

Donpra in Receivership: Deficiency about \$2 mil.

Donpra Pty. Ltd., the company trading as Donpra Hire, was placed in Receivership on October 2nd.

Receivers are Colin Nicol and Stephen Hawke of KPMG, Melbourne, who are responsible for ordering and paying for goods and services required by the business as from October 2—but obviously not beforehand.

Jim Downey of Coles Downey, Melbourne, was subsequently appointed Administrator of the company on November 1st, and held a meeting of creditors in Melbourne on November 9th.

In his interim report Downey stated that the company had a deficiency of about \$2 million, and a return to unsecured creditors is doubtful. Jim's phone number is 03-9629 1333. □

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ABC Lasers Called in On World Trade Center Job

Mike Forrest's crew at ABC Lasers have their bags packed to fly to New York on a GPS installation. The job is a massive landfill operation involving the ruins of the World Trade Center.

This tops off a big year for ABC Lasers in the emerging GPS machine guidance field. "We see this as clear recognition that our home-grown Aussie technical expertise is right up there with the best of them," says Mike Forrest.

"Final details of exactly what these people want are within days of being sorted out, but it looks like being a full 'bells and whistles' system with total automatic control of a dozer blade—the driver would simply be steering the machine."

ABC offer several stages of sophistication in their dozer product, *Grade Indicate*, starting with a simple indication of the location of the machine on the job plan, with information provided on a screen as to the amount of cut or fill required at that point.

ABC Breaking New Ground in Mining

With recent activity rather sluggish in the civil contracting field, ABC Lasers has been focussing their effort on the mining sector, with remarkable success.

"The current high level of interest in the mining community has enabled us to continue moving forward, technologically speaking," says Mike Manning, who has been away from home more often as he'd like, at remote locations such as Pasminco's Century

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ABC Lasers Called In on World Trade Center Job

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Michael Mnning (left) and Mike Forrest of ABC Lasers, Brisbane.

"It is vital to us to be able to separate different grades of ore that often lie close to each other in seams." This was in fact the first successful GPS guidance system for mining excavators in the world.

Around mid-year, Pasminco signified their satisfaction by purchasing the system, and have since fitted ABC Lasers' equipment on two large electric shovels.

A dozer tasked with building ramps within the mine has also been fitted with ABC's *Grade Indicate* system, the objective being to slope the ramps at the precise optimum angle to ensure maximum speed and minimum fuel consumption of the dump trucks

removing the ore for processing.

Century Mine has thus become a vindication of claims made for GPS—that one base station can service a variety of machines doing different jobs within its 10km coverage.

World's-First Excavator System

Early this year Pasminco commissioned a trial with ABC Lasers on an excavator system ABC had developed in-house. Called *Grade Excavate*, a screen in the cab shows the operator in real time the precise position of the machine's bucket, in relation to a job profile carried in the on-board computer.

ABC sorted out some of the early challenges of this system on Rod Peachey's equipment at Ormeau, before putting it into service at the Century mine.

"The system has performed very well," says Bruce Highlands, Senior Surveyor at the mine.

System Choices: 'Entry Level' to 'Highly Sophisticated'


ABC's policy has been to offer a choice of various 'levels' of GPS equipment, from entry or basic level through stages of increasing sophistication, to fully automatic. The system design is modular, so that upgrades can be added to provide more features, without going back to scratch.

At Yallourn in Victoria, Forrest's company was selected as the preferred tenderer to the Roche Thiess Linfox Joint Venture on a fully-featured system designed to upgrade productivity at this massive open cut coal operation.

RTL are placing high emphasis on the productivity tools offered by ABC.

A telemetry link is used between each machine and the mine office, to record, calculate and assess in real time such data as the amount of material being moved, the efficiency of various shifts on each machine, and so on.

RTL specified to ABC Lasers that on this site they required access to both the American GPS satellites and also the Russian Glonass network, to optimise reliability.

An article providing an in-depth analysis of current and future GPS receiver technology will appear in our next issue. 

The New Hustler 'Z', (cont'd from page 27)

The Hustler 'Z' comes in three models, offering 52, 60, and 72 inch cutting decks. The 52" and 60" models sport a 23hp Kawasaki petrol engine. Power increases to 25hp on the 72" model which is called a 'Super-Hustler Z', and is by far the fastest machine available on the market. All have optional mulch and grass collection kits.

Smooth, Safe, and Very Fast

When you drive the Hustler, the features of this range that impress the most are the smoothness and responsiveness of the hydraulic drive system, and the unique braking arrangements. The machines handle very nicely, and when you get off, the process of swinging the steering arms aside automatically sets the park brake. It's a comforting safety feature.

The other virtue is the low central seating position and hence the low centre of gravity, which enables the machine to negotiate some pretty steep slopes.

Because of the high blade tip speed, the Hustler Z will happily cut all day while travelling at its top speed of about 17km/h. That's really motoring.

All in all, an attractive package with Hustler's thirty year reputation for robustness behind it, priced in the low \$20,000's. 