



Trimble Dramatically Improves an already Great Software Product

that's the expression you use), checking whether newly laid surfaces are up to spec, and in general confirming the status of work performed right across a site, generating professional progress reports for your client.

Now Functions on both GPS Rover and Laser Total Station

Version 1.1 takes a mighty leap forward. It makes this powerful tool available at a greatly reduced 'entry price', now shrunk by about two thirds.

To explain, at a cost of hundreds rather than thousands of dollars, the original SCS-900 software was structured to operate on a Trimble GPS rover, necessitating the outlay of about \$70,000 on the rover and a base station—if you happened not to be already using GPS on your site.

What Alan's team has now done is to seamlessly modify SCS-900 to function on a total station costing about a third of that price. The intuitive and super-simple user interface, easy enough for anyone to master in a few minutes, now operates equally effectively on either GPS or total station—or can reside in either.

Complex Computations Dead Easy

Think about this. It's a ripper concept—'power to the people' on the smallest or most remote site, without expensive support infrastructure. Just take your total station along, and perform whatever calculations you need to effectively manage a job.

SCS-900 v 1.1 transforms the instrument from a trained surveyor's tool into an enquiry or command centre that's capable of operation by virtually anyone.

It carries on board the design model it needs (if there is one), and reports the data it collects back to the office, perhaps by simply plugging it in to your mobile phone.

But most importantly, it gives you the answers you need to get on with the job, right there on the spot.

Data Where You Couldn't Capture it Before

Our alert readers won't need us to point out that this enhancement will provide data in areas that you simply couldn't have accessed before.

It's one thing to walk over a stockpile with a GPS rover in your hand. But if it's under trees? Or you needed the volume of a hole you simply couldn't get into? Or perhaps of a cutting with steep embankments?

In reflectorless EDM mode, the total station can pick up as much data as you need from very complex structures.

OK, now you're ahead of us in seeing the possibilities. We need say no more!

New Laser Transmitters

Trimble has released two new grade laser transmitter products—the GL742 and GL762. The products extend the capabilities of the Spectra Precision laser GL700 series from Trimble for grade control and general construction applications.

For Steep Slope Grading—the GL742

The GL742 is positioned as Trimble's premier grade laser transmitter for multi-purpose machine control and general construction applications.

Offering 2-way remote, plus a Y axis grade range of 0 to 110%, the GL742 is designed to provide the advantage of highly accurate steep-slope grading, such as sea or retaining walls, dam embankments, environmental or waste dump sites, parking garages and other extreme slope settings.

Technology keeps marching forward, putting more power in the hands of contractors at ever more attractive prices. Never has this been more true than in the case of Trimble's groundbreaking software SCS-900 ('Site Control Software').

The ink was hardly dry on our major article introducing this product a couple of issues ago, when Alan Sharp came to BAUMA from Westminster, Colorado to introduce his team's version 1.1 of this terrific product. Rarely has the humble title 'point one' disguised such a radical change in a software program's capability. Really, Alan, your guys have to learn not to be so modest, or people won't get the message!

In our earlier article, we overviewed version 1.0. It offers quick answers on the spot, out in the field, to the contractor, site supervisor, or foreman who knows what he needs to know about surveying, but basically is a hands-on chap with no formal training in survey disciplines.

SCS-900 allows the average Joe to perform a wide range of highly useful tasks, perhaps the most valuable being to calculate volumes of a stockpile right on the spot. Or the volume of the hole you want to put it into. Or the volume of cut produced in a day or a week, or the volume of fill placed.

It goes a lot further than that, facilitating set-outs (or stakeouts, if



High Accuracy Variant—the GL762

Also new, the GL762 is a high accuracy development of the GL700 series. The GL762 is engineered for sites that need precision over longer distance ranges. Typical applications include airport paving, longer-range roads and large concrete construction sites. The product also is expected to be of interest to specialty contractors working on golf courses, racetracks, playing fields, parking lots, service stations, landscaping, animal husbandry and large public works projects.

General Concreting Applications

The Trimble/Spectra range has also been supplemented with a laser designed to handle a wide range of general and concrete construction applications. Trimble claims that in rain or extreme heat, the LL300 will deliver consistently reliable and accurate performance, enabling users to dramatically increase productivity.

The self-leveling LL300 is a contractor-grade laser rugged enough for any general contractor to use, even in harsh job site conditions. It's capable of surviving a drop of up to 1.0 metres to a hard surface.

Trimble say this instrument is ideal for a variety of general construction and concrete applications, including elevation control across the job site, excavations, and basic slopes.

In addition to robustness the LL300 is easy to use, levelling itself when it's turned on.

Users of the LL300 can customise the laser to their specific needs by choosing between the HR300 and the CR600 receiver. The HR300 can be used either as a hand-held or rod-mounted unit and it is especially suitable for basic elevation control

applications. The CR600 is ideal for longer range leveling and basic machine control applications, with its ability to be used as a hand-held, rod-mounted or machine-mounted unit.


Upgraded LM80 version 2.0 Layout Software

Version 2.0 of the LM80 software for construction layout is now available. Designed to make the process more productive, accurate and reliable, the Trimble LM80 Layout Manager is a pocket-sized personal computer featuring the first data collection software created specifically for construction layout.

The LM80 is designed for use by concrete and general construction contractors to guide them in the layout and positioning of points on the job site. Blueprint dimensions are entered directly into the LM80, allowing contractors to easily check the blueprint for errors and plan for their layout. Built-in layout functions allow instant calculation of layout dimensions and accurately guide the user to desired locations to reduce errors and rework. Version 2.0 offers several key enhancements, including the ability to:

- Position a building on a building lot or job site more easily,
- Work more efficiently with complex design features such as curves or radii,
- Work more easily with multiple foundation and slab elevations.

In addition to general layout and positioning tasks, the LM80 includes a fully integrated Windows CE version of the respected Construction Master Pro calculator.

Version 2.0 is available as a software upgrade through Trimble's Construction Instruments division dealer network. 

Editorial

Give us a Break, Alexander...

The season of hypocrisy is upon us again, and the Grand Prize must surely go to Alexander Downer.

Eureka, he has suddenly become aware that there are a couple of Aussies locked up at Guantanamo Bay, and is tackling the Americans about legal issues relating to their 'trials'.

Whatever side of politics you may support, surely your blood has boiled at the sight of that poor cow, David Hicks' Dad, traipsing around the world trying to get someone to listen to his story, locking himself in cages in public places, and generally exhibiting the despair that only a parent can know.

There are a lot of things Alexander Downer could have said over the past few years, but didn't. Now he suddenly surfaces in an election campaign and tries to snaffle a few votes. What a monumental twerp.

The questions he could have put to the Americans might have included these:

- *by what law are you holding Australian citizens in a military base in a foreign country?*
- *why are they there, if not to deny them the great democratic rights that you claim to champion, foremost being equal access to the law?*
- *how come it takes three years to even lay charges?*
- *how could they be guilty of offences against the U.S. in Afghanistan, when the United States itself was there as an invader?*
- *what the hell right do you have to charge Australian citizens anyway, unless they committed offences in the United States?*

If I was running things, I'd have said to the Yanks, "Take your time—no hurry. You have five minutes to hand over these guys. Otherwise we start turning off the electricity to Pine Gap, North West Cape, and the American Embassy." 