



MACHINE CONTROL ADVANCED with INNOVATIVE ATTACHMENTS



While machine control is a highly specialised capability, traditionally engineered equipment is also adding value to the technology. Auckland-based machine control specialist, Active Survey, is gaining efficiency and saving costs using off-the-shelf and custom-designed attachments for its civil construction projects.

Providing a fully integrated solution incorporating data preparation, machine control and surveying, Active Survey manages clients' data remotely leaving surveyors to work on the more technical side of their projects, effectively operating with fewer people on site.

"About 12 months ago, we purchased the first two Doherty quick couplers and the guys love using them," explains managing director, Bryce Kilpatrick.

"With the tilt coupler you don't have to get out of the cab to join up hoses and cables when changing attachments. Our machine control system integrates really well into the tilt coupler which was one of our main drivers for going with this product."

Aside from saving time, Kilpatrick also noticed a big drop in breakage costs, "If the guys forget to take off one of the cables and drop the bucket then that breaks the cable." At \$750 a cable that becomes a very expensive and time consuming exercise.

Deciding to explore the opportunities further with the Doherty team as an engineering supply partner, Kilpatrick commissioned a custom 3.5m wide trimming bucket following a basic design an Active Survey operator had created.

"We decided to use Doherty because of their reputation. They've got a good team and are really easy to deal with."

When it comes to finding a supply partner for equipment and systems that add value to his business, Kilpatrick explains that at the end of the day his decision often comes down to the people.

"We look for the best products in the industry but it comes down to the people more than anything else," he says. "I like working with the guys at Doherty. The support you get from the team is the most important thing."

Based in New Zealand with a wholly owned subsidiary in Australia, Doherty is one of the few manufacturers globally to offer quick couplers fully-compliant to Australian standard AS4772-208, European EN474 standard, expecting forthcoming ISO international standards and all major contractor policies. The Snaplock+ key feature is its Dual Pin Locking [DPL] system ensuring attachments remain securely engaged on both pins in the event of loss of engagement force.

Machine control uses 3D design models and GPS systems uploaded to the in-cab computer and connected to the machinery which then accurately position the earthwork machinery and aid the operators.

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