

WOOD WORKS

A PUBLICATION FOR AND ABOUT C.N. WOOD CO., INC. CUSTOMERS • 2009 No. 2

NEW WHEEL LOADERS

Special features make WA470-6,
WA480-6 productive and efficient

See article inside . . .



Also inside:

NEW ENGLAND PUBLIC WORKS EXPO

C.N. Wood showcases specialized equipment at
30th annual show



KOMATSU

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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C.N. WOOD CO., INC.

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Dear Equipment User:

With economists speaking of an end to the recession, we believe the worst is over and we'll soon see a return of construction work and the workers who make projects happen. On a national level, some sectors, such as single-family housing, have stabilized and even risen.

As industry demands begin to rise, so will the need for equipment. Whether you buy or rent machinery, we at C.N. Wood are here to help you. Remember, incentives in the economic stimulus package can potentially save you in taxes through bonus depreciation and additional expensing when you purchase. Contact your sales representative or our credit office to learn more.

Of course, we believe we represent the best equipment manufacturers in the industry. Our Komatsu equipment is second-to-none, and this issue highlights why it's one of the world's leading manufacturers. Not only does it have utility, construction and mining machines, but it offers equipment that excels in specialty applications, such as waste handling (see articles inside this issue).

We're always looking for ways to better serve you. We appreciate your feedback, and in an effort to better do that, we've added a new page to your *Wood Works* magazine, titled Voices. It's a forum where you can ask us questions and express opinions to which we'll respond.



Also new for readers is an online video feature. Look for the video icon in an article, then visit www.videocpi.com to see Komatsu machinery in action.

Please feel free to call on us whether you're looking for equipment or parts and service to back it up. We've got what you need.

Sincerely,
C.N. WOOD COMPANY, INC.

Robert S. Benard
Chairman

**Some positive
signs point
to economic
recovery**



WOOD WORKS

IN THIS ISSUE

TRADE SHOW NEWS

Here's a recap of the 30th annual New England Public Works Expo where C.N. Wood featured an array of equipment.

GUEST OPINION

William Buechner, VP for Economics and Research for ARTBA explains why urgent action is needed to pass a new surface transportation bill.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Read about the measures construction industry groups are taking to speed up passage of a new highway bill in Congress.

INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS

Learn all about Komatsu's new line of purpose-built waste-handling machines that provide efficient production in tough applications.

NEW PRODUCTS

If you're looking for a small mining dozer, check out the new Komatsu D375A-6. It has the highest horsepower in its class, plus other features that add to its productivity.

MORE NEW PRODUCTS

Large-capacity torque converters head the list of features that make Komatsu's new WA470-6 and WA480-6 wheel loaders more productive and efficient.

PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT

See how improvements to the Komatsu WA150-6 wheel loader provide better productivity with increased fuel economy.

UTILITY PRODUCTS

Smaller is better when it comes to Komatsu's new WA50-6 utility wheel loader. Learn why.

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KOMATSU

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NEW ENGLAND PUBLIC WORKS EXPO

C.N. Wood showcases specialized equipment at 30th annual show



Town of Ayer Assistant Foreman Doug Jaspersen (in cab) and Department of Public Works Director Dan Nason check out the Trackless MT multipurpose machine.

One of the largest displays at the New England Public Works Expo, C.N. Wood's exhibit featured a number of machines.



How can something that's 30 years old be new? Visitors to this year's New England Public Works Expo could answer that in several ways.

First of all, the show moved to a new, more centralized location — the Wachusett Trade Center at the Courtyard Marriott in Fitchburg, Mass. Held on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, the new venue featured a larger exhibit space with both indoor and outdoor display areas and more than 100 vendors. The revamped show offered free admission, giving everyone interested in public works and construction an opportunity to check out the latest equipment and attend expo events.

Once again, C.N. Wood had a dominant presence at the show, with both indoor and outdoor displays. Specialized equipment took center stage in the displays, including an Elgin Pelican broom sweeper, an Elgin Eagle F street sweeper, a Trackless MT multipurpose machine



Enjoying the Expo are (L-R) Paul Simpson and Eddie Murray, heavy equipment operators for the town of Medfield, Mass., Highway Department, and C.N. Wood PSSR John Hann.



The C.N. Wood display featured this Elgin Eagle F street sweeper.



This Elgin Pelican broom sweeper garnered plenty of attention at the C. N. Wood booth.

with a snow blade, and a Vactor 2100 Series PD sewer cleaner.

Machines and more

Sponsored by the Massachusetts Highway Association, which was founded in 1873, the 30th annual show attracted municipal workers and contractors from all over the state. In addition to visiting vendor displays and checking out the new machinery, attendees could participate in the Snow Plow Rodeo, attend educational classes and enjoy a complimentary barbeque on both days of the show.

"This is always a good show and with the changes this year, it was really great," commented C.N. Wood Sales Rep Tim Ledogar. "It's an ideal way for municipal workers to see what's new in equipment. The show is also a good opportunity for us to meet with our customers at one location, answer their questions and help them find equipment solutions." ■



The outdoor display area was perfect for this large Vactor 2100 Series PD sewer cleaner.



(L-R) Assistant Foreman Doug Jaspersen and Department of Public Works Director Dan Nason, from the Town of Ayer Highway Department met with C.N. Wood Sales Rep Tim Ledogar at the Expo.



Fresh grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and bratwurst were on the menu at the free barbeque held both days of the New England Public Works Expo.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED

ARTBA economist says passing a new surface transportation bill equals second stimulus



William Buechner,
VP for Economics
and Research

A recent article on the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) Web site says delaying passage of a new, six-year federal surface transportation program investment bill could derail the entire stimulus effort to use infrastructure investment to create new jobs.

That's according to ARTBA Vice President for Economics and Research William R. Buechner, Ph.D., the nation's leading transportation construction industry economist. He addressed the issue at a media briefing in Washington where he said stimulus investment will be undercut without near-term action on the federal highway/transit bill. Buechner also said that inaction could have unintended consequences for the economy.

"We learned the hard way over the period 2001 through 2005 that uncertainty about long-term federal investment in state and local highway and transit programs, combined with a national recession and state budget problems, leads to an overall stagnated transportation construction market. Absent congressional action on a long-term surface transportation investment bill this year, the conditions

are again lined up to kill job growth in the construction sector and related industries."

The current surface transportation program authorization, SAFETEA-LU, expired on Sept. 30. Buechner says the June 2009 "Fiscal Survey of the States," conducted by the National Governors Association and the National Association of State Budget Officers, documents the funding problems now facing state transportation departments nationwide. The survey found nearly half of the states have already, or plan to, cut back on their own funding for transportation programs this year or next.

"The only bright spot in the in the transportation construction market this year is the additional federal funding made available to the states and local governments through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," Buechner says. "Unfortunately, due to state budget challenges, the stimulus funds are allowing some states to simply maintain their 2008 activity level. In other states, stimulus dollars, at best, are serving to make overall state transportation program cuts less severe."

Buechner said a multiyear investment is essential now. The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee has proposed legislation that would authorize a \$500 billion federal investment in roads, bridges, transit systems and high-speed rail during the next six years. Buechner says more than a half million jobs would be supported annually with such a plan.

"If Congress is looking for a second stimulus, they need look no further than the highway/transit/high-speed rail program authorization. There is no other bill under development or consideration in the Congress that would stimulate anywhere near the same job growth." ■

ARTBA's William Buechner said delaying a new surface transportation bill could derail the economic stimulus' effort to use infrastructure investment to create new jobs.



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CUSTOMWORKS

PALADIN HEAVY CONSTRUCTION

PUSHING THE ACCELERATOR

Construction industry groups urge Congress to speed up passage of new highway bill

Recent reports pointing to motor vehicle crashes and the cost of congestion on the nation's highways underscore what many see as the need for a significant and critical investment in a new surface transportation bill. And proponents of a new bill want it soon, as the current highway funding mechanism expired Sept. 30.

A new highway safety report shows that poor road conditions are the single most lethal contributing factor to motor vehicle crashes, contributing to more than 22,000 highway fatalities each year. That equates to about 53 percent of all deaths on roadways, outnumbering speeding, alcohol or nonuse of seatbelts. According to the study, these crashes cost the country more than \$200 billion each year.

A second study said the cost of congestion topped \$87 billion in 2007, but dropped last year due in part to the recession. The study showed the total amount of wasted fuel was more than 2.6 billion gallons and wasted time totaled 4.2 billion hours. A report from researchers who conducted the study said they expect congestion to increase as the economy rebounds.

Construction industry groups are pointing to the studies as well as other data to push for new comprehensive legislation to replace the current surface transportation bill known as SAFETEA-LU. Passed in 2005, SAFETEA-LU provided more than \$240 billion dollars and was tied to the Highway Trust Fund, which doles out money for transportation projects.

Funding in SAFETEA-LU ran out before its four-year term, and Congress had to pass emergency measures to inject nearly \$15 billion over the past year to keep the Highway Trust Fund afloat. The last such measure was passed in August, at about the same time the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee proposed a reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU that would invest \$500 billion over the next six years for roads, transit and high-speed rail.

Sooner, rather than later

No action has been taken on the proposed legislation, titled The Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009 (STAA). Instead, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood called for an extension of SAFETEA-LU of up to 18 months, with funding during the interim coming from the current gas tax and a transfer of money from the general fund into the Highway Trust Fund.

The idea behind the extension is to give representatives time to hammer out a bill that would address not only how much money the legislation would need, but how to pay for it as more fuel-efficient cars and public transportation have already and will continue to reduce tax revenues.

Construction industry organizations are pushing for a new bill sooner. So is Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., who along with colleague John Mica, R-Fla., introduced the six-year STAA reauthorization legislation.

The most recent federal highway bill, SAFETEA-LU expired Sept. 30, and discussion of a new bill has been tabled. Construction industry groups are calling for a new bill soon.





"In the past, during these periods of multiple short-term extensions of programs, state departments of transportation have slowed investment because of the uncertainty regarding the long-term projects until enactment of the reauthorization act," said Oberstar. "In this time of severe economic recession, the effects of any slowed investment could offset much of the benefits of the increased transportation investment provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)."

Under the ARRA, also known as the stimulus plan, \$27.5 billion was included for highways and bridges as part of an overall \$80 billion infrastructure package. Further legislation this year through the omnibus appropriations bill added another \$40 billion for highway construction in fiscal 2009. These monies are in addition to funds transferred as part of any extension of SAFETEA-LU.

Organization calls for long-term infusion

While all these funding mechanisms will help continue construction projects in the near term, proponents say a long-term view is necessary. Nearly all agree that updating the nation's surface roads and other infrastructure must be accelerated and longlasting.

The National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission, a congressional group, recently said that due to underfunding, "Our surface transportation system has deteriorated to such a degree that our safety, economic competitiveness and quality of

life are at risk." It says an infrastructure funding gap between what's available and what's needed will be nearly \$400 billion between 2010 and 2015 and will grow to more than \$2 trillion by 2035 unless dramatic steps are taken to find significant sources of revenue to update infrastructure.

Industry organizations agree a long-term view is critical, not only to updating infrastructure, but to the people who will put it in place. "A six-year bill gives you the projected funding level a contractor needs to justify investments," said Brian Deery, Senior Director of the Highway and Transportation Building Division of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) in a recent Fleet Owner magazine article. "When you realize the least-expensive piece of equipment a highway contractor buys is around \$100,000, with some costing more than \$1 million, you need a stable outlook for business in order to pay for all of that."

Economic analysts seem to agree that a massive infusion of money into surface transportation and other infrastructure will pay huge dividends. According to Mark Zandi, Chief Economist at Moody's Economy.com, every dollar of infrastructure spending returns between \$1.50 and \$1.75 while creating jobs. Ken Simonson, Chief Economist at AGC is also calling for a bigger investment in highways and other infrastructure.

"These bills will deliver both short- and long-term benefits to the American public, while providing desperately needed jobs for construction workers in every state," said Simonson. ■

Construction industry groups want a significant investment in highway construction.

U.S. Reps. James Oberstar and John Mica introduced a six-year highway bill, but it has yet to be acted on.

INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS

PURPOSE-BUILT MACHINES

Komatsu's waste-handling equipment provides efficient production in tough applications

W You already know Komatsu is a leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment. But what you may not know is that Komatsu also makes similar equipment for the waste industry that's designed to be productive and efficient while standing up to the rigors of handling trash, scrap and recycling materials.

Like their construction and mining brethren, waste-specific wheel loaders and dozers feature unique hydraulics, powertrains, frames and components engineered by Komatsu. They're designed to work together for higher production and greater reliability in landfills, transfer stations, scrap yards and other tough applications.

Even in demanding environments, operators remain highly productive. That's because Komatsu waste-handling machines have spacious operator work platforms with controls designed for ease of operation, even in rough conditions. Pressurized, low-noise and low-vibration ROPS/FOPS cabs keep the operator comfortable for better productivity throughout the day. Operator comfort is aided with a two-tier air-filtration system that cleans incoming and recirculated air to keep dust out.

Specifically made for waste transfer stations, Komatsu waste-handling wheel loaders feature guarding for the front frame, powertrain bottom, boom and cylinder hoses, and axle seals.

Because waste machines work in high-dust and high-debris applications, Komatsu beefed them up with additional guarding and other specific features to withstand the elements. All purpose-built loaders and dozers come with rugged guarding to protect components and the machine.

"Being productive and efficient in waste-handling applications is just as important as it is in construction and mining," said Mike Gidaspow, Product Manager Wheel Loaders. "That's why all of Komatsu's purpose-built machines come with features that stand up to the rigors of working in such conditions. Komatsu builds special standard features into its waste-handling loaders, such as fans that automatically reverse direction at a set interval to help keep coolers clean. This interval can be changed, or the operator can push a switch to reverse the fan, overriding the timer."

Komatsu powertrains help keep loader operating costs low

Komatsu's waste-handling wheel loaders were made specifically for waste transfer stations. To protect critical components, each machine — WA250-6, WA320-6, WA380-6, WA430-6 and WA470-6 — has guarding for the front frame, powertrain bottom, boom and cylinder hoses, and axle seals. Additional guarding protects headlights and taillights, the center hinge and the windshield.

On the WA380-6, WA430-6 and WA470-6, operators can select from two working modes: E mode for maximum fuel efficiency in general loading or P mode for maximum power in hard digging or hill climbing. A choice of two buckets, loading or pushing, to match the appropriate application is available as well. Each is made with high-strength steel, a spill guard that allows





excellent visibility and a visual bucket-level indicator. Both accept Komatsu standard bolt-on cutting edges and skid shoes.

"The WA250-6 and WA320-6 waste handlers have several features that further reduce owning and operating costs, specifically hydrostatic transmissions (HST) and variable traction control," noted Gidaspow. "HST allows high tractive effort for quick travel response and aggressive drive into the pile, while the full auto shift eliminates manual gear shifting and kick-down. Operators can control tractive effort to facilitate operation in soft and slippery conditions and eliminate excessive bucket penetration and reduce tire slippage during stockpiling and loading."

Dozers offer powerful push

Lockup torque converters and autoshift transmissions are part of the Komatsu landfill dozer package (D65EX-15SL, D85EX-15SL, D155AX-6SL and D275AX-5SL), which increases efficiency and saves fuel, according to Les Scott, Product Manager Dozers.

"That directly affects owning and operating costs, but only if the dozers can stand up to the challenge of constantly pushing materials that could potentially get into the machine and cause major damage," said Scott.

"That's why our landfill dozers are specially equipped with a chassis-seal package that closes gaps around the chassis where material could enter the engine compartment. We also have final-drive, pivot-shaft and idler-seal guards to help prevent debris from entering the oil-seal areas."

Komatsu protects exposed components with features such as trapezoidal track-shoe holes that minimize debris packing for extended track component life; front and rear striker bars that prevent debris from riding up the tracks and damaging fenders or the chassis; and an engine bottom guard with electric winch to simplify cleaning of the engine compartment.

Each dozer has a powerful engine to push mass amounts of material with the large-capacity blades equipped with trash racks. A landfill counterweight provides additional balance and stability. Scott noted that with a few modifications, landfill dozers could be adapted to work in wood chipping or other high-airborne-debris applications.

"The combination of the trash rack and additional counterweight keeps the tractor's center of gravity in the optimum location for pushing trash," explained Scott. "Operators appreciate that balance and how easy the dozers are to operate. They also like the visibility the machine offers, especially the area around the blade, because they can see the work area without straining."

Keeping maintenance on track

Komatsu engineered its waste machines for reduced maintenance downtime as well. Dozers and loaders have quick-opening doors that allow easy ground-level access to service points, including the radiator and fan for cleaning.

"All our machines come standard with KOMTRAX, so should a major issue arise, the

Lockup torque converters and autoshift transmissions in Komatsu's landfill dozers increase efficiency and save fuel. The dozers also come with additional guarding and other features that prevent debris from affecting performance.

Continued . . .

Unique Komatsu features make the difference

... continued

operator will see it immediately and can take corrective actions,” observed Scott, who noted that KOMTRAX will send an email alert to both the user and the distributor. “That helps reduce potential downtime, and KOMTRAX also

helps users better manage their machinery with information such as hours, machine utilization and maintenance schedules among other items. That’s just as beneficial in waste applications as it is in construction and mining.” ■

Komatsu introduces its Dash-8, purpose-built excavator for waste handling

Dusty, dirty environments create special challenges for heavy equipment, so building a machine to withstand such rigors while still being productive and efficient can be a tall order. Komatsu met the challenge head-on when it crafted its first excavator built specifically for handling waste materials, the PC200LC-8 Waste Spec Arrangement.

“The PC200LC-8 Waste Spec Arrangement fills out our PC200 lineup,” said Product Manager Armando Najera. “We worked extensively with customers in that market to build a machine that will give them better production and lower their owning and operating costs by increasing maintenance intervals so the focus is on getting the job done, not servicing the machine.

“Komatsu focused on a longer radiator clean-out interval,” Najera emphasized. “As an example, depending on the airborne debris levels, a normal machine would need a radiator cleanout every couple of hours compared to a couple of days for the Waste Spec. Service intervals are extended too, so the machine’s uptime is higher. That equates to lower owning and operating costs.”

The PC200LC-8 Waste Spec Arrangement also includes several ways to keep dust and debris from becoming a limiting factor to production. An engine precleaner on the outside of the machine cleans the air before it reaches the filter. A screening package that includes a perforated side door and top screens increases cooling airflow to the radiator while minimizing the size of the airborne materials entering the engine compartment. The perforated hood area reduces air velocity passing through the screens to reduce debris sticking.

Komatsu further made sure the engine stays cool by adding a cooler package with side-by-side, wide-core coolers — radiator, hydraulic oil and charge air — to



Komatsu’s new PC200LC-8 Waste Spec Arrangement is built for the rigors of waste handling in transfer stations, landfills and construction and demolition debris applications. Features such as wide core coolers keep the machine temperature down for better production even in the most severe environments.

help keep air flowing. Combined with the screen package and a faster fan speed, the wide-core coolers keep the temperature in the normal operating range.

“Just like our standard, Heavy-Duty and Thumb Spec models, the Waste Spec has an efficient Tier 3 engine that’s powerful, yet reduces emissions and is fuel-efficient,” said Najera. “It also has a spacious cab that, thanks to the advanced levels of filtration, stays clean and comfortable. That makes a difference, whether the PC200LC-8 Waste Spec Arrangement is working in a traditional open-air landfill, inside in a waste transfer station where it can be very dusty and hot, or in a construction and demolition debris application. It has the goods to handle any of those situations and more.” ■



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NEW PRODUCTS

POWERFUL NEW DOZER

New Komatsu D375A-6 has most horsepower in small mining dozer class

With the introduction of the new D375A-6, Komatsu has the most powerful machine in the small mining dozer class. Why is that important? Because it's what mining customers wanted from the dozer.

"About three years ago, we started conducting extensive face-to-face surveys and interviews with mining customers throughout North America," explained Rich Smith, Komatsu Product Manager-Mechanical Drive Equipment. "We went to all types of mines from Canada, Wyoming and Utah to Kentucky, West Virginia, Alabama and Texas — wherever companies were using dozers in the 70- to 80-ton class. We wanted to know what operators, equipment managers and

others thought of our D375A-5, and what they would do to improve it."

Komatsu learned dozer users liked the D375A-5 for its reliability, durability and comfort — but they wanted more power and productivity. So Komatsu designers and engineers went back to the drawing board and came up with the new D375A-6, which has 14 percent more horsepower than the previous model (610 horsepower compared to 525 horsepower in the Dash-5 version),

Continued . . .

Brief Specs on Komatsu D375A-6 Dozer

Model	Net hp	Operating Weight	Blade Capacity
D375A-6	610 hp	157,940 lbs.	28.8 cu. yd.
D375A-5	525 hp	148,382 lbs.	28.8 cu. yd.



Rich Smith,
Komatsu Product
Manager



Jackie Haney,
Komatsu Product
Marketing Manager



For more information
on the new D375A-6 —
and to see video of the
machine in action — go
to www.videocpi.com

At the request of customers throughout North America, Komatsu designed and built the new D375A-6 with more horsepower than both the previous Komatsu model and the top competitive machine in the small mining dozer class.



D375A-6 delivers power and versatility

... continued

and 5 percent more horsepower than its top competitor.

"It's a bigger, stronger, more powerful machine — period," said Smith. "In addition to the horsepower boost, its operating weight is almost 158,000 pounds, about 6 percent heavier than the D375A-5. We also gave it new hydraulics, based on the same system that's in Komatsu's world-renowned hydraulic excavators, to reduce parasitic horsepower loss. We also changed the blade profile to improve digging, carrying capacity and dozing efficiency. The end result is a machine that's not only more powerful, but also more productive."

Mining specs and more

Beyond the power boost, new hydraulics and a more productive blade profile, the new D375A-6 has a number of other standard features that improve machine performance.

In addition to having 14 percent more horsepower, the new D375A-6 offers excellent visibility and numerous mining specs as standard features, all of which contribute to substantially greater productivity.



These include:

- A large (seven-inch), multifunction LCD color monitor with self-diagnostic functions;
- VHMS, Komatsu's Vehicle Health Monitoring System for remote machine condition and operation evaluation;
- Numerous mining specs — from high-mounted headlights and centralized grease points to fast fuel fill and a maintenance service center;
- An automatic engine and lockup torque converter for excellent fuel efficiency.

"We have both power and economy work modes on the D375A-6, along with an eco-gauge on the monitor which lets the operator know when the machine is working in the most fuel-efficient manner," pointed out Product Marketing Manager Jackie Haney. "For example, in a slot-dozing application or something similar, the operator will use the full power (P) mode. Even in P mode, the D375A-6 uses 3 percent less fuel than the top competitor. But in a lighter application, the operator can drop down to the economy (E) mode, which will use 8 percent less fuel than the other brand. With the high cost of fuel, the eco-gauge is a tool that can help save owners a lot of money."

Not only is the D375A-6 more powerful and more fuel-efficient than its top competitor, Komatsu says when pushing a load, it also has faster travel speeds and faster cycle times, which mean greater production.

"With all it brings to the table, we believe the D375A-6 is the most versatile mining dozer in the marketplace, capable of almost limitless applications, and in many ways is the future of the mining dozer," said Smith. "We hope anybody who's in the market for this size of dozer will try the D375A-6 and discover the Komatsu difference for themselves."

For more information on how the D375A-6 can improve your operating performance in mining, quarry or heavy construction applications, call your sales representative or our nearest branch location. You can also go to www.videocpi.com to see video of the dozer in action. ■



MORE NEW PRODUCTS

NEW WHEEL LOADERS

Large-capacity torque converters head list of features that make WA470-6, WA480-6 productive and efficient

Komatsu grew its mid-size lineup of Tier 3-compliant wheel loaders with the addition of the WA470-6 and WA480-6 models, which feature large-capacity torque converters that provide excellent tractive effort, improved acceleration and improved climbing ability in a wide range of applications.

"The WA470-6 and WA480-6 are excellent in material handling; charging asphalt or concrete plants that use ramps to feed hoppers; general construction; load-and-carry and agricultural applications," said Rob Warden, Product Manager Wheel Loaders. "The large-capacity torque converters offer several benefits, including greater productivity in V-cycle loading applications; faster gear upshifting and ability to achieve higher gear ranges; and higher travel speed for load-and-carry or hopper feeding applications."

Those advantages offer increased production, while the large-capacity torque converters and Komatsu Tier 3 engines provide optimal power and efficiency for lower per-ton costs. Users can maximize power and efficiency by selecting from two operating modes. E mode provides maximum fuel efficiency for general loading, while P mode allows for maximum power in hard digging and hill climbing. An eco indicator informs the operator when the machine is maximizing fuel efficiency.

"Our studies show that these loaders increase production, while decreasing V-cycle times and fuel usage compared to previous models, no matter which mode is used," said Warden. "Those are major factors for choosing a WA470-6 or a WA480-6, but that's not the entire picture. We have other features that work to increase productivity and lower owning and operating costs."

Among them are spacious cabs designed to reduce operator fatigue and increase productivity. Wide, pillar-less, flat glass gives excellent visibility in all directions, and the viscous-mounted ROPS/FOPS structure offers low noise and vibration for better comfort. Air

Continued . . .



Rob Warden,
Product Manager
Wheel Loaders

Brief Specs on Komatsu WA470-6 and WA480-6 Wheel Loaders		
Model	WA470-6	WA480-6
Net hp	272 hp	299 hp
Operating Weight	51,850-52,150 lbs.	55,920-56,340 lbs.
Bucket Capacity	5.0-6.8 cu. yd.	5.4-8.0 cu. yd.
Breakout Force	41,927-45,660 lbs.	42,490-51,930 lbs.

Large-capacity torque converters in the WA470-6 and WA480-6 loaders provide excellent tractive effort, improved acceleration and increased climbing ability in a wide range of applications.



For more information on the new WA470-6 and WA480-6 wheel loaders — and to see video of the machines in action — go to www.videocpi.com



Improvements make new models best value in size class

... continued

conditioning is located in the front of the cab so the operator has increased seat reclining and backward slide adjustment. The new Pressure Proportional Control (PPC) levers provide fingertip control for easy operation. The lever console can be adjusted, along with the large arm rest, to suit individual operator needs.

Easy operation, maintenance

Along with fingertip controls, operation is easier with the automatic transmission with Electronically Controlled Modulation Valve (ECMV). The automatic transmission selects the proper gear speed based on conditions such as travel and engine speed. The ECMV allows for smooth gear and direction changes. With the touch of a finger, the operator can control a kick-down switch to automatically downshift from second to first when beginning a digging cycle. It automatically switches back to second in reverse. In addition, the kick-down switch activates the loader's Power mode when it's in first gear or Economy mode. It keeps the transmission in third or fourth gear when autoshift is selected.

Efficient operation and engines help keep costs down, and Komatsu added to that by building the WA470-6 and WA480-6 loaders with integrated production systems to create reliable machines with low maintenance costs and easy service access. Each is equipped with Komatsu's Equipment Management Monitoring System

(EMMS), which allows the operator to track machine function on an easy-to-read monitor. The standard automatic, reversible, hydraulic radiator fan allows the operator to quickly clean out the cooling system, either at a preset interval or instantly with the flip of a switch.

KOMTRAX comes standard

Equipment owners can further track machine performance and maintenance schedules with KOMTRAX, standard on both loaders. KOMTRAX offers information such as daily fuel consumption, working hours, hour meter, location, cautions and maintenance alerts using wireless technology. Users can log onto a secure Web site to find all the information they need to stay informed.

"There are a whole host of reasons for choosing a WA470-6 or a WA480-6," observed Warden. "They're efficient, productive and reliable in a wide range of applications, making them among the best value in their size class. Those who may have been using a WA450 or WA480 in the past, which the new models replace, will find that the new loaders will significantly outperform the previous models in terms of efficiency."

To see video of the machines, log onto www.videoapi.com. For more information on the WA470-6 and WA480-6 loaders, contact your sales representative, our nearest branch location or log onto www.komatsuamerica.com. ■

With the touch of a finger, the operator can control a kick-down switch to automatically downshift from second to first when beginning a digging cycle with the new WA470-6 and WA480-6. The machines will automatically switch back to second in reverse.



PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT

NEW WA150-6 WHEEL LOADER

Improvements to 98-hp loader provide better productivity with increased fuel economy

If good things come in small packages, the new Komatsu WA150-6 wheel loader is proof that adage is true. Featuring increased loading power, performance, efficiency and operator comfort, the 98-horsepower loader is ideal for utility, construction and agricultural applications, among others.

According to Mike Gidaspow, Komatsu Product Manager, Wheel Loaders, the WA150-6 has more horsepower than its predecessor, while offering better fuel economy and lower emissions.

In addition to the efficient, Tier 3-compliant engine, the WA150-6 incorporates a hydrostatic transmission (HST) that allocates only as much power as is needed for a given application while responding smoothly and quickly to varying job conditions. It automatically adjusts tractive effort so the operator gets quick travel response as well as aggressive drive into the pile.

The variable traction control function reduces tractive effort, virtually eliminating excessive bucket penetration and controlling tire slippage in wet and soft ground conditions. An S mode traction setting provides optimum driving force for operation on slippery surfaces, including snow removal on snow-covered surfaces. Having control over the loader's tractive effort helps the operator to be more productive and reduces tire wear.

"Komatsu gave the WA150-6 many of the standard upgrades it added to its other smaller construction wheel loaders — the WA200-6, WA250-6 and WA320-6," said Mike Gidaspow, Product Manager, Wheel Loaders. "It's an excellent fit for anyone needing a little more horsepower than our largest utility loaders. Similar to our other Dash-6 loaders, the WA150-6 is versatile, agile and offers efficiency without sacrificing power or production."

The operator also can easily see and control the load from the newly designed low-noise and low-vibration cab that has a wide pillarless windshield and a low-effort multifunction mono lever Pressure Proportion Control (PPC) system. The PPC system has a forward, neutral and reverse control switch for smooth and easy directional changes.

Lower maintenance costs

"Like all other new wheel loaders, the WA150-6 comes with the latest KOMTRAX technology that provides vital information such as fuel consumption, operating hours, working hours and alerts to help owners stay on top of maintenance schedules for maximum reliability and availability," said Gidaspow. "All these new features will help lower owning and operating costs and put more money in the owner's pocket." ■



Mike Gidaspow,
Product Manager,
Wheel Loaders

For more information about the WA150-6 wheel loader, contact your sales representative or your nearest branch location, or visit www.komatsuamerica.com.

Brief Specs on Komatsu WA150-6 Wheel Loader

Model	Net Horsepower	Operating Weight	Bucket Capacity	Breakout Force
WA150-6	98 hp	17,262-17,450 lbs.	1.7-2.2 cu.yd.	14,400-17,600 lbs.

Komatsu's new WA150-6 offers benefits such as more horsepower, better productivity and increased fuel efficiency compared to its predecessor.



"A GOOD FIT"

New Komatsu WA50-6 utility wheel loader offers big production features in small package



Robert Beesley,
Product Manager

Brief Specs on Komatsu WA50-6

Model
WA50-6

Net Horsepower
38.6 hp

Operating Weight
8,100-8,430 lbs.

Bucket Capacity
0.78 cu. yds.

There are times when smaller is better. That's the case with Komatsu's new WA50-6 wheel loader, which offers powerful versatility with a minimal footprint. It allows operators to work in tight quarters, such as small construction and landscaping projects where space is at a premium.

The WA50-6 also provides the production needed in open areas, such as backfilling a trench or stockpiling and loading materials in a small quarry, landscaping yard or other applications.

"Any contractor looking for a wheel loader that offers versatility in a variety of settings will find the WA50-6 a good fit," said Robert Beesley, Product Manager for Komatsu Utility Marketing Division. "Like all Komatsu products, it offers the benefits of high production with an efficient engine that helps lower the user's cost per yard."

Features include three-mode traction control that lets the operator choose the best one to fit the application. The P mode provides maximum rimpull for grading and excavating applications, while the N mode is for normal/moderate loading and carrying. The S mode virtually eliminates wheel slip for better performance in mud, snow and other soft or slick conditions.

To maximize productivity, the WA50-6 has an electric auto-leveler for the bucket and a floor-mounted inching pedal that allows operators to ease their way to a truck or trench. Rear-axle oscillation and a wraparound counterweight provide excellent stability and grading performance.

"Komatsu designed the WA50-6 for excellent operator visibility," noted Beesley. "The 'Delta Boom' loader design gives him a clear view of the work area, so even in tight quarters he can see obstructions and more easily avoid them."

A valuable tool

In addition to a better view, operators have a large walk-through work platform with an adjustable suspension seat. The WA50-6 has a standard two-post ROPS/FOPS canopy and offers an optional pillarless cab with front and rear glass.

"Like other new Komatsu products, it comes standard with KOMTRAX, so owners, operators and maintenance personnel can stay on top of scheduled maintenance and performance trends," said Beesley. "That, along with other productive features makes the WA50-6 a valuable tool for anyone who needs a small loader that can do a variety of jobs efficiently." ■

Komatsu's WA50-6 fits a variety of applications, including landscaping, small construction projects and small quarries.





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SAFETY ECONOMICS

Ten-year data shows “collaborative approach” significantly lowers incident numbers

Recent data shows America’s construction industry is safer than ever, highlighted by a 47-percent drop in fatality rates nationwide since 1998. At that time, a federal construction safety program focusing on a “collaborative safety approach” was put in place.

Known as Collaborative Safety Management, the collaborative approach is designed to make *everyone* responsible for jobsite safety, with construction workers watching out for and addressing safety violations. It replaced old thinking, which had federal and state safety inspectors searching for violations.

Data used in the analysis came from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and reflected OSHA total case incidence rates for the construction industry; OSHA days away from work (lost workday) incidence rates for the construction industry; total number of fatalities for the construction industry; total construction spending; construction fatality rate per \$1 billion invested in construction; annual average employment for the construction industry; and construction fatality rate per 100,000 workers.

At an event to release the data, Associated General Contractors (AGC) representatives noted there were 1.7 fatalities for every billion dollars invested in construction in 1998. Today, that number is .9, a 47-percent drop. Relative to the size of the construction work force, the fatality rate dropped from 12.9 to 9.6 per 100,000 construction workers from 2000 to 2008, a 25-percent decline.

Dramatic safety improvement

Further analysis showed a 38-percent drop in recordable safety incidents. “The

collaborative safety approach represented a significant shift in federal oversight when it was first introduced,” said the AGC. “The approach creates incentives for companies to find and fix safety problems before incidents occur, while maintaining strong penalties for companies that let safety problems lag until someone is hurt.”

According to the AGC, while the value and size of the construction market grew significantly during the time data was collected, the number of construction fatalities declined from 1,171 in 1998 to less than 1,000 eight years later, a 17-percent drop. Additionally, the construction safety incidence rate fell from 8.8 per 100 to 5.4, while the rate of injured construction workers missing work declined 42 percent from 3.3 per 100 to 1.9. ■

A collaborative safety approach makes everyone responsible for jobsite safety, with construction workers watching out for and addressing safety violations.



A BALANCING ACT

Komatsu VP of Parts says Komatsu is committed to efficiently supporting new and older machines



This is one of a series of articles based on interviews with key people at Komatsu discussing the company's commitment to its customers in the construction and mining industries — and their visions for the future.

Frank Pagura,
Vice President
of Parts

Frank Pagura has been Vice President of Parts at Komatsu since December 2005, after serving as Parts Planning and Coordination Manager, a position he took when he first joined Komatsu in 2004.

He grew up in Yonkers, N.Y., graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and was an active-duty officer in the Navy for six years. Following his time in the service, Pagura worked for an offshore drilling equipment manufacturer. He was a manager in parts purchasing and parts planning with the company.

Pagura says putting an inventory of parts together to support the varied lines of Komatsu equipment available is a balancing act.

"On one hand, because Komatsu equipment is built to last, there are numerous older machines in the marketplace. On the other, Komatsu is always developing and designing new lines of equipment. On the parts side, we have to be able to support both. We do that by working closely with research and development, our distributors and our customers to ensure we have the parts necessary to fulfill customer needs efficiently."

Pagura does a balancing act with his time as well, devoting time outside of work to his family, which includes wife, Trina, and their daughters Aimee and Abigail.

QUESTION: What is Komatsu currently doing to ensure parts availability?

ANSWER: Several things, most notably working closely with our distributors and customers to know what machines are in the field and what needs to be on the shelves to support them. In the past several years, we've upped our parts presence in North America by building eight regional parts depots to complement our main hub in Ripley, Tenn. They're strategically located to get parts to our distributor shelves quickly and efficiently. We have dedicated and continuous nightly trucking routes between Ripley, our regional parts depots and our distributor locations. The system helps us have a nearly 99-percent fill rate on next-day delivery on most parts and emergency orders. Plus, our distributors always have common wear parts and filters in stock, with additional parts on hand based on the number of machines and models they have in their area.

Another way we're ensuring the right parts are in the right place is by working with our KOMTRAX remote machining-monitoring team. Nearly all new Komatsu machines have KOMTRAX as standard equipment, and that allows us to monitor those machines' hours and service intervals. It's given us valuable data that we can use to schedule shipments and have necessary parts to distributor locations ahead of time, often without them ever having to contact us. So, if customers want to do service work themselves, all they have to do is contact the branch or stop in and pick those parts up. It's very efficient.

QUESTION: How else is technology playing a role in parts?

ANSWER: With KOMTRAX, our monitoring team knows if an error code pops up on



Each of Komatsu's eight regional parts depots carries a vast inventory of common wear parts and filters, as well as other parts to fulfill emergency orders. That's helped Komatsu have a nearly 99-percent fill rate on next-day orders.

a machine right away — often before the user even knows about it — and alerts the distributor. The distributor's service department can then dispatch a technician to the site where the machine is located. Because we know the error code, the distributor can tell the technician what to look for, and if parts are needed, the technician can swing into the nearest branch and pick up the part if he doesn't already have it. That avoids having to go to the machine and diagnose it first before possibly returning to get parts to make the repair.

Most technicians already carry a laptop computer to use for diagnostics. Now, we're loading them with valuable information regarding repairs, including the parts manuals for all Komatsu machines. If something comes up in the field, the technician can look up the machine model on the computer. If parts are needed, he can check availability at the distributor, regional depot and main hub at Ripley, and order genuine OEM parts.

QUESTION: Why use genuine Komatsu OEM parts?

ANSWER: The customer has made a significant investment in his equipment, and doesn't want to jeopardize that. Komatsu machines are engineered to the highest quality with components made specifically for our machinery. While customers may be able to find less-expensive "gray-market" parts, they



Eight regional parts depots, such as this one in Las Vegas, are strategically located throughout North America to ensure parts get to Komatsu distributors and customers efficiently.



Using the KOMTRAX remote machine-monitoring system, Komatsu is able to track new machines in the field and take a proactive approach to ensuring parts are on distributor shelves when customers need them to make repairs and do routine services.

run the risk of those not fitting or performing properly in Komatsu equipment. While they may save a little money up front, it could cost them more in the long run in downtime and money due to a catastrophic failure. Using properly installed OEM components that are warranted by Komatsu gives users peace of mind in knowing they've further invested in Komatsu quality.

QUESTION: What are you doing from the parts side to prepare for future machinery needs?

ANSWER: While having new machinery is exciting, it would be far less appealing to the customer if the support for it wasn't in place. That's why from the beginning of development on all new Komatsu machinery, the parts division is involved. No machinery goes onto the market without us having the necessary components in place to back it up. The challenge is to not only stock up for new models, but also to continue to keep a supply on hand to support the numerous older Komatsu machines that continue to run well into the thousands of hours. It's a balancing act, but one we've become very adept at. ■



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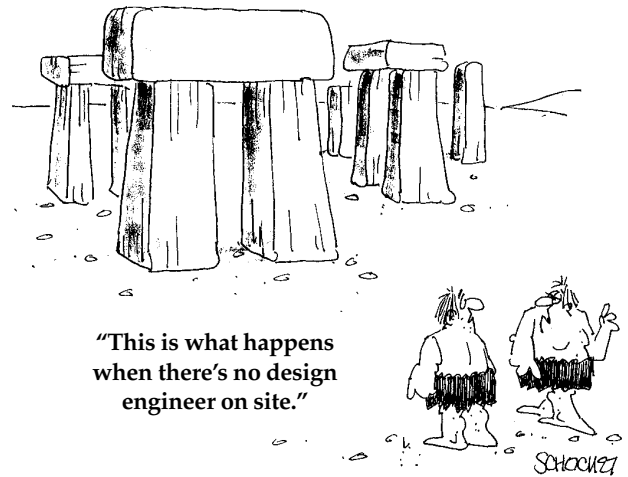
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SIDE TRACKS

On the light side



Did you know...

- Pound for pound, the silk that is produced by spiders is stronger than steel.
- The United States is the top producer of cheese in the world, with Wisconsin and California leading the states in production.
- Ninety-nine percent of pumpkins sold in the United States are for the sole purpose of decoration.
- It takes 12 honeybees to make one teaspoon of honey.
- Thirty to 40 gallons of sugar maple sap must be boiled down to make just one gallon of maple syrup.
- Istanbul, Turkey is the only city in the world located on two continents.
- It takes approximately 12 years for Jupiter to orbit the sun.
- A person uses approximately fifty-seven sheets of toilet paper each day.
- The only king without a moustache in a deck of cards is the king of hearts.
- There is enough concrete in the Hoover Dam to pave a two lane highway from San Francisco to New York.

Brain Teasers

Unscramble the letters to reveal some common construction-related words. Answers are on the right side of this page.

1. CHARULDISY _____
2. THOPRESIWF _____
3. STINOTCRUON _____
4. DURELIB _____
5. RONRCOTACST _____
6. KARTC _____

MORE INDUSTRY NEWS

E-Verify now a requirement for federal contractors

Contractors and subcontractors working on federal projects are now required to certify the employment eligibility of their workers through the Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify System. The system checks immigration status of current and prospective employees.

E-Verify is an automated system where employers enter I-9 information that's checked against government database records to verify employment eligibility. Contractors have 30 days from federal contract award date to enroll

in the program and verify employment status of their workers and new hires. Free to use, businesses can log in at www.everify.com.

Opposed by several business groups, E-Verify was mandated under President George W. Bush last year, but the requirement was delayed as courts studied its legality. A U.S. district court upheld the system.

E-Verify applies only to federal contractors, but legislation has been proposed to expand it to all employers. ■

First renewable-energy projects awarded under stimulus act

Grants totaling nearly \$503 million were awarded to companies developing renewable-energy projects. The grants, designed to double the country's renewable energy production in the coming years, are the first from about \$3 billion set aside under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Companies developing renewable energy facilities that use biomass, solar and wind, among others, were awarded grants that will go toward the production of about 840 megawatts of electricity, a 3-percent increase in U.S. renewable energy.

"These grants will help America's businesses launch clean-energy projects, putting

Americans back to work in good construction and manufacturing jobs," said Energy Secretary Steven Chu in a recent Reuters article.

Twelve projects received grants as the first round of payments went out, and the Obama administration hopes the numbers will climb as it set a goal of doubling U.S. renewable energy production over the next three years.

"This renewable energy program will spur the manufacture and development of clean energy in urban and rural America, allowing us to protect the environment, create good jobs and revitalize our nation's economy," said Treasury Secretary Timothy Geitner in the Reuters article. ■

Web site highlights construction career opportunities for service members

A new Web site called Good to Go (www.areyoug2g.com) has been set up by the construction industry group Helmets to Hardhats to help military service members prepare for reentry into civilian life. Among the Web site's highlights are career opportunities in the construction field that veterans may be interested in.

Service members can use customizable checklists covering such items as employment, housing and goal setting for the future.

Additional information is available with an emphasis on steps military personnel can take to make the transition from military life smoother, as well as information for family members as they prepare for a returning vet. ■

We want to know what's on your mind — and we want to share your thoughts with other industry professionals. VOICES gives you the opportunity to ask questions and comment on issues of interest regarding the construction industry, Komatsu equipment, articles you've seen in this magazine or other topics. VOICES will answer your questions, respond to your comments and address the issues you care about. We encourage you to join the conversation. You can do that by e-mailing your questions and comments to WoodWorksEditor@constpub.com



Here are the types of questions and comments we hope to receive:

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

QUESTION: *When will Tier 4 emission standards go into effect?*

ANSWER: Actually, Tier 4 regulations started in 2008 and will be phased in for non-road diesel engines through 2015. The EPA's goal is to reduce particulate matter and nitrous oxide emissions by 90 percent. Engines 25 horsepower and less had to meet Tier 4 standards beginning last year. The next set of requirements comes in 2011 when engines between 175 and 750 horsepower must meet the requirement, followed by 75- to 175-horsepower models.

Of course, manufacturers are encouraged to meet Tier 4 standards as quickly as possible. Similar to Tier 3 emission standards, Komatsu is already working to make sure it can deliver EPA-compliant machines as Tier 4 requirements are phased in.

QUESTION: *Can I run biodiesel in my Komatsu equipment?*

ANSWER: We urge extreme caution when considering biodiesel. Komatsu certifies its engines based on using prescribed EPA fuels; therefore, it does not certify any other fuels. It's the user's responsibility to use the correct fuel as recommended by Komatsu and allowed by the EPA or other local regulatory agencies.

Despite EPA specifications and standards, we believe the quality of available biodiesel remains inconsistent.

If you're thinking about using biodiesel, make sure you're only considering B5 to B20 blends. If you plan to use biodiesel in a Komatsu machine, it's imperative that the biodiesel is high-quality and meets or exceeds the specifications we've outlined. For more detailed information, visit Komatsu's Web site at www.komatsuamerica.com, and click on the press release tab.

COMMENTS & REPLIES

COMMENT: *Thanks for the article in the last issue about putting together a winning bid. I picked up some helpful tips and have already used them successfully.*

REPLY: We're glad to hear that. Many projects have been funded through the stimulus plan, and more are scheduled throughout the next year as the plan ramps up. Many of the projects have come in below engineers' estimates, and with the savings, additional projects will be funded. That means more opportunities to apply the tips. And we hope there are even more opportunities in the near future with passage of highway and infrastructure legislation. Those projects will benefit the industry and the overall economy while repairing and upgrading vital infrastructure. ■

THE PEOPLE INSIDE

ED VENINI

C.N. Wood Construction Service Manager focuses on always doing what's right for the customer

Although Construction Service Manager Ed Venini has only been with C.N. Wood for about a year, he brings many years of service management experience to the job. He also brings a teamwork approach and a focus on serving customers.

"I believe we must always take care of the customer, no matter what. That means the billing needs to be accurate, the parts need to be correct, we need to answer our phones and communicate with the customer. My focus is on making sure that we always do what's right for our customers."

With nine field service technicians and four inside the shop, Venini says training to keep them up-to-date on equipment is a priority. "We have a good group of guys with an average of more than 15 years of experience each. They all do a variety of online training and testing and have to pass certain courses before participating in factory training provided by Komatsu, Vector, Elgin and other lines C.N. Wood represents."



Ed Venini,
C.N. Wood Construction
Service Manager

Responsive field service

While having a well-trained service team is important, response speed is also critical. "It's usually more cost effective and efficient for our field service techs to go to customer jobsites, rather than have the customer transport the machine into the shop," he observed. "All our service techs have laptop computers so they can look up and order parts they need to work on customers' machines. They can stop by the nearest branch to pick up parts so they are ready when they get to the customer."

"We strive to respond within two to four hours of a call," he continued. "The quicker we get out to customers and get them up and running, the quicker they can get their job and their men back to work. We use GPS systems in our field service trucks so we know where our techs are and how to use the best person and their abilities for each field job."

Komatsu's KOMTRAX machine-monitoring system is a big advantage in keeping machines on the job, according to Venini. "We look at the KOMTRAX reports each morning and notify any customers with scheduled maintenance that's due or with any service issues that are indicated. If, for example, a fuel filter is starting to plug up, we can contact the customer and often, he will take care of it himself. That means a lot to the customer."

"Getting a customer's machine back in operation, his men back to work, his job moving along — everyone feels good about that. That's what customer service is and that's what I enjoy most," he concluded.

When Ed Venini isn't serving customers, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Gina, and their children David, 17, and Angela, 14, both of whom play hockey. ■

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