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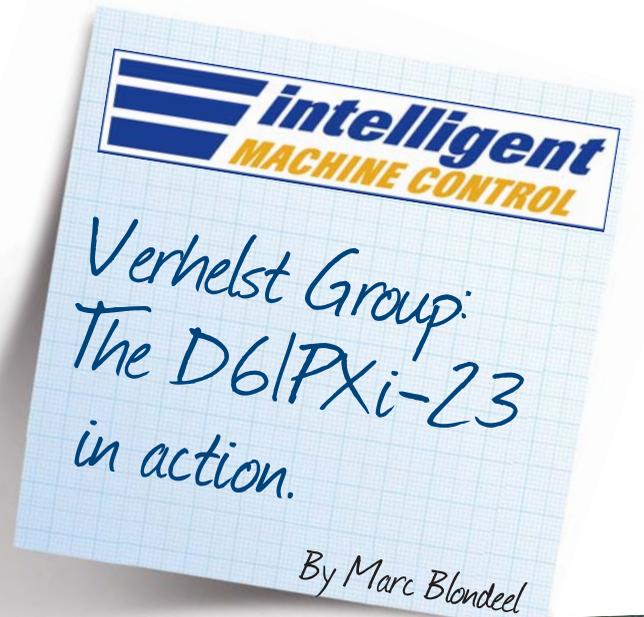
TIMES

Success Story - Verhelst Group:
The D61PXi-23 in Action

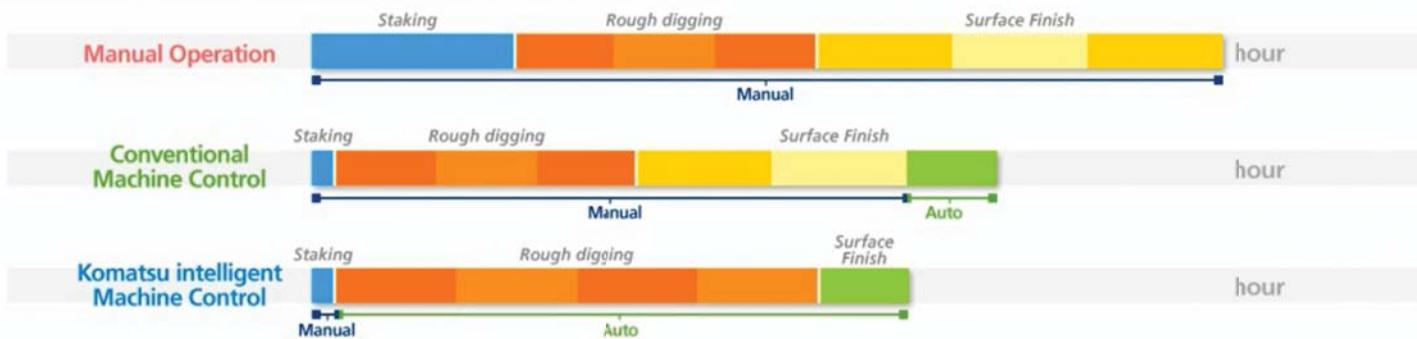
SUCCESS STORY

When Komatsu's unique intelligent Machine Control system was unveiled to the world at the bauma fair in Munich in April 2013, Johan Verhelst, head of the "Verhelst Group" based in Oostende, Belgium, quickly realized the benefits of this innovative technology, both for his company and his customers.

Before he left the fair, an agreement was reached with Komatsu Europe International and, in July 2013, the contract was finalized with Bia n.v., Komatsu's official Distributor for Belgium, making the "Verhelst Group" the proud owners of the first D61PXi-23 bulldozer sold worldwide.



Komatsu intelligent Machine Control



The “Verhelst Group” employs 560 people and specializes in activities such as road building, demolition and recycling. They already include 10 Komatsu bulldozers in their fleet and Johan Verhelst has a keen interest in new and reliable technologies. “Our mission in the construction industry is to be pioneers in Europe and to build a sustainable company” he told us.

In 2012, Topmix, a company part of the Verhelst Group, were already the first customers in Belgium to acquire a HB215LC-1, Komatsu’s ground-breaking Hybrid excavator.

On the new D61PXi-23, the intelligent machine control system is a unique technology developed by Komatsu jointly with TOPCON Corporation. Completely factory integrated, it offers full auto-blade control and blade load control and is de-

signed to help customers enhance their productivity, reduce costs of operations and improve job site safety.

This exclusive system on the D61PXi-23 delivers a high performance, from rough dozing to finish grading, through the use of a highly durable and accurate off-blade sensor package, validated to Komatsu’s rigid quality and durability standards.

When we visited Verhelst, their new D61PXi-23 dozer was working on a levelling and earthmoving jobsite to prepare the parking area of a new hospital in Oekene, Roeselare.

After nearly 100 hours working with the new machine, the operator, Frederik Depozzolo, shared his first professional impressions with us: “It’s simply amazing

how quickly the D61PXi-23 can finalize the job” he said. “On a previous jobsite in Oostende, which was scheduled to last 5 days, we finished the work in only 2 days”.

He went on: “The machine is very efficient. I use the auto blade control at least 20% more often than on a machine with conventional machine control and, on the monitor panel, I select the options for the economy mode and the stepless gear changes far more frequently.

He confirmed the great view he enjoys from the D61PXi-23 driver’s seat, as well as the machine’s exceptional comfort, with the MP3 connection, rear view camera, and the easy-to-select multiple functionalities on the monitor. Mr Depozzolo also insisted on how the joystick in Komatsu dozers makes them so simple to operate.

Komatsu’s complete intelligent machine control system includes an improved GNSS receiver and control box, and a GNSS antenna. For improved safety and efficiency, the antenna, mast pole and cables were removed from the blade where they were usually located, and are now fully integrated to the machine. The antenna is located on the top of the cab and provides accurate data collection, regardless of the actual blade position.

“Not having to mount the antenna anymore is a real time saver” said Mr Depozzolo. “The integrated cab top antenna on the D61PXi-23 saves me up to 45 minutes work every day”.

Sitelink, Topcon’s advanced communications management system, is easily activated on the D61PXi-23. Dozing progress



is then sent to the site manager in a remote office, and updated design data can be forwarded from there to the dozer in the field, quickly and efficiently, without the need to dispatch personnel.

In these days of fierce competition, the innovative intelligent Machine Control technology by Komatsu is a sure investment towards increased profitability for customers, through better productivity and higher machine efficiency.