

Bell Equipment Media Release

Pre Bauma 2007

Date: 30 January 2007

Embargo: For immediate release

Bell leads the pack with first tracked industrial ADT

Recognising customers' needs and the desire to be a world-class manufacturing innovator has led Bell Equipment to produce the first tracked industrial Articulated Dump Truck (ADT), which will be on show at Bauma 2007.

Managing Director of Bell Equipment France, Claude Boulet said the B30D tracked ADT was built at the request of Fuhler, a Dutch-based customer, which had need for such a machine in its earthmoving division.

"The company has an operation in the north-east region of Holland near Emmen on the Holland-German border where they load peat for use in gardens. They tried to make use of a B20D with wide tyres in this application but it soon became clear that any truck fitted with tyres would not be suitable because the peat is such a light, soft material that you cannot even walk on it.

"Fuhler is a customer of our Dutch dealer, Van der Spek and as they were quite happy with the B20D in all the other applications, they asked whether it would be possible to produce a tracked ADT for this specialized purpose. We conducted an in-depth study with the Italian track manufacturer, TIDUE to assess the feasibility of the project. Bell Equipment Group Chief Executive, Gary Bell then visited the site and gave the green light for a prototype to be built," he said.

The B30D tracked conversion makes use of the B30D powerhead but necessitated two redesigned axles as well as the manufacture of a new, lighter rear chassis fitted with a lighter bin. The Bell Equipment Research and Development team in Richards Bay, South Africa soon came up with the solutions.

Boulet said that the tracked machine has succeeded in meeting its objective of reducing ground pressure. On a wheeled B30D the ground axle weight on the middle and heaviest axle is 161kPa compared to the tracked machine, which measures only 99kPa.

The machine has been in operation since early September 2006 and Fuhler is so impressed with the results that they have subsequently placed an order for three additional units. These will replace the modified agricultural machines they have been using until now on these turf-moor fields.

The B30D tracked unit is loaded infield using a 20t excavator fitted with extra wide tracks. Depending on weather conditions and distances the B30D can make up to 100 trips per day to the roadside, each time carrying about 12 tonnes of peat, a low-density material. Road trucks collect the peat from the roadside and take it to be bagged ready for sale.

Boulet said that the B30D tracked unit could prove useful in other European markets due to its significantly reduced ground pressure and estimates that the demand for this niche product could be as high as 15 to 20 units per year.

Ends

470 words

Specifications

Bell B30D 4x4 tracked ADT

Engine

Mercedes-Benz OM906LA
205 kW (275 PS) @ 2200 t/min
1100 Nm @ 1050 – 1850 t/min

Transmission

ZF 6HP592C with integral retarder

Suspensions

Front: Semi-independent leading arm type linkages
supported by nitrogen/oil struts

Back: fix mounted on chassis

Bin

Heaped volume: 16,6 m³ (SAE 2:1)

Payload: 15.000 kg

Operating weights

Empty: 25.000 kg

Laden: 40.000 kg

International contact:

Cindy Turner
Communications Manager

Bell Equipment

Head Office

Direct: +27 (0) 35 9079230
Fax: +27 (0) 35 7974323
E-mail: cindyt@bell.co.za
www.bellequipment.com

Contact UK:

Bell Equipment U.K.

Mr. Bob Aldridge
Unit 6 C, Graycar Business park,
Barton-Under-Needwood,
Burton-on-Trent
DE13 8EN
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 (0) 1283 712862
Fax: +44 (0) 1283 712687
E-mail: general@bellequipment.co.uk

Captions: (photos as tiff/jpeg on CD)

Bell-B30D tracked 1:

Low ground pressure, which improves performance in challenging applications, is the most remarkable feature of Bell Equipment's new tracked B30D ADT, which is to be presented to the European market for the first time at Bauma 2007.

(Photo: Bell Equipment)



Bell-B30D tracked 2:

Fuhler's tracked Bell B30D does about 100 trips per day carrying an average load of 12 tonnes of peat, a low-density material, from the field to the roadside. From the roadside, the material is distributed further depot by road trucks.

(Photo: Tidue srl)

