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Hölscher Wasserbau Keeps Pace with Ever-Stricter Environmental Requirements using Compact-Sized Trencher

Flexibility and Cost Savings in Construction of Wind Turbine and Power Line Tower Foundations

***Haren / Werpeloh / Germany, XX.08.2015* - Responding to steadily rising project requirements in the energy and environmental sectors, Hölscher Wasserbau GmbH of Haren / Germany has added a new custom-designed trencher to their machinery fleet: the GIGANT 3600, a trenching machine used for groundwater drainage and control. With a length of 12.5 m and a transport weight of only 22 t, the GIGANT 3600 is the smallest trencher in the Hölscher Wasserbau machine line-up. The versatile machine augments their portfolio of services and opens up new application sectors. The new trencher was developed and fabricated by Hüntelmann GmbH & Co. KG of Werpeloh / Germany.**

"The new trencher is optimally suited for light and sandy soils," reports Sales Manager Heinz Schwarte, who is often confronted with soft, challenging soils at sites in Northern Germany.

"The trenchers we used previously often caused problems, in particular in wind turbine or power transmission tower construction on marshy soil, due to their limited mobility and static operating mode. The GIGANT 3600 permits significantly more flexibility of use, making everyone happy - in particular our customers", Schwarte explains, very happy with the new equipment.

Project Manager Heinz Loots, who played a major role in development of the new trencher, goes on to explain another advantage it provides: "Using our big trenchers, we could only work on big, freely accessible jobsites. Using the GIGANT 3600, small jobsites such as foundations of wind turbines or power line towers are no longer a problem". Construction pits of this type were frequently dewatered using vacuum or deep-vacuum wells, which involve higher take-off rates and a wider drawdown cone than the horizontal drainage techniques available for use today. In the face of ever-tougher environmental regulations, this translates to substantial cost savings.

Covering a trench depth range from 1500 mm to a maximum of 4500 mm, the new trencher meets project requirements in roughly 80 % of customer enquiries, as estimated by Hölscher Wasserbau. Further benefits are provided by the trencher's wide range of serviceable applications: swampy or uneven soil surfaces do not pose problems for this "lightweight". Providing lateral tilting capability of up to 11° to either side and tight cornering ability (up to 10° swivel to either side), this vehicle can be rightfully called the "offroader" of trenching machines.

The manufacturer of the new trencher also sees a broad application spectrum for the vehicles. "Service temperatures ranging from below 0°C (unless the soil is frozen) to over 45°C are not a problem. In accordance with our specifications, operation is permissible in DIN 18300 soil classes 1 through 4," explains Jürgen Hüntelmann, Managing Director of Hüntelmann GmbH & Co. KG.

Transport to and from jobsites is realized by a tractor / trailer vehicle with a gross loaded weight of 41 t. This low gross weight qualifies the vehicle for a permanent road permit allowing immediate dispatch to the worksite. Sites located within Germany are normally reached within a day's time. Time-consuming permit renewals from authorities are not required. Another factor ensuring speedy site deployment: the trencher is transported exclusively by the Hölscher Corporate Group's in-house forwarding agent, SL Service & Logistik GmbH.



Figure 1: Sandy or soft soil? Not a problem for the GIGANT 3600!



Figure 2: Site deployment is accelerated by a permanent road permit and exclusive transport by HW's in-house forwarding agent. SL Service &

Logistik GmbH gets the GIGANT 3600 almost anywhere in Germany within a day's time.



Figure 3: The GIGANT 3600 digs trenches up to 4500 mm deep (minimum depth: 1500 mm), covering the requirements of 80 % of customer enquiries.