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## **PipeLine Machinery International adds new pipelayer to equipment offerings**

Introduction of the Caterpillar PL61 Pipelayer positions a new, technically refined model at the small end of the Caterpillar pipelayer range—providing a machine with 40,000 pounds (18 145 kg) of lift-capacity and the capability to meet the pipeline contractor's requirements for precision control, transportability, operator comfort, visibility and durability.

The PL61, features a Cat<sup>®</sup> C6.6 ACERT<sup>®</sup> engine, closed-loop hydrostatic drive system, oval-track SystemOne<sup>™</sup> undercarriage and an electronically enhanced operator station. Complementing this technology are premium features retained from the design of the predecessor model, the 561N, including hydraulic draw-works, two-speed load line and extendible counterweight.

“We're pleased to have this state-of-the-art pipelayer in our product line,” said PipeLine Machinery International (PLM) President Mel Ternan. “Not only does the C6.6 engine deliver outstanding engine performance and fuel efficiency, it meets worldwide emission standards which are a winning combination for PLM and our global customers.”

The PL61 was designed with extensive pipeline customer input. Issues of importance to the pipeline contractor like visibility, ease of operation, load handling precision and stability were given highest priority,” said Ternan.

### **Lifting Structures and Controls**

Two-speed operation of the load-line winch provides high speeds for overall productivity, but lower speeds for precise positioning. Oil-disc brakes in the winches

positively retain selected boom and hook positions. For added control, a combination decelerator/brake pedal can be configured to slow the machine with or without a reduction in engine speed.

PLM Equipment Services Manager Lindley Imeson commented on the technical highlights of the PL61. “The extendible counterweight helps the operator maintain stability with heavy loads or in steep terrain and can be retracted for maximum maneuverability in tight right- of- ways”, said Imeson. “There are counterweight frames available for both standard-track and low-ground-pressure-track machines, and we have frame-conversion kits that allow changing between the two configurations. Contractors are pleased with the ability to transport standard-track with the frame in place.”

“Ease of servicing is another feature driven by the contractors’ need for efficient field maintenance,” commented Imeson. “The routine maintenance checks carried out on the right-of-way can be quickly done on the PL61 through a large hinged door on the left side, and the cooling package is accessible through the swing-away grille and swing-away cooling fan. Grouped pressure taps, accessible from ground level, allow for quick checks of the hydraulic system, and ecology drains for engine oil, coolant and hydraulic tank reduce the risk of spills and shorten down time.” The PL61 also features the Caterpillar Product Link system – a wireless machine-tracking system that allows two-way communication between machine systems and a manager’s desktop computer, providing information such as location, hour-meter reading, fuel consumption and system alerts.

Ease of operation is enhanced with joystick and thumbwheel controls for the boom, load-line and counterweight. A thumbwheel in the lever permits precise counterweight positioning, and additional thumb buttons in the lever control the load line two-speed function and the “quick drop” feature for rapid load lowering. The joystick controllers are designed to isolate vibration and can be adjusted independently of the seat. The air suspension seat is available in a heated version for cold climates. The climate-controlled enclosed cab is glassed for all-around visibility,

and is further enhanced by the rounded sheet-metal contours and tapered engine enclosure.

Power Train and Undercarriage features of the PL61 include:

- Optimal combustion efficiency and fuel delivery for enhanced lugging performance and emissions control
- Cooling system automation that enhances fuel economy and maintains peak hydraulic performance in the implement and drive systems
- Reduced undercarriage maintenance costs with either standard (101 inches/2560 mm) or LGP (109 inches/2760 mm) undercarriages available

The PL61 is the newest addition to the extensive line of equipment available from PipeLine Machinery International to meet the needs of pipeline construction contractors around the globe. In addition to the full Caterpillar line of pipelayers – 583 T, 572R, 587T, the company can provide the necessary tractors, bulldozers, excavators and graders required by the mainline contractor.

For more information about the PL61 Pipelayer, contact your PLM Account Representative, visit the PipeLine Machinery International website at [www.cat.com](http://www.cat.com) or visit the Caterpillar website at [www.cat.com](http://www.cat.com).

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