

Open doors

Comacchio recently welcomed drilling industry professionals to a two-day Open House

On October 10 and 11, the Comacchio facilities in Riese Pio X in northeast Italy became the meeting point for the global drilling industry. For two days, the company opened its doors to more than 350 visitors, many of them from abroad.

In his opening speech, president Renzo Comacchio provided some data on the development of Comacchio in the last two years. He said: "These are not easy years for our work, but the fact of having a versatile range of machines and diversified and flexible production, and being attentive to the needs of the customer, has allowed us to maintain and even strengthen our position."

Product developments

The fulcrum of the event was the presentation of two new machine models: the MC 15 and GEO 105. The MC 15, a product that aims to be 'universal', can perform any type of ground engineering work, from micropiles to jet grouting, as well as anchor drilling, and is equipped with a Cummins engine, delivering 119kW power and a mast with 8t pull.

Due to advanced modular hydraulic circuits, the MC 15 can fit a wide range of rotary heads and hydraulic drifters capable of operating any type of rotary or rotary-percussive drilling, providing up to 2,400daNm of actual torque.

Like all Comacchio machines, the MC 15 can be customised according to the needs of the customer. Three MC 15 drilling rigs were exhibited during the event, each featuring a different configuration: hydraulic drifter, double head system and jet grouting.

"The MC 15 High Tech is the top of the range because it includes the latest generation engine Cummins QSB 4.5 Step 3B/Tier 4 Interim, able to meet the new emissions regulations," explained sales manager Flavio Durigan.

"We have introduced the 'High Tech Line' for those drilling rigs that feature the latest engine version and are equipped with hydraulic circuit with higher performance capabilities."

The other new model presented by Comacchio was the GEO 105, a vertical drilling rig designed for geotechnical site investigation. This machine has the typical features of the GEO 205 and GEO 305 models, but has a lower weight (1.5-1.8t).



With this new machine, the GEO line was completed with a more compact and lightweight drilling rig, particularly flexible and easy to transport. The version of the GEO 105 on show was equipped with a special protective cage on the rotary head, an accessory required in a growing number of countries in accordance with the safety regulations in force locally.

Other recent product developments include eight drilling rig models, both crawler and truck mounted. These

included the MC 600 P, a compact and powerful foundations machine, equipped with a complex mast articulation mechanism, capable of operating in confined spaces. Also on show was the MC 600 P equipped with a vibro-rotary head Eurodrill RHV 900 of 1,100daNm torque.

"The use of the vibration basically replaces the function of the hammer. An innovative system already tested by Eurodrill on larger rotary head models with very interesting results in terms of ▶

Above, clockwise from top left: the new MC 15 with hydraulic drifter; the MC 15 in jet grouting configuration; Comacchio employees at the handover ceremony of the machine serial number 2,000



Above, from left to right: Renzo (left), Patrizio (centre) and Pasqualino Comacchio (right), owners of the company, the handover ceremony for the serial number 2,000 machine

productivity, for the greater drilling speed and depth reached, as well as in terms of efficacy and reduction of wear and consumption, with positive implications for noise reduction and environmental impact," said Durigan. "With this first machine we would like to test the application of this type of technology for smaller size rotary heads."

On the water-well drilling side, the new GEO 700 is a compact machine capable of providing 9.5t pull and operating both direct and reverse circulation drilling, due to the new Comacchio rotary head CT 170. The hydraulic circuit that equips the machine and the 126kW DEUTZ engine allow for the installation of a wide variety of rotary heads, water and mud pumps

and winches. In the version at the event, the GEO 700 was equipped with a carousel that can accommodate 18 casings with 140mm diameter and 3,000mm length.

2,000 units

The second day of the event was dedicated to the delivery of the machine serial number 2,000 to one of the Italian customers of Comacchio – Dalla Gassa Srl from Cornedo Vicentino.

The ceremony, which took place in the presence of the employees of the two companies, as well as the Open House guests, involved the symbolic handover of a plaque depicting the key to the machine from the three Comacchio brothers to

Gaetano Dalla Gassa, owner of the enterprise.

The drilling rig in question, a 3000 MC, with its 40t weight, is the largest model produced by Comacchio. It was designed for continuous flight auger drilling up to 900mm diameter.

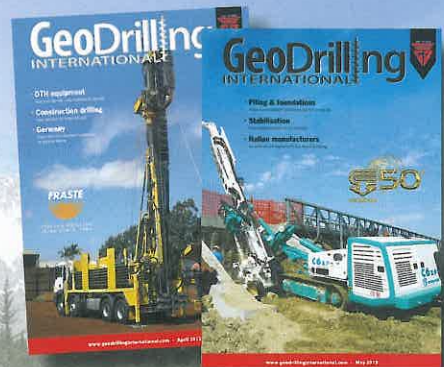
Equipped with a remote control for tramming, positioning and drilling functions, and special instrumentation provided by Geomisure, the machine is able to automate all stages of execution of the piles and to measure the main characteristics of the process. While the serial number 2,000 machine was delivered during the Open House, Comacchio expects to reach 2,100 units produced by the end of this year. ♥

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