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IS EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT ”**

KVX GET OFFERS PROVEN RELIABILITY

Komatsu has urged miners and quarry operators to consider the broader picture of true ground-engagement tool (GET) cost.

Retention reliability is a key consideration in the GET equation according to Komatsu.

The total cost of GET should also factor in planned and unplanned bucket maintenance, the cost of welding-related failures and throw-away material that cannot be used on site.

Komatsu's national sales and business development manager for GET, Rod McCallum, said retention reliability, unplanned maintenance, penetration performance, fuel efficiency, tyre life, powertrain and frame life were all part of the overall GET cost picture.

“The classic example of unplanned maintenance is a GET part breaking off a wheel loader bucket and falling into the crusher,” he said.

“Suddenly, the mine or quarry operator is faced with unplanned maintenance, downtime, idle plant and lost production.”

“The complete elimination of the most common retention-failure points and the use of steel that is significantly tougher than conventional GET castings significantly reduces the risk of GET-loss events,” according to Chris Guntner, Regional Sales Manager – KVX in Oceania for Komatsu KVX LLC & Hensley Industries.

“It's impossible to completely eliminate risk, but if all the KVX benefits save a site just one shut-down event in 10,000 hours due to a GET failure, that could easily constitute a \$15–40/hour site saving, directly attributable to KVX,” he said.

Chris noted the long term experience of a number of sites around Australia achieving extended periods with no GET breakages while operating 100-tonne class wheel loaders in various applications with KVX spade lip systems.

“These are bauxite, coal and even gold mines where, in one case, there were no reported breakages/losses, and hence no parts in the crusher, for over 50,000 hours of crusher feeding – over the full life of one wheel loader and the current life of its replacement.”

“This kind of experience is extremely significant – it means no lost production, lost sales, idle staff, idle machines, safety issues or crusher repair costs,” he said.

KVX GET systems have an exceptional record worldwide for their retention reliability with the unique bolted, ‘pin-less’, ‘adapter-less’ and ‘weld-less’ design, as well as the use of high-toughness Sagitta® steel.

Other key design features of KVX GET include an unrivalled slim overall lip/GET system profile for better penetration of stockpiles and hence faster cycle times coupled with reduced fuel, powertrain and tyre costs.

KVX GET also has a unique flat-floor design, to provide a smooth underside for the bucket and a flat working floor, thereby reducing the risk of tyre damage and reducing wear and tear on the machine.

A smooth, unobstructed internal floor offers better penetration and less potential for carry-back.

Senior operators at one of the KVX GET high-hour sites pointed to the flat profile on the bottom of the bucket as a major plus, allowing them to maintain a flatter profile on the mine floor.

Chris said KVX's flat-faced components result in further savings on alternative-wear materials, allowing up to 100 per cent of the remnant steel from worn GET parts to be re-used on site, typically as wear protection on mobile and fixed plant buckets, hoppers and feeders.

Komatsu Australia supplies customers with a total range of GET solutions through its KVX and Hensley XS range of ground-engaging tools.

KVX and Hensley XS ground-engaging tools can be fitted to Komatsu-branded equipment or any make of machine.

This is a significant advantage for those operators running multiple makes of machine, as they can easily standardise the ground-engaging tools used across their fleet.

KVX is part of the Komatsu group and is Norway's leading manufacturer of GET. It serves the construction, quarry and mining industries, while also offering products for a range of other severe industrial applications.

KVX has gained worldwide recognition for its highly wear-resistant bolt-on ground engaging tool system for earth moving machines. In recent years, KVX has also developed a highly attractive range of buckets and attachment products for excavators, wheel loaders, LHDs and front shovel machines.

More information on Komatsu's range of ground-engaging tools can be found by visiting www.komatsu.com.au or by phoning 1300 KOMATSU (1300 566 287).