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Black Insitu Testing probe deeply with IVECO Eurocargo 4x4

The expensive nature of infrastructure projects means that nothing can be left to chance during construction – delays or a change of project scope can result in large budget blow-outs, making this Eurocargo 4x4 the perfect solution.

For many projects, the first step in ensuring a successful build starts with geotechnical investigations, a service provided by specialist engineering companies such as Black Insitu Testing (BIT) and their high-tech testing trucks.

Based in Melbourne but servicing all parts of Australia, BIT has recently added a new IVECO ML150 Eurocargo 4x4 to its fleet and equipped it with a specialised body by Geomil from the Netherlands, which equips the vehicle to perform various types of testing including Cone Penetration Testing.

The 15 tonne truck is fitted with hydraulic rams that push rods into the ground to a depth of up to 40 metres depending on the soil types. Each rod is a metre long and the operator gradually adds rods as the earth is penetrated.

At the tip of the first rod is the cone which is fitted with sensors that collect several measurables like tip resistance, sleeve friction or pore water pressure and transfers them to an on-board computer allowing the operator to analyse and record the data.

From this data, BIT's Geotechnical Engineers can make recommendations to clients with regards to structure footings, slope stability, soil settlement prediction and more, ensuring that there are fewer chances of delays and additional costs once building starts.

BIT Director, Nick Schofield, said that as a cab chassis the IVECO Eurocargo 4x4 had all the requirements for the application.

"We needed a vehicle that would work well off-road and the Eurocargo 4x4 is definitely designed to go off-road with excellent clearance to traverse rough terrain, this clearance also provides the space for the technicians to access the cones under the truck," he said.

"Should we require traction the truck also has front, centre and rear differential locks, we figured that if the Victorian CFA (Country Fire Authority) had recently bought 50 units, they must be a good vehicle. And in fact we did inspect one of the CFA units prior to ordering ours."



PRESS RELEASE

While most truck customers want a vehicle with low tare weight, for this application heavy is best, especially when trying to push rods into the ground against the truck's own weight.

For this reason the truck features steel ballast between the Eurocargo's chassis as well as at the base of the body. To allow for more accurate data collection, the truck is also equipped with hydraulic lifters at each corner of the body, this ensures that the vehicle is completely level once testing begins.

Nick said that with Tector engine and its 279hp of power and up to 950Nm of torque available, the Eurocargo was a pleasure to drive.

"The Eurocargo is used in all sorts of environments, from urban to metro-regional and we also drive longer distances interstate so it's important that the truck is comfortable and easy-to-drive," he said.

"The six-speed manual transmission shifts smoothly and the truck is very stable on the road, all the operators have given very positive feedback on its performance."

While the Eurocargo 4x4 won't amass huge kilometres of travel each year, it will accrue high engine hours as the vehicle's probing rams operate using the PTO, nonetheless BIT expect that the truck will remain in service for around 10 years.

"It's nice to have a new truck, most of the sites we access have high OH&S requirements and this unit obviously performs well in that regard," he said.

"The Eurocargo is now on its second major project and we're very impressed with it."

IVECO Australia

Iveco Australia manufactures and imports commercial vehicles spanning the light, medium and heavy duty truck segments and, under the Iveco Bus brand, buses and coaches. The commercial vehicle range includes on and off-road models beginning with car licence vans, through to prime movers rated at up to 90 tonnes GCM. The ACCO and Powerstar vehicles, developed and produced specifically for the Australian market, complement Iveco's worldwide best sellers such as the Daily, Eurocargo, Trakker and Stralis. Iveco vehicles are ably supported by a dedicated network of 50 dealerships and service outlets strategically located nationwide, offering aftersales services that include extended warranties, roadside assistance and programmed maintenance contracts.

Iveco's Australian manufacturing base in Dandenong Victoria, represents a major investment in the local truck and bus industry. Iveco directly employs around 600 people nationwide and thousands more Australians in related industries, from retailing operations to component suppliers.

Iveco Iveco is a brand of CNH Industrial N.V., a World leader in Capital Goods listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: CNHI) and on the Mercato Telematico Azionario of the Borsa Italiana (MI: CNHI). Iveco designs, manufactures and markets a wide range of light, medium and heavy commercial vehicles, off-road trucks, and vehicles for applications such as off-road missions.

The brand's wide range of products include the Daily, a vehicle that covers the 3 – 7 ton vehicle weight segment, the Eurocargo from 6 – 18 tons, the Trakker (dedicated to off-road missions) and the Stralis, both over 16 tons. In addition, the Iveco Astra brand builds off-road trucks, rigid and articulated dumpers as well as special vehicles.

Iveco employs close to 21,000 individuals globally. It manages production sites in 7 countries throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania and Latin America where it produces vehicles featuring the latest advanced technologies. 4,200 sales and service outlets in over 160 countries guarantee technical support wherever an Iveco vehicle is at work.

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