

Reliable levelling system, new digital controller: MOBA-matic II proves itself in asphalt paving

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Today, levelling technology in asphalt pavers is an absolute must for many projects – for the construction or renovation of motorways, main or country roads, for example. Which is why some 90 percent of all asphalt pavers in Germany are equipped with levelling technology.

Levelling systems provide clear advantages even in smaller projects.

For instance, a case in point is the renovation of the Potsdamer Weg in Emkendorf-Bokelholm in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. For this project, Swecon Baumaschinen GmbH delivered a brand-new Volvo ABG P6820C paver, equipped with the MOBA-matic levelling system and the new MOBA-matic II digital controller. The Potsdamer Weg road leads from the L255 road to a large agricultural facility. The traffic on the L255 has increased dramatically since the farmer began operating a biogas plant. The machines which drive in and out of here every day weigh 50 or 60 tonnes. That places an enormous burden on the asphalt, of course. Which is why the entire Potsdamer Weg must be renewed and strengthened. The farmer already had part of the stretch that leads to the agricultural tract reinforced with concrete; now, the next step is the asphalt paving of the second part of the Potsdamer Weg. This first entails having the road widened and bolstered along the edges. Subsequently, a six centimeters base layer, and the surface layer, which is three centimeters thick – were applied over a width of approximately four and a half metres. The renovation of this road is part of a larger order for a total of 25 smaller asphalt paving jobs in the Rendsburg-Eckernförde district. Altogether, they comprise a total length of some ten kilometres and a cost of EUR 1.5 million. "We always work with a surveyor's

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level, irrespective of whether it is stipulated in the bid solicitation or not. The reason being that this way we can always maintain the required planarity or inclination without any problems. And, of course, we also save material if we don't lay it on too thick", points out site manager Jan Tessensohn. "The MOBA system is uncomplicated. You have the different sensors and can just decide at the construction site what you would like to use. For example, for small-scale projects such as this one we use an individual ultrasonic sensor on each side; at major construction sites with a milled-off surface where the substrate is very uneven, we like to employ the Big Sonic-Ski with three or four ultrasonic sensors. This way we can practically 'iron out' the irregularities of the substrate and the road becomes very level. We begin with the levelling as early as possible, starting with the base layer. Consequently, we can avoid mistakes right from the start".

Users ask for the new MOBA-matic II digital controller

"We aim to sell 30 pavers this year. All of them are pre-equipped with the MOBA system", relates Udo Morgenstern, who is responsible for the sale of road construction machines at the Volvo construction machinery dealer Swecon. "The new MOBA-matic II has been requested by a lot of customers, such as for this project, for example. Therefore, we have decided to equip all pavers with the new generation of the MOBA-matic in future. In particular, the 3.5 inch large display and the innovation that, with a single control panel, both sides of the screed can be controlled from one screen makes it work substantially easier for the user". And, thanks to the backlighting and the brightness adjustability of the LEDs, it is also no problem whatsoever to work in the dark. What is also new is that a sensor value is shown continuously in the display, so that the most important value is always within view of the operator. The clearly comprehensible symbolic representation and the easy operation of the main functions by means of just four buttons – familiar from the MOBA-matic I –

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have been retained. "For me, there is no major adjustment; the operation is easy and understandable, as was the case with previous control panel too. The simpler a unit is designed, the better. Because the more complicated something is, the more likely it is that errors will occur", surmises grader operator Günter Baier, who gets along superbly with the new MOBA-matic II right from the first day.

The new MOBA-matic II communicates by means of CAN, which means that outlays for cabling on the machine are reduced significantly as all sensors can essentially be connected through one cable via the bus system. "Old and new CAN sensors can be combined, thus all of them do not have to be replaced when a new control panel is used. That is also an important aspect", emphasizes Morgenstern.

Volvo pavers pre-equipped for MOBA levelling systems

Volvo already delivers its asphalt pavers as standard with MOBA levelling technology. Udo Lüdeke, application technician for road construction at Volvo: "We have already been working together with MOBA for many years and are very satisfied. If there is a problem, we just call MOBA and receive immediate help. Such as this, for instance: none of the users was yet familiar with the MOBA-matic II as a new product, therefore the product manager from MOBA came directly here in order to explain its operation to the installation team. Subsequently, they were able to start right away", explains Udo Lüdeke. "An advantage of this cooperation-it is also, of course, that the parameters on the MOBA-matic are already preset directly on Volvo pavers. In the open marketplace, only default parameters are set; these must then be individually adjusted and adapted to our pavers. By using the MOBA system, though, you just hook up the control panel and you're already set to go", explains Udo Lüdeke.

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About MOBA

With more than 40 years of experience in the development and manufacture of innovative measurement and control technology for construction machines, and identification and weighing systems for waste disposal vehicles, MOBA is a globally recognised expert in the field of mobile automation. MOBA is one of the leading system specialists and OEM partners in the industry. With headquarters in Limburg, branch offices in Dresden, Langenlonsheim and Merenberg as well as eight subsidiaries and an international dealer network, MOBA is represented in all of the large growth markets. Company sales grew over the past decade from 23 million euros in 2003 to nearly 50 million euros in 2013; whilst the number of employees increased in this period from 185 to 465.



Asphalt paving of Potsdamer Weg with the new Volvo paver



Udo Lüdeke (left) and Udo Morgenstern are extremely satisfied with the MOBA systems

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With the MOBA-matic II, the grader operator controls the construction depth and inclination



The Sonic-Ski ultrasonic sensor scans the substrate so that the asphalt will be paved level.

Photos: MOBA

Further information and downloads of press texts and images available at www.moba.de.

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