



Reinventing the skidder

French company Forest Tract have waded into the skidder market. They were at pains to point out that, if the prospect of a 250hp T4-XXL, like the one on the stand, seems a bit over the top, then there are two other, smaller models to choose from.

The machine has taken three years to develop and will begin testing in September. Forest Tract is a part of the large MCM group, and, apart from the engine, the whole machine is manufactured in house.

The 10-metre levelling crane ($\pm 15^\circ$) will lift 2.5 tonnes at full outreach and 8 tonnes at 4 metres. It is particularly sturdy: "Other skidders have to fit a new crane half way through the lifetime of the machine!" said the Forest Tract representative. Not this machine, though. Forest Tract's benchmarking suggest that this skidder will prove 30% more productive over a 7-10 year (10,000 hour) period than a conventional skidder.

The machine carries a 16-tonne double-drum winch, and may be fitted with a clambunk.

The machine has a hydraulic pump for each wheel. The two front wheels have their own 140kW motor, and the two rear wheels each have a 200kW motor. The fact that all the wheels are independent means less ground damage as well as a longer tyre life, and greater fuel efficiency.

Forest Tract 0033 (0)3 2505 8181 – www.forest-tract.com



Sizing up timber stacks

Danish company Dralle were showing off their sScale module. Mounted on a car or four-wheel drive, it takes 22 pictures a second using two cameras to form a 3D image of timber standing at roadside, enabling accurate calculation of the volume of timber in the stack.

The module has three LED lights (in the middle, between the cameras) meaning it can be used day and night, and can measure up to 300,000 cubic metres a year. According to Dralle, it is much cheaper than the laser systems used in sawmills, though these are possibly 2% more accurate.

"Everybody gets paid a lot earlier, while the timber's at the roadside. That's the beauty of it," said Søren Freiesleben (pictured).

The system is available on lease, starting at €2,100 per annum, depending on the volume of timber scanned.

Dralle 0045 2711 0075 – www.dralle.dk



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Réinventer le débusqueur...

La société française Forest-Tract se lance sur le marché du débusqueur. Ils nous ont souligné que, le moteur de 250cv comme est équipé le SKID-T4 XXL (photo) sera le plus élevé, il y aura deux autres modèles plus petits. Trois ans de développement ont été nécessaires, les démonstrations commençant en Septembre.

Forest-Tract fait partie d'un groupe industriel, le groupe-MCM, et, en dehors des moteurs, l'ensemble de la machine est fabriquée en interne.

La grue est montée sur une embase permettant une mise à niveau de +/- 20°, sa portée est de 10m et à cette distance sa puissance de levage sera de 2,5t pour 8t à 4m. Particulièrement solide : « d'autres débusqueurs doivent changer leur grue à la moitié de la vie de la machine », a déclaré le représentant de la société Forest-Tract, pas cette machine.

L'analyse comparative de Forest-Tract suggère que ce débusqueur améliorera de 30% la productivité sur une période de 7/10ans (10 000h). La machine possède un double treuil de 16t et peut être équipée d'un klembank. Elle possède une pompe hydraulique par roue couplé à quatre moteurs hydraulique, d'une puissance de 140kW à l'avant et de 200kW à l'arrière. Le fait que toutes les roues soient indépendantes signifie : moins d'impacts négatifs sur le sol, une durée de vie accrue des pneumatiques et une économie de carburant.