



# UPDATE

**KOMATSU**

*A publication for and about Waukesha-Pearce Industries, LLC customers | [www.WPIUpdate.com](http://www.WPIUpdate.com)*

## S3 Sitework

Read how the Smith family has been delivering quality work to customers in central Texas for three generations



David Smith II

David Smith Sr.

## A Message from the Vice President



Bruce Truesdale

**We're here  
in uncertain  
times**



Dear Valued Customer:

Like most every industry, construction has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. No one knows for sure what tomorrow will bring in these uncertain times. One thing you can count on, however, is that we at WPI will continue to offer around-the-clock sales and service support.

This issue of your WPI Update highlights the diverse lineup of Komatsu equipment that we carry. Some of it is very technologically advanced, such as the intelligent Machine Control (iMC) dozers and excavators that were introduced several years ago. Read about iMC 2.0, which has new features including Proactive Dozing Control, that can make dozing up to 60 percent more productive than previous generation models.

Komatsu's smallest standard excavator, the PC130-11, performs its role like a champion. It is a basic digging machine that fits into nearly any operation and can be hauled on a tag trailer. Find out more inside.

Komatsu builds impressive specialty machines as well, such as the new WA800-8 wheel loader – made for big applications. The WA800-8 is a great loader for quarries, and with features like automatic dig, semi-auto approach and semi-auto dump, it can make operators more effective in V-cycle loading.

There are also interesting articles about our industry that I believe you will find useful, including one featuring a new AGC initiative called Culture of CARE that's designed to increase workplace diversity and inclusion. Find out how you can be a part of it.

As always, if there is anything we can do for you, please contact us. We're always here to help.

Sincerely,



Bruce Truesdale  
Vice President of CMD Operations





# UPDATE

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## Smith family delivers quality work to S3 Sitework customers in central Texas for three generations

The number 3 in the name S3 Sitework represents the three members of the Smith family who are part of the company – David Sr. and his sons Austin and David II. It could also easily stand for other aspects of the Smith's history and their business ventures.

"Austin and I are the third generation to be involved with excavation-related work," said David II, who owns S3 Sitework along with

his father. "My grandfather, Bill Ray Smith, started on his own with a skid loader and three, six-yard trucks. Dad bought him out right after high school and changed the business to David D. Smith Construction."

Like his father, David II went straight to work upon graduation. At 17, he ran David D. Smith Construction's residential crews, which performed site work for developers on subdivisions as well as single lots for private owners.

"When the markets crashed in 2008, housing pretty much dried up," David II recalled. "Dad sent me to do a commercial job. He figured the project would take around six weeks, but I had it done in three. The experience of working in close quarters near houses was a big help because it's where I learned speed and efficiency. That spurred more commercial projects."

### Full service

Today's operations are under the name S3 Sitework, which came about a few years ago as David II took on more responsibility for overseeing the Copperas Cove-based business. The company's focus remains on moving dirt for commercial and residential clients, mainly within a 75-mile radius of its home base. With a staff of nearly 30, it typically has five or six jobs going at any one time.

In addition to S3 Sitework, the Smiths have ownership in A&S Underground and Cullen Dixon Ltd. – again bringing in the number three. A&S Underground performs sewer and water installation, and Cullen Dixon provides trucking services. Often, all three can be found on a single job site.

"S3 Sitework handles everything from clearing and grubbing to final grade, and we perform demolition as well, if that's needed, to make way for new construction," said David II. "In addition, we do some concrete work. Recently, we added a stringless curb and gutter machine. With the three companies, we can provide a complete package of services that allows us to control scheduling, which is very appealing to our customers."

David Smith II (left) and his father David Sr. own S3 Sitework, a company that provides everything from demolition to finish grading on residential and commercial projects in central Texas.



An S3 Sitework operator digs a ditch with a Komatsu PC360LCi-11 intelligent Machine Control excavator on a job site near Copperas Cove. "We don't need someone constantly checking grade or setting stakes because the machines know where they are in relation to the design elevation," said Owner David Smith II.

### ▶ VIDEO







**S3 Sitework uses Komatsu intelligent Machine Control excavators with factory-integrated GPS for a variety of grade work. “On a subdivision we had to cut a road, house lots and bar ditches,” said Owner David Smith II. “The ditches had three-to-one slopes, so there were sizeable transitions from the bottom of those to the pads and onto the street subgrade. Using the models, the operators and machines made the changes flawlessly without stakes. All we did was check grade at the end, and it was spot-on.”**

David II said another aspect of S3 Sitework’s services that customers like is its ability to work within most budgets. Often, it will take the lead and serve as a general contractor. Typically, the only items subbed out are asphalt paving and large concrete pours.

“Our projects range in size from small pad sites that are a few thousand dollars in value to multimillion-dollar undertakings,” he indicated. “In most cases, we are doing those for the same businesses and individuals we have worked with on a repeat basis for many years. We value-engineer so we can save costs without sacrificing quality. Customers really appreciate that.”

### **Excavators increase savings**

The project that spurred additional commercial work also served as the catalyst for a move toward more automated excavation, shared David II.

“I knew how to run a machine – period. Dad sent another guy to set and check grade and drive stakes. I was really good at wiping them out, which meant resetting. I thought it was inefficient and costly, so we bought a base

and rover. Now, GPS technology plays a big role in our operations.”

He added that S3 Sitework is saving time and money by using Komatsu intelligent Machine Control (iMC) PC360LCi-11 and PC490LCi-11 excavators. The Smiths turned to WPI and Unit Sales Representative Cory Webb approximately a year ago to look at the machines, which feature factory-integrated GPS grade control.

“We’re not hooking up or taking down masts and cables, which increases production time and lowers costs because those are no longer getting damaged,” said David II. “That’s the upfront savings. Where they really kick in is during excavation.”

The company builds site models, uploads them to the machine and cuts to grade using the iMC excavators’ semi-automatic features, such as auto grade assist, auto stop control, minimum distance control and a facing angle compass.

“They prevent overdigging. Once the teeth contact the design grade set, no matter how much you push the joysticks, the excavators



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

*Continued . . .*

# '(Machine control) reduces labor and equipment costs'

... continued

will not let you go deeper," said David II. "That saves time and material expenses in subgrade preparation.

"It also reduces labor and equipment costs," he added. "We don't need someone constantly checking grade or setting stakes. The machines know where they are in relation to the design elevation. Because they hit that surface and stop, we don't need a dozer to clean up behind them, and our compaction is minimized."

David II noted a particular job recently where the excavators stood out. "On a subdivision we had to cut a road, house lots and bar ditches. The ditches had three-to-one slopes, so there were sizeable transitions from the bottom of those to the pads and onto the street subgrade. Using the models, the operators and machines made the changes flawlessly without stakes. We only needed to check grade occasionally, and it was spot-on."

David II said he knew the iMC excavators were the right machines for S3 Sitework when Webb and WPI brought him a PC360LCi-11 to demo on a channel cut.

"It had one-to-one slopes and had to be concrete-lined. There was no way you could

cut that with a dozer," explained David II. "We dug the channel extremely fast with no overrun on materials. Cory and WPI helped us set up the excavators properly and provided training as needed. They have been with us every step of the way. I like that they can update software remotely as well as track our machines with Komtrax to determine when services are due under Komatsu Care. That's minimizing downtime and making us more productive."

## Generation four?

David II said he plans to add more iMC units to his fleet. If he does, they will likely be working on additional residential and commercial projects.

"We have done some Department of Transportation work in the past to build turning lanes," he mentioned. "However, we like the markets and the customers we serve, and our list of clients keeps growing."

He's hopeful that expansion continues as he builds S3 Sitework with a potential fourth generation coming up.

"We have two young kids, with one on the way, as well as a nephew," David II said. "I like to think they will be involved down the road. This area seems to be good for growth. I'm excited to see where we go from here." ■

**S3 Sitework Owner David Smith II (left) meets with WPI Unit Sales Representative Cory Webb and Director of Operations & Technical Support Jackie Haney. "Cory and WPI helped us set up the excavators properly and provided training as needed," said Smith "I love that they can update software remotely as well as track our machines with Komtrax to determine when services are due under Komatsu Care. That's minimizing downtime and making us more productive."**





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# Uptime kits simplify SENNEBOGEN servicing and stocking to streamline maintenance and repair tasks

If you need to stop everything for a small repair, you're losing productivity and money. Why not make service, maintenance and repairs easier and faster?

Now you can turn downtime into uptime by proactively organizing all the required parts and tools for specific tasks, thanks to SENNEBOGEN Uptime kits. These prepackaged kits contain all the parts and materials required for a service into one convenient package.

Your technicians no longer need to spend time collecting and checking parts before they service a SENNEBOGEN machine. All assorted parts, connectors, fittings, extensions, electrical components and special tools are organized into specially designed trays so that each part is easy to locate.

### Simplify parts ordering and inventories

Each kit has its own part number representing hundreds of related service parts – just one number to order, one item to stock. The job-specific components are matched to your machine model and series; this eliminates time spent sorting loose parts. Uptime kits are ideal for stocking service trucks and repair shops.

Each accessory kit for the central lubrication system includes more than 80 components. This kit is designed to get you back on the job quickly with the basic tools necessary to work on your SENNEBOGEN machine, as well as the common parts needed.

SENNEBOGEN has packaged dozens of different Uptime kits for certain service tasks, including:

- **SAE Flange Kits** with extension and locking devices suitable for all hydraulic hoses and tubes
- **Auto Lubrication Kits**, which include more than 80 components and tools for pump servicing and system repairs
- **Plug & Connector Kits** loaded with more than 60 pieces from 32 different plugs and connector types and extracting tools
- **Electrical Kits** that include all the necessary electrical components and a multimeter
- **Fitting Kits** that contain all the common fittings used on SENNEBOGEN machines
- **A/C Service Kits**, which include small parts, seals, temperature sensor, pressure switch, hose and O-rings
- **O-Ring Kits** and many more

Standard and customized Uptime kits are now available to order directly from your local WPI branch. ■

This Fitting Kit includes more than 135 fittings in over 42 different versions. This basic kit with all the common fittings used on SENNEBOGEN machines enables you to carry out repairs easily in the shop or the field.



# Response and recovery plans are key to successfully weathering a variety of emergency situations



**Troy Tepp**  
Director,  
Safety Services,  
Sentry Insurance

One of the main factors in successful project completion is preplanning. That's also a key element in responding to an emergency situation or crisis, according to Troy Tepp, Director, Safety Services with Sentry Insurance.

"Predicting when those events will occur is nearly impossible, and that's why it's essential to be prepared with response plans; thoughtful preplanning that addresses potential scenarios is vital," said Tepp, whose webinar for the Associated Equipment Distributors titled, "Developing Your Emergency Response & Recovery Plans – Before They're Needed" outlined what businesses need to focus on during a crisis. He suggests starting by establishing goals and priorities.

"The top priority within any emergency response plan must always be developing procedures that prioritize the protection of lives and the safety of your staff, customers and any other visitors to your facilities," said Tepp. "Keep in mind your procedures also need to account for employees outside of

your fixed-based operations, such as field personnel, drivers and equipment operators."

Once life-safety priorities have been addressed, a focus on procedures to stabilize sites and protect buildings, premises and other key assets is the next step. Plans to protect sensitive records, monies kept on site and other assets should follow.

### Primary risks

Tepp emphasized that risk assessment is fundamental to the preplanning and development process. He advises firms to take into account three primary risks, including natural events such as tornadoes, fires, severe storms, hurricanes, ice and snow and flooding. "These are the most likely risks firms face. Where you conduct business should be factored in. If you are a contractor who works across various regions, or all parts of the country, you must have every type of weather in your plan."

Additional risk considerations are human incidents such as medical injuries, robbery or even bomb threats, according to Tepp. The final type of risk is technological occurrences, such as data breaches.

Pre-incident planning and awareness is another important step. Items under consideration can include alarms, public-alert and surveillance systems; site communication capabilities; communication with remote staff; municipal agency support resources; staff expertise, skill development and special needs; and evacuation routes and shelter spaces.

Tepp used a tornado as an example of how to align risk assessment with planning and awareness. "If that is one of your foreseeable emergencies, begin to create a plan by identifying the alarms and alerts that identify these events," said Tepp. "Then, you develop action that mitigates the risk, such as designating a shelter or shelters. You will also want to clearly identify them as such with signage and train staff to know where shelters are located and that they should immediately proceed to the shelters if they hear the alarms. You also need to designate and train staff members to assist those with special needs. If

Natural events, such as severe weather, happen across the United States. "These are the most likely risks firms face," said Troy Tepp, Director, Safety Services with Sentry Insurance. "Where you conduct business should be factored in. If you are a contractor who works across various regions, or all of the country, you must have every type of weather in your plan."







Response and recovery plans help ensure your business is well-prepared to handle risks and emergency situations. "Predicting when those events will occur is nearly impossible, and that's why it's essential to be prepared with response plans; thoughtful preplanning that addresses potential scenarios is vital," said Troy Tepp, Director, Safety Services with Sentry Insurance.

personnel are off-site, have a communication plan to check on their safety and well-being."

The example outlined above is part of the phase that Tepp calls Designing Your Response Procedures. Responses should be specific, define roles and responsibilities and activate an assigned response team.

"These procedures will be unique for each scenario – no response is likely to be identical for any two emergencies," said Tepp. "Along with response procedures and staff responsibilities, document specific steps for notification, ongoing communication and your planned role for municipal emergency response services. These service providers can help in developing plans and are often willing to assist with annual training and drills. Monitoring staff performance and identifying areas to improve and modify may be part of assessing training and drills."

To prepare effectively, a business-recovery plan is needed, according to Tepp, who said the plan should designate a preassigned business-recovery team. Other elements of the plan can be determining essential versus support staff, creating recovery operations, outlining IT needs, looking at communication

considerations, preparing daily progress updates and phased recovery, testing and training.

"Reporting the incident to your insurance carrier in a timely manner should be your first step (after an incident has occurred); the faster it's reported, the quicker an investigation can occur, and reimbursements can be made. Your team will oversee a successful recovery by putting the plans in place that you developed to deal with emergency events."

### Covering COVID

In addition to his formal presentation, Tepp touched on how to respond to major unforeseen incidents, such as the COVID-19 crisis. He said that an addendum to plans already in place or a section devoted to infectious diseases is a good idea, with a caveat.

"This event really came out of nowhere, so most people had not addressed something like it," said Tepp. "Businesses should consider having some personal protective equipment on hand such as masks, but not go overboard. It can be expensive, expiration dates come into play for items stored long term and having large numbers of such items is likely unnecessary in most cases." ■

*Editor's Note: This article contains information from a webinar Troy Tepp of Sentry Insurance created for the Associated Equipment Distributors and from a conversation with Tepp. It is for information purposes only and provides insight for businesses in our industry.*

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# Five ways your construction business can address uncertainty during COVID-19, other crisis situations

Perhaps the hardest part of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the uncertainty – not knowing what will happen next. The rapid spread of the virus that resulted in essentially locking down the United States is unprecedented in our lifetimes, and the inability for even the experts to predict the human toll and economic outcome causes stress and fear for everyone.

Because none of us can control the outcome, you must try to manage those things you can. Following are some areas you have control over in your business:

**1. How you communicate.** Continual, honest communication with those on your payroll and your customers is essential. Share the facts about what's happening in the industry, the community and within your organization. Don't be brutally honest but don't sugarcoat things either. Be straightforward about what's going on, both good and bad. This will help limit confusion and gossip, as well as minimize any shocks when new information comes in.

**2. The willingness to listen.** It's within your power to encourage open dialogue. Allow workers to express their concerns, share their ideas or simply vent on occasion. Listen to what they have to say and address any problem areas as quickly as possible. Also be sure tailgate talks and safety discussions continue to take place – from a social distance, of course.

**3. Showing compassion.** Recognize that this is a difficult time for everyone, whether it's your employees or customers. Work with them to address specific challenges or concerns. Put the necessary precautions in place to ensure the safety of everyone entering your sites and ask them if they feel comfortable about the steps that are being taken. Allow for time off due to stress and especially illness, if needed.

**4. Monitoring employees' mental states.** Construction workers may not be on the frontlines of the crisis, but they are certainly close to it. The increased exposure on top of the job that already carries a certain level of risk can push some workers over the

brink. The industry already has the highest rate of suicide of any sector. Train staff to recognized signs of mental distress and suicidal tendencies.

**5. Giving hope.** While the coronavirus may seem like a never-ending bad news story, there is reason to be hopeful and there are some signs that we may pull out of this mess in the near future. Find the positive news stories where you can and pass them along. Reassure your employees and customers that you're in this for the long haul. Then make sure you are by staying informed about your company's position and managing costs that are within your control. ■

*Editor's note: Becky Schultz has served as editor of Equipment Today magazine since 1998. This article was excerpted from a piece that appeared at ForConstructionPros.com. To read the article in its entirety, visit [www.forconstructionpros.com/blog/21128525](http://www.forconstructionpros.com/blog/21128525).*



**Becky Schultz,**  
Editor,  
Equipment Today

**Becky Schultz, Editor, Equipment Today, offers five things you can control during uncertain times such as the COVID-19 pandemic. They include how you communicate and listen, among others.**



# Contractor keeps moving with a fleet of intelligent Machine Control and standard equipment



**Kelly Fulfer,**  
Owner/President



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

**B**efore earning his high school diploma, Kelly Fulfer was an experienced operator who had chosen a career path in construction. As a teen, he worked part time for a contractor and was running a backhoe by his junior year.

"During my senior year I had only a couple of classes, so I worked during the day, too," recalled Fulfer. "If the project was close to the school, I would just drive the backhoe between there and the jobsite."

Today, Fulfer spends less time on machinery and more on overseeing his business, Superior Construction & Excavating, which is a full-service sitework company that also has its own gravel pits. The business typically runs 12 to 15 jobs at once. Recent assignments included a subdivision that called for excavating a pond with close to 270,000 cubic yards of dirt that was kept on site and spread for fill and grading.

### Spot-on accuracy in all materials

Superior Construction & Excavating operators used Komatsu intelligent Machine Control (iMC) D61PXi-23 and D61PXi-24 dozers

to construct the ponds, build subgrade for roads and level lots.

"The accuracy is spot-on, no matter the application," said Operator Justin Bollinger. "I love that there are no masts and cables to deal with. Set up is easy. Once a model is downloaded, it's a matter of getting in the machine, doing a quick calibration and letting it do the work. If you have an area to fill, it will place the materials as fast as the truck drivers can dump them. The blade holds grade no matter how fast I push or what material I'm placing."

Fulfer acquired the iMC dozers not long after he started using standard Komatsu equipment in his fleet. He now has more than 20 machines, including excavators, dozers, wheel loaders and articulated dump trucks.

"We had hydraulic component issues with another brand and that led to a need to rebuild several engines in a short time, so we took a look at Komatsu," said Fulfer. "(Our distributor) put together an impressive package of machines. Equally important is service. (They) have been excellent to work with." ■

Superior Construction & Excavating Operator Justin Bollinger fine grades dirt with a Komatsu intelligent Machine Control D61PXi-24 dozer. "The accuracy is spot-on, no matter the application," said Bollinger. "I love that there are no masts and cables to deal with. Set up is easy. Once a model is downloaded, it's a matter of getting in the machine, doing a quick calibration and letting it do the work"

► VIDEO





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**Brian (left) and Thomas Cronin / Prosperity Construction / Jackson, MS**

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# New excavator offers fast cycle times, high productivity in machine designed for easy transport on tag trailer

Whether you're a contractor just starting out or an established firm running multiple pieces of equipment, a basic digging machine likely suits your operation. Easy transport from job to job is an added bonus.

"Not all projects involve moving massive amounts of dirt; for instance, agriculture applications such as field tile repair to light utility and municipality work," said Andrew Earing, Komatsu Product Manager. "With fast cycle times, a maximum digging depth of more than 17 feet and high productivity, the new PC130-11 is a good fit."

Earing added that the excavator is highly portable. Komatsu's smallest conventional tail swing can be moved with a tag trailer and still have capacity to spare for additional support equipment.

"Mobility is a real asset with the PC130-11," said Earing. "When a contractor finishes one job, they can quickly load this

excavator and be on the way to the next. When they get there, it's a matter of minutes to unload and start digging. That increases production time."

### Ready for the challenge

Earing added that like all Komatsu equipment, the PC130-11 is built for the long haul, as well as for versatility.

"It has steel castings in the boom foot, boom nose and arm tip," he said. "That provides durability for years to come. Additionally, the excavator is available with plus-one piping as an option, so you can run attachments, such as a thumb or hammer, providing the capability to perform multiple applications and potentially boost profits." ■



**Andrew Earing,**  
Komatsu Product  
Manager

### Brief Specs on Komatsu's PC130-11 Excavator

Model	Operating Weight	Horsepower	Bucket Capacity
PC130-11	28,660 lb	97.2 hp	0.76 cu yd

Komatsu's smallest conventional tail-swing excavator, the PC130-11 is a versatile digging machine for projects such as field tile installation, light utility and municipal work. It can be moved on a tag trailer with capacity to spare.



Discover more

# Automatic, semi-auto systems in new wheel loader assist operators during V-cycle loading



Robert Hussey,  
Komatsu Product  
Marketing Manager



Discover more

Experienced operators know that V-cycle loading can be a challenging application that takes time to master. One way to speed up the learning curve is with machinery features that assist in automating the process, according to Robert Hussey, Komatsu Product Marketing Manager.

“Several factors are part of a successful loading cycle, including proper digging into the pile to get a full bucket, approaching the truck, dumping, backing up and turning,” said Hussey. “Helping new operators become proficient as quickly as possible is essential. We took that into account when designing our updated quarry, aggregate and mining loaders, including the new WA800-8.”

Hussey highlighted three key systems that contribute to productivity and efficiency, which can be used together or separately to automate the work phases when V-cycle loading haul trucks:

- **Automatic dig** optimizes bucket load, actuating the bucket tilt and lifting operations by sensing the pressure applied to the work equipment.
- **Semi-automatic approach** raises the boom automatically when reversing out of the pile. The lift arms elevate until reaching the upper setting of the boom positioner, allowing the operator to focus on the travel path of the loader.
- **Semi-automatic dump** automatically raises the lift arms and dumps the bucket with the push of a button. After dumping, it levels the bucket and returns the lift arms to the lower boom positioner setting; however, the lift arms will not lower until the bucket has cleared the truck.

### New bucket design, customer-requested features

The WA800-8's bucket has a new shape that includes an increased radius and floor inclination that make it easier to fill and retain material. The spill guard was adjusted to give operators improved visibility to the pile, and sweeper wings on either side protect the front tires.

“We also responded to customer requests by introducing a modulation clutch for optimal tractive effort and throttle lock that improves cycle times by maintaining high work-equipment performance and saves fuel with auto-deceleration.” ■

#### Quick Specs on Komatsu's WA800-8 Quarry, Aggregate, Mining Wheel Loader

Net Horsepower	Operating Weight	Bucket Capacity	Ideal Truck Match
854 hp	254,700 lb	15 cu yd	60- to 100-ton

With automatic dig, semi-automatic approach and semi-automatic dump systems, the WA800-8 assists operators in V-cycle loading. “Helping new operators become proficient more quickly is essential. We took that into account as we began designing our updated quarry, aggregate and mining loaders, including the new WA800-8,” said Robert Hussey, Komatsu Product Marketing Manager.





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# Mike Gidaspow says that the features and technology in today's equipment are the result of connecting with customers

*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.*



**Mike Gidaspow, Director, Sales and Marketing, U.S. Central and Canadian Regions**

Mike Gidaspow said that when he joined Komatsu it fulfilled a childhood wish. He started with the company as a test engineer executing performance and stress testing of equipment.

"Growing up, I had visions of working for a car-review magazine and performance testing automobiles," said Gidaspow. "Construction equipment was pretty close, so it was a bit of a dream come true."

Komatsu was Gidaspow's second job after graduating from Illinois Tech with a degree in mechanical engineering. It has since led to a 20-year career with the company and an MBA from the University of Chicago. During that time, he has held several positions in design engineering, strategy, product marketing and sales.

In his current role as Director, Sales and Marketing, U.S. Central and Canadian Regions, Gidaspow works directly with Komatsu distributors to acquire equipment and assists them in helping their customers find the right machinery to fit their needs.

"There are new challenges and opportunities every day in this industry," Gidaspow stated. "When you work with an individual or a company to come up with solutions that make their business more efficient and potentially more profitable, that's a real win for everyone. And, the equipment is fun. That's what makes this career so enjoyable."

When he's not in the field with distributors and customers, Gidaspow enjoys spending time with his family traveling, biking and doing other outdoor activities. He and his wife, Julie, have two sons. ■

**QUESTION:** During the past few years, Komatsu has emphasized talking with customers in the field. Why is that so important?

**ANSWER:** Those visits with contractors and individuals give us tremendous perspective about what's happening in the industries we serve. What challenges are they facing? What are their pain points with equipment? We use that information and feedback to develop machines and support solutions that are designed to increase efficiency and production and, hopefully, make the end user more profitable.

**QUESTION:** That's surely been a challenge with COVID-19. How are you adapting?

**ANSWER:** Much like everyone else, we are doing a lot of remote video conferencing. There have been some growing pains, but also positives, such as the ability to "meet" and talk with more people each day. It's not the same as talking face-to-face, shaking hands and being on a jobsite – and we hope to be able to get back to that very soon – but it's a fair substitute.

At CONEXPO, we placed a strong emphasis on Smart Construction and its ability to increase efficiencies with technology. A big component of it is having fewer people on the jobsite and more people working remotely. That seems to have gained acceptance faster with the current situation. Customers have really embraced remote technology, such as KOMTRAX and intelligent Machine Control, to monitor and manage their machinery.

**QUESTION:** Do you see this as a long-term trend?

**ANSWER:** We were already seeing it to some degree, but it appears to have accelerated under the circumstances. Customers are asking what tools we have to help them better function in this situation, and we believe they will continue to do more and more going forward.

**QUESTION:** Will technology continue to play an ever-increasing role?

**ANSWER:** It certainly will, and the faster equipment users accept and implement it, the faster they will see the positives. Technology is transforming construction. It's giving companies the ability to get results in less time. Drone surveys provide actionable





In-the-field conversations provide Komatsu with first-hand feedback on what customers seek to make their operations more efficient and productive. "Those visits with contractors and individuals give us tremendous perspective about what's happening in the industries we serve," said Mike Gidaspow, Director, Sales and Marketing, U.S. Central and Canadian Regions. "We use that information and feedback to develop machines and support solutions that are designed to increase efficiency and production and, hopefully, make the end user more profitable."

data that can be acted on much more quickly than with traditional surveying methods. Remote file transfer to an intelligent machine delivers real-time information about changes to plans. That replaces driving to the jobsite. Those are just a couple of the numerous ways technology is changing the landscape.

**QUESTION: Komatsu Chairman and CEO Rod Schrader serves on the board of the Associated Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) and you are on its I Make America committee. Why is this involvement important?**

**ANSWER:** These groups are comprised of individuals and companies who advocate for common causes. For instance, AEM has all types of manufacturers, including our competitors, who want to bring awareness to issues such as increased infrastructure investment. We know we have a stronger voice, and, if we work together, we can hopefully get Congress to pass meaningful legislation that has a positive effect on the country, such as better roads, bridges and utility systems.

Another area we are supporting is increased investment in workforce development, so we can get the word out that manufacturing and construction are great, well-paying career choices. ■



Mike Gidaspow, Director, Sales and Marketing, U.S. Central and Canadian Regions, says technology will continue to play an ever-increasing role in construction machinery, including GPS grading systems, such as Komatsu's intelligent Machine Control.



## MyKomatsu web-based solution simplifies fleet management and e-commerce



Rizwan Mirza,  
Komatsu Manager,  
Telematics, Products  
& Services Division



Tom Hergenreder,  
Komatsu Marketing  
Manager, Parts

Fleet management is essential to machine health, ensuring maximum uptime and, in turn, production. Keeping track of data across multiple jobsites and ordering maintenance items through various online platforms can make it a challenge.

"Quick access to critical information is vital," said Rizwan Mirza, Komatsu Manager, Telematics, Products & Services Division. "Customers told us they wanted to be able to access their fleet data at any time, from a single site where it's organized in a standard way. We responded with MyKomatsu, a complimentary web-based solution that integrates many legacy systems to deliver intelligence that assists customers in running their businesses."

### Actionable resources at your fingertips

MyKomatsu enables users to visualize and evaluate their assets with fleet-wide or equipment-specific information from any device and order Komatsu Genuine Parts.

"Combining parts ordering capabilities and telematics allows customers to monitor machine conditions and quickly order parts when needed," said Tom Hergenreder, Komatsu Marketing Manager, Parts.

Hergenreder added that ordering parts is easy with checkout similar to that of online shopping sites. "Customers receive a tracking number to keep tabs on the order. With flexible shipping options, they can conveniently have their parts delivered virtually anywhere, including directly to their jobsites or have them waiting at their local distributor's parts counter."

Fleets can be viewed on a map or list and highlighted with quick statistics from the past day, week or month. "Starting from a fleet view, users can easily check the performance of their fleet or an individual machine," Mirza explained.

"Working hours, fuel, idle time, working modes, CARE reports, standard and extended warranty details, recommended parts lists based on machine hours and more are available," added

Hergenreder. "The parts recommendation feature makes it easier to quickly identify the maintenance items that are coming due for service, without the need for extensive searching."

Customers can register for a complimentary account on the MyKomatsu website (MyKomatsu.komatsu). After inputting some details, a notice is sent to the local distributor who provides the customers with access. Once activated, users can begin to reap the benefits.

"We are working to add customers' competitive machines to be able to track them, too," said Mirza. "This really does simplify fleet management, marrying it with a simplified e-commerce. We are also working on a mobile app with the same features, which will be available in the near future for both Android and Apple devices." ■





# intelligent Machine Control 2.0 increases dozer productivity with grass-to-grade automatics

Construction companies are always seeking ways to boost production. The combination of today's equipment and technology elevates the ability to do so like never before.

"Aftermarket GPS add-on systems started the trend toward automated grading, and we built on that with the first generation of our integrated intelligent Machine Control (iMC) dozers," said Derek Morris, Komatsu Product Marketing Manager, intelligent Machine Control. "Now, we're introducing the second generation with products that deliver iMC 2.0."

Morris describes iMC 2.0 as a suite of productivity features that utilize advanced machine technology to improve dozer production. It debuted at CONEXPO and was previewed on the D71PXi-24, Komatsu's newest and largest hydrostatic dozer to date. The D71 will be available later this year, and iMC 2.0 will be available on other dozers later this year as well.

One of the key attributes of iMC 2.0 is the previously introduced patent-pending proactive dozing control that automatically cuts and strips from existing terrain like an experienced operator, 100 percent of the time. During operation, the dozer measures the terrain it tracks and uses the track-level data to

plan the next pass, making it 60 percent more productive than previous-generation iMC models, according to Komatsu.

### Improved automation

New features of iMC 2.0 include patent-pending lift layer control, which automatically spreads fill from existing terrain with one press of a button. Much like proactive dozing control, this option also tracks the terrain and uses that data to plan the next pass, which doubles production and achieves consistent layers for quality compaction.

Tilt steering control automatically tilts the blade to maintain straight travel during rough dozing, reducing the need for operator steering input by 80 percent.

Quick surface creation creates a temporary design surface with one press of the button. When combined with other iMC 2.0 functions, operators can begin stripping or spreading using automatic without waiting – or the need – for a complex 3D model.

"iMC 2.0 uses a new system architecture to deliver automatics from grass to grade," said Morris. "It really is the next evolution of iMC and further enhances operators' ability to increase production." ■



**Derek Morris,**  
Komatsu Product  
Marketing Manager,  
intelligent Machine  
Control

Komatsu introduced intelligent Machine Control 2.0 during CONEXPO and previewed the D71PXi-24, which features the second-generation technology. The system allows operators to run fully automatic from first-to-last pass with key features that boost productivity by up to 60 percent.



# Adding automatic lubrication system can sustain vital components' performance, longevity



**Scott Ruderman,**  
Komatsu Product  
Marketing Manager



**Dan Varon,**  
Graco Market  
Specialist

**P**roper greasing completed at recommended intervals is vital to the performance and longevity of components. Komatsu Product Marketing Manager Scott Ruderman emphasized that one way to stay on schedule is with an automatic lubrication system.

"Equipment has several grease points, and it takes time to manually hit them all," said Ruderman. "In some cases, those tasks are done multiple times a day. The chance of missing one can potentially be very costly. An automatic lubrication system eliminates that possibility by dispersing a metered amount of grease to each individual point at set intervals during operation."

### Easy to use

Ruderman said systems from Komatsu-allied vendors, such as Graco, should be considered and are available for trucks, wheel loaders and excavators. They are pre-installed on new machines or come as a field-install kit for equipment already in the field. Working together, the two companies ensured that a Graco automatic lubrication system meets Komatsu's recommended grease intervals.

"Ideally, once it's set to Komatsu's recommendation, no additional adjustment is needed," said Dan Varon, Graco Market Specialist. "However, you can manually regulate the amount of grease. For example, if

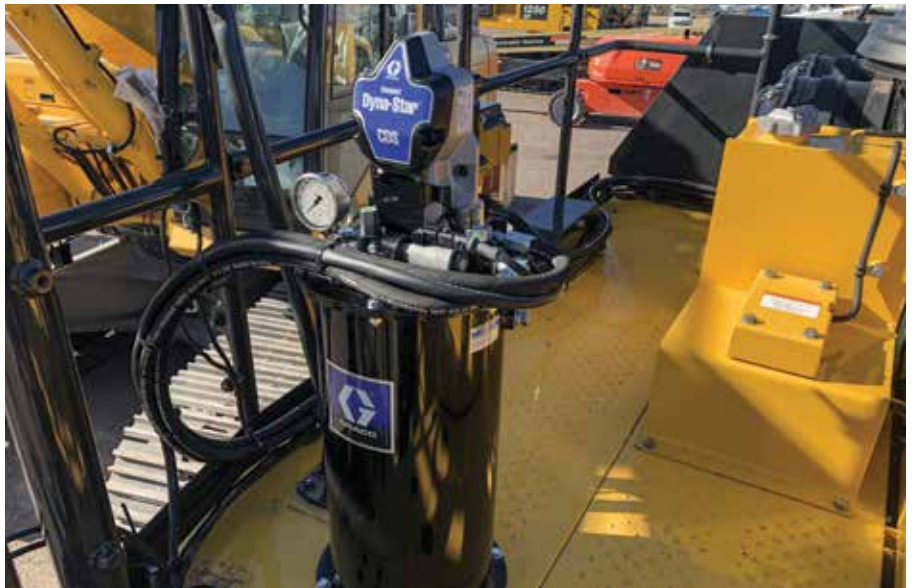
operators notice that they are raising the dump body more than usual, they can increase the interval for that individual point."

Varon added that newer Graco systems, such as the one used with a Komatsu HD605 haul truck, have enhanced features. Its GLC X controller and Auto Lube™ app are Bluetooth-enabled for remote condition monitoring and data logging. Information can be tracked via the smartphone app and exported to a common data file for maintenance records. Additional components include the new Compact Dyna-Star® pump that reduces weight, increases platform space and has continuous level monitoring.

Wheel loaders and excavators use a GLC™2200 controller to control the pump and monitor the level of grease and system performance. Working in conjunction with the controller is Graco's G3™ pump, featuring an 8-liter translucent reservoir with stir paddle and a low-level monitoring switch. The series progressive system feeds a set of divider valves to deliver the predetermined volume of grease to each point.

"Both systems have convenient ground-level ports for refilling the reservoir quickly without the need to climb on the machine," Ruderman noted. "Using auto lube is highly recommended for keeping vital parts moving and preventing premature failure." ■

Automatic lubricating systems for trucks, wheel loaders and excavators are pre-installed or come as field-install kits for equipment already in the field. The systems ensure greasing at recommended intervals to maximize component performance and longevity.





# Komatsu supports Feeding America as national partner in COVID-19 response efforts, donating funds to aid food banks

More than 37 million Americans face hunger each year. Recently, as the COVID-19 pandemic pushed millions more into food insecurity, Komatsu's North American business units partnered with Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, to donate up to \$250,000 to support the organization.

"The hunger crisis grew quickly in the face of COVID-19," said Rod Schrader, Chairman and CEO of Komatsu's North American operations. "We are honored to partner with Feeding America to support their work to rapidly scale to meet the rising needs of our communities."

In May, Feeding America predicted that its network of local food banks would need an additional \$1.4 billion during a six-month period to provide food assistance to people facing hunger – a 30-percent increase to the nonprofit organization's operating costs. The network of 200 food banks works with more than 60,000 soup kitchens, food pantries, churches and other community organizations to deliver food, even in the midst of a global pandemic.

"Feeding America is grateful to Komatsu and its employees for their generous support of our neighbors who face hunger during these uncertain times," said Lauren Bierdron, Vice President of Corporate Partnerships at Feeding America. "Their donation will help food banks serve communities hit the hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic."

### Matching employee donations

Komatsu America Corp., Komatsu Mining Corp., Modular Mining and Hensley Industries – all North America subsidiaries of Komatsu Ltd. – are joining together in the effort. The business units are donating \$150,000 and are providing a two-for-one match of employee donations up to \$50,000.

The companies are dedicating an additional \$100,000 to local organizations in the communities in which they operate throughout North America to support specific charitable efforts and needs in the areas of medical supplies and support, food insecurity and community funds. ■



**Rod Schrader,**  
Chairman and CEO,  
Komatsu North America

Komatsu's North American business units partnered with Feeding America, donating up to \$250,000 to the organization's efforts to provide food assistance to those facing hunger. "We are honored to partner with Feeding America to support their work to rapidly scale to meet the rising needs of our communities," said Rod Schrader, Chairman and CEO of Komatsu's North American operations.



# AGC 'Culture of CARE' program designed to help firms create more welcoming workplace environments

A new Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) initiative is aimed at increasing diversity in the construction industry and making jobsites more inclusive. Called Culture of CARE (commit, attract, retain and empower), its purpose is to help firms offer a more welcoming workplace environment for staff, particularly those from varied demographic backgrounds.

"We are asking companies to take bold and visible steps toward creating a more diverse, safe, welcoming and inclusive construction industry," said Stephen E. Sandherr, AGC's Chief Executive Officer. "This new program will attract the kind of diverse staff that research shows help construction firms become more innovative, safe, effective and profitable."

Culture of CARE calls on construction firms to sign a pledge to create more welcoming and inclusive workplace cultures. After signing the pledge, AGC will work with them to provide training and suggested human resources practices designed to help them take action. Education materials are available from the program, including sample HR policies, toolbox talks, jobsite posters and hardhat stickers.

Those interested can sign the pledge at [www.buildingculture.org](http://www.buildingculture.org). More information about the program, as well as other resources, are also available on the website.

### Safety and financial benefits

Sandherr noted that Culture of CARE is based on a program first launched by the AGC of Washington Chapter in the Pacific Northwest. The national association's Diversity & Inclusion Council evaluated the state program and determined that it was a powerful tool to support the industry's efforts to become more diverse and inclusive. In addition to the CARE program, AGC of America has already released its Business Case for Diversity & Inclusion in the Construction Industry, which provides the economic, safety and productivity rationale for expanding construction diversity.

"Culture of CARE has the potential to support a broad expansion of the diversity of the construction industry," said Rita Brown, Chair of AGC's Diversity & Inclusion Council. "We want to provide the tools needed to recruit, retain and support people of all backgrounds." ■

The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) is focusing on increasing diversity in construction and making jobsites more inclusive through its Culture of CARE (commit, attract, retain and empower) initiative. "This new program will attract the kind of diverse staff that research shows help construction firms become more innovative, safe, effective and profitable," said Stephen E. Sandherr, AGC's Chief Executive Officer.





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# Travis Heseltine loves the daily variety, challenge that come with inside parts sales career

**W**hile some tasks are occasionally repeated, no two days are ever exactly the same for Travis Heseltine, who handles inside parts sales for a Komatsu distributor.

"It's hard to believe such variety after 21 years in a parts department, but that's a great advantage to this job," emphasized Heseltine. "Sure, there are some jobs I do on a routine basis to keep things in proper working order; however, I never have that sense of 'here we go again' doing the same thing over and over, day after day."

Working in a parts department has been the one constant in Heseltine's life since he joined the distributor in 1999 after serving in the U.S. Army for five years. While in the service, he was a radio operator and worked with computers and automation.

"That training fit right into the current parts world, which has become increasingly automated," Heseltine pointed out. "When I started, parts books on CD were the big thing. Now, pretty much everything is online. Today, when a customer places an order by phone or online, we can find what they need in seconds after a few mouse clicks. I put the order together and send it to the warehouse for them to pull the part or parts to be ready for pick up, delivery or shipping."

### Priority on speed, affordability

Heseltine helps locate and secure parts for both internal use – which includes the distributor's shop – and for external customers either through his company's warehouse locations or directly from the inventories of Komatsu and other manufacturers.

"The sooner we can get machines back into production the better, and that's why most common items are kept in stock, as well as a large inventory of replacement parts," Heseltine explained. "If we don't have something, in most instances, we can get it in fairly short order. I try for the fastest, most cost-effective means for the customer."

Case-in-point involved a recent order from a mine for radiator coolers. Heseltine worked with a freight company to ensure delivery

of the coolers to the customer within its specific timeframe.

"It was a challenge, but anytime you deliver for the customer and make them happy, it's a good feeling," said Heseltine. "I enjoy what I do, or I would not have stayed with it this long. The equipment industry is great, and parts are a critical piece of the puzzle. You can't fix machines without them. I love the day-to-day activity and the interactions with co-workers and customers alike. I'm glad I found this job and made a career out of it." ■

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**"I'm glad I found this job and made a career out of it."**

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Travis Heseltine (below) looks up a part on his distributor's inventory. "I enjoy what I do, or I would not have stayed with it this long," said Heseltine of inside sales. "The equipment industry is great, and parts are a critical piece of the puzzle. You can't fix machines without them. I love the day-to-day activity and the interactions with co-workers and customers alike. I'm glad I found this job and made a career out of it."



## Austin branch Service Manager Josh Nash is dedicated to reducing customer downtime to maximize productivity

Josh Nash enjoys the challenges that come with maintaining and repairing machinery.

"I've been around heavy equipment my entire life – running it and working on it," said Nash. "My background is very technical. I know a lot about equipment, and I love figuring out what's wrong, if an issue comes up."

These days, however, he's doing less diagnosing and more overseeing of technicians as the Service Manager at WPI's Austin branch. He took on the role in March of this year. His staff includes 15 field service personnel and four shop techs.

"We're actively seeking more," stated Nash. "Our current group is made up of everyone from master journeymen to trainees. It's a great mix of experience, and the older guys are great at passing along their knowledge."

### Wide-ranging experience

Nash is also sharing his know-how and skills. His experience includes working as an operator in a lignite mine, welding for a railroad company, serving as a certified welding inspector and managing a mine at a large sand and gravel operation. It was there that he became familiar with Komatsu equipment and WPI's service.

"From a customer perspective, I had a great experience with both Komatsu and WPI," said Nash. "When the opportunity to join WPI came along, I didn't have to think much about taking it. It's a great company with a family atmosphere. In addition, we can handle just about anything when it comes to equipment, whether it's a brand WPI carries or a competitive machine."

His branch, and others in the WPI family, provide a full range of offerings, including repair to hydraulics, electrical and emissions systems as well as fabrication.

"Realistically, all equipment breaks down eventually," Nash emphasized. "It's how you take care of when it does that matters. In the past, customers said that it took weeks to get a technician. We're at 48 hours maximum right now, and we're working to drive that number even lower."

### Dedicated to training

Nash said one good reason for WPI technicians' ability to keep customers' downtime to a minimum is the company's dedication to training.

"WPI offers more training than anywhere I've seen in the industry," said Nash.

"It believes the investment in time and expense to ensure technicians are up to date on all the latest machinery and systems is essential to customer success. This increases the technicians' efficiency and the customers' production time."

Away from work he and his wife, Katie, enjoy spending time together and with their families in his home state of Louisiana and in Arizona, where she was raised. Nash likes to hunt, especially white-tail deer, and fish. ■



Josh Nash, Service Manager at WPI's Austin branch, is passionate about maximizing customers' uptime. "I've been around heavy equipment my entire life – running it and working on it," said Nash. "My background is very technical. I know a lot about equipment, and I love figuring out what's wrong, if an issue comes up."



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