PRESS RELEASE
BAUMA 2007: AN INCREASINGLY EXTENSIVE RANGE OF COMPACT
IHI MINI-EXCAVATORS FOR IHIMER

The company (created through the joint venture between IHI and the Imer Group) is showcasing all its latest products at the prestigious Munich exhibition.
The spotlights will be on the new IHI 50VX and 55VX models, two 5 ton zero tail-swing machines which combine design, ease of handling and performance levels.

Munich, 30th January 2007 – IHIMER (a company specialised in manufacturing and marketing mini-excavators, skid-steer loaders and minidumper, established 4 years ago through the joint venture between the IMER Group and IHI) is showing a host of new products and technologies at BAUMA 2007, the key international showcase for machinery, equipment and vehicles for construction, construction materials and the mining industry (to be held in Munich from 23rd to 29th April 2007). Indeed, the Tuscan company is taking the opportunity offered by this prestigious exhibition to present the new IHI mini-excavators of the VX series, which combine technology, safety and performance levels to meet the requirements of working sites.

The two new IHI 50VX and 55VX models are zero tail-swing mini-excavators in the 5 ton class which further extend the company’s range of compact machines. As a result of the new VX series, IHIMER is confirming its leading role in the field of earthmoving machinery at both Italian and international level. IHIMER was created through the joint venture between the IMER Group of Poggibonsi (Siena) – a European leader in the production of construction machinery, machines and plants for the production, transport and laying of concrete and specialised in the earthmoving machinery sector – and the Japanese giant IHI, through the IHI Construction Machinery Limited division.

Since 1989 IHIMER has also been manufacturing part of the earthmoving machines under the IHI brand intended for the European market, while most of production has until now been kept in Japan.

The two mini-excavators of the new IHI VX series, characterised by a highly attractive design, warrant high performance levels, especially the ripping force. In fact, accurate sizing of the hydraulic system makes it possible to develop a truly considerable bucket tooth digging force (50VX: 35 kN – 55VX: 40kN). This allows the two machines to work in all conditions and on every type of site, fully meeting the needs of machinery rental firms, construction companies and public service companies. The IHI 50VX and 55VX models, which feature a hydraulic Load Sensing system and reinforced rubber tracks, are fitted with a new 2189 cc Tier II Yanmar 4TNV88 Diesel engine with direct injection (which can deliver a power of 37.1 HP at 2300 rpm). IHIMER has also given painstaking care to the environmental impact of its machines. In fact, the engine meets all environmental requirements, owing to optimised combustion and really low noise levels.

The IHIMER mini-excavators of the new IHI VX series possess a Load Sensing hydraulic system. This solution, fitted with a variable displacement pump, which delivers 124 litres a minute at a maximum pressure of 24.5 Mpa, makes it possible to send the exact amount of oil required in every situation, regardless of the different load conditions, with few movements of the controls. This way, extremely accurate manoeuvring can be obtained, ensuring simultaneous movements also during travel,
in addition to high control sensitivity for the operator. Owing to the zero tail-swing rotation, digging and loading work can be carried out in total safety also near walls or in tight spaces. The optimised weight distribution, combined with a solid base, also offers outstanding stability. The two 50VX and 55VX models have double travel speed (2.6/4.8 km/h), which means fast movements and first rate manoeuvrability.

In designing the two VX models, particular care was given to operator comfort and safety. In fact, the cab is a comfortable and user-friendly working environment, besides being very spacious. The large glazed surfaces enable optimum 360-degree vision and this allows a perfect view of the bucket even when it is at its maximum dumping height. The interior trim and rear oddments console give the driving compartment a welcoming appearance. As to the utmost operator protection, the cab has been manufactured according to the international standards known as TOPS (protection against side overturning), ROPS (rollover protection) and FOPS (protection against falling objects).

The IHI 50VX model has a transport weight, including cab, of 4,810 kilograms. The version with standard bucket (0.16 cubic metres) has a maximum digging depth of 3.6 metres, while the version with long arm reaches a digging depth of 3.9 metres. The dumping height is 4 metres in the version with standard arm and 4.25 metres in the version with long arm. The IHI 55VX model has a transport weight, including cab, of 5,310 kilograms. The version with standard bucket has a maximum digging depth of 3.8 metres, while the one with long arm can reach a depth of 4.1 metres. The maximum dumping height is 4.22 metres in the version with standard arm, while using the long arm a height of 4.46 metres is reached.

Mini-excavators are, in general, subject to a high degree of wear and this is why IHIMER’s new VX series embodies particular solutions to increase machine life. In fact, the IHI 50VX and 55VX models have a resin tank as standard fitting, which is ideal against rust, and an aluminium fan and radiator that are highly resistant to corrosion. All covers are made of pressed steel sheet, chosen to warrant greater water resistance as well as facilitating repairs. The lamp has been embedded in the boom to protect it from damage and, at the same time, to facilitate digging operations as it does not hinder the operator’s vision in any way. The track configuration warrants durability, stability and above all low pressure on the ground. The particular design of angled crawler frame facilitates the removal of debris and earth for easier cleaning cleaning.

Other distinguishing features of the new IHI 50VX and 55VX mini-excavators are accessibility and ease of maintenance. The full-opening covers of the two models facilitates daily inspection and any type of checking and maintenance operation on the engine, control valve, radiator, cooling fan and battery. The possibility to intervene quickly and easily minimises machine down times. The fuel tank spout is positioned on the outside of the machine for easier filling. In the 50VX and 55VX models the cross section of the crawler frame is angled to prevent hardening of the mud and debris on the surface and, at the same time provides perfect draining while cleaning the crawlers. The use of oversized pins for new bushes extend greasing interval between maintenance operations (250 hours) and the reinforced swing bracket, combined with the steel sheet covers, give the new mini-excavators very high reliability and long life.

The San Gimignano plant in the province of Siena employs approx. 58 persons and covers an area of 36 thousand square metres. Ongoing research into innovation and continuous design activities allow IHIMER to develop state-of-the-art machines that perfectly meet market requirements. In fact, with a production capacity of five earthmoving machines a day the company can meet all specific needs, offering all the customisations and alterations required by customers. All this is the result of heavy investments in research and development, which have enhanced machine quality and innovation, extensive commitment to achieving top levels of efficiency while cutting costs and the care given to creating an intensive distribution network in the European networks. In fact, IHIMER products are marketed through a network of 60 distributors and retailers, which evenly covers the main European
countries like France, Spain, Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland, Norway and the Netherlands.

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