU**

## Rountree Construction Company Inc. provides materials, site development services across southern Georgia



**Zac Rountree,**  
President



**Eli Rountree,**  
Vice President

**R**ountree Construction Company Inc. began as a handshake deal with an order for a sand plant written on the back of a napkin. In 1983, founder Bill Rountree incorporated the company in Valdosta, Ga., and after a few years of being in the materials business, he expanded into construction services. For Bill's son Danny, Rountree Construction provided a chance for community members to work for a local business instead of a national corporation.

"My dad, Danny, worked for a company that assigned him a number, and he used the number instead of a signature," recalled Rountree Construction President Zac Rountree. "That hung on his mind, as well as the fact that the company he worked for wasn't based in southern Georgia."

Danny served as president before passing on the duties to Zac and transitioning into his current advisory role. Several other Rountree family members are involved at the company, including Zac's brother, Eli, who is the vice president and handles estimating, as well as Stacy, Zac's uncle, who is the general superintendent.

"We all learned the business from the bottom up," noted Zac. "I started out on a grade crew, and then went to the sand mine. That's

allowed me to predominately oversee sand operations and surface mining while Eli manages the other aspects of the business."

### Focusing on commercial site development

Today, Rountree Construction employs 68 people. The company supplies materials from its mining operation throughout the region, but it primarily focuses on commercial site development and typically takes on county, city and Department of Transportation (DOT) jobs. Current projects for Rountree Construction include apartments, several unit complexes, and commercial developments such as healthcare offices, daycare centers and restaurants.

"On the materials side, we try to stay within a 100-air-mile radius, and on the construction side, we travel up to 100 to 150 miles depending on the customer," said Zac. "The sand mine provides ready-mix concrete sand, masonry sand and golf sand for customers. Our construction business handles everything from clearing to final grade, except we sub out water and sewer."

With approximately 85% of its projects coming from repeat customers, Rountree Construction prioritizes those relationships.

With a Komatsu D51PXi intelligent Machine Control (iMC) dozer, an operator moves material. "Once you get in the machine in the morning, you do a quick calibration with the blade, then you can start pushing dirt," said President Zac Rountree. "That's a big time and cost saving for us."







Operators use a Komatsu D51PXi iMC dozer to move material and a Komatsu PC290LCi-11 iMC excavator to load a truck. "Learning the technology was easier than our operators expected," said President Zac Rountree. "The additional cost paid for itself through time and labor savings."

"We pride ourselves on looking out for the customer and contractor," said Zac. "By covering all our bases, we're able to provide them a turnkey product. Our customers prefer that because it offers them one point of contact for any questions or changes."

### Diving into technology

To stay on schedule and meet tightening tolerances, Rountree Construction decided to add a GPS-equipped machine to its fleet. After meeting with Tractor & Equipment Company (TEC) and Mike Kinneman, a TEC sales representative, Zac bought a Komatsu D51PXi-24 intelligent Machine Control (iMC) dozer, which allows operators to view the entire job site from the cab without having to stake everything out, and it gives experienced operators the tools to move material more efficiently while decreasing the physical toll on their body.

"At first we had some resistance from our older operators who didn't want to learn the new technology or thought they could out-perform the machine," said Zac. "Once they gave the dozer a chance and realized how it made their job easier, they all wanted to run a dozer with GPS technology. Learning the technology was easier than our operators expected. Having everything integrated with the machine also means we don't have to worry about wires or masts."

Once you get in the machine in the morning, you do a quick calibration with the blade, then you can start pushing dirt. That's a big time and cost saving for us. It's been a pleasant surprise. Our operators have adapted and prefer the machine, and the additional cost paid for itself through time and labor savings."

Due to the positive results, Rountree Construction added two more Komatsu iMC machines: a D39PXi-24 dozer and a PC290LCi-11 excavator.

"After talking with Mike and some other people at TEC, we decided to demo the 290LCi and were impressed," said Zac. "Not only were we sold on its GPS capabilities, but it was the right-size machine for our lowboy capacities. We could haul it between job sites without special permitting, and it's large enough that we can use it at the sand mine."

In addition to excavating ponds and cutting to subgrade on construction projects, Rountree Construction utilizes the PC290LCi to manage flood water parameters when expanding mining operations.

"Water levels are always a concern of ours when working near bodies of water," said Zac. "We try to keep a 100-year floodplain and use the 290i to mark where to build and manage the water on-site. We're essentially creating an imaginary line where there's no physical point of reference,



**Danny Rountree,**  
Consultant and  
Engineer



**Stacy Rountree,**  
General  
Superintendent

*Continued...*



# 'They've been a great partner to us'

... continued

which allows our operators to avoid over-digging and eliminates the need for surveyors to map the land. We marked our floodplain on one side of the property, moved down the road to the

other, marked it again, and we knew where our floodplain line was for the entire project."

Rountree Construction also added a PC290LC-11 excavator after its good experience with the PC290LCi-11, and the company has a Komatsu GD655-3 motor grader in its fleet as well.

"If I need TEC, they're there," said Zac. "I can pick up the phone, call Mike, and he'll handle it. Like our philosophy, they don't treat us as just another customer to deal with. It's important to have that support and relationship, and they've been a great partner to us."

## Continuing to adapt

Moving forward, Rountree Construction will keep embracing technological development and is considering adding more Komatsu machines to its fleet such as a WA475 wheel loader, a PC360LCi-11 iMC excavator, and a D71PXi iMC dozer.

"We want to continue to grow at this rate," said Zac. "We want to stay in front of the technology curve by continuing to innovate. We also want to remain a strong member of the community and continue to provide local jobs for people that don't want to be just another number." ■



(L-R) TEC's Mike Kinneman poses with members of the Rountree family — Eli, Stacy, Danny and Zac — at Rountree Construction's office in Valdosta, Ga. "If I need TEC, they're there," said Zac. "I can pick up the phone, call Mike, and he will handle it. Like our philosophy, they don't treat us as just another customer to deal with. It's important to have that support and relationship, and they've been a great partner to us."

Rountree Construction utilizes several Komatsu machines on its job sites, including this PC290LCi iMC excavator.







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## Investment in GPS technology cements H&T Contractors LLC as one of the Florida Panhandle's premier site development firms



**Tim Tindle,**  
Owner



**TJ Tindle,**  
Owner



Discover more at  
[TECTractorTimes.com](http://TECTractorTimes.com)

The construction industry has been a part of Tim Tindle's life since before he could walk. His father, a site contractor in the Florida Panhandle, took him to job sites and taught him the industry from the subgrade up. In 1994, Tim founded his own sitework company, H&T Contractors LLC, and has watched the company flourish over the better part of the last three decades.

"I grew up learning how to move dirt," recalled Tim. "I was born and raised in the industry and never envisioned myself doing anything else. When it's in your blood, every day is a new and exciting challenge, and that's kept me going for the last 40 years."

H&T Contractors has grown from 12 employees to 125.

"We have people who have worked with my family and H&T for over 30 years," noted Tim. "Superintendents Randy Aldrich and Chris Bedwell are two leaders that have been with me since day one. Our company wouldn't be where it is today without the hard work and knowledge of every individual who chooses to work here. We have a lot of repeat customers that appreciate the quality of work we provide."

In addition to its staff, H&T Contractors' scope of work has increased significantly over the years. Today, it primarily targets private developments within a 90-mile radius of its office in Freeport, Fla., and provides turnkey services that take a project from clearing to paving.

"We self-perform every step of a project," said Tim. "From clearing to producing our own base material, laying utilities and pouring concrete — we cover the whole nine yards. One aspect of our business that's allowed us to reach high levels of productivity with significantly lower labor costs is GPS technology."

### Investment in GPS

Tim attempted to use GPS-equipped machines in the late '90s, but he wasn't satisfied with the technology at that time. However, he kept an eye on the industry, and in 2006, started to gradually integrate GPS technology into the company's fleet.

"Originally, the technology could get an experienced operator within a couple tenths of an inch," said Tim. "In 2019, we tried out

An operator grades material with a Komatsu D51PXi-24 intelligent Machine Control (iMC) dozer at an H&T Contractors job site. Superintendent Chris Bedwell stated, "Once we have a model built for a job site, our operators can monitor where they are through the screen inside the cab instead of relying on stakes around the job site."







► VIDEO

With a Komatsu PC490LCi-11 iMC excavator, an operator lays two runs of pipe side by side. Superintendent Randy Aldrich commented, "The excavators are very smooth machines and fuel-efficient. The iMC is just unreal."

our first Komatsu iMC (intelligent Machine Control) dozer. We were immediately impressed with the dozer's ability to reduce that margin to within hundredths of an inch while maintaining a higher grading speed than competitive brands. Without needing to slow down to gain precision while grading, our time and cost savings go up."

Komatsu's iMC technology is integrated into the dozers and excavators, which results in better grading capabilities, according to Chris.

"Integrating the technology through the hydraulic system at the factory level gives the operator more control and efficiency when reaching grade," noted Chris. "Once we have a model built for a job site, our operators can monitor where they are through the screen inside the cab instead of relying on stakes around the job site. For each GPS-equipped machine on a job site, we're able to reduce the number of laborers by 10."

Now, H&T Contractors' fleet of Komatsu iMC machines ranges from D39PXi-24 to

D61PXi-24 dozers and PC290LCi-11 to PC490LCi-11 excavators.

"Once we were comfortable with their dozers, Komatsu shocked us with the quality of GPS technology inside their excavators," said Tim. "We scaled from none to multiple iMC excavators in a few years because they allow our operators to cut ponds and trenches to grade without a dozer monitoring progress."

At a residential subdivision job, H&T Contractors uses its Komatsu D51PXi-24 dozer, D61PXi-24 dozer and PC360LCi-11 excavator to mass grade 80,000 yards of import across 147 lots and excavate several ponds.

"It's just so much quicker with iMC," said Chris. "It's easier on the guys. With the dozers, you've got excellent blade vision where you can see both corners of it."

"The dozers are very balanced machines and operator-friendly," added Randy. "The excavators are very smooth machines and fuel-efficient. The iMC is just unreal."



**Randy Aldrich,  
Superintendent**



**Chris Bedwell,  
Superintendent**

*Continued...*



# 'We've received excellent support from TEC'

... continued

## Support from TEC

To find the right equipment and manage the GPS connectivity between the machines, H&T Contractors works with Tractor and Equipment Company (TEC); Tanner Rhea, a TEC sales representative; and TSE (Technology Solutions Expert) Richie Sievering.



H&T Contractors utilizes multiple Komatsu iMC dozers and excavators at its job sites, including a D51PXi-24 dozer and a PC490LCi-11 excavator.

"The machines can speak to each other and run off the same job plan," explained Randy. "That allows for better efficiency throughout the life of a project. Since adding our first Komatsu dozer in 2019, we've received excellent support from TEC for all our equipment needs."

Chris stated, "TEC is absolutely fantastic with their customer support. If we have an issue, they're on it — I would say 98% of the time within an hour. The customer support is just really awesome."

"We call, and they answer the phone," added Tim. "Their GPS support technician, Richie, is very knowledgeable and will troubleshoot problems over the phone. Support is crucial in our industry, and TEC does an excellent job of supporting their machines throughout the life of the product. Tanner, Richie and TEC stand behind the equipment and maximize our uptime."

## Looking ahead

Tim's legacy is being passed down to his son, TJ, who joined H&T Contractors.

"My son has come up in the business and is learning how to run it successfully," said Tim. "He grew up around the equipment same as me. The future of this company is the younger generation and continuing to invest in technology." ■

TEC's Tanner Rhea (left) and Richie Sievering (right) offer support to H&T Contractors' (L-R) Randy Aldrich, Tim Tindle, Chris Bedwell, and TJ Tindle. "Tanner, Richie and TEC stand behind the equipment and maximize our uptime," said Tim.

## ▶ VIDEO





A JOHN DEERE COMPANY

A large photograph of a construction site under a bright, sunny sky. In the foreground, a green Wirtgen roller is compacting a layer of gravel. Behind it, a large Wirtgen paver is spreading material. Several workers in high-visibility vests are visible on the site. The ground is uneven and covered with dirt and gravel.

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# Safeguard equipment, keep insurance premiums in check with a few effective, yet simple, risk management steps

Tools and equipment used on construction sites are often subject to theft and vandalism — creating project delays and impacting costs. Over time, multiple claims may also increase insurance premiums. While not every loss can be prevented, there are improved methods for safeguarding construction equipment that go beyond fences and standard locks.

When creating a loss-prevention strategy, the following can help your construction clients protect their business property.

### Anti-theft devices

Heavy equipment, vehicles and trailers, as well as areas where tools and building materials are kept, can be better protected during non-working hours when anti-theft/anti-vandalism devices are used. Options include high-security, pick-resistant locks that can be placed on steering wheels, axles and fuel tank caps. Other considerations can include the use of case-hardened security chains that can help secure smaller equipment, preventing items such as trailers from being easily moved off the premises.

### Deactivation devices

These are simple, yet effective, tools for stopping thieves in their tracks. While there are many different types of deactivation devices on the market, the objective for each is the same: an immediate shutdown of equipment that is being tampered with, rendering it immobile.

### GPS tracking devices

In the event of a theft, your clients have an improved chance of recovering stolen items if their equipment has a hidden GPS tracking device. Once the device is activated, law enforcement personnel can use the technology to reveal the equipment's location.

### Night cameras

Nighttime security surveillance has vastly improved in recent years. Some of the best night camera security systems offer forward-looking infrared (FLIR) mapping that detects people, objects and vehicles on a construction site — even in inclement weather or low-visibility conditions. FLIR systems allow operations to be livestreamed from any location on a smartphone or other electronic devices.

### Drones

Drones can assist in viewing or inspecting a job site when a suspicious activity has been detected or when an alarm has been triggered. Advantages over a security guard include the ability to patrol wide areas in less time and track a thief across long distances.

Deploying any of these methods can't guarantee that your construction client's equipment won't be damaged or stolen by thieves. However, they are good steps in the right direction. In many situations, occurrences can be reduced through appropriate risk management procedures. If an incident does occur, having the right insurance can help mitigate the financial impact of a loss. ■



Paul Hohlbein

*About the Author:*  
Paul Hohlbein is co-president of Builders & Tradesmen's Insurance Services Inc., an Amynta Group Company. To learn more, email Paul at [phohlbein@btisinc.com](mailto:phohlbein@btisinc.com).

**Safeguarding your assets is essential to avoid vandalism and theft, which can delay projects and prove costly in other ways such as higher insurance premiums. Taking precautions can help protect your property.**





# CONEXPO-CON/AGG will return to Las Vegas with additional exhibit space, focus on latest industry innovations

North America's largest construction trade show is right around the corner. CONEXPO-CON/AGG will return to the Las Vegas Convention Center on March 14-18, 2023. Held every three years, it features the latest in innovation and equipment from all sectors of the industry.

In addition to the approximately 1,800 exhibitors spread across 2.7 million square feet of exhibit

space, the show will also have more than 150 educational sessions that highlight the latest topics and industry trends. The sessions are grouped into tracks such as aggregates, asphalt, business best practices, earthmoving and site development, equipment management and maintenance, and more.

During the last show in 2020, construction of the new West Hall and adjacent Diamond Lot on the site of the old Gold Lot was underway, as was the Tesla-powered underground people mover called the LVCC Loop. Both projects are now completed, and CONEXPO-CON/AGG and the co-located International Fluid Power Exposition (IFPE) will make full use of them.

"AEM (Association of Equipment Manufacturers, a co-owner and operator of CONEXPO-CON/AGG) and our show committees of industry leaders are working to take advantage of everything that has changed in Las Vegas to deliver a top-notch event delivering the latest innovations and best practices to help construction pros take their businesses and careers to the next level," said Dana Wuesthoff, Show Director of CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2023. "Between the West Hall and Diamond Lot bringing a lot of displays

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Superior Broom	C31975
WIRTGEN GROUP	S5020 & W40844

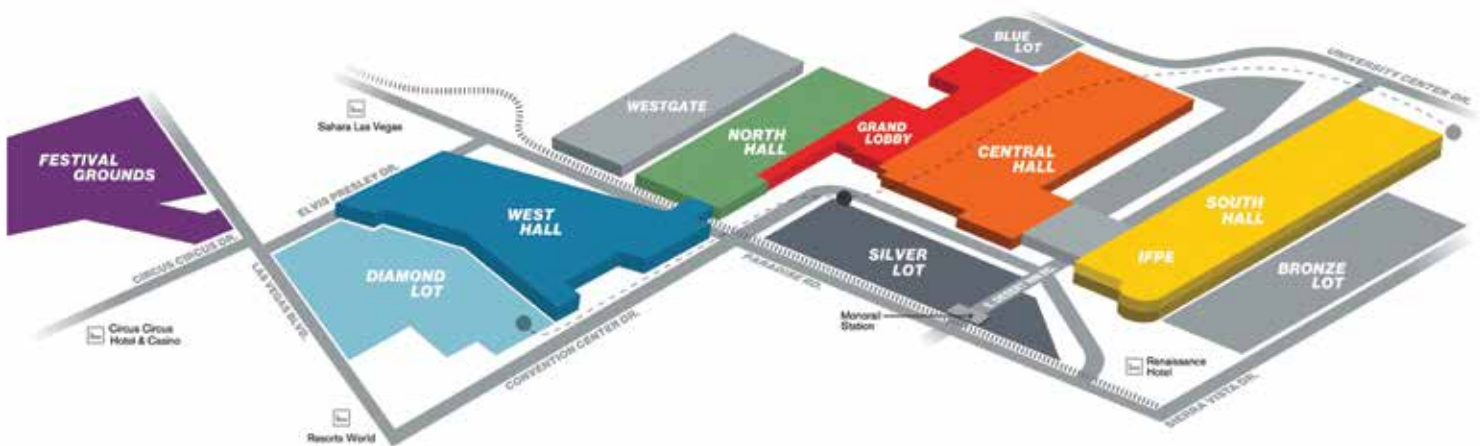
CONEXPO-CON/AGG gives attendees the opportunity to see and learn about the latest machinery and innovations in the construction industry. The experience includes the ability to climb inside of equipment and talk with industry experts.





# OVERVIEW MAP

CONEXPO  
CON/AGG



## CENTRAL HALL

Aggregates  
Asphalt  
Concrete  
Safety

## DIAMOND LOT

Business Operations  
Concrete  
Engines & Drivetrains  
Hauling  
Infrastructure Maint.  
Jobsite Support  
Land Clearing  
Portable Power  
Safety  
Technology Solutions  
Trucking  
Underground

## FESTIVAL GROUNDS

Earthmoving  
Lifting

## NORTH HALL

Business Operations  
Earthmoving  
Hauling  
Jobsite Support  
Land Clearing  
Lifting  
Safety  
Technology Solutions

## SILVER LOT

Aggregates  
Asphalt

## SOUTH HALL

**1<sup>ST</sup> LEVEL**  
Equipment Components  
Infrastructure Maint.  
Portable Power  
Trucking  
Underground  
**2<sup>ND</sup> LEVEL**  
IFPE  
Engines & Drivetrains

## WEST HALL

Earthmoving



Komatsu will have one of the largest booths (W42044) in the West Hall with close to 20 machines and its Smart Construction solutions on display.

closer to the rest of the show as well as serving as a connector to the Festival Lot and the LVCC Loop making it effortless to get across the entire Las Vegas Convention Center, it's never been easier for attendees to see everything they want to learn about when they get here."

## Easier to get around

With an additional 1.4 million square feet of indoor space — including 600,000 square feet of "technologically advanced" exhibit space — the West Hall will be a hub for earthmoving and material handling displays. Komatsu will have one of the largest booths (W42044) in the West Hall with close to 20 machines and its Smart Construction solutions on display.

The Diamond Lot will have a variety of exhibits such as business operations, hauling, portable power and underground construction.

The LVCC Loop will transport attendees and make stops in the South Hall, the Central Hall and the Diamond Lot. Attendees can use the on-site shuttle service to get from the West Hall to the Festival Lot, which has the show's largest exhibits.

## Next Level Awards

Another new feature at CONEXPO-CON/AGG and IFPE is the inaugural Next Level Awards

Program, which will celebrate exhibiting companies that are pushing the boundaries to develop next-level products, technologies and services that advance the construction industry. During the show, 10 finalists will be highlighted, and attendees can vote on-site to determine the Contractors' Top Choice.

The awards program is open to all 2023 exhibitors in good standing that have created products or services for the construction industry that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Addresses a common industry need in a unique and innovative way
- Benefits the industry across multiple applications for industrywide adoption
- Positively impacts the safety, sustainability and workforce of the industry

"We are excited to recognize the innovative construction products that are taking the industry to the next level," said Wuesthoff. "Exhibitors, large and small, have an opportunity to be recognized for driving ideas and developing products or services to advance the industry. This is an exciting addition to CONEXPO-CON/AGG and IFPE, and we strongly encourage exhibitors to enter." ■



Register for the show at  
CONEXPO-CON/AGG'S  
website: <https://www.conexpoconagg.com>.



# Which tight tail swing excavator is right for the job?



**Kurt Moncini,**  
Senior Product  
Manager,  
Komatsu

Ensuring high production when digging in tight spaces and confined job sites can be challenging. Machines with traditional counterweights may not be ideal because of the likelihood they could swing into an obstruction, making tight tail swing excavators a much better fit. However, with so many tight tail swing sizes and models available, choosing the right one for the job takes some careful consideration.

"Tight tails allow operators to be more efficient because they typically have better situational awareness and can concentrate on the task at hand while reducing the chances of swinging into an obstruction or into a lane of traffic," stated Kurt Moncini, Senior Product Manager, Komatsu. "Typically, the upper structure is revolving within the confines of the undercarriage, which is why they are great for a variety of tasks in urban areas, or where space is limited."

To increase versatility, consider adding attachments such as blades or breakers to your tight tail swing excavators. Most of the machines are already plumbed and ready to run the right-sized attachments.

### What's the digging depth?

According to Moncini, digging depth is an important consideration when choosing the right-sized tight tail swing excavator.

"Pipe typically comes in multiples of 8-foot sections, so taking that into consideration, I always like to look at the 8-foot level bottom digging depth because that's the maximum depth I can dig and excavate an 8-foot flat bottom section of trench," said Moncini. "As an example, if the required pipe run trench depth is 10 feet, my most efficient machine size will be one that can excavate an 8-foot level bottom to that depth. I need

to size the machine accordingly and try to go with the smallest tight tail that will do the job most efficiently."

### How much do I have to lift?

Lift capacity is another major factor in choosing the right excavator. While you want to be able to move the machine as little as possible, you need to consider what you may need to move on-site in addition to digging.

"If you are excavating utility trenches in an urban environment, there is a good chance you will have to handle trench boxes and set steel plates to cover up the trench at night, or you may have to pick up and install heavy concrete pipe or structures," said Moncini. "It's vital to have a machine with sufficient lift capacity to handle the job. Ideally, I really want to be able to handle over the side as much as I can lift in front."

Moncini added, "The heavier the required loads become, the bigger the machine I'm going to need. Having a machine that can also lift the materials off the trailer when they arrive is important too. I need to be able to lift, handle and place materials until it's time to use them, then have the ability to rehandle and lay them in the trench."

### Do I want versatility?

"Most smaller machines come standard with a blade, which extends versatility," said Moncini. "The ability to push material and backfill is an added advantage and may be able to eliminate an extra machine on the job."

Moncini also added that a blade can help you get better over-the-front lift capacity.

Additional tight tail swing versatility can be achieved by equipping the excavators with attachments such as breakers, but you must properly size them to the machine.

"If the job calls for breaking up old pavement or other concrete structures, you should first size the breaker for the task, then ensure the excavator is big enough to handle it and has the correct hydraulic flow to operate it," said Moncini. "There are a wide range of attachments — from compactors to mowers and more — that you can use with a tight







Komatsu manufactures eight tight tail swing models, ranging in size from the approximately 6,800-pound, 24.4-horsepower PC30MR-5 to the roughly 54,000-pound, 165-horsepower PC238USLC-11. "Tight tails allow operators to be more efficient because they typically have better situational awareness and can concentrate on the task at hand while reducing the chances of swinging into an obstruction or into a lane of traffic," stated Kurt Moncini, Senior Product Manager, Komatsu. "They are great for a variety of tasks in urban areas, as well as others, where space is limited."

tail swing. The good news is that most are already plumbed and ready for attachments."

### Which boom design is right for me?

Komatsu manufactures eight tight tail swing models, ranging in size from the approximately 6,800-pound, 24.4-horsepower PC30MR-5 to the roughly 54,000-pound, 165-horsepower PC238USLC-11. There are five MR (minimum-radius) models and three US (ultra-short) models.

"The MR excavators have a swing boom, and the US models have a standard boom," Moncini noted. "Our MR design allows the operator to pivot the boom left or right to get right next to a structure and dig parallel to the tracks, so they are much more versatile. The advantage of a standard boom is that it's a little lower price point. Additionally, the standard boom overextends toward the back of the machine to tuck the bucket in tight."

### What about tracks?

Track selection may play an important role when working in urban environments.

You want to avoid breaking up pavement, damaging sidewalks and ruining grassy areas.

"Having to fix an existing surface could be a major hit to your profit," said Moncini. "Our smaller tight tail swing excavators come standard with rubber-belted tracks. Not only do they minimize ground disturbance, but they are quieter and faster than steel tracks. Road liners, or conventional tracks with rubber pads, are very popular in our midsize to larger models when working on improved surfaces."

### Who can I talk to?

For additional information, Moncini suggests consulting with your Komatsu distributor.

"Our distributors have the knowledge and expertise to help you determine the right-sized machine to most effectively get the job done," said Moncini. "Tight tail swings can be excellent tools for limited-space job sites and can also offer high production in open areas too. If you are not using them, consider checking them out to increase your versatility." ■

*Editor's Note: To learn more about Komatsu's tight tail swing excavators, visit <https://www.komatsu.com/en/products/excavators>.*





# Proprietary iMC 2.0 promotes significant productivity gains and is now available on Komatsu PC490LCi-11 excavator



Learn more

### Quick Specs

#### Model

PC490LCi-11

#### Net Horsepower

359 hp

#### Operating Weight

105,670-107,850 lbs.

#### Bucket Capacity

1.47-4.15 cu. yd.

Designed to lessen the skills gap between new and experienced operators and help improve the bottom line for contractors, Komatsu's largest intelligent Machine Control (iMC) 2.0 excavator, the PC490LCi-11, offers sophisticated productivity-enhancing automation. An excellent match for excavation, trenching, slope work or fine grading, the PC490LCi-11 helps minimize over-excavation to empower operators to dig straight to grade quickly and accurately.

Built on Komatsu's iMC platform and developed with input from leading construction companies, iMC 2.0 offers additional new features.

### Upgraded iMC monitor

A new 10.4-inch iMC monitor features increased memory capacity, processing speed and pinch-to-zoom functionality in a smaller lightweight package for improved performance and ease of use.

### Bucket angle hold control

The new bucket angle hold control helps operators reach final grade with speed and precision. It automatically holds the bucket angle to the design surface during arm operation, enabling operators to perform finish grading using only arm input.

Both features build upon the semi-automatic functions that were part of the first generation of iMC excavators, including the ability to switch from manual to semi-automatic mode. The existing technology and new features can help increase production and efficiency while reducing costs. ■

The PC490LCi-11 is Komatsu's largest intelligent Machine Control (iMC) 2.0 excavator. It's an excellent match for excavation, trenching, slope work or fine grading. New features include an upgraded iMC monitor and bucket angle hold control.





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# Five ways drones can help reduce costs and increase efficiency on construction sites

**A**s technology continues to change the construction industry, a potentially dynamic investment companies can make isn't iron on the ground, but a drone in the sky.

Drones are more accessible than ever with relatively affordable prices and simple operating controls, which make it possible for any organization to start drone operation.

If you're ready to expand your fleet, here are five ways drones can help reduce costs and increase efficiency on your job sites.

### 1. Streamline communications

Being able to streamline information and connect your entire staff can help increase your workplace and job site efficiency.

With a timeline function, drones can take photographs from the same coordinates during the duration of a project to provide a timelapse of the progress. This can keep everyone up to date on the project's status.

"The drone technology allows us to have somebody go out and drone sites two to three times a week," said Greg Sutton, Vice President of Operations at Aspen Earthworks Inc. in Reno, Nev. "Even if I can't get out here and see what production has

happened on a site, I still feel like I visited the job site through the drone technology."

### 2. Spend less time surveying

Depending on the site, conventional surveying can take days — with drones, it can take minutes.

"I think the greatest change after adopting drones or being exposed to drone usage is using the high accuracy survey grade data that they provide," said Jason Anetsberger, Director of Customer Solutions at Komatsu. "Instead of having to walk a site or drive a site to map it terrestrially, they can now fly the site in a much larger area, in much higher resolution, in much less time, and get a highly accurate survey of that terrain. It has opened a whole new world for contractors to extract value from utilizing a drone."

A company can quickly and accurately collect objective data of its job site with a drone, and that information can be used to help increase productivity and efficiency in the field.

### 3. Get accurate material estimates

Having the incorrect number of materials for a project can waste time and money. On construction sites, drones can quickly provide a precise representation of the area, so you can get an accurate estimate of everything you will need for the project.

During a preconstruction flight, you can compare the real site to the engineer's model, which allows you to fix any miscalculations. By correcting those errors, companies can quickly see a return on investment.

"We had a customer recently who realized they had to move 40,000 cubic yards more than what the engineer quantities were saying they needed to do at the beginning of the job," said Jim Petry, Construction Project Modeler for Komatsu. "For them, that was a big revelation. That was the first time that they used a drone. They quickly found a lot of value in it. They can see where their cut and fills are on the site, where that is taking place, and if it's a large site, they can make better decisions on equipment."

With more accurate measurements in the early stages of projects, companies can adjust their

Drones are more accessible than ever with relatively affordable prices and simple operating controls, which make it possible for any organization to start drone operation.







**With a drone, a company can quickly and accurately collect objective data of its job site, and that information can be used to help increase productivity and efficiency in the field.**

fleets accordingly to help increase production and have more precise data collection throughout the process.

"Komatsu's Smart Construction Drone has enabled Aspen Earthworks to reach new levels," said Aspen Earthworks President Ryan Dustin. "With day-by-day information, it's enabled us to really dial in our estimating and our production rates that I believe have helped put us near the top of our market, and it was incredibly easy to get started. With that moment-by-moment information and real-time data, we can work with our project manager and superintendents to help us reorganize and redo the way we approach our dirt and utilities projects to increase efficacy."

#### **4. Connect clients to every site**

You can also use drone technology to quickly and accurately connect beneficiaries to the job site, which can help save time, avoid future headaches, and secure repeat clients.

"With drones, you can give clients confidence that they're getting the production that they're paying for," said Anetsberger. "That could help contractors secure future business. There's more trust in that relationship if you're feeding

them near-real-time data or opening a digital twin, so they can follow alongside."

Plus, drones can reduce the amount of time spent providing documentation for invoices.

"Instead of spending a day doing that conventionally, you're doing the flight in just a few minutes and can accurately compare that against the last flight to be able to put their invoices forward and get paid as progress moves along," said Petry.

#### **5. Create dynamic marketing content**

Aside from using drones for surveying, they can also be used to collect photographs and videos on job sites, or even at the office, that can be used for marketing, recruitment and public relations campaigns.

The maneuverability of drones can create dynamic photographs and videos that a person on the ground simply cannot easily replicate. Also, you don't have to cut into your marketing budget for a camera.

While any drone can adequately survey, photograph and record a job site, Anetsberger and Petry recommend a robust model if you want high accuracy with good stability to get the most out of your investment. ■



# Tomahawk Construction utilizes Komatsu's Smart Construction Remote to control costs and maximize efficiency



**Randall Hendra,**  
Project Surveyor

A mix of private, commercial and Department of Transportation (DOT) work keeps Tomahawk Construction and its approximately 90 employees busy year-round in Fort Myers, Fla. Established as a premier site development firm nearly 20 years ago, Randall Hendra came on board in 2014 to oversee surveying operations.

"I had my own surveying company and saw early on how GPS technology cut into my traditional role of surveying and staking sites," said Hendra. "Instead of fighting change, I decided to learn what GPS could accomplish. Since joining Tomahawk, we've transitioned from staking jobs to utilizing GPS technology for all of our projects."

With multiple active job sites spread across the greater Fort Myers area, Hendra is constantly monitoring job site progression. He relies on Komatsu's Smart Construction Remote — a software system that allows you to transfer files, support operators and locate machines from your computer — to work efficiently and keep projects on schedule.

"We do a lot of subdivision work, which means plans are continuously updating

and changing throughout the build," noted Hendra. "The demand for housing in the area means we're out the door and on the ground digging lakes and ponds before the plans are 100% finalized. With Smart Construction Remote, I'm able to update changes to our models and remotely send them to our GPS-equipped Komatsu machines without having to separately drive to each machine and install the file with a thumb drive.

"As soon as I upload the file to the machines, the operator can see the new plans and get to work," continued Hendra. "It's a huge time saver because I'm not driving an hour to each job site and tracking down each machine — it's just the stroke of a key, and I've saved myself half a day of work. From the operator's perspective, they're not wasting half a day following plans that have already changed. You can see how the cost savings and efficiency quickly build when you have multiple changes throughout the life of a project."

### Expanding equipment

Tomahawk Construction currently utilizes approximately 10 Komatsu intelligent Machine Control (iMC) dozers and excavators.



A Tomahawk Construction operator cuts a road in the early stages of a project with a Komatsu D51PXi-24 iMC dozer. "In our experience, nothing works as well as Komatsu," said Project Surveyor Randall Hendra. "With Smart Construction Remote, I'm able to update changes to our models and remotely send them to our GPS-equipped Komatsu machines without having to separately drive to each machine and install the file with a thumb drive."







## ▶ VIDEO

**Project Surveyor Randall Hendra monitors Tomahawk Construction's Komatsu iMC machines as well as its Topcon-equipped machines from his desk with Smart Construction Remote. "Between tracking machines, uploading files and remotely supporting our operators, Smart Construction Remote paired with Komatsu iMC equipment has greatly increased our efficiency," said Hendra.**



Soon, the firm will have about 30 machines capable of utilizing Smart Construction Remote because it works on Topcon systems as well as iMC machines.

"We've tried all brands of GPS-equipped machines, and in our experience, nothing works as well as Komatsu," stated Hendra. "You don't have to fix cables or masts or make little adjustments — you just set the dozer up, and it runs. You're also able to track where your machines are located, which impacts everything from efficiently moving machines between jobs to helping technicians locate machines for routine maintenance."

### Operator support

When an operator has a question about a project, Hendra can often use multiple Smart Construction Remote capabilities to resolve the problem quickly.

"Through Smart Construction Remote, on the monitor in my office I'm able to see exactly what an operator sees on the screen in their cab," explained Hendra. "If an operator calls

and explains that he's grading a road and it's not a 2% cross slope, I'm able to see what his screen shows and see exactly where he is located on the job site. I can take that information and compare it to the model, make any changes, then upload a new model to the machine with the proper cross slope without leaving my desk."

Hendra added, "I can also control the screen for any machine. If an operator gets into a different machine than they typically run and wants the screens to look a specific way, I can remotely adjust that for them. I can also update menus and delete old files to make sure our operators are using the most up-to-date version. Between tracking machines, uploading files and remotely supporting our operators, Smart Construction Remote paired with Komatsu iMC equipment has greatly increased our efficiency."

*\*\*The opinions expressed here are from the end users who are quoted. ■*



Watch the video





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# Komatsu's HD1500-8E0 helps increase production at quarry, aggregate and mining operations, keeps operators comfortable

Does your operation need an efficient 150-ton haulage solution that can deliver performance on grade while providing energy-saving technologies to help achieve lower fuel consumption? Komatsu's rigid frame off-highway haul truck, the HD1500-8E0, is purpose-built for mining, quarry and aggregate applications.

Delivering performance with a 1,570-net-horsepower, Tier 4 Final Komatsu engine, the HD1500-8E0 helps drive high levels of productivity. It has a seven-speed, fully automatic transmission with two configurable reverse speeds. Komatsu's advanced transmission with an optimum modulation control system provides electronic shift control with automatic clutch modulation. Optimized clutch engagement at every gear provides smoother shifting without losing torque, which offers a comfortable ride and helps reduce material spillage.

To promote productivity and control the life cycle costs of the truck, an integrated payload meter manages the payload of each hauling cycle by analyzing production volume and the working conditions of the machine.

"When designing the HD1500-8E0, Komatsu's focus was improving performance and durability and helping reduce total cost of ownership," said Sebastian Witkowski, Product Manager, Komatsu. "In addition to best-in-class speed on grade, and downhill brake retarding performance, the truck has a host of new efficiency and operator environment technologies."

The HD1500-8E0 is equipped with hydraulic, wet, multiple-disc brakes on all four wheels that act as a highly responsive retarder, providing operators with confidence at higher speeds when traveling downhill. Operators can also control their downhill descent by setting a desired travel speed with the automatic retard speed control

(ARSC), which applies the brake retarder to maintain the desired setting.

### Easy maneuverability

With a tight turning radius of 36 feet, 9 inches, operators in the HD1500-8E0 can maneuver in and out of tight spaces when spotting to be loaded or positioning to dump. Komatsu's Traction Control System (KTCS) provides excellent control in loose or slippery haul road conditions by monitoring the rear wheels for slippage and automatically applying pressure to the independent wheel brake assemblies.

The redesigned cab features a seat heater and ventilator, and the hydropneumatic suspension gives operators the smooth and comfortable ride they need for long shifts. Designed with a convenient layout, the ergonomic cab is equipped with an air-suspension seat to help dampen vibrations, and the low-noise engine, fan clutch and cab sealing provide a quiet, low-decibel operating environment. ■

**Komatsu's new HD1500-8E0 mechanical haul truck delivers high performance with less fuel consumption than its predecessor. It is purpose-built to increase production and efficiency in multiple applications.**



**Sebastian Witkowski,**  
Product Manager,  
Komatsu

### Quick Specs

**Model**  
HD1500-8E0

**Net Horsepower**  
1,570 hp

**Operating Weight**  
550,229 lbs.

**Rated Payload**  
153.2 tons

**Heaped Capacity**  
102 cu. yd.





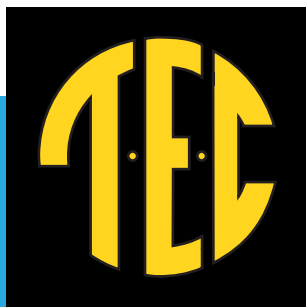
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# Tackle demanding forestry processing environments with Komatsu's new PC230F-11 swing machine

Your forestry crews need equipment that can deliver exceptional performance in difficult environments, control downtime and drive productivity. The robust design of Komatsu's new fuel-efficient PC230F-11 swing machine lets operators delimb, cut and stack.

Operators can more easily move large trees with the PC230F-11's powerful swing system and large swing circle. The machine has a reach of up to 29 feet and high maneuverability to help drive productivity. An extra-rugged exterior protects against falling limbs with a 1.26-inch-thick polycarbonate front window and metal designed to withstand demanding environments. Heavy-duty service undercover guards, thick rear compartment doors, and a right corner guard with a standard tree deflector help protect the processor.

Designed with a high and wide undercarriage, powerful swing motor and ability to withstand high-debris conditions, the PC230F-11 is backed by excellent service, easy access to parts and an industry-leading warranty. When operators are working in high-debris conditions, the wide-fin radiator is protected by heavy-duty forestry screens and a variable-pitch reversible fan that helps improve airflow.

Operators can quickly adjust to sudden changes in load weight without losing productivity with the Auto Power Max feature. It automatically senses the difference and reacts with a 7-second burst of additional horsepower to help pull the trees during the delimbing process.

**Komatsu's new PC230F-11 processor features a powerful swing system and large swing circle. It has a reach of up to 29 feet and high maneuverability to help drive productivity.**

### More fuel efficient

To reduce operator fatigue, the PC230F-11 provides a quiet, comfortable work environment. Cabs are climate-controlled and equipped with Bluetooth technology. The cushioned air-suspension seat can be heated and cooled.

The PC230F-11 can achieve exceptional performance with low fuel consumption thanks to a powerful PC290LL-class-size, factory-installed Komatsu Tier 4 Final engine.

Plus, operators can spend more time on the job and less time refueling with the additional fuel storage on the PC230F-11. The tank is in the rear of the carrier and built into the counterweight, which delivers double the fuel capacity. Because the fuel tank was moved to the rear, there is a large tool storage area on the side for the operator to store an extra 5-gallon bucket of oil, extra chains and other tools. ■

Learn more about the PC230F-11 and other forestry products at <https://www.komatsu.com/en/products/forestry/>.



Discover more

### Quick Specs

**Model**  
PC230F-11

**Net Horsepower**  
197 hp

**Operating Weight**  
67,516 lbs.

**Swing Torque**  
58,334 lbs.-ft.





# New Komatsu 951-1 six-wheeled harvester helps you harvest large hardwood trees



**Rob Warden,**  
Senior Product  
Manager,  
Komatsu

If you work in the woods, you want to know that your machine will be productive, even on tough assignments. Best suited for large hardwood tree harvesting, Komatsu's 951-1 six-wheeled harvester has robust features such as a multifunction hydraulic system, a powerful yet efficient engine, and excellent cold-weather starting.

One of the largest harvesters on the market at 50,243 pounds, the heart of the 951-1 is a 287-net-horsepower engine that features an ideal mix of power, torque and fuel economy. Komatsu optimized the engine for low working speeds, including a broad powerband and high-torque backup for challenging operations.

Despite its size, the harvester has excellent maneuverability thanks to key drivetrain technologies such as the Comfort Bogie

system with high ground clearance and enhanced traction.

"Like our other harvesters, the 951-1 features an auto-level cab to help keep it level, whether the machine is on flat ground or steep terrain," said Rob Warden, Senior Product Manager, Komatsu. "That keeps the operator comfortable and increases visibility during all operations, so they can be productive throughout their shift."

The 951-1 can also be paired with several high-performance Komatsu harvester heads to meet your specific needs. The most popular options for the 951-1 are the C144 and C164 carry-style heads as well as the S172 squeeze-style head. The C164 can handle trees with diameters of up to 36 inches.

Additional key features of the 951-1 harvester include:

- A three-pump hydraulic system that enables operators to perform multiple crane and head functions at the same time at full power, even when moving
- A powerful parallel crane with single control lever movement that extends the boom/arm on a parallel path and provides excellent lifting and slewing torque plus an industry-leading  $\pm 180$ -degree cab/crane rotation
- A special diesel heater system that heats the batteries, engine coolant, DEF (diesel exhaust fluid) and hydraulic oil to help ensure easy starting in cold conditions
- A spacious, automotive-quality cab that includes a large front window, an ergonomic seat, automatic climate control, sound-deadening measures, and heated and cooled meal storage
- An electrically operated engine hood and service points, so you rarely need to climb onto the machine for maintenance

"We encourage anyone who is interested to contact their Komatsu distributor and learn more," stated Warden. ■

## Quick Specs

Model	Net Horsepower	Operating Weight	Tractive Force
951-1	287 hp	50,243 lbs.	52,156 lbf.

Komatsu's 951-1 is one of the largest harvesters on the market at 50,243 pounds. Despite its size, the harvester has excellent maneuverability thanks to key drivetrain technologies such as the Comfort Bogie system with high ground clearance and enhanced traction.





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# Preventive maintenance clinics ensure your equipment is calibrated to optimum levels for high production



**Chris Wasik,**  
Director,  
Life Cycle Solutions,  
Komatsu

**M**any factors impact your equipment's productivity and health, including ambient temperatures, the operating environment, operator habits, regular maintenance, the quality of fluids and filters, and working applications.

Ignoring any of these can accelerate component wear and cause costly, unexpected failures as well as unplanned, extended downtime. Overall performance and operating efficiency can also be affected when pressures and speeds cause longer cycle times. A heavier burden on mechanical systems drives up fuel burn rates too.

A thorough preventive maintenance (PM) clinic provides a detailed inspection of your equipment, including a look inside to measure pump pressure, engine speeds, blowby, idle and cycle times, oil quality, internal component wear, and more.

### Minimize downtime

"The United States Department of Energy estimates a good proactive preventive

maintenance program paired with thorough machine recalibration and inspection, such as a PM clinic, can significantly save operations and maintenance costs compared to a reactive approach during a machine's life," said Chris Wasik, Director, Life Cycle Solutions, Komatsu.

When pressures or speeds deteriorate beyond adjustable ranges, planned replacement strategies for key parts or components can bring the machine back to a nearly new level of performance as well as minimize repair costs and downtime, according to Wasik. Measurements taken are compared to Komatsu's recommended operating ranges and can usually be calibrated to optimum levels for better machine performance.

"For a more detailed list of system measurements and checks performed during a standard PM clinic, consult your specific machine's shop manual," Wasik advised. "Check with your Komatsu distributor or dealer for specials and incentives when they conduct a PM clinic on your Komatsu equipment." ■

**A preventive maintenance (PM) clinic provides a detailed inspection of your equipment. Measurements are compared to Komatsu's recommended operating ranges and can usually be calibrated to optimum levels for better machine performance.**







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