WEBTEC®

HYDRAULIC MEASUREMENT AND CONTROL

CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

HYDRAULIC DATALOGGERS

Thanks to its investment in a Webtec HPM7000 hand-held hydraulic data logger, a leading installer and maintainer of road-haulage equipment for the forestry sector is able to collect, store and send critical hydraulic test data faster and more reliably. The upshot for Shropshire-based Forestry Transport Maintenance Ltd is not just a significant saving in man-hours, but a more dependable service that provides customers with complete peace of mind.

FTM FORESTRY TRANSPORT MAINTENANCE

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Established in 2002 as a one-man business, FTM today employs 22 people across its workshop, parts and administrative functions. Located close to the Welsh border, the company installs and services forestry-related road-haulage systems, including cranes, trailers, super structures and bolsters. Notably, the company is a specialist in Palfinger Epsilon timber haulage cranes. FTM customers are typically subcontractors hauling timber from forest harvesters to mills.

HYDRAULIC DATALOGGERS

Full throttle

FTM is thriving. The company moved to larger premises 10 years ago but has since acquired an additional site and is already close to full capacity once more. With such a fast-expanding workload, FTM continuously seeks to invest in the latest technologies that can both simplify and accelerate everyday tasks. A case in point is the firm's investment in a Webtec HPM7000 portable data logger.

"We knew that a hydraulic data logger would be very handy for all kinds of activities," explains Will Middle, Director at FTM. "We could use it for everything from setting up fixed- and variable-displacement pumps on the cranes, all the way through to diagnostics."

FTM already has a Webtec digital flow meter, which measures parameters such as flow, pressure and temperature. However, when undertaking warranty work, for example, the company would have to take photos of the flow meter at different settings, one function at a time. Very often, FTM workshop operatives would have to locate two or three different test gauges in various areas and try to read them all simultaneously. The company says it knew the time had arrived to invest in its first data logger. Following

a thorough market investigation, including discussions with Webtec, the HPM7000 emerged as the best option.

Make it BLUE®

Applying the company's innovative Make it BLUE® strategic approach, Webtec listened to FTM's needs, proposing the HPM7000 as the optimal solution as it would provide the required levels of flexibility and futureproofing. Make it BLUE® is a unique four-step process that helps customers maximise the potential of their hydraulic machinery, but without the complexity of costly consultancy.

"Other data loggers we saw had less functionality than the HPM7000," states Middle. "Furthermore, we always receive very good aftersales service when requiring calibration of our Webtec flow meter. As a further influence on our purchase decision, Webtec was also the only potential supplier that offered a training session. Webtec came to our facility and four of us spent a few hours using the HPM7000 until we were comfortable with its functions and capabilities."

As part of a demonstration involving a crane, the trainer connected a Webtec CT300R flow meter and two pressure

transducers, one on the flow line of a bent-axis piston pump and the other after the directional control valve. As a point of note, users can connect the HPM7000 with up to 48 sensors and create different hardware configurations just by adding or swapping input modules. The Webtec trainer then ran the crane through its actions and logged the data using the HPM7000, subsequently cross-referencing the graph to check everything was in perfect order.

"We only had relatively basic test equipment previously so using the HPM7000 was a little daunting at first, but it was actually really easy to go through the functions and store settings," says Middle. "Being able to store information is really useful as we can compare against previous set-ups if we repeat the test in the future."

"The HPM7000 is a nice piece of equipment that makes life a lot easier"

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HYDRAULIC DATALOGGERS

Results at a glance

Today, FTM workshop staff can use the graph setting to see what different functions are doing at a single glance. This provides all kinds of useful information, such as: is the crane asking the pump for hydraulic oil; is the oil getting hot during a certain function; or is there too much pressure when performing a particular lift?

"We like to use the graph operation, so when we pull on one function we can observe what pressure we're getting at what points and see if the flow drops off, for example," explains Middle. "Also, the HPM7000 turns a two- or three-man job [all trying to read different gauges] into a one-man job, which is a huge saving in labour hours that makes for good return on investment. Even more so without the need to manually input data into a PC."

The Webtec HPM7000 has already proved its worth in numerous instances, including for the diagnosis of two cranes that were reaching temperature quicker than expected and running hot.

"We used the HPM7000 to test pressure in multiple places simultaneously using two or three pressure transducers.

Also, we connected a flow meter to measure flow under system load and made use of the built-in thermometer, setting the clock to see how long it took to attain temperature. Through a simple process of elimination we could pinpoint the issue."

Rich in capability

Although compact in size, the HPM7000 features a 7-inch colour touchscreen display to support use even when wearing gloves. It is possible to record up to 16 million measured values per test at variable intervals from 1ms, with a total storage size of 12GB. Users can also export all data to a PC running HPMComm 7.5 software (supplied) for further analysis and cost-effective certificate generation.

Ultimately, FTM's investment in the HPM7000 data logger is providing vital peace-of-mind to customers, who gain confidence from the use of such a feature-rich and comprehensively engineered device.

"It looks really professional when we turn up with a piece of equipment like the HPM7000," states Middle. "Far better than
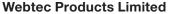
taking photos at various pressures and flows while activating different functions. With the HPM7000 we can quickly and easily check the necessary parameters and log everything against the serial number. If we're setting up a load-sensing pump on a crane, for example, we can store and record those settings so if the machine ever comes back with a problem, we can recall them for comparison purposes."

FTM insists that an installation or service is not complete unless the customer gains satisfaction from the quality and professionalism on offer. To meet this pledge, the company requires expertise and the best tools for the job.

"The HPM7000 is a nice piece of equipment that makes life a lot easier," concludes Middle. "It's no good selling a product if you're not prepared to back it up, which is why we invest in technology such as the HPM7000. We can diagnose faults quickly and keep customers on the road or in the woods, earning money. If anyone ever asks me about this type of equipment, I always tell them to use Webtec."

For further information visit www.webtec.com/products/ISRF7000

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