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Soilmec reveals next-gen piling rig

18 NOVEMBER, 2020 | BY NIA KAASTJE

Italian drilling and foundation equipment manufacturer Soilmec has introduced the second machine in its Blue Tech series, which is meant to offer flexible and energy-saving rigs for the large-diameter piling market.

The Soilmec SR-65 was first introduced in 2018 in the EVO version. The large-diameter piling (LDP) rig was designed for drilled shaft work, as well as for use with segmental casing and continuous flight auger.

Soilmec has now upgraded it to a Blue Tech version, meaning it has been redesigned to be more energy efficient, flexible and productive.

It is the second rig in the line, after the [Soilmec SR-75 Blue Tech](#) was released at the beginning of this year.

During the online launch event for the SR-65 Blue Tech, Soilmec marketing director Davide Panzavolta explained: "The Blue Tech line has been designed to offer customers an extremely flexible and reliable drilling rig. The switch between one set-up to another starting from today will be much easier. In addition, we have redesigned the operator cabin, and we have upgraded the hydraulics and mechanics for reaching an improved efficiency.

"Designed around a new energy-saving architecture, the next-generation Soilmec rigs meet the demands of productivity, flexibility and functionality across all drilling set-ups and technologies available. The two main features that shape the Blue Tech line are multifunctionality and efficiency."

According to Soilmec, Blue Tech drilling rigs can prove agile on a job site due to their compact design and quick mobilisation for rapid start-up. The 65t SR 65 Blue Tech allows for transport of the rig (with Kelly bar on), in most locations, in one load.

The hydraulic and electric systems have been simplified to minimise energy loss and provide added space for maintenance. Soilmec said the main pumps have been optimised with a new engine to help deliver efficient drilling power, pull capacity, performance and fuel efficiency.

"One of the hallmarks is the redesign and optimisation of the hydraulic systems in order to reduce performance losses during duty cycle operations. The growing environmental issues together with more stringent regulations in our industry have been leading to development of new generation machines and architectures for improving the energy efficiency and lowering the carbon footprint," Panzavolta said.

The rig is powered by a Cummins L9 diesel engine, which can deliver 272kW at 2,100rpm. It meets the Stage V/Tier 4f emission standards. It can also be set up to offer a power surplus up to 283kW, making the rig capable of handling more difficult drilling conditions.

Panzavolta added: "The Blue Tech line design is based on the optimisation of the power transmission and cutting energy loss. The diesel engines are fitted with low-idle systems and automatic radiator control to enable automatic adjustment of the speed to fit the actual drilling needs."

The compact, lightweight rotary head is able to transmit a maximum of 258.5kNm. It can be fitted with two different waste discharge systems.

According to Soilmec, its spin-off system "leverages the high rotational speed cinematic energy that is unparalleled when using an auger". The SR-65 Blue Tech also has a new 'click-click' discharge system that is useful when applied on a drilling bucket or in very cohesive soils.

"To boost productivity in hard soil and rock, and to minimise loss in tough operating conditions, the SR-65 Blue Tech rotary head is equipped with an automatic control of motor displacements. This results in optimising the drilling speed and productivity in every phase of drilling," the manufacturer explained.

The SR 65 Blue Tech has a tail swing radius of 3,750mm. The rig's mast can use a 16.5m Kelly bar to achieve depths of over 77m. The mast itself is also prearranged to mount both cylinder and winch crowd systems.

The cylinder crowd system, with an extraction power of 280kN, is equipped with a double positioner on the drilling mast. This allows the use of the entire available track for both large diameter tools (working under the lower part of the mast) and long casing segments. The rig can also be equipped with a winch crowd system that can offer a track of more than 16m with extraction power of 330kN.

Soilmec said the added stroke and power provide the ability to drive longer casing segments in a single pass. Additionally, the SR-65 Blue Tech can be fitted with a segmental mast for low headroom (LHR) operation. The modular mast allows set-up of the machine into LHR configuration by removing the upper element thus reducing the overall height to 8.5m.

The rig is equipped with Soilmec's Drilling Mate System (DMS) 4.0, providing a graphical navigation menu for day to day planning and drilling execution, as well as automatic functions.



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