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## New Products THE LATEST PRODUCT DEVELOPMENTS

### Pump System Unique To Lo-K-Tor Vacuum Excavators

by Jeff Griffin ■ Senior Editor

The Lo-K-Tor is not among the best-known names in the vacuum excavator market, but its manufacturer, Economy Drilling Solutions, Altus, OK, has plans to change that.

Company president Chad Osborn says the Lo-K-Tor system is a simple, dependable, productive product that offers several advantages over machines of comparable size at a very competitive price.

The machine excavates with high-pressure water and is available on a dual-axle trailer or on skids for truck mounting. It is available from authorized dealers and direct from the factory in areas where there is no established distributor.

"Our vacuum pump is completely different from other vacuum excavators," says Osborn. "We have elected to use a true vacuum pump rather than a wind turbine. This provides more vacuum and allows a greater depth of suction of mud or waste below ground level. Our pump is of the same type and size that is used on the 4,000 gallon mud tanker trucks in the oil fields. It is powered by a 20-horsepower engine.

Osborn says the pressure pump is a roller pump such as those used in car washes. It develops approximately 3,500 psi when used with a "turbo" tip, which is included with the unit. It is powered by a 13-horsepower engine. Engines for both pumps have their own fuel tanks and starting batteries.

"Our positive-displacement pumping system design will produce 30 inches of mercury at 285 cfm," says Osborn. "The fact that we achieve this kind of production at such a low cfm shows cfm is not an accurate method of comparison with our positive-displacement system."

#### Long-distance productivity

Osborn says the system provides full productivity at distances to 300 feet, allowing access to confined areas impossible to reach with other equipment making the machine well suited to

fiber-to-the-premises construction in developed neighborhoods. In addition, he says the machine is able to penetrate to depths of 20 feet, depending on soil conditions.

For removal of material from the spoil tank, the suction valve can be set to vacuum or to apply pressure for high-speed dumping.

The trailer model is equipped with an 800-gallon spoil tank and 325-gallon water supply tank. With full water and spoil tanks, the unit can be towed with a 3/4-ton pickup. The trailer is equipped with night running lights, safety strobe and breakaway kit. The skid unit is sized for a one-ton truck and has a 300-gallon spoil tank and 125-gallon water tank.

Osborn says the Lo-K-Tor was developed in 1996 to support his horizontal directional drilling (HDD) business.

Since that time, Osborn says the product has been sold primarily to HDD contractors and municipalities for potholing and clean-up of drilling fluid on HDD job sites and that its design is proven and well-accepted by owners.



The Lo-K-Tor was exhibited at the 2007 UCT show in Houston early this year, and Osborn says the company is increasing marketing efforts to promote the product to the directional drilling and other markets. In addition to potholing and HDD site clean up, he says that the machine is ideally suited for digging trenches and other types of excavations such as accessing utilities for repairs, cleaning debris from storm drains, cleaning irrigation canals and ditches, emergency clean up of road spills and storm debris, and all types of general clean up of both wet and dry materials.

Summing up the benefits of the Lo-K-Tor, Osborn says the product's design offers the capability of working at extended ranges, runs very quietly, is well made and durable, its design minimizes maintenance requirements, many replacement components can be purchased at auto parts and farm supply stores, and pricing is competitive.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Vacuum excavator: (580) 480-1322,  
economydrillingsolutions.com



#### John Deere

John Deere's new Worksite Pro DB84 and DB96 Dozer Blade attachments are designed to improve the productivity of skid steers and compact track loaders by transforming them into a compact bulldozer. The 24-inch high DB84 and DB96 come in 84-inch and 96-inch widths, respectively. A 30-degree hydraulic angle and 10-degree hydraulic tilt

feature let the operator make blade adjustments on the go for increased versatility and maximum productivity. Each blade is Quik-Tach mounted and comes standard with a reversible cutting edge and adjustable skid shoes for long-term durability. Like all Worksite Pro attachments, the dozer blades are optimized to work with John Deere equipment, but they are compatible with most competitive models. (800) 503-3373, deere.com



#### KeiBerg

The LINE ALERT panel effectively acts as a guidance system that takes you safely near your underground utility. The LINE ALERT panel uses highly visible green indicators when within 36-24 inches, yellow when within 24-12 inches and red when within 12 inches of the buried object. The patented LINE ALERT panel does not significantly alter or change the typical processes used by the excavation industry today when dealing with line crossings. The panel is designed to stay where it's buried ensuring accurate digs. Key features include: engineered from materials that shear off cleanly as each deck is removed; appropriate for various soil types and conditions; can be left buried for up to 30 days; and virtually eliminates probing. (204) 480-1845, keiberginc.com