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ASV unveils new posi-track loader



The VT-70 High Output

PHOTOS BY BRITTA ARENDT | HERALD-REVIEW

Above, ASV's newest product, the VT-70 High Output Posi-Track machine was unveiled this week at the company's test track in Grand Rapids. The VT-70 features unmatched power, comfort, serviceability and speed for lift, carry and load tasks. It has an amplified level of torque and an efficient hydraulic system for operators to get maximum performance.

BY BRITTA ARENDT
HERALD-REVIEW

With a crowd of national industry media professionals anxiously awaiting the unveiling, ASV revealed its newest product - the VT-70 High Output Posi-Track compact track loader - at its test track in Grand Rapids Wednesday,

May 22.

A countdown, followed by a big applause announced a machine that ASV promotes as featuring "unmatched power, comfort, serviceability and speed for life, carry and load tasks." The company is advertising this newest addition to its fleet of products as having "amplified level of torque and

an efficient hydraulic system" to give operators "maximum performance no matter their application."

As a pioneer in the compact track loader market, ASV has been an innovator since its start in 1983. Two forerunners in the early snowmobile industry started the business, developing a pick-up-sized

rubber-tracked vehicle called the track truck as ASV's first product, meant for traveling over adverse ground conditions such as snow. However, it didn't take long for the manufacturer to switch gears, using its experience to develop the first Posi-Track rubber tracked compact track loader in 1990. Starting with

a closed design, ASV evolved its CTLs to include today's open-rail and drive-sprocket undercarriage, which provides exceptional traction on soft, wet, slippery, rough or hilly terrain.

The company expanded over the years, growing in size as well as in reputation

SEE ASV, PAGE A3



Above, Buck Storlie, ASV Product Line Manager, pointed out some of the features of ASV engineering before showcasing the new VT-70. This includes a specially-designed undercarriage with an all-rubber track system with torsion axle suspension that is very resistant to the elements.



MDI awards \$8,000 in scholarships to students across the state

This spring, MDI will award \$1,000 scholarships to eight high school students across the state - \$8,000 total - for further education at either two- or four-year institutions. Going into its seventh year, the MDI scholarship program focuses on applicants between the ages of 18-21 who live in the communities the nonprofit manufacturer serves. MDI employs 446 total people at its facilities in Minneapolis, Hibbing, Grand Rapids and Cohasset. Approximately 44 percent of MDI's employees are individuals with disabilities.

"MDI understands the tremendous importance

of developing a strong workforce and cultivating young talent," said Peter McDermott, president and CEO of MDI. "Practicing these values is so much more important than operating as a business in a community. We are pleased to do our part to help these students better prepare for their bright futures. Congratulations!"

In addition, MDI funds a matching grant with six other local businesses, provided by Jerry and Cathie (Saxhaug) Anderson. The Greater Itasca Workforce Ready education awards provide approximately \$75,000 in funding for people that want to live, work,

and stay here, and are pursuing two years or less of education and training.

Jenna Ihle received a Workforce Ready scholarship last year to help her receive a degree from the Iron Range Engineering program through Mankato State University. Jenna now works at MDI's Cohasset facility, where she helps with design work on special projects. Both scholarship programs are just a few of several initiatives the nonprofit participates in to help grow local talent in the communities it serves.

"From tuition support to real-life, hands-on experience, MDI has truly helped me shape my

career and discover my strengths," said Ihle. "I am so grateful for their scholarship program and the support they provide to people of all abilities within our community."

MDI is a leader in manufacturing custom plastic packaging solutions, production assembly and environmental services with three of four locations in Northern Minnesota. The organization is committed to improving workforce development by empowering employees through self-sufficiency, in an inclusive environment. To learn more, visit mdi.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

One of the recipients of MDI's scholarships was Jenna Ihle who attended Makato State University and currently works at MDI's Cohasset facility.