



WHEN DO SHORT-TERM RENTALS MAKE SENSE?

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Fuel efficiency is critical in earthmoving equipment

ADTs: Volvo new generation haulers top the class in safety, uptime and efficiency

CRUSHER BUCKETS: Revolutionising efficiency in South Africa's heavy industries

**MATERIALS
HANDLING**

Goscor Lift Trucks' lithium-ion battery revolution in underground mining

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JOHN DEERE





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FACTORS INFLUENCING MINING'S CAPITAL EQUIPMENT OUTLOOK



In 2023, the size of the global mining equipment market was estimated to be USD141,30-billion and was then expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5,2% in the six years between 2024 and 2030.

This growth rate is not higher because, in this period, digital mine innovation is expected to be embraced as there is improvement and innovation in extraction technologies, leading to better return on investments and extending the life of mines.

Ironically, the acceleration of improved extraction techniques happened during the Covid-pandemic when lockdown restrictions led to a transformation of the industry into one that works smarter, faster and more accurately. In addition,

there has been a move away from the use of conventional energy, such as fossil fuel, to drive mining equipment. Sustainable energy is increasingly embraced as this is more cost effective in the long run and, certainly in South Africa's case, more predictable.

In Southern Africa, conventional OEMs still account for the lion's share of mining equipment with the likes of Volvo, Caterpillar, Liebherr, and Komatsu taking a healthy market share. However, Asian OEMs are increasingly making inroads into the local capital equipment arena for mining as return of investment factors, logistics and perceptions improve.

Globally, there is a swift increase in the incorporation of artificial intelligence (AI) into mining equipment as this will lead to increased productivity and improved efficiency.

Of great significance is that smart data is increasingly being adopted in the extraction of minerals and the prediction is that OEMs that incorporate such technologies into machines, will see increased demands. This increased demand is for both surface mining and underground mining equipment – obviously each with its own set of demands for exactly what these technology and automated enhancements are. In underground mining, for instance, the effective transportation of mined

material is of utmost importance.

Therefore, the expectation is that capital equipment for underground applications will fuel increased developmental demands more.

In this issue

This issue illustrates just how there have been advancements for both surface and below the ground mining. Goscor Lift Trucks' lithium-ion battery in underground mining is a solution for underground mining locomotives (page 16).

The demand for efficiency, safety and sustainability in mining is one of the reasons Performance-Based Standards (PBS) vehicles are transforming the sector, offering optimised payloads, reduced fuel consumption, and enhanced road safety. We spoke to John Kettlewell, Chief Operations Officer, Mining at Unitrans, to understand how the company is pioneering PBS vehicle adoption in the mining sector (page 20).

In terms of surface mining, Volvo CE has once again raised the bar in the articulated hauler market with the introduction of its latest generation range of Articulated Dump Trucks. The newly unveiled A50 hauler is a standout addition, designed to bridge a gap in the market while delivering increased productivity, improved fuel efficiency, and unparalleled operator comfort (page 6). 🌐

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THEY ARE BOTH **MADE TO LEAD**



When a transport operator, with just four trucks, learns how to use data to save more fuel than his competitors, he is made. When a farmer learns he can use seasonal cash flow to pay for new trucks, he knows it is a deal made especially for him. He is made. When a bus operator's customers compliment him on his vehicle's quality and comfort, he understands that they were made for each other. When a sustainability pioneer uses data to watch his carbon footprint drop, he can already see the difference he's made. When a fleet manager can rely on technologically leading safety features to keep his drivers safe, he knows he's made the right call. When a procurement manager calculates how Preventative Maintenance can minimise downtime, his decision is made. When a driver can access 24/7 roadside support, with just one phone call, his day is made.

**It's why we know.
Leading transport operators aren't born.
THEY ARE MADE.**

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SCANIA



FUEL EFFICIENCY IS CRITICAL IN EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT

According to the Develon SA team, the cost of fuel is one of the largest operational expenses associated with earthmoving equipment. For this reason, fuel efficiency is a critical consideration in the selection, operation and management of earthmoving equipment.

“As industries - such as construction, mining and agriculture - face growing pressure to reduce costs, improve sustainability and meet stringent regulatory requirements, the focus on optimising fuel usage has become increasingly important,” explains Johann Viljoen, National Sales Manager at Develon South Africa. “Earthmoving equipment contributes to global carbon emissions, primarily through the combustion of diesel fuel. Enhancing fuel efficiency reduces the volume of fuel consumed and consequently, the amount of carbon dioxide and other pollutants released

into the atmosphere

“We believe equipment owners who prioritise fuel efficiency, achieve substantial cost savings over the lifecycle of their equipment, particularly in large-scale operations, where marginal gains in efficiency translate into significant financial benefits. Even greater cost savings are achieved with the introduction of a proper maintenance and operating training programme.

“We are seeing a greater trend where equipment manufacturers and equipment owners are implementing strategies to enhance fuel efficiency, recognising its significant impact on operational efficiencies,

costs and environmental performance.

“Our customers rely on easy access to quality branded machines that not only meet specific performance and safety requirements, but which also adhere to the need for greater fuel efficiency, extended service life and minimal maintenance requirements.

“The ongoing launch of new robust Develon machines into the local market reflects Develon’s commitment to ensuring the Southern African market keeps abreast with the latest equipment and advanced global trends for fuel economy in materials handling and earthmoving.

“Our diverse range of Develon equipment - including compact excavators for tight spaces, robust excavators, and wheel loaders for heavy-duty tasks - provides cost-efficient solutions for various applications in many industries.

“What’s also critical for our customers is the support of technical services, quality replacement parts and a dependable repair and maintenance facility.”

Viljoen highlights that all Develon machines are designed with advanced features tailored to the tough conditions of Africa’s construction and mining sectors.



QUICK TAKE



As industries - such as construction, mining and agriculture - face growing pressure to reduce costs, improve sustainability and meet stringent regulatory requirements, the focus on optimising fuel usage has become increasingly important.



Proper operator training ensures that equipment is correctly used to minimise unnecessary fuel consumption.



All Develon machines are designed with advanced features tailored to the tough conditions of Africa's construction and mining sectors.



Fuel efficiency in earthmoving equipment is a cornerstone of modern operational and environmental strategies.

Each model is engineered to ensure high performance, fuel efficiency, greater safety and minimal maintenance, allowing users to maximise output while minimising costs.

Develon's technological advancements for fuel economy comprise the latest engine designs and telematics solutions that also optimise performance. Engine improvements, including high-pressure fuel injection and turbocharging, maximise the energy extracted from fuel, further improving efficiency.

Telematics systems are another valuable tool for enhancing fuel efficiency. These systems enable real-time monitoring of equipment performance, providing operators and equipment owners with critical data-driven information regarding fuel consumption patterns, engine load and operational inefficiencies. This data enables equipment owners to implement targeted measures to improve efficiency - including training operators on best practices, optimising job site layouts and scheduling preventive maintenance to avoid mechanical issues that increase fuel usage.

Proper operator training ensures that equipment is correctly used to minimise unnecessary fuel consumption. For example,



excessive idling should be avoided and abrupt starts and stops must be reduced, while maintaining consistent engine loads. Additionally, careful planning and execution of tasks, including efficient route mapping and load optimisation, contribute to more effective fuel use.

Develon specialists note that maintenance practices are another critical factor in achieving optimal fuel efficiency. Regular servicing of earthmoving equipment - including timely oil changes, air filter replacements and tyre pressure checks - ensures that machines operate at peak

efficiency. Poor maintenance can result in increased fuel consumption, due to factors like clogged filters, worn components, or improper engine tuning.

In a nutshell, fuel efficiency in earthmoving equipment is a cornerstone of modern operational and environmental strategies. By adopting advanced technologies, implementing effective training and maintenance programmes and optimising operational practices, operators can achieve significant cost savings, extend the service life of machine, reduce their environmental impact and enhance overall performance. 🌱



VOLVO A50: PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF ARTICULATED HAULING

Capital Equipment News spoke with Lance Mannix, Head of Sales - Equipment at Babcock International Group, to discuss Volvo Construction Equipment's (Volvo CE) latest range of articulated haulers. By *Juanita Pienaar*.



The newly unveiled A50 hauler is a standout addition, designed to bridge a gap in the market while delivering increased productivity, improved fuel efficiency, and unparalleled operator comfort.

A new era in articulated hauling

Volvo CE has once again raised the bar in the articulated hauler market with the introduction of its latest generation models. The newly unveiled A50 hauler is a standout addition, designed to bridge a gap in the market while delivering increased productivity, improved fuel efficiency, and unparalleled operator comfort.

Lance Mannix of Babcock International Group, Volvo CE's distribution partner in southern Africa, confirms that the company will introduce the A35, A40, A45, and the new A50 in the near future (estimated arrival May/June 2025) (mid-2025) and the introduction of the A30 and A60 following later (dates unconfirmed at this stage).

"These models were specifically chosen as direct replacements for our existing proven range, with the A50 offering a new level of capability at 50 tonnes," he explains.

A50: Designed for performance

The A50 is the first of its size class to



feature full hydraulic suspension, setting it apart from competitors in terms of speed, comfort, and overall efficiency. According to Mannix, "The A50 will be offered with full hydraulic suspension, enabling faster and safer operating cycles while exerting less stress and strain on the operator, chassis, and drivetrain. This will translate into significant fuel savings, higher productivity, and reduced operator fatigue."

Volvo CE's proprietary Volvo Dynamic Drive and Terrain Memory technologies further enhance the machine's performance by intelligently adapting to site conditions. "These features allow for optimised gear selection and traction, improving fuel efficiency and reducing wear on critical components," Mannix adds.

Meeting the needs of the African market

Southern Africa's construction, mining and quarrying industries demand rugged, reliable equipment capable of handling extreme conditions. The new Volvo range, and particularly the A50, aligns perfectly with these requirements. "The improvements in quality, reliability, productivity and safety, coupled with lower fuel consumption, make these haulers a future-proof investment," says Mannix.

With features such as Haul Assist with On-Board Weighing, fleet operators can monitor and optimise loading and cycle times in real-time. "Site management can redirect machines to alternate loading areas to minimise queuing and improve efficiency," he explains.

Sustainability at the core

As part of Volvo CE's commitment to sustainability, the new range of articulated haulers incorporates low-carbon emission steel, produced using fossil-free electricity and biogas. "This demonstrates Volvo CE's dedication to providing sustainable solutions while ensuring effective and cost-efficient end-of-life recycling," Mannix notes.

Seamless integration and support

One of the key considerations for fleet operators is the ability to integrate new machinery into existing fleet management systems. Volvo's new range ensures seamless connectivity, allowing for comprehensive monitoring and data-driven decision-making. "The Volvo system connects effortlessly with existing fleet management solutions, ensuring smooth operations and enhanced productivity," says Mannix.

To further support businesses investing





in the new haulers, Babcock offers customisable service and maintenance plans, as well as various extended warranty options. "We have a vast network of 20 branches across the region, ensuring thorough parts coverage and continuous monitoring of demand," he highlights.

Market response and looking ahead

Since the global unveiling of the new series haulers at Volvo Days 2024 in Sweden, the response has been overwhelmingly positive. "Customers who attended the event were excited by the enhancements and the addition of the A50 to the lineup," Mannix reports.

With increasing competition in the articulated hauler market, Volvo CE's commitment to innovation and safety gives it a distinct advantage. "By incorporating advanced safety and productivity systems into an already class-leading product, Volvo ensures that its machines remain ahead of the curve," he asserts.

Looking ahead, Volvo CE continues to prioritise research and development, ensuring that its equipment remains at the forefront of the industry. "Volvo is constantly incorporating cutting-edge technology and design to maintain its global leadership in construction equipment," Mannix concludes.

With the introduction of the A50, Volvo CE has once again demonstrated its commitment to pushing the boundaries of articulated hauling. Offering unmatched performance, sustainability, and digital integration, the A50 is set to make a significant impact on the construction and mining industries in Southern Africa and beyond. Fleet operators looking for a high-performance, future-ready solution need look no further than Volvo's latest innovation. 🌱

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REVOLUTIONISING EFFICIENCY IN SOUTH AFRICA'S HEAVY INDUSTRIES

Capital Equipment News spoke with MB Crusher's Press Office to discuss the company's impact on South Africa's industrial landscape and its commitment to efficiency, innovation, and sustainability. By Juanita Pienaar.

Expanding presence in South Africa

MB Crusher, an Italian company known for designing and manufacturing jaw crusher buckets, screening buckets, shaft screeners, drum cutters, and grapples, has cemented its presence in South Africa's construction and demolition, recycling, quarrying, and roadwork sectors. With a growing customer base, the company's solutions are making a significant impact on efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

"Our company can count on many customers in South Africa who have given great references for our products,"

said MB Crusher's Press Office. "Our products are versatile and provide solutions for various industries, including demolition, excavation, roadworks, recycling, quarrying, and mining."

Meeting industry-specific needs

MB Crusher's range of attachments offers considerable advantages for different sectors in South Africa. Whether in demolition and construction, roadwork maintenance, or quarrying, their tools provide cost and time savings while enhancing site efficiency.

"Our selection of smart and versatile

attachments, suitable for any kind of heavy machinery—including excavators, loaders, skid steers, and backhoe loaders—helps cut down operational and logistical costs, reduces the need for additional machinery, and minimises waste," MB Crusher's Press Office explained.

Constant innovation and customer-driven development

MB Crusher's commitment to innovation is a key driver of its success. The company continuously expands its product line based on customer feedback and industry needs.

"Several products have been added to our range in recent years. We are always listening to customers' needs, ready to perfect our machinery and fill the gaps," said the spokesperson. "All I can say for the very near future is ... stay tuned."



Tailored solutions for the South African market

MB Crusher's attachments are designed based on real-world demands. The company gathers insights from professionals on the ground to refine its products. "Every day, we speak with customers worldwide to collect ideas, proposals, and improvements. The company will be at Bauma 2025. There, visitors can find out more about the products, see Live Demonstrations, and be the first to find out what is next for MB Crusher.

Proven performance: South African success stories

Several South African companies have already experienced the benefits of MB Crusher's equipment. Case studies highlight the efficiency and effectiveness of their solutions.

"Check out our testimonials to hear directly from our customers," MB Crusher's Press Office recommended, referring to success stories available on MB Crusher's website. One standout case involved replacing three machines with just one MB Crusher unit, significantly cutting costs and improving site efficiency.

Another case study showcased how MB Crusher equipment transformed farm operations in Winterton South Africa. Yet another company, this one in Hermanus, turned waste material into valuable aggregate, crushing the inert materials of an entire demolished house in just 2-3 days.

Addressing South Africa's unique challenges

With diverse terrains and demanding

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MB Crusher's commitment to innovation is a key driver of its success. The company continuously expands its product line based on customer feedback and industry needs.

With diverse terrains and demanding conditions, South Africa presents unique challenges for heavy industries. MB Crusher's adaptable units provide robust solutions across different environments.

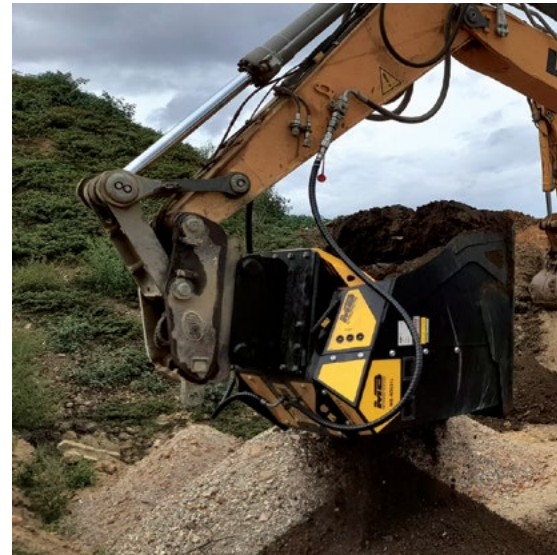
conditions, South Africa presents unique challenges for heavy industries. MB Crusher's adaptable units provide robust solutions across different environments.

"Versatility and adaptability are our strengths," MB Crusher's Press Office affirmed. "MB Crusher's attachments work with the hydraulics of the machines they are installed on. No matter how harsh the conditions, our machines are designed to handle extreme environments and process even the toughest materials."

Promoting sustainability in construction and mining

Sustainability is a growing concern, and MB Crusher is committed to supporting eco-friendly practices.

"Our attention to the environment is one of our core values," the spokesperson stated. "We encourage companies to use our attachments instead of standalone machines, which substantially cuts down CO₂ emissions. By integrating MB Crushers on job sites, companies can drastically reduce the number



of trucks in and out of the site. Our units support circular economy principles, helping to reduce dependence on virgin materials and lower carbon footprints.”

Cost and resource optimisation

South African businesses using MB Crusher’s equipment can expect significant cost savings and improved resource efficiency.

“By integrating our units, companies can eliminate the need for additional machinery, reduce fuel consumption, and process materials directly on-site. This means avoiding transportation costs for waste disposal or purchasing new aggregate materials. Crushed and screened materials can be repurposed immediately for construction, road maintenance, or backfilling,” MB Crusher’s Press Office explained.



The ability to work continuously without major interruptions also reduces downtime and labour costs. "Our units are designed to handle extreme conditions, enabling operations in remote or challenging locations while maintaining efficiency and reliability," they added.

Comprehensive after-sales support

MB Crusher ensures that South African customers receive strong technical assistance and after-sales support.

"Each unit comes with its own unique B2B access code, providing a direct line to our expert support team. This ensures

that any questions or maintenance needs are addressed quickly, even when our customers are out in the field," MB Crusher's Press Office noted.

The MB Crusher promise

For South African companies considering MB Crusher products, the message is clear: "We truly recommend professionals start looking at our products if they want to save time and money," the spokesperson emphasised. "Our solutions transform waste into a resource, allowing companies to work better, faster, and increase revenue. This is what we offer." ♻️



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OPTIMISING EQUIPMENT PERFORMANCE WITH SKF'S INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS

Capital Equipment News' Juanita Pienaar spoke with Saien Rugdeo, SKF Sales Manager South Africa & Distribution Development Africa, to discuss how the company's innovative bearing technologies, lubrication systems, and sealing solutions are transforming maintenance practices across key industries.

A holistic approach to machine reliability

SKF South Africa is renowned for providing integrated bearing solutions, offering a comprehensive range of products and services designed to enhance machine reliability and reduce the total cost of ownership. "SKF offers a full range of integrated bearing solutions that include unique bearing technologies, lubrication systems, sealing solutions, and a wide array of mechanical engineering and asset management services," said Rugdeo. This approach ensures that all components work harmoniously, leading to improved efficiency and durability.

A key differentiator for SKF is its position as an original equipment manufacturer (OEM), which allows it to develop and integrate these technologies with unmatched expertise. Additionally, SKF's robust supply chain system connects local distributors directly to its European Distribution Centre and global manufacturing facilities, ensuring timely product availability and support.

Enhancing machine life through innovation

SKF's bearing technologies are engineered to handle high loads and speeds while reducing friction and wear. These solutions include ball bearings, roller bearings, and plain bearings, each tailored to specific applications. SKF also provides automatic lubrication systems that ensure the right amount of lubricant is applied at the right time. "These systems reduce the risk of over- or under-lubrication, extending the life of bearings and maintaining optimal operating conditions even in harsh environments," explained Rugdeo.

Sealing solutions play a critical role in SKF's integrated approach, protecting bearings from contaminants such as dust, dirt, and moisture. "By combining our bearings, lubrication systems, and sealing solutions, we create a synergy that significantly enhances machine reliability, reduces maintenance costs, and extends equipment life," Rugdeo added.

Supporting South Africa's key industries

SKF operates across multiple industries, including mining, mineral processing, cement, metals, food and beverage, agriculture, and high-speed applications. In the mining sector, where equipment reliability is crucial, SKF provides bearing remanufacturing services that refurbish used bearings to a like-new condition, reducing costs and downtime. "Our condition monitoring solutions, including vibration analysis, thermography, and oil analysis,



SKF South Africa is renowned for providing integrated bearing solutions, offering a comprehensive range of products and services designed to enhance machine reliability and reduce the total cost of ownership.



The company has committed to decarbonising operations by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions across its supply chain by 2050.



Sealing solutions play a critical role in SKF's integrated approach, protecting bearings from contaminants such as dust, dirt, and moisture.



A notable example of SKF's impact is its collaboration with a leading cement manufacturer facing persistent issues with the bearings in their vertical mills.

help detect potential issues before they lead to equipment failure," said Rugdeo.

In addition to remanufacturing, SKF's automated lubrication systems are tailored to the demanding conditions of mining operations, ensuring consistent lubrication and minimising wear and tear on components. Engineering and technical support, including on-site assessments and training, further assist mining companies in optimising equipment performance.

Real-world success: Extending equipment life

A notable example of SKF's impact is its collaboration with a leading cement manufacturer facing persistent issues with the bearings in their vertical mills. Frequent wear and tear led to unplanned downtime, disrupting operations. SKF recommended remanufacturing the existing bearings, a process that included a thorough inspection, cleaning, and precision reconditioning. "Our expertise ensured that the refurbished bearings met the highest quality and performance specifications, ultimately extending their service life and improving reliability," shared Rugdeo.

Another successful project involved SKF Zambia's collaboration with SKF South Africa to optimise maintenance practices at a Zambian processing plant. The customer

had taken over a plant with substandard maintenance practices and sought SKF's expertise. SKF Zambia, in partnership with authorised distributor METMIN Zambia, presented a list of 25 maintenance tools under the MaPro (Maintenance Products) line, which the customer promptly ordered. "There is a direct correlation between poor maintenance procedures and premature equipment failure, with all the associated costs of downtime and production losses," noted Rugdeo.

Following this, SKF proposed an online lubrication system for six mills at a cooking oil process plant. "By implementing this system, we ensured accurate and timely lubrication, preventing over- and under-lubrication, reducing costs, and improving reliability," explained Rugdeo. SKF Zambia is responsible for installing and commissioning the lubrication systems, with SKF South Africa providing ongoing customer support.

The role of predictive maintenance and condition monitoring

SKF integrates predictive maintenance and condition monitoring into its asset management strategies, leveraging advanced analytics to anticipate potential failures. "Predictive maintenance allows for just-in-time interventions, preventing unplanned downtime and reducing maintenance costs," explained Rugdeo.

SKF's Automated Machine Learning (AutoML) solutions combine process data with vibration and temperature analysis to identify anomalies, enabling proactive decision-making.

Real-time condition monitoring provides continuous assessment of machinery health, offering early warnings of potential failures. "By addressing problems before they escalate, companies can better plan maintenance, optimise spare parts management, and reduce the risk of catastrophic equipment failures," said Rugdeo.

Reducing total cost of ownership and promoting sustainability

SKF is committed to reducing the total cost of ownership for businesses in the aftermarket sector through durable and efficient products, predictive maintenance, and remanufacturing services. Rugdeo noted, "by refurbishing used bearings to like-new condition, we extend component life, reduce waste, and lower overall costs."

Additionally, SKF's sustainability efforts align with global environmental goals. The company has committed to decarbonising operations by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions across its supply chain by 2050. "We actively work to make our products lighter, more efficient, and longer-lasting while minimising environmental impact," said Rugdeo. SKF's sustainability framework, SKF Care, includes initiatives focused on reducing energy consumption, promoting circular economy principles, and ensuring ethical business practices.

Investing in skills development and future technologies

SKF recognises the importance of skills development and offers extensive training programmes for its customers. These range from online courses to hands-on mentoring and customised training programmes tailored to specific industry needs. "We ensure that maintenance teams are equipped with the necessary skills to optimise equipment performance and implement best practices," said Rugdeo.

Looking ahead, SKF South Africa is expanding its engineering team and service offerings to support new technologies. "We are prioritising the development of products that are more efficient, durable, and repairable, enhancing our customers' rotating equipment performance while reducing their environmental footprint," concluded Rugdeo.

By leveraging integrated solutions, predictive maintenance, and sustainable practices, SKF South Africa continues to support industries in optimising their maintenance strategies, reducing costs, and improving overall operational efficiency. 🌱



GOSCOR LIFT TRUCKS' LITHIUM-ION BATTERY REVOLUTION IN UNDERGROUND MINING

Revolutionising underground mining with lithium-ion technology

Underground mining is an industry where efficiency, safety, and cost management are paramount. Traditionally, lead-acid batteries have powered underground locomotives, but Goscor Lift Trucks is leading a transformative shift with its cutting-edge lithium-ion battery solution. Designed and manufactured locally for the mining industry, this battery technology is set to redefine operational efficiency, safety, and sustainability in underground mining.

Goscor Lift Trucks (GLT), part of the Goscor Group, has been a leading provider of forklifts and materials handling solutions since 1984. As the sole distributor for Bendi, Bobcat,

Capital Equipment News' Juanita Pienaar spoke with Dipak Madhav, General Manager Pre-Owned and Batteries at Goscor Lift Trucks, about the company's innovative lithium-ion battery solution for underground mining locomotives.

TALKING POINT



"Our lithium-ion locomotive battery is a game-changer for underground mining operations."

Dipak Madhav, General Manager Pre-Owned and Batteries at Goscor Lift Trucks.

Crown, DEC, Movexx, and Sunlight Batteries, GLT offers a comprehensive range of electric and diesel-powered forklifts, backed by exceptional after-sales service.

Catering to industries like warehousing, logistics, manufacturing, and retail, GLT provides tailored solutions, including equipment sales, rentals, fleet management, and maintenance. The company has also expanded into battery and energy storage solutions, driving innovation in mining materials handling with lithium-ion technology.

“Our lithium-ion locomotive battery is a game-changer for underground mining operations,” says Dipak Madhav. “It increases tramming capacity, enhances safety, reduces maintenance, and significantly lowers the total cost of ownership compared to traditional lead-acid batteries.”

Boosting productivity and efficiency

One of the standout benefits of Goscor Lift Trucks’ lithium-ion battery solution is its ability to increase tramming capacity by 25-30% per shift. This is achieved by eliminating congestion at battery bays, as the battery can be charged while still on the locomotive. “With lead-acid batteries, mining operations had to rely on battery swapping, causing delays and requiring additional infrastructure. Our lithium solution eliminates this bottleneck, allowing for continuous operations with minimal downtime,” explains Madhav.

The lithium-ion battery charges in just two hours, a significant improvement over the eight-hour charging time of traditional lead-acid batteries. “This means locomotives can be charged between shifts, ensuring they are always available for operations. It optimises shift schedules and reduces the need for extra locomotives to compensate for charging delays,” he adds.


Safety first: Enhancing mine worker protection

Safety is a critical concern in underground mining, and Goscor lift Trucks’ lithium-ion batteries offer significant improvements over traditional options. Unlike lead-acid batteries, which produce hydrogen gas during charging - posing a fire and explosion risk - lithium-ion batteries are equipped with an advanced Battery Management System (BMS) that regulates temperature, voltage, and current, preventing overheating and thermal runaway.


“The additional safety train remains coupled at all times, reducing the risk of injuries from battery handling and




QUICK TAKE




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In an era where sustainability is increasingly a priority, lithium-ion battery solutions offer a greener alternative to traditional lead-acid batteries.

locomotive-to-hopper uncoupling,” says Madhav. “There’s no need for miners to manually handle batteries, which not only improves worker safety but also streamlines operations.”

Furthermore, lithium-ion batteries do not require electrolyte refilling or maintenance, reducing the risk of chemical spills and exposure to hazardous substances. “Our solution is not only safer but also ensures a cleaner, healthier work environment underground,” he adds.

Lowering costs and simplifying infrastructure

GLT’s lithium-ion battery solution significantly reduces infrastructure

requirements and operational costs. Traditionally, lead-acid batteries necessitate multiple battery packs and large charging units, requiring dedicated battery bays. However, with their lithium technology, a single battery pack and charger per locomotive is sufficient, eliminating the need for battery bays altogether.

“Our solution reduces the total cost of ownership by up to 50% over the life of the battery,” Madhav states. “It also cuts down maintenance costs drastically.”

Additionally, the compact design of the lithium-ion battery allows for easier maintenance and installation. “Since the battery does not have to be removed for



for lithium-ion batteries grows due to the rise of electric vehicles and renewable energy storage, mining companies are recognising the need to adopt more efficient and sustainable power solutions.

“Mining companies that switch to lithium-ion batteries benefit from increased equipment uptime, reduced maintenance, and improved safety - all while lowering operational costs,” says Madhav. “Our goal is to continue providing cutting-edge solutions that drive efficiency and sustainability in the industry.”

With its groundbreaking lithium-ion battery technology, Goscor Lift Trucks is setting a new standard for underground mining operations. As the industry continues to evolve, companies embracing this advanced battery solution will be well-positioned for a more productive, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible future.

About Goscor Lift Trucks

Goscor Lift Trucks ensures that its customers receive the most efficient and cost-effective equipment for their operational needs.

Beyond equipment supply, GLT offers flexible rental options, advanced telemetry solutions for fleet management, and expert service and maintenance support to maximize uptime and productivity for its clients. Over the years, the company has expanded into battery and energy storage solutions, now making significant strides in the mining materials handling space with innovative lithium-ion battery technology.

Goscor provides four decades of extensive experience in capital equipment markets, supplying the highest-quality equipment into the earthmoving, mining, construction, manufacturing and logistics industries.

Operating with the world’s greatest equipment brands available to the African continent, customers are ensured complete peace of mind with the backing of skilled and experienced factory-trained technicians, comprehensive parts holdings, and a national branch footprint.

As part of the larger Bud Group, Goscor benefits from a diversified portfolio encompassing a wide array of industries, such as industrial equipment, automotive, and logistics. The Bud Group, in turn, encompasses various businesses that complement each other synergistically, ensuring a robust offering of products and services tailored to meet diverse customer needs across Southern Africa and beyond. 🌐



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charging, handling is reduced by 85%. This is a huge advantage in confined underground spaces where efficiency is key,” he explains.

Environmental and sustainability benefits

In an era where sustainability is increasingly a priority, lithium-ion battery solutions offer a greener alternative to traditional lead-acid batteries. Lithium batteries do not emit toxic gases and have a longer lifespan, reducing waste and the environmental impact associated with frequent battery replacements.

“Our batteries can be repurposed

after their lifecycle in locomotives, whether for energy storage in homes or offices, making them a more sustainable investment,” Madhav highlights.

“Mining companies looking to align with sustainability goals and reduce their carbon footprint will find our solution an attractive option.”

A bright future for lithium-ion in mining

The response from the mining industry to lithium-ion battery technology has been overwhelmingly positive, with many companies already transitioning to this innovative solution. As global demand

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THE UNITRANS PBS ADVANTAGE IN MINING

Mining operations demand efficiency, safety, and sustainability in an increasingly competitive environment. Performance-Based Standards (PBS) vehicles are transforming the sector, offering optimised payloads, reduced fuel consumption, and enhanced road safety. *Capital Equipment News' Juanita Pienaar* spoke with John Kettlewell, Chief Operations Officer, Mining at Unitrans, to understand how the company is pioneering PBS vehicle adoption in the mining sector.

Unitrans: A legacy of innovation in mining logistics

With over 35 years of experience operating road trains in Africa, Unitrans has consistently led the way in high-payload logistics solutions. The company's involvement in the mining sector spans multiple commodities, including limestone aggregates, copper, mineral sands, salt, platinum, kimberlite, chrome, and Heavy Mineral Concentrate (HMC). Unitrans' approach integrates advanced logistics with innovative PBS vehicle technology to

optimise workflows and drive cost savings.

"Our commitment is centred on furnishing our clients with solutions that are not only efficient and safe but also capable of handling high payloads," says Kettlewell. "This approach is designed to optimise production workflows and achieve cost savings."

Why Unitrans embraced PBS technology early

Recognising the transformative potential of PBS vehicles, Unitrans became an

early adopter, investing in this technology long before industry-wide adoption. "We saw the opportunity to enhance efficiency, safety, and sustainability within our clients' operations," explains Kettlewell. "PBS technology allowed us to rethink traditional logistics and move towards optimised, high-performance solutions."

Unitrans also collaborated with regulators to overcome legislative challenges, ensuring the successful integration of PBS vehicles into its operations. This strategic foresight has solidified the company's leadership in PBS transport solutions.



“Our commitment is centred on furnishing our clients with solutions that are not only efficient and safe but also capable of handling high payloads.”

John Kettlewell, Chief Operations Officer, Mining at Unitrans.

infrastructure may require upgrades to accommodate these advanced vehicles.

“While transitioning to PBS vehicles involves upfront investments and specialised training, the long-term benefits far outweigh these challenges,” Kettlewell states. “We have worked closely with regulators and industry stakeholders to address these hurdles and ensure the successful adoption of PBS technology.”

Unitrans has also developed comprehensive training programs to equip drivers and maintenance staff with the skills necessary to handle PBS vehicles effectively.

The future of PBS technology in mining

The evolution of PBS vehicles is set to bring further advancements in mining logistics. Trends such as electrification, hydrogen fuel cell technology, and autonomous driving capabilities will redefine efficiency and sustainability in the sector. Unitrans remains at the forefront of these innovations, continuously enhancing its fleet and transport solutions.

“As the mining industry continues to evolve, the integration of PBS vehicles will play an increasingly vital role in shaping a more efficient and sustainable future,” Kettlewell asserts. “We invite mining companies to collaborate with Unitrans to explore the transformative potential of these advanced transport solutions.”

Unitrans’ pioneering adoption of PBS vehicles underscores its commitment to innovation, safety, and sustainability in mining logistics. By embracing this technology, the company has revolutionised bulk material transport, setting new standards for efficiency and environmental responsibility. As the demand for minerals grows, PBS vehicles will continue to shape the future of mining logistics, ensuring smarter, safer, and more sustainable operations. ♻️

How PBS vehicles outperform conventional trucks

PBS vehicles differ significantly from conventional heavy-duty trucks in their design and functionality. Instead of being restricted by prescriptive dimensional limits, PBS vehicles are evaluated on performance criteria such as road safety, stability, and efficiency. This allows for innovative configurations that maximise payload capacity and improve overall transport efficiency.

“PBS vehicles are designed to carry significantly larger payloads than conventional trucks,” Kettlewell notes. “This means fewer trips are needed to move the same amount of material, leading to increased productivity and efficiency.”

Advanced features such as improved aerodynamics, lightweight materials, electronic stability control, and enhanced braking systems further enhance PBS vehicles’ safety and operational efficiency. Their superior manoeuvrability makes them particularly well-suited for navigating challenging mining environments.

The key benefits of PBS vehicles in mining

The increased payload capacity and productivity of PBS vehicles reduce the

number of trips required, improving efficiency and lowering transport costs.

Fuel efficiency and cost savings have been demonstrated through a 20% reduction in fuel consumption per tonne hauled, contributing to significant cost reductions.

Enhanced safety features include advanced braking systems, improved stability controls, and a lower crash involvement rate per kilometre compared to conventional trucks. Environmental sustainability is also improved, with reduced emissions and road wear contributing to a greener mining industry.

Customisation for operational needs allows each vehicle to be tailored to specific mining requirements, ensuring optimised logistics for different materials and distances. “By using PBS vehicles, Unitrans has achieved a 54% decrease in the number of vehicles required for a mining operations customer,” Kettlewell highlights. “This not only reduces congestion at sites but also enhances overall operational efficiency.”

Overcoming challenges in PBS adoption

Despite its advantages, the implementation of PBS technology comes with challenges. High initial investment costs and the need for specialised driver training can be barriers to adoption. Additionally, some roads and



WHEN SHORT-TERM RENTALS MAKE SENSE

From warehousing and logistics, to mining, Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and agriculture, short-term rental solutions for material handling equipment can be game changing for operations with fluctuating or cyclical needs.

That said, businesses need to consider carefully who they partner with to ensure they have access to flexible contract options, quality machines, excellent technical support and fleet availability.

CFAO Equipment's National Operations Manager, Bianca Smit, says customers often experience spikes in production due to seasonal demands, peak seasons or for special projects.

"One example is South Africa's

agricultural sector. During fruit harvesting season, which differs in each province, the demand for material handling equipment surges."

By renting material handling equipment such as forklifts or pallet jacks, these operations can meet demand during peak season without the long-term commitment of having to invest in equipment they don't need year-round.

Smit says this can result in significant cost savings for a business. "In addition,

they can benefit from gaining access to advanced equipment and innovative technology they might otherwise have not been able to afford."

Businesses that are starting out or battling in tough economic times can also benefit from short-term rentals. "When businesses are starting out and not sure of their exact material handling needs, short-term rentals make a lot of sense. Not only will they be able to get a sense of their ongoing and future business needs before committing to purchasing machines, renting can help them manage their cash flow better," notes Smit.

She highlights some of the factors to consider when choosing a material handling rental partner:

Flexible rental terms – look for a rental partner who offers rental periods that work for your business, whether it's daily, weekly or monthly. This ensures you only pay for what you need.

Genuine parts – make sure to choose a rental partner that maintains and repairs equipment with genuine parts, ensuring optimal performance and longevity.



Quick turnaround times – rental partners should offer a rapid response for technical assistance, especially in emergencies. Check whether they offer 24-hour service and quick response times to minimise downtime.

Competitive rates – compare rental rates across providers to ensure the prices are fair and within budget. The rental cost should reflect the quality of the equipment and the level of service provided.

Safety features and certifications – choose a partner that offers equipment with up-to-date safety features, certifications, and operator training to ensure safe use, especially in high-risk environments such as warehouses, ports and construction sites.

Variety of equipment and customisability – the rental partner should offer a wide range of material handling equipment suitable for the specific requirements of your business. It should be the right type, size and have the correct functionality for your particular operations. Alternatively, machinery should be customisable to meet customers' specific needs.

Reputation and brand reviews – check the potential partner's website and social media platforms, as well as media

coverage, to ascertain their credibility and industry experience, as well as the overall sentiment for the organisation and its products from other customers.

Energy efficiency – given the world is under pressure to choose eco-friendly options, check for energy efficiency and whether the equipment is powered with lithium-ion or lead-acid batteries.

Customer service – responsive customer service is key, as is the potential partner's ability to offer personalised solutions and, ultimately, nurture long-term relationships. Having a dedicated customer service team that is easily reachable and responsive is critical to maintaining operations without disruptions.

Smit says businesses need to do their homework when choosing a rental partner. "It would be counter-productive, even devastating, to choose the cheapest or quickest option and then discover the machines are prone to breakdowns or are not properly supported.

"It's important to look for rental agreements that offer flexibility, transparency and a high level of support. Being clear on the terms for delivery, usage, penalties and training is critical and can help avoid pitfalls. By understanding these elements upfront, businesses can maximise the value from their rental agreements while minimising unexpected costs or disruptions during peak periods," she concludes. 🌟



When businesses are starting out and not sure of their exact material handling needs, short-term rentals make a lot of sense. Not only will they be able to get a sense of their ongoing and future business needs before committing to purchasing machines, renting can help them manage their cash flow better.

Goscor Lift Trucks supports C. Steinweg Bridge Terminals' expansion

Goscor Lift Trucks (GLT), a leading provider of forklift and materials handling solutions, has reinforced its commitment to supporting the cross-border growth of C. Steinweg Bridge Terminals, with the delivery of a fleet of Bobcat forklifts. This strategic expansion builds on the strong, trust-based partnership that GLT and Steinweg have developed over the years, aimed at driving efficiency and long-term success for Steinweg's Southern African operations.

After careful assessment of Steinweg's operational requirements, GLT worked closely with Steinweg to develop custom-tailored rental agreements specifically designed for their operations.

The recent delivery of D30S-7 3-ton diesel forklifts to Steinweg's terminal in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, underscores GLT's ability to supply robust, special-



Latest additions to the most advanced demolition equipment fleet in Africa

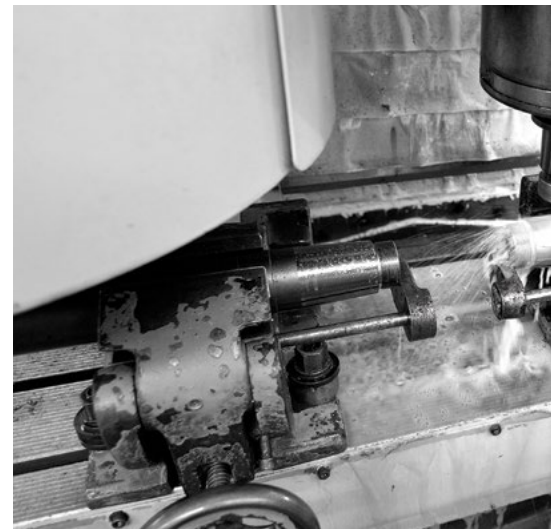
Leading specialist Jet Demolition is the first demolition contractor in Africa to implement the OilQuick automatic quick coupler system for its fleet. It allows hydraulic work tools to be connected and disconnected effortlessly from the driver's cab. In addition, the operator can change seamlessly between various work tools within seconds, from a hydraulic hammer to steel or concrete shears, sorting grapple, hydraulic magnet, bucket or even a machine-mounted crusher.

Bradley Slooten, who has a BSc (Hons) in Construction Management, is Equipment Asset Manager at Jet Demolition and dealt directly with the OilQuick factory in Sweden. "They were very surprised to hear that a

demolition contractor in South Africa has the fleet capacity to adopt their system." While there are various quick coupler systems available locally, this is a first for the South African industry in terms of automation.

Jet Demolition discarded this outdated technology about 15 years ago, developing its own in-house mechanical coupler system that reduced the time to change attachments to about 45 minutes.

Developed and manufactured in Sweden, the OilQuick fully automated hydraulic coupler system allows the operator to change between various demolition attachments in a matter of seconds. The system makes use of the excavator's own hydraulic system, which moves the lock pins to couple and uncouple, while simultaneously connecting the hydraulic hose couplings. A key consideration is safety, with the OilQuick system not requiring any external interaction, as everything is controlled from the cab. 🔄



Why a reliable general use lubricant is so valuable

While specialist lubricants can work wonders for a particular component in a specific type of equipment, a general use lubricant can be used in multiple processes and is one of the most important additions to a technical maintenance team's toolkit.

Used on all manner of things from conveyor or belt bearings to fan bearings, milling applications and vehicle parts, among others, having a reliable all-purpose lubricant can have a positive effect on the performance and lifespan of equipment.

Lubrication Engineers (LE) South Africa senior technical sales representative Gary



ised equipment designed to optimise warehousing, cargo handling, and packing processes. These forklifts will support Steinweg's regional expansion by enhancing operational efficiency and handling capacity across the terminal. GLT has been a trusted materials handling partner for Steinweg for a number of years, with the relationship evolving to meet the increasing demands of Steinweg's dynamic operations.

The latest delivery brings a range of electric and diesel Bobcat forklifts to the region. Additionally, we have supplied Crown Reach Trucks and bespoke reach stackers this year to enhance operations in South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, and now Tanzania.

GLT's unique approach to servicing diverse client needs includes full-service maintenance support, ensuring that Steinweg's equipment operates at peak performance. Looking ahead, Steinweg remains optimistic about the growth prospects facilitated by their partnership with GLT. 🌱



Wentzel is an advocate for finding the right lubricant for general applications as he says that having a reliable solution running in components frees up capacity for other more complex maintenance matters. He works with several clients in the mining sector who use LE's Almatek® General Purpose Lubricant with Almasol® on their conveyor belts. Some of these belts are over a kilometre long, and maintenance teams don't always have the time and capacity to check the lubrication of each bearing along such a long stretch.

Other applications for a general grease like Almatek® lubricant include farming equipment, trailer bearings, and at chassis points in trucks and other logistics and transport applications. 🌱

Power-packed Godwin BD150 dewatering pump

The Godwin BD150 Dri-Prime® Pump represents the latest innovation in multipurpose dewatering solutions, designed to meet the needs of a wide range of applications. Whether for construction, industrial projects, utility maintenance or emergency dewatering applications, this robust pump is built for efficiency, cost effectiveness and reliability.

Available from Integrated Pump Technology, the Godwin BD150 delivers powerful performance, with flow capabilities reaching up to 592 m³/h and discharge heads extending to 49 metres. Engineered with versatility in mind, it features a fully automatic self-priming system allowing for seamless operation across various demanding environments.

This pump is capable of handling solids up to 75 mm in diameter, thanks to the venturi priming system - making it a suitable choice for almost any dewatering application.

Godwin has optimised the BD150's hydraulic design using Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) technology, significantly improving its efficiency and fuel economy. The robust construction including high-quality

impeller, seal and bearing materials, ensures long lasting durability even under challenging conditions. Further, the pump is built for ease of use and serviceability, backed by the trusted Godwin brand and support by Integrated Pump Technology.

Flexibility is another key feature of the Godwin BD150 series. It can be supplied on an open skid base or a two-wheel site trailer, offering users a range of options depending on their specific operational needs. The bare shaft is made from corrosion-resistant materials, providing resilience in harsh environments, while electric motor options and other engine configurations are also available to meet diverse requirements. 🌱



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Manitou: Q4 2024 revenues

Michel Denis, Manitou's President & Chief Executive Officer, stated "The group's 2024 revenues are in line with its expectations, 7% lower than in 2023. This decline is particularly noticeable in Northern Europe, especially Germany and the Nordic countries. 4th quarter 2024 activity is decreasing compared to 4th quarter 2023, which had reached a record level, creating an unfavorable base effect.

For the second consecutive quarter, order intake on equipment has risen to a level not seen since the 3rd quarter 2022 by the group. This momentum confirms the gradual return of markets to more fluid operating modes. In Northern Europe, however, dealers' inventories levels are still quite high in some countries.

In Northern America, the market recovered during the 4th quarter and this region

remains more dynamic for the group. The finalisation in 2024 of the implementation of structuring industrial resources and the launch of new product ranges in this region should enable the group to take better advantage of the favorable conditions in this territory in 2025.

Under these conditions, and subject to the economic or geopolitical context, the group expects stable revenue in 2025 compared with 2024."

With quarterly revenues of €556 million, the Product division recorded a decrease of -22% compared with Q4 2023, and -9% over the 12 months. The division monitored its activities to adjust to market volumes while working to reduce inventories levels.

With quarterly revenues of €101 million, the Services & Solutions division (S&S) recorded a -1% decrease compared with Q4 2023 and a +3% increase over the 12 months, showing the greater resilience of its activities. 🌱



Next generation Cat® D8 dozer

Caterpillar Inc. recently introduced the next generation Cat® D8 dozer with a refreshed cab design and common interface and controls from the D5 to D8 models, making it simple for operators to transition to different machine sizes.

The new D8's elevated sprocket offers better ride and balance than low-drive undercarriages, and its long undercarriage delivers renowned performance of high penetration forces and superior dozing performance. Replacing the powershift transmission of previous models, a field-proven, fully

automatic 4-speed transmission with lock-up clutch torque divider continually adjusts for maximum efficiency and power to the ground without added operator input. The Cat C15 engine eliminates the exhaust gas recirculation system and offers increased horsepower over the previous build to take on a wide range of dozing, ripping and grading tasks.

The new D8 dozer's next generation cab offers more space than the previous design, complete with a wide air suspension seat with multiple adjustment options. Cat Assist technology features, optionally available, minimise operator input, boosting productivity for



Werner pumps trucks hard at work in Swakopmund Municipality

Werner Pumps recently handed over two high-pressure jetting truck units to Swakopmund Municipality where they have been put to work for sewer drain cleaning and sewer pump station maintenance in the coastal city.

The Werner Impi 10 000 l Combination Vacuum and jetting truck and Werner Hippo 8000 l jetting truck were both manufactured by Werner Pumps in South Africa at the company's

headquarters in Springs.

The Impi unit offers hydraulically operated jetting and vacuum functionality and is an effective solution for clearing sewer and stormwater lines, while the smaller Hippo unit offers jetting-only functionality with a high-pressure piston plunger. Both have a capacity of 295 litres per minute and a maximum pressure of 135 bar.

The Impi features a hydraulic slewing suction boom, two hydraulic-driven hose reels and multiple toolboxes. Both trucks offer safety features such as sight glasses and sludge level indicators, failsafe control panels and pressure-tested stainless steel tank. 🌱

less experienced operators and decreasing effort and fatigue for everyone, while delivering quicker and more precise outcomes. Cat Assist with Attachment Ready

The next generation D8 dozer design enables a wider range of machine connectivity than prior models. Streamlining

service efficiency, Remote Troubleshoot saves time and money by allowing the Cat dealer to perform dozer diagnostic testing remotely. Remote Flash enables on-board software updates without a technician at a convenient time that does not disrupt the production schedule. 🌱

Hino scores more than 99% in all four customer care survey categories

Hino South Africa has scored an unprecedented 99%-plus in all four categories of customer care surveyed among local truck operators by Datatrack Management for calendar year 2024. The comparative categories, which are surveyed quarterly, are Sales, Service, Parts and Combined. Hino was also the top performer in 2024.

Hino scored 99,44% in the Combined section in 2024, compared to 98,7% in 2023. The national average Combined scores in each of these years were 93,93% in 2023 and 95,17% last year, which indicates the improved performance by all 14 OEMS surveyed by Datatrack.

This was the second year that Hino scored more than 99% in Sales, with figures of

99,73% in 2024 and 99,60% in 2023..

Hino's score in Service moved up from 98,76% in 2023 to 99,34% last year.

The fourth category where Hino was the top scorer was Parts, where the company scored 99,24% in 2024 compared to 97,73% the previous year. Respective national averages were 94.38% in 2024 and 93.05% in 2023.

Datatrack Management, which has the motto "Driving excellent in the truck industry: Benchmarking customer satisfaction for better performance", has been conducting quarterly customer satisfaction surveys among about 30 000 truck operators since 1986 and these annual figures are based on the research conducted every three months of a year. 🌟



Itumeleng Segage, General Manager of Hino South Africa.

Volvo Trucks drives one of SA's youngest fleet owners

South Africa's newest long-haul fleet owner is most likely also one of its youngest.

Kiara Baijnath (21) recently took ownership of five brand-new Volvo FH extra heavy trucks, complete with very distinctive pink branding and accompanying bright pink double-link trailers. These will form the foundation of HerWay Logistics, a new haulage operator for bulk deliveries across South Africa.

"As a young girl, I would always insist on driving with my grandfather in his old truck when he delivered his crops to the local farmer's market. Even then I told him that one day I want to drive my own truck," says Baijnath.

This idea never left her and after school she started penning her idea of creating a female-owned long-haul operator that would also train and employ female drivers.

She credits her parents for supporting

this somewhat uncommon dream, and after a few years of saving and a starter loan from them, Baijnath approached Volvo Trucks in Durban with her deposit and her business plan.

"I was ready to face rejection, and I psyched myself up to defend the merits of my business plan, so I was quite taken aback when I was met with the opposite," she jokes. "Everyone was very excited about my plan, and they immediately started brainstorming ideas and creating timelines. Their excitement fuelled my own ardour, and I started thinking much bigger than before."

"It also included the Volvo Connect fleet management system, which allows her to remotely monitor every aspect of the fleet's mechanical health as well as the drivers' performance," explains Herman Steyn, Volvo Trucks Sales Executive at the company's Durban dealership. 🌟



WearCheck launches advanced thermography course

Condition monitoring specialist company, WearCheck, recently launched a new training course - InfraFocus - to upskill users of thermographic cameras.

The company's ARC (asset reliability care) technicians developed the two-day course for customers, highlighting the best ways to capture thermographic imagery for use in a condition monitoring programme.

The specialised InfraFocus course was developed in partnership with renowned photographer Francki Burger, and addresses crucial aspects that are often overlooked in traditional thermography training: focus, composition, and angle.

In thermography, the precision of thermal images is paramount for accurate diagnostics. Meticulously ensuring that the focus is good ensures that the thermal images are clear and detailed, allowing for precise identification of potential issues.

Traditional thermography courses, while comprehensive, often lack sufficient practical training in these critical areas. Many of these courses are designed for individuals with advanced technical backgrounds, leaving a gap for artisans and technicians who may not have the same level of formal education or familiarity with technical terminology.

The two-day course can be scheduled on any date that suits the customer, and is run on site at a customer's premises in any country, or at WearCheck's offices. Customers in Mozambique and South Africa have already completed the course. 🌟

UD Trucks Southern Africa deepens its commitment of going the extra mile

UD Trucks Southern Africa (UDTSA)'s historic founding dates back in 1962 and this year, marks 90 years of the brand's existence globally. This significant milestone reflects the brand's legacy locally as one of the leading brands in the commercial vehicle industry. Renowned for offering cutting-edge products in the Light, Medium, and Heavy segments, produced from its assembly plant in

Rosslyn, Pretoria.

As is customary, UDTSA started the year with its Annual Press Conference on 27 January 2025. At this exclusive event, UDTSA announced its annual business results, which highlighted the overall new vehicle market at 10,2% with aggregate industry sales at 32 912 compared to the total sales of 30 807 in 2024. Additionally, UDTSA recorded laudable performance of over 50%

in Service Agreements and remains market leader in Euro 5 vehicle sales, attesting to its vision of "Better Life", bringing more sustainable transport solutions to South Africa.

Filip Van den Heede, Managing Director UD Trucks Southern Africa comments on the performance: "2024 was a year marked by both domestic and international unpredictable operating conditions which to a certain degree impacts how we do business. However, I am particularly pleased at the company's overall performance and the unwavering support we offered our customers throughout the year despite the prevailing industry conditions. This is testament to the right resources we have in place that helps us continue to go the extra mile for our customers to keep their trucks on the road where they belong – a robust nationwide dealer network, excellent OEM support, fit-for-purpose products and aftermarket services, parts availability, and most importantly, improved uptime, ensuring our customers profitability, productivity, and continuing to pave the way for Better Life for South Africa and its people with more sustainable transport solutions." 🌱



Railveyor announces strategic partnership with Deebar in South Africa

State-of-the-art global haulage company Railveyor has appointed Deebar as its official sales representative in South Africa.

This partnership is a pivotal step in Railveyor's global expansion, enhancing its capabilities in this dynamic and resource-rich region, according to Tas Mohamed, CEO of Railveyor.

As a leading supplier of innovative mining solutions, Deebar led the installation of an earlier Railveyor system at Phakisa Mine, a Harmony Gold-owned operation in South Africa. This project exemplified the power of combining Deebar's local expertise with the advanced technology of the Railveyor system – to deliver an efficient and sustainable materials handling solution.

"We are thrilled to deepen our partnership with Deebar," said Mohamed. "The company's proven track record and deep understanding of the South African mining landscape make them an ideal partner as we continue to innovate and provide solutions that align with the industry's needs."

Through their strategic agreement, Railveyor and Deebar will collaborate on new opportunities across South Africa, offering clients state-of-the-art material haulage

systems that prioritise efficiency, sustainability, and safety. The partnership underscores Railveyor's dedication to forging meaningful relationships that drive progress in the mining industry, she said.

"We are proud to represent Railveyor in South Africa," said Brandon Sokoe, Managing Director of Deebar. "Our shared commitment to delivering innovative and sustainable solutions positions us to meet the evolving demands of the mining

sector. We look forward to building on our successful history together."

The Railveyor system's exclusive combination of fully electric, autonomous operation and scalability has proven to be a game-changer in mining logistics, offering significant reductions in operational costs and environmental impact. This partnership aims to bring these benefits to more clients in SADC, a region renowned for its mining heritage and potential. 🌱



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