

For Worldwide Release: October 2010

Release Number: 183MWSPR10

Caterpillar Produces 500th 797 Ultra-Class Truck

Caterpillar recently manufactured and shipped the 500th 797 large mining truck to a coal mining contractor in Australia. The 797F that marks the milestone represents the third generation of the largest mechanical-drive truck ever built. With 400 tons (363 mt) payload capacity, the 797F continues the legacy of the 797 atop the ultra-class mining truck ranks.

The Cat[®] 797 population has grown rapidly in recent years. The first 797 started operational testing in late 1998, and the population in the field grew to 250 in 2007. In the ensuing three years Caterpillar manufactured and delivered another 250 of the flagship model to large mining operations in Australia, North America and South America.

Initially designed with demanding oil sands mining applications as the target, the 797's breadth of applications also is growing. The Canadian oil sands still host the biggest concentration of 797's, but coal and copper miners are now operating fleets of 797s and iron ore miners soon will be. The largest coal mining operations now use 797's for both overburden and coal haulage. And use them they do—one major Wyoming USA coal mine accumulated more than 8,000 hours on a 797B as it hauled more than 11.5 million tons of overburden in 2009. Other 797's in the mine's fleet also approached that impressive utilization and production record.

The 797 itself has grown, too. The original 797 model had a nominal payload capacity of 360 tons (327 mt) and gross power of 3,400 hp (2535 kW). The 797B, introduced in 2003, has increased gross power of 3,550hp (2647 kW) and nominal payload of 380 tons (345 mt), though target payload grew to nearly 400 tons (363 mt) with modifications. The 797F, introduced commercially just last year, features the Cat C175 engine, which produces gross power of 4,000 hp (2983 kW). Nominal payload is 400 tons (363 mt). The C175-20 that

powers the 797F is compact compared to previous 797 engines, and it delivers more power for faster acceleration, faster speed on grade, greater productivity and lower cost per ton.

Caterpillar manufactured the 500th 797 and all of its predecessors at its Decatur, Illinois, USA, facilities. The Cat mining truck manufacturing facilities also are growing. To meet increased demand for the 797 and other Cat trucks, Caterpillar announced in June an accelerated capacity expansion plan for the plant. An additional 30 percent truck manufacturing capacity will come on line at the facility beginning in 2011.

For more information about the 797 Mining Truck, customers should contact their local Cat dealer or go to: <http://www.cat.com/equipment/off-highway-trucks/mining-trucks>

###

CAT, CATERPILLAR, their respective logos, “Caterpillar Yellow” and the “Power Edge” trade dress, as well as corporate and product identity used herein, are trademarks of Caterpillar and may not be used without permission.

Press Inquiries

Americas:

Sharon Holling
Tel: 309-675-8995
Fax: 309-636-2738
Holling_Sharon_L@cat.com

Amber Santor
Tel: 309-675-4693
Fax: 309-636-2738
Santor_Amber_M@cat.com

Europe, Africa, Middle East:

Mia Karlsson
Tel: +41-22-849-4662
Fax: +41-22-849-9993
Karlsson_Mia@cat.com

Reader Requests

catrequests@cat.com