

# PipeLine Machinery



## Announcement

December 9, 2010

### New welding tractor launched in Europe

The latest pipeline offering from Caterpillar – a purpose-built welding tractor – was recently revealed at a ceremony at the Caterpillar Grenoble Echirolles Plant.

The 953D Welding Tractor is targeted for pipeline contractors looking for a reliable, durable machine to support the welding operation. The base vehicle is a 953D Track Loader with some key modifications to the front and rear allowing for installation of the welding equipment required for both manual and automatic pipeline welding.

The 953D is equipped with a world-class ROPS cab with heating and air conditioning, an air-suspended seat and provides visibility that has no match in the industry. All these features add up to provide the operator with a working station that has the best comfort and ergonomics in the industry.

The tractor is available equipped with a front-mounted crane capable of holding a one-ton welding tent up to 10 meters out from the machine. The C6.6 Caterpillar engine not only drives the machine through a well-proven hydrostatic transmission, but also drives the generator.



Development of the 953D Welding Tractor began a few years ago in the United States and was completed by Caterpillar's Grenoble Engineering and Manufacturing departments in 2010. Two field-follow units were put to work in 2009 on jobsites in Europe accumulating over 700 work hours. After some modifications of the initial design, customers were very positive on the 953D's performance. Comments from operators using the machines were:

*"We are impressed with the weight and stability of the carrier unit – it is a real construction machine."*

*"The Hiab lifting attachment was sufficient to carry any tent we had."*

*"The placement of the components and the space for the welders and storage are a great improvement."*

*"The visibility and cab comfort are exceptional."*

"We are very pleased to add the 953D Welding Tractor to our pipeline offerings for the European market," said PLM-Cat Senior Vice President Tony Fernandez. "The conditions met on pipeline right of ways around the world call for some specific solutions. This is another unit we have to offer that provides Caterpillar reliability in a purpose-built machine designed for the pipeline business."

PLM-Cat was established in 2005 and is the first Caterpillar dealership to focus on a particular industry on a global basis. PLM provides purpose-built and traditional construction equipment to the mainline pipeline construction industry on projects around the world. PLM works closely with pipeline owners, contractors and local Caterpillar dealers to provide solutions tailored to the unique product and service needs of this industry.

PLM's worldwide activities are currently supported through the corporate offices in Houston, Texas, USA, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, The Hague, Netherlands, Beijing, China, Melbourne, Australia and Singapore.

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For further information, contact PLM Communications & Marketing Manager Sherry Gettis at [sgettis@plmcat.com](mailto:sgettis@plmcat.com) or by telephone at +1-780-377-0338. Additional PLM information is available on the PLM website at [www.plmcat.com](http://www.plmcat.com).

Event particulars:

On hand for a up-close look at the new Caterpillar 953D Welding Tractor were representatives from major pipeline customer SpieCapag, Caterpillar France, Caterpillar Global Pipeline, local Cat dealer Bergerat Monnoyeur and global pipeline equipment dealer PipeLine Machinery International (PLM-Cat).



From left to right: Sebastien Robles, Sales Engineer, Cat Grenoble ;Marco Jannuzzi, EAME Pipeline Manager, Cat Global Pipeline ;Eric Lepine, Managing Director, Cat, Grenoble ;Guy Perret, Large Customer Manager, Bergerat Monnoyeur, France ;Cyril Micheau, TTT/TTL EAME Demand & Supply Stream Manager, Cat, Grenoble ;Bruno Pomare, Equipment Manager, SpieCapag, France ;Regis Lasserre, Plant Manager, SpieCapag, France ;François Desjardins, SpieCapag Toulouse, France ;Dominique Marsans, Engineering Manager, Cat, Grenoble ;Gilles Didier, Custom Products Engineering Supervisor, Cat Grenoble ;Olivier Guerin, Designer Custom Products, Cat, Grenoble ;Boris Cayrel, Engineer Custom Products, Cat, Grenoble ;Gabriela Tana, Design Engineer, Geometric ;Eric Crozet, Project Engineer Custom Products, Cat, Grenoble ;Francois Brun, Shop Facilitator, Cat, Grenoble

Another event for pipeline customers in Holland was held at PLM-Cat's equipment facility at Moerdijke in November with customers Nacap, A.Hak and Volker Stevin Material attending.



Greg Rollheiser, PLM General Manager EAME, Gerald Grothe, PLM Senior Account Manager – International, Mark Roerink, Nacap Sales Manager, Loe Steenbergen, A.Hak.



Gerald Grothe, Anne Wind, Nacap Equipment Manager and Marco Jannuzzi, CGP Geneva examine the new 953D.