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Haulotte introduces 'backhoe of the future'

France-based Haulotte used Intermat for its international launch of its Multijob MJX 900 range, described by the company as the "backhoe/loader of the future".

Mounted on an all-wheel steer chassis, the MJX series consists of a 360° rotating upperworks excavator unit, combined with a telescopic loader bucket mounted on the front.

Three models are available, the MJX 950 and 970 have a "standard" telescoping arm, while the "long arm" MJX 990 has an extra 600mm of reach.

They are powered by a Deutz BF4M2012 turbo diesel rated at 68kW, through a hydrostatic transmission giving a top speed of 30km/h.

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Haulotte's Multijob MJX 970 on the demo site at Intermat, with driver Mathieu Vernay, and R&D manager Philippe Saubin in the foreground.

Dig depth of the excavator unit is 3.8m, and it has an arm breakout of 4600kgf and a bucket breakout of 5050kgf. The 1cu m loader bucket has a breakout of 5100kgf.

Maximum lift height is 3.8m for the standard arm and 4.3m with the longer arm.

The excavator arm can also slew independently of the upper works, and the MJX 970 and MJX 990 include a double-offset boom.

Operating weight is between 9.92tonnes and 10.29tonnes depending on the model.

"This concept of machine is unique to Haulotte," said Olivier de Noyette, the company's sales manager. "This is the future of backhoe/loaders.

"Existing backhoes cannot meet the needs of the market today; they are machines with a lot of compromises.

"Our concept is a true multipurpose machine: it includes a real 360° excavator, a real loader arm and bucket, and a true handler unit able to take a wide range of tools," he said.

Applications for the concept are "anywhere", said de Noyette.

"They include road construction and maintenance, city works, parks and gardens."

So far the concept has only been released in France, with Haulotte aiming to roll it out to other markets in 2007.

Also on the drawing board is a smaller 6 to 7tonne machine, likely to be released in two or three years.

STAND: E5 J 002

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