



Automated Positioning Systems Strikes Pay Dirt

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They may be big—house-size big—but today’s modern graders, shovels, dozers and other pieces of heavy construction and mining equipment are anything but clumsy.



Technology has made civil and construction engineering more accurate and exact than ever—and in response, these hundred-ton behemoths are required to work with equally consummate skill. Automated Positioning Systems (www.apsystems.com.au), a Brisbane, Australia provider of GPS-based machine guidance solutions, spotted this growing business need three years ago. Founded by Chris Seymour, former vice president with mining conglomerate BHP Hilton, and Mike Forrest, owner of ABC Lasers, APS introduced groundbreaking integrated dashboard-mount systems built on GPS technology. These systems can position dozer blades or other heavy equipment tools anywhere on a job site within thousandths of an inch of their intended location.

Making these exquisitely accurate systems possible are fully rugged, fixed-mount computers from RMT.

“As a systems integrator, APS looks for the best vendors and manufacturers around the world for its solutions. We’ve worked with RMT since our inception three years ago,” said Forrest. “RMT’s flat-screen, self-

contained units are built to withstand the world-class punishment our customers dish out on the job.”

Deployed in work environments from Wyoming’s Powder River Basin to the Pasmaico Century Mine in Northern Australia, RMT products withstand choking dust, constant vibration and ambient temperatures that can range from -30° to +120° F. The 10 inch dashboard units used by APS feature rugged mouse or optional touchscreen interfaces, sunlight viewable displays and a range of processor choices from a 266 Mhz to an Intel Pentium M 1.4 Ghz.

“RMT’s PCs not only give our customers the computing power they need, but they have proven themselves more reliable, with very few failures,” noted Jim Preston, Vice President of U.S. sales for Automated Positioning Systems. “Whenever we’ve had a maintenance or warranty issue, RMT has been extremely quick to take care of the problem.”

In creating its machine guidance solutions, APS integrates RMT’s units with software and other technology that interface with Russian GLONASS and American GPS satellites, in order to maintain a positioning fix even in deep open-pit mines. APS products can help equipment operators accurately excavate veins of ore, grade landscape or dig building foundations without the constant need for surveyor input. What’s more, an on-board telemetry system maintains a record of productivity based on the equipment’s position on an hourly basis, allowing managers to analyze operational bottlenecks and other barriers to production efficiency.

“RMT has been a strong contributor to APS’ success,” added Forrest. “The minimal failure rate of its products, combined with its ability to meet our product development and production needs, has enabled us to quickly become a player in this highly competitive and demanding industry. Perhaps the best compliment I can give is that we get no feedback from our customers—that means the RMT units are doing their job, day in and day out.”

