

Comacchio Introduces New MC 28 A HD



Based on the design of the MC 28, the MC 28 A HD (where A stands for “anchors” and “HD” for “heavy duty”) is the latest addition to the Comacchio MC Line. Launched earlier this year during Conexpo/Con-Agg, the MC 28 A HD features an innovative rod and casing carousel designed with a focus on anchoring jobsites with cased boreholes. The carousel allows for the automatic handling of both single rods for open-hole drilling and the combination of rods and casings for overburden drilling. The carousel can be used with a range of possible rod and casings diameters up to 11.5 ft long, reaching a maximum drill string length of 98 ft. Longer rods can be used when using a single drill string. Rod diameters can vary from 3 to 4.5 in, whereas the casings can reach up to 7 in diameter. No adjustment of the gripper system is required when changing diameters. The magazine can accommodate up to 7 pairs of rods and casings, depending on casings diameter. The unit also features a special holding slot on the side of the mast for the starting rod.

The heavy-duty design of the rig comprises a reinforced variable width undercarriage (8.2 – 11.2 ft) providing for increased stability and load capacity to carry the weight of rods and casings while guaranteeing compact dimensions during transportation. The mast design has been upgraded to reach 21,400 lbs hoist/feed force and 31 ft stroke, allowing for the use of longer drilling equipment. The enhanced mast kinematics allows reaching the shallow angles and lower drilling positions required for anchor drilling. The MC 28 A HD is equipped with a 205 kW (275 HP) Caterpillar engine complying with the latest US EPA Tier 4 FINAL standards.

The extra powerful engine and the advanced hydraulic system allow to run simultaneously a 53 gpm flushing pump and a double head system

proving up to 17,700 lbf-ft torque on the lower rotary. The MC 28 A HD can be customized thanks to the wide range of accessories, including the triple mast clamp with the Comacchio patented casings extractor, designed to facilitate the breaking of drill rod connections.

“Thanks to the innovative carousel system and the Comacchio ALL-IN-ONE radio control, the MC 28 A HD offers enhanced security, increased productivity and reduced labor costs. The MC 28 A HD can be used for vertical drilling, but its benefits are critical for anchor drilling. It can also be useful for boreholes that are out of hand feed range. Many customers use auxiliary equipment and/or additional personnel for the handling of the drilling tools in such cases. With this rig, no additional equipment is required and the drilling can be performed by one person instead of two or three” – says Emanuele Comacchio, Territory Sales Manager at Comacchio.

The MC 28 A HD was recently put to the test in Lindsey, Ontario as part of the field training program included in AMPIS (Anchor and Micropiles Installation School). From September 17 to 22, the participants of the training used the MC 28 A HD to perform DTH drilling with 3.5 in rods. “The hands-on approach of the training program has allowed over 40 drillers to test our rig. The participants of the training have appreciated the high stability of the rig in operating conditions provided by the expandable crawler and the enhanced mast kinematics, especially in “front-the-wall” position” explains Emanuele Comacchio. “Working in small groups of 3-4 people, each of the AMPIS participants could put hands on the rig and we received very positive feedback regarding the intuitive interface and user-friendliness of the radio control and the fast operation of the casing extractor. The use of the rods and casing carousel requires some more experience, but the system has drawn a great deal of interest as the MC 28 A HD was the only rig equipped with this kind of carousel among the ones used at AMPIS.”

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