



JOHN MEE CONTINUES MTS VACUUM EXCAVATION FLEET EXPANSION

UMole (a division of VP plc) of Gt Gransden Cambridgeshire, recently announced the sale of a further MTS Dino III vacuum excavation unit to Vacuum Excavation (a division of John Mee Construction Ltd). The new rig purchase, when delivered in June 2008, will bring the number of MTS units within the company to two, in addition to the five smaller vacuum excavation units and other bespoke units already owned and operated by John Mee.

According to John Patrick, of John Mee Construction, "This new acquisition aims to cover two specific requirements within our operating arena. First we are looking to offer this technology to a broader client base as this type of operation is still a relatively new option some. Second, we have noticed an increase in demand for this technology from existing and potential new clients and we have to ensure our fleet has the capacity to respond to this increase from clients old and new."

The new rig, like its predecessors will be utilised on works across the utility installation and renovation spectrum including gas, water, electric power as well as some civils activities.

MTS VAC EX UNITS

The DINO 3 unit is just one of the MTS family of vacuum excavation systems distributed in the UK by U Mole. The range as a whole comprises the DINO 2, the DINO 3 and the DINO 4 models (the model number indicates the number of axles on each unit). Each model is available in a standard and 'MEGA' version with single or double vacuum generation turbines respectively. Each of the standard and MEGA model units is designed around the same chassis with the DINO 2 and DINO 2 MEGA being a two axle rig weighing 18 t, the DINO 3 and DINO 3 MEGA having 3 axles and weighing 26 t and the DINO 4 and DINO 4 MEGA having 4 axles and weighing 32 t and 40 t.

As well as these 'standard' models U Mole also offers the MTS DINO 4



A Dino III vacuum excavation unit in operation with Vacuum Excavation Ltd.

MEGA VAC. This is a high power (400 kW) system that is designed specifically for the more arduous tasks sometime required of vacuum excavation systems, such as removal of heavier spoils or work at greater depths in larger sewers.

Whilst having the capacity to operate in a wide variety of ground conditions from clays through gravels to made-up ground, the MTS range is ideal for both wet and dry material. The standard units offer: a high maintainable suction from 25,000 m³/hour up to 36,000 m³/hour air volume, generated by 110 kW and 220 kW turbine systems respectively; up to 50% vacuum of between 17,000 and 34,000 Pa negative pressure; low noise levels (<82 db); large spoil capacity of up to 12 m³; side tipping capability to road or verge or directly into a skip; a dust free exhaust; and an on board air compressor. The robust proven technology also enables excavation work to be completed up to 12 times faster than using hand dig, using a remote control boom arm and a capacity to remove stones of up to 250 mm (10 in) diameter. Each rig also comes with a full range of air tooling.

All the MTS units feature a patented air flow, filter and fan configuration that enables the vacuum generating turbines to operate at some 20% higher

efficiency than other systems currently available on the market. They also require a relatively small footprint for successful operation.

Whilst the standard design utilises a side tipping configuration for the spoil tank, MTS also has the capacity to manufacture to client specifications on request. MTS can also supply and fit DINO equipment to a range of chassis' from 7.5 t up to 40 t from various manufacturers.

Commenting on the new John Mee purchase Russell Fairhurst, Managing Director of U Mole said: "This further purchase of vacuum excavation equipment simply helps to highlight the current and growing acceptance within the utilities industries of the benefits that this technology offers in terms of minimal disruption to the public, minimal damage to the utility's own and as important third party plant during works."

Further more John Patrick went on to say that: "The future for this technology looks very bright and as such we can envisage that this will not be the last purchase of Vacuum Excavation equipment we will be making."

OTHER EQUIPMENT

U Mole is the approved UK distributor for Earth Tool equipment and offers



Utilities can be excavated with precision and without damage when using vacuum excavation.

their full range of products for trenchless installation and pipeline replacement for either sale or hire. These include: Active and standard

head HAMMERHEAD™ impact moles (earth piercing tools), HAMMERHEAD™ ramming hammers, other HYDROBURST™ rod-

based, hydraulic pipe bursting systems and the PORTABURST™ cable-based, hydraulic pipe burster range.

The company is also the representative for The Robbins Company in respect of the Robbins SBU (Small Boring Unit) product line, including provision of all spares and consumables within the SBU range. The territory across which U Mole acts in this capacity includes: France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, UK and Eire.

In the vacuum excavation sector, alongside the MTS systems featured here U Mole, also offers the range of US-manufactured Vac-Tron vacuum excavation units.

U Mole also supplies a full range trenchless and limited dig equipment including: vacuum excavation systems, coring equipment for keyhole technology, Pipe to Site coiled pipe trailers, Acuster plastic pipe fusing systems, Rotair compressors, Reed Tools and a complete range of accessories such as pipe Cobra flexible rodding, towing heads, cable socks, pipe pigs, swivels, breakaway connectors.

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