

VALTRA TEAM

VALTRA

+ Valtra SmartTouch
Armrest
**9-inch touch
screen**

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+ Valtra
**Ideal for Farming
& Forestry**

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+ Gunde Svan
**Forest work
counterbalances
TV work**

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Working Hero

NEW A SERIES

page 6



**MACHINE
OF THE YEAR 2017**

EDITORIAL



It's a bold claim but it is my firm belief that now Valtra has it all!

It started with the **NEW T Series**. New larger comfortable cab, new Tier 4 compliant six cylinder engines, new combinations of transmissions and hydraulics, and of course there's our Unlimited Studio; should you require extra features we'll fit them – provided they're legal. And it's not just us who are saying this. The Valtra T Series has won prizes for the features and benefits it offers you, the customer. You the user.

Then came the **NEW N Series**: a very similar cab, Tier 4 compliant four cylinder engines and similar combinations of transmissions and hydraulics, plus the services of our Unlimited Studio for those additional features.

And prizes continued coming.

Earlier this spring we announced a **NEW** range of small A Series machines and at the top end the S Series with a new ARM monitor.

Look at page 24 and the Valtra range: Tractors from 75 hp right through to 405 hp. Read about the latest introductions in the following pages and you'll have to agree.

Mark Broom
NATIONAL SALES MANAGER



06

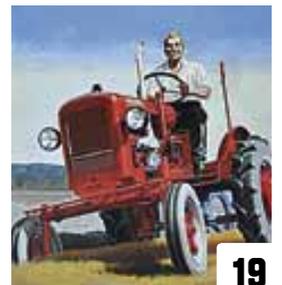
A104 HITECH NAMED MACHINE OF THE YEAR 2017



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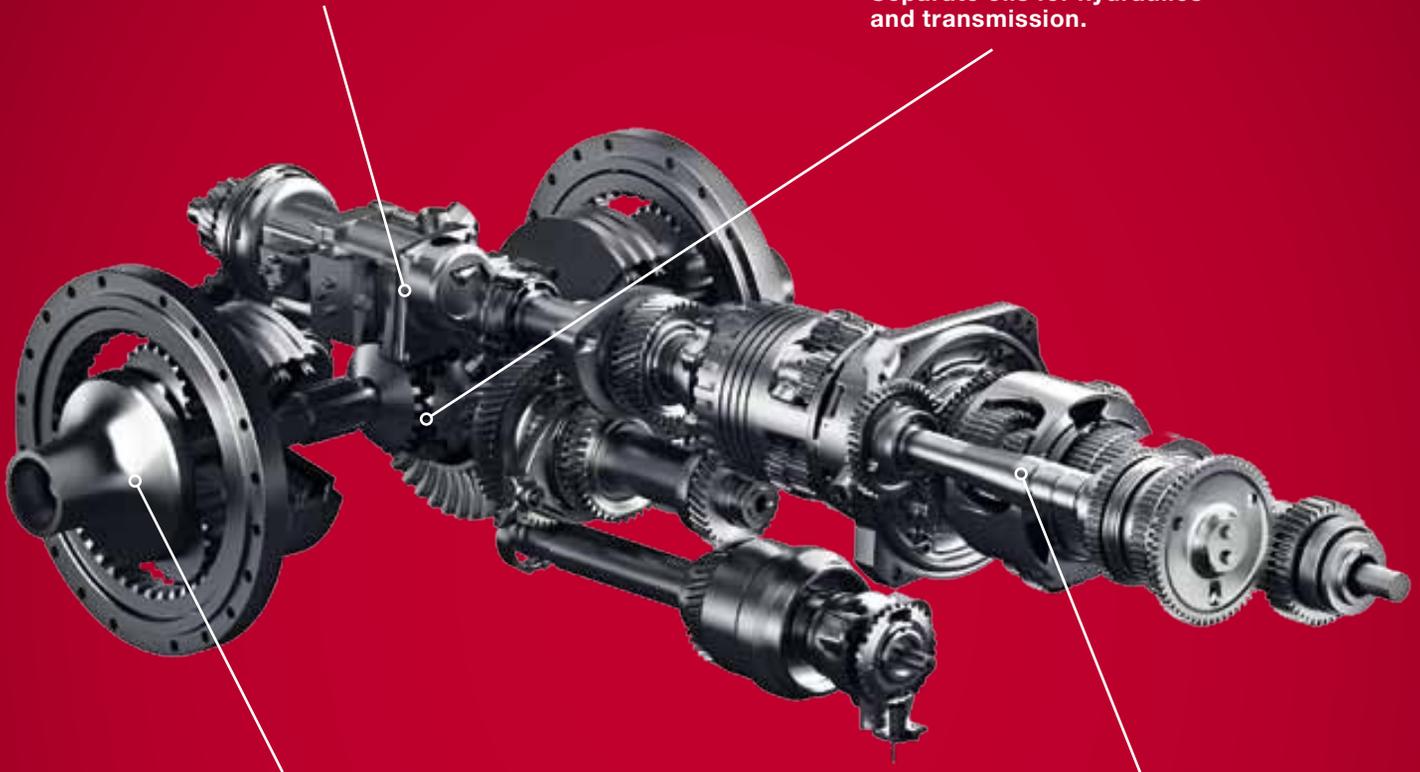
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Load-sensing hydraulics produce up to 200 l/min.

Separate oils for hydraulics and transmission.



ASR optimises wheel-slip (optional).

30/30R gears and five Powershift gear ranges.

POWERSHIFT REVOLUTION

The Versu transmission available on the T and N Series has revolutionised tractor transmissions. Versu combines the enormous pulling power of a Powershift transmission with a stepless transmission's ease of use.

The tractor operator first selects either automatic or manual mode. In automatic mode the tractor is driven as if with a stepless transmission: speed is regulated using the speed pedal while the trans-

mission takes care of the gears. The clutch only has to be used when starting the engine.

The Hydraulic Assistant function increases the engine speed when required, for example when the front loader requires high hydraulic output, without affecting the driving speed. The hill-hold function makes it easy to perform a hill start, even when pulling a heavy load. •

www.valtra.co.uk

NEWS

Demo Tour gets underway in Europe



The Demo Tour is an excellent opportunity for customers to test different tractor models in real conditions, as well as to meet with Valtra experts.

ARE YOU THE BEST TRACTOR DRIVER IN EUROPE?

Valtra will once again present its model line-up throughout Europe during a traditional Demo Tour. All of our new fourth generation models will be on display from June. Many customers will also be keen to take part in our competition to find the best tractor driver in Europe.

Last year a total of 13,000 test drives were registered during the Demo Tour, and this year we hope for even more. New for 2017 will be presentations of our Unlimited Studio and after-sales services, as well as our Master Cup competition to find the best tractor driver in Europe.

The best driver from each country will be invited to compete in the finals to be held in spring 2018 in Finland. The competition will be tough but the experience will be unforgettable. Silver and bronze medallists in each country will also be awarded, as will

the top three results on each day.

Participants in the Master Cup have to complete a lap as fast as possible on a track laid out in a field using cones. The design of the track tests not only speed but also the driver's ability to utilise tractor features.

"My advice is not to drive with the pedal to the metal. It's better to select the optimal speed, steer on the brakes, use fast steering option and drive with as much precision as possible," says **Juuso Raitanen**, who is in charge of Demo Tour. •

VALTRA DESIGN COMPETITION

This spring Valtra organised a design competition for students and independent experts. The theme of the competition was to design how a tractor would operate in the year 2040 and what it would look like. The competition was open to individual persons and teams of up to three people.

First prize was 10,000 euros, second prize 3000 euros and third prize 1000 euros. To particularly motivate students and young professionals, honourable mentions were also awarded.

The results of the competition will be published in the autumn edition of Valtra Team.



MACHINE OF THE YEAR 2017

VALTRA A104 HITECH NAMED MACHINE OF THE YEAR

Valtra continues to claim major awards around the world. In February the A104 HiTech representing our fourth generation A Series was named Machine of the Year 2017 in the under-150 hp category at the SIMA Show in Paris. This marked a hat trick for Valtra, as our fourth generation N and T Series were awarded the same title in previous years.

The jury consisted of 28 European agriculture journalists, who selected their Machine of the Year on the basis of innovation, technical solutions and performance.

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Valtra is a worldwide brand of AGCO



The Ahwi FM900 is one of the heaviest mulchers available. It is positive to handle – does not jump up and down – and managing it with the hydraulics on the S374 is simple.

S SERIES WELL-SUITED FOR CONTRACTOR IN SCOTLAND

TEXT AND PHOTO ROGER THOMAS

MW Groundworks is a company located near Edinburgh that specialises in forestry site clearance, landscape and civil engineering, and plant hire operations. Founded some 25 years ago, the company is run by **Mark Wang**, who lends his initials to the company name.

With a reputation for site clearance prior to building works and for landscaping afterwards, the company invested in 2016 in a Valtra S374 with a power output just shy of 400 horsepower. Mark Wang coupled his new tractor to an Ahwi FM900 mulcher, probably the largest tractor-mounted mulcher available.

“It’s a combination that allows us to handle most things clients throw at us,” reports Mark. “The Ahwi is well built and heavy, but the tractor is protected by a series of turbine clutches. Any trees too large for the mulcher are pretty much worth saving for timber – even if it is only firewood.”

Mark also finds the tractor economical and easy to operate: “The CVT transmission on the S Series makes shunting simple, and with the factory fitted reverse-drive system the operator almost sits on top of the mulcher.”

MW Groundworks often operates on land designated for development that may have lain idle for some

time. With reverse-drive the operator can see exactly what is going on in front of the mulcher and avoid any old mattresses and similar objects before they disappear into the machine and become wrapped around the machine’s cylinder, which can cause big problems. The swivelling seat and ergonomic controls in the cab also offer a really comfortable driving position, as operator **David Brett** testifies to anyone that asks.

All equipment kept in top shape

In addition to the S Series, M W Groundworks has a comprehensive

Continues on page 15...



MACHINE OF THE YEAR 2017

The hydraulic output of larger models is up to 98 litres/minute, extremely powerful for this size of tractor.

Brand new A Series

WORKING HERO

Following in the footsteps of the N4, T4 and S4 tractors, Valtra's legendary A Series has entered its fourth generation and for the first time the new A4 Series is to be manufactured at Valtra's factories in Finland and Brazil simultaneously. This enables Valtra to offer an extremely broad model range between 75 and 130 horsepower, guaranteeing that each tractor meets the requirements of each customer.

TEXT TOMMI PITENIUS PHOTO VALTRA ARCHIVE



The A Series and its predecessors have always been an important part of Valtra's model line-up so, after Valtra introduced the fourth generation of S, T and N Series, it was only a matter of time before the A Series followed. In Valtra's early years the company established a reputation specifically as a manufacturer of small, agile and versatile tractors.

The previous generation of the A Series offered two models producing between 88 and 103 horsepower, while three smaller A Series models were available with 50 to 78 horsepower. The fourth generation of the A Series now comprises a total of seven models producing between 75 and 130 horsepower.



Three- and four-cylinder engines

The new fourth generation A Series models are powered by AGCO Power Stage 4 engines. The three smallest models have three-cylinder 3.3-litre engines, while the four larger models have four-cylinder 4.4-litre engines.

Exhaust emissions are controlled with efficient and space-saving SCR (Selective Catalytic Reduction) technology with only the smallest, A74 model, fitted with a cooled EGR system. Combined with totally new, high-pressure common rail injection systems, the new engines produce high power economically.

Modular chassis design

The A4 Series features a brand new modular chassis design that enables a broad model line-up to be manufactured efficiently and without compromising any features. For example, the three smallest models have a wheelbase of 2250 millimetres, the next larger model has a wheelbase of 2430 millimetres while the two largest models have a wheelbase of 2500 millimetres. Similarly, the smaller models weigh 3500 kilos and the larger models 4500 kilos.

The chassis design offers excellent ground clearance, which has traditionally been an important feature for Valtra owners who use their tractors for forestry, snow ploughing and harvesting operations.

Versatile transmission

The new A4 Series has 12 forward and reverse gears in two groups plus an optional creeper gear. The forward-reverse shuttle is Valtra's well-respected HiTech power shuttle. The three smallest models offer two PTO speeds, while the four larger models have three. All A4 Series models are four-wheel-drive.

The operator can adjust the aggressiveness of the HiTech power shuttle while Valtra's traditional



AutoTraction and HiShift features minimise the use of the clutch pedal.

The hydraulic output of larger models is up to 98 litres/minute, extremely powerful for this size of tractor. The larger models also have a lift capacity of 5.2 tonnes with the linkage operated using Valtra's precise AutoControl.

Cab design offers a comfortable working environment

The A4 Series features a brand new cab design that offers the maximum space in this class of tractors. The new cab is both comfortable and ergonomic, making the tractor pleasant and easy to use. Electronic controls for the 4WD, diff lock and

power lift fully support excellent ergonomics.

Visibility from the cab is excellent through 360 degrees. The driver's seat swivels 180 degrees, and all controls are laid out logically making them easy to learn and use.

Almost half of all Valtra A and N Series tractors are ordered with factory-fitted front loaders. The new A4 Series is ideal for loader tasks, and new G Series front loaders are available with either electronic or mechanical control.

The new A4 Series was unveiled at the 2017 SIMA Show in Paris on 26 February. Serial production begins in summer 2017. •



Features of the new A4 Series

- Fresh new design similar to other fourth-generation Valtra tractors
- Manufactured in both Brazil and Finland
- Broader model range than previously
- Reliable AGCO Power engines
- Several transmission options
- New factory-fitted front loaders
- Individually tailored tractors
- Affordable financing available from AGCO Finance
- Local service and support teams trained by Valtra

Valtra A4 Models

	A74	A84	A94	A104	A114	A124	A134
Hp	75	85	95	100	110	120	130
Transmission 4WD	12+12R, HiTech power shuttle, creeper gear optional						
Lifting capacity (t)	3	3	3	4.3	4.3	5.2	5.2
Hydraulics	65	65	65	57 l/min or 98 l/min			
Wheelbase	2250			2430		2500	
Weight	3500			4000		4500	

David Legg's T214 Versu may have a lot of extras, but driver George Doble still has to make it work for its living.



DORSET CONTRACTOR SWITCHES TO VALTRAS

TEXT AND PHOTO ROGER THOMAS

David Legg is not from a farming family but spent some time on a farm during school to get work experience. Such was the effect that today, twenty or so years on, he is still involved in the business as a contractor and farmer based at Chideock in Dorset. His fleet of tractors now includes five Valtras, including a new Valtra T214 Versu.

"After I left school I first worked for someone else for a while before

I decided to make it on my own," David recalls. Since that time the business has grown, and today David is joined by two full-time drivers, **Rob** and **George**, and one – as David puts it – almost full-time driver, **Andrew**. The workforce expands during busy periods with the addition of **Sam** plus his own tractor.

"Today I have a fleet of five tractors, including a Valtra T214 Versu purchased last autumn from dealers C J Cox Ltd. We also run four other

tractors from a couple of other manufacturers," David tells us.

The soil in south Dorset, just a few miles from the English Channel, is light over very heavy clay. Most farms in the area carry livestock, and David Legg's business – mostly in a 10- to 12-mile radius of his base – reflects this; he and his team can handle just about everything from ground preparation through planting, fertilising and spraying to harvesting.

Alongside the fleet of tractors,



David Legg has built his business from scratch with the help of drivers like George Doble – watched over by Stuart the Minion.



Driver George Doble has added a few touches of his own and is very happy with the new Valtra T214 Versu.



the business runs a couple of self-propelled forage harvesters for grass, maize and some whole-crop, as well as a self-propelled sprayer, fertiliser spreaders and a range of ground preparation machinery and planters.

“We undertake stubble to stubble contracts and run a large square baler – about ten thousand bales annually most of which stay on the farm concerned,” David explains.

Another big business is slurry spreading using an umbilical system, with some material coming from digesters producing gas for both power and heat. Mention of this operation gets a black look from Valtra driver George Doble.

“Slurry spreading gets the tractor dirty – there’s a fine mist that gets everywhere!” he comments. George is very protective of his new Valtra tractor!

New Valtra Unlimited T214 Versu

For some time David had been thinking of Valtra tractors, especially as he has a neighbour running a very high-hours Valmet who is on record as having spent little or no money on repairs (Valtra Team, Spring 2014).

“I’ve purchased odds and ends from Valtra dealer C J Cox, but while both the tractor and dealer have excellent reputations, I thought they were a bit far away if something went

wrong. Then I remembered our neighbour and distance took a back seat, especially as there’s a Valtra technician living just down the road. In the end I decided to leave it pretty much to the operator,” David says with a wry smile.

“I told **Neil Warr** from Cox that if he could convince the driver to switch to Valtra and if he could match or beat prices I’d been given for other brands being considered, then we could have a deal,” he adds.

Driver George Doble thought long and hard about the offer, listened to Neil Warr and looked at Valtra machines. In the end the deal was made for a 230-horsepower (169 kW) six-cylinder T214 Versu with 910 Nm of torque. George insisted on the Unlimited version and chose black with his name on the door and “David Legg – Agricultural Contractor” across the sun visor. The specifications include front-axle and cab suspension, a front linkage and PTO. The T124 is also equipped with a 50-kph transmission.

“Working in this part of the world in summer can be very difficult. Holiday traffic can make getting from fields onto roads very difficult. Being able to travel at a slightly higher speed is really useful,” comments George.

How does George rate his new tractor?

“Like anything new, different, it took a little getting used to,” says George, “but now I feel firmly in control. I know where everything is – controls and gizmos, they all come easily to hand. I’ve done a little personalising too, including my CB radio and an air line for adjusting tyre pressures and cleaning out radiators and so on.”

George is happy with his Valtra Unlimited, and following a trouble-free and easygoing winter he is ready for a hard season’s work – with Stuart the Minion keeping an eye on everything he does. •

NEW

VALTRA SmartTouch ARMREST WITH NINE-INCH TOUCH SCREEN

Valtra SmartTouch is the new user interface for tractor functions on Direct and Versu models of the N and T Series, as well as on all S Series tractors. The ergonomically designed armrest makes work efficient, easy and fast. SmartTouch has been designed from the outset to lighten the workload for the driver and increase productivity.

TEXT TOMMI PITENIUS PHOTO VALTRA ARCHIVE

The functions of the memory buttons can be selected or programmed according to the driver's needs.

The programmable function buttons on the drive-lever control the front linkage, forward-reverse shuttle, speed ranges and selectable functions, such as hydraulics and PTO.



reddot award 2017
winner

SmartTouch and N4 win Red Dot Design Award

Valtra's SmartTouch armrest has won the prestigious Red Dot Design Award, while the fourth generation N Series received an honourable mention in the same competition.

Last year the fourth generation T Series was awarded by the Red Dot jury.



All the settings are easy to find, as they are positioned logically on the home screen around an interactive picture of the tractor.



The functions are controlled using taps and swipes like on a smartphone, only easier because all functions can be located and accessed easily in less than two taps or swipes of the screen.

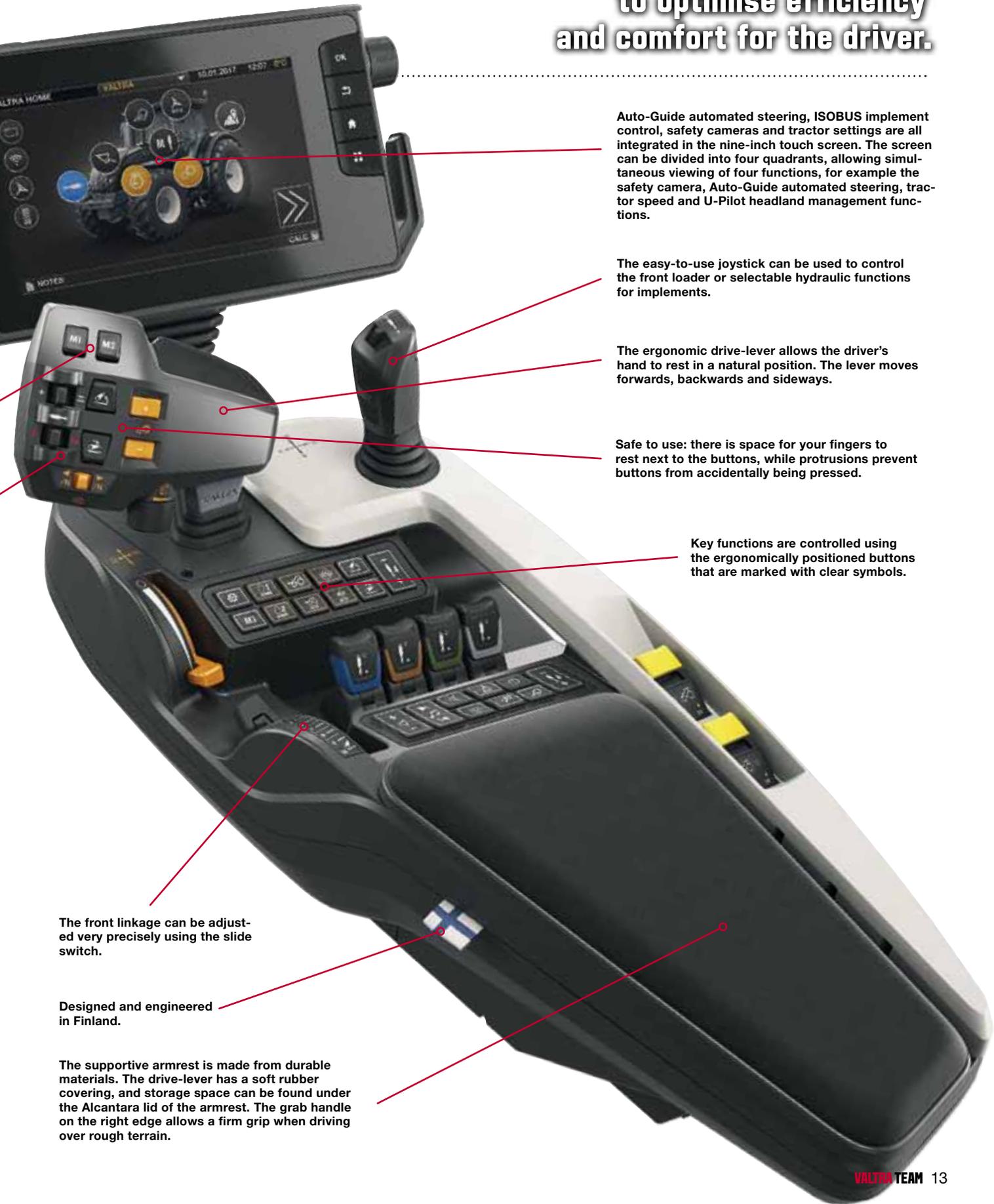


While driving all the required information can be displayed on its own screen or in four quadrants. The information displayed can be selected according to the task.



The system is easy and intuitive to learn even without instructions while offering a vast range of opportunities. All the screens and images are very clearly designed.

SmartTouch has been designed to optimise efficiency and comfort for the driver.



Auto-Guide automated steering, ISOBUS implement control, safety cameras and tractor settings are all integrated in the nine-inch touch screen. The screen can be divided into four quadrants, allowing simultaneous viewing of four functions, for example the safety camera, Auto-Guide automated steering, tractor speed and U-Pilot headland management functions.

The easy-to-use joystick can be used to control the front loader or selectable hydraulic functions for implements.

The ergonomic drive-lever allows the driver's hand to rest in a natural position. The lever moves forwards, backwards and sideways.

Safe to use: there is space for your fingers to rest next to the buttons, while protrusions prevent buttons from accidentally being pressed.

Key functions are controlled using the ergonomically positioned buttons that are marked with clear symbols.

The front linkage can be adjusted very precisely using the slide switch.

Designed and engineered in Finland.

The supportive armrest is made from durable materials. The drive-lever has a soft rubber covering, and storage space can be found under the Alcantara lid of the armrest. The grab handle on the right edge allows a firm grip when driving over rough terrain.



Contractor Janne Seppälä and his son Anton chat with mechanic Tuomas Kontiokari. The service, spare parts and sales staff are all very familiar, and Janne enjoys talking with them also about subjects other than tractors.

92,782 work hours and 184 services

MACHINERY NEEDS TO BE LOOKED AFTER PROPERLY

TEXT AND PHOTO TOMMI PITENIUS

Janne Seppälä is a contractor from Liminka, Finland, whose Valtra tractors have accumulated 92,782 work hours and have been serviced 184 times. Janne has all the servicing performed by an authorised Valtra dealer.

“Since I do a lot of heavy work with my tractors, it’s worth looking after them well. For professional contracting tasks the machinery simply has to work all the time. Servicing the tractors regularly helps prevent problems before they occur, even though this is not always possible,” Janne says.

He currently owns a T182 Direct, a T202 Direct, a T203 Direct and an N163 Direct. He has also previously owned a number of other Valtra and Valmet tractors, including an N142 Direct that was traded in for one of the new tractors. Janne has a small

farm but works most of the time snowploughing and contracting on peat bogs.

Tractor repaired in a day

When performing heavy contracting tasks, something can always happen to the machinery. In these rare cases, good repair and spare parts services are essential. Janne Seppälä has nothing but praise for authorised Valtra mechanic **Reijo Kontiokari**, who just recently retired.

“I’ve always been able to call for maintenance and parts, even during evenings and weekends. The service has always been very fast. For example, once my tractor broke down while working on a peat farm, but it was back at work less than 24 hours later. In other words, it took less than a day to pick up the tractor from the peat farm, load it on a trailer, take it

to the service dealer, make all the necessary repairs, return it to the farm, reattach the double wheels and get back to work. My wife drove to Suolahti in the evening to pick up new parts while the tractor was being worked on at the garage,” Janne recalls.

Even more important than rapid repairs is to prevent problems from happening in the first place. During the peak season on the peat bogs, when the tractors are hard at work, it is sometimes necessary to delay servicing by up to a hundred work hours, but even then the engine oil is always changed on time. Janne always relies on original parts and oils.

“I don’t know if Valtra’s own oil is the best in the world, but it certainly works well in Valtra tractors. Using original parts and oils, as well as authorised mechanics, is also a good idea in terms of warranties and maintaining the highest resale value of the tractors.”

Janne Seppälä finds it easy to call his mechanic and spare parts dealer. For example, should a fault code come on, he simply takes a photo of it with his mobile phone, sends the photo to his mechanic and gets an immediate reply as to what steps to take. •

... continued from page 5.



Mark Wang with driver David Brett. Mark has operated Valmet and Valtra tractors for years and likes what Valtra can offer these days. David enjoys a day in his 'office'. "It's very comfortable," he says.

sive fleet of civil engineering equipment, including excavators large and small with a wide range of attachments, from simple buckets to hydraulically driven stone grinders and dumpers of various sizes. Included in the plant list are a couple of six-cylinder Valtra T131 tractors with loaders.

"Alongside standard items like earth buckets we also have timber handling grabs for the loaders, as well as a pair of new and very high spec trailers for hauling timber and other material," says Mark. "We've a reputation for keeping our equipment in good order, and that has paid off. It's cost effective."

M W Groundworks does not rely on civil engineering only for its income. "There are times of year when there is a demand for our machines from agriculture, and if we've machines to spare we fill that need. It's an odd situation but one that works well for everyone," Mark confirms.

M W Groundworks operates from the northern English counties right through to the north of Scotland.

To cover such a broad region, the company's tractors are either driven or loaded from site to site.

"I reckon a journey on the tractor will take about half as long again as it does to drive in a car," comments Mark. "What we do depends on how much kit we are moving and when it will be required."

Mark has a good relationship with Valtra: "I'm from Norwegian stock, so maybe it's in the blood that I have an affinity with another Scandinavian company. We've used Valmets and then Valtra tractors for a number of years."

These include four-cylinder 6400s through to six-cylinder 8950s and onto today's Valtra T and S Series.

"In the past I have purchased other brands too, but today I'm highly satisfied with what Valtra has to offer,"

Mark concludes. •



Many development sites are located on the edge of built up areas, and some have turned into unofficial tips. Valtra's TwinTrac system sits the driver right on top of rear-mounted machinery, providing an excellent view of what's happening – before it happens.



Driver David Brett finds Valtra's TwinTrac reverse-drive system comfortable to operate in either direction. The cab offers excellent visibility, the hydraulic system plenty of lift and the PTO with protection from several turbine clutches ample power.

New T Series models

271 OFFER UP TO HORSEPOWER

TEXT TOMMI PITENIUS PHOTO VALTRA ARCHIVE



The biggest N and T models feature two-step boost that provides extra power when you need it!



The T Series has been expanded with the addition of new models: The T234 Direct and T254 HiTech, Active and Versu. All these models feature two-step boost, which is also available on all N174 models.

The new T234 Direct offers up to 250 horsepower and 930 Nm of torque with boost, while 220 horsepower is available without boost.

T254 models offer up to 271 horsepower with boost. The maximum output of the N174 Versu has been increased from 185 to 201 horsepower.

N174, T254 and T234 Direct models feature two-step boost. As on all N4 and T4 models, the first boost is available under sufficient PTO loads or when driving in C or D ranges.

Higher boost is activated under sufficient PTO loads and when the tractor is moving faster than

2.5 km/h. At road speeds (gears D3–D5 or above 38 km/h on Direct models) the higher boost is also activated as required.

The idea behind boost is to provide extra power as the situation demands. At high speeds or when a significant amount of power is used to power an implement (creating load on the PTO or hydraulics), engine power can be increased beyond what would be useful at slower speeds or when operating the tractor without implements. This is particularly relevant now that speed limits for tractors can be increased thanks to new EU legislation.

In 1996, Valtra was the world's first tractor manufacturer to introduce PTO boost, i.e. Sigma Power. Since then electronic engine management has allowed boost functions to be further developed, with other tractor manufacturers enthusiastically copying the idea for years. •

S394 is now Valtra's flagship model



The biggest model in the S Series is now the S394, which produces an impressive 405 horsepower and 1 600 Nm of torque.

It has a fully revised cab that features the new SmartTouch armrest with nine-inch touch screen, as on the N and T Series.

AGCO REMAN

REMANUFACTURED SPARE PARTS

VALTRA

Did you know that you can order remanufactured spare parts for your tractor? Remanufactured parts come with a one-year factory warranty and are just 60 to 70 percent the price of new parts. Changing remanufactured parts is fast and easy, and you will receive a precise cost estimate before the work begins. AGCO Reman parts are a cost-effective alternative especially for older tractors.



Fuel injectors

- Mechanical fuel injectors
- Bosch common rail injectors



Fuel pumps

- Bosch common rail pumps
- Bosch VP30/44 electronic pumps
- Stanadyne and Bosch distributor pumps
- Bosch inline pumps
- CAV/SIMMS and Valmet Import pumps



Engines

- 1/2 engine
- 3/4 engine
- Complete engine



Transmissions

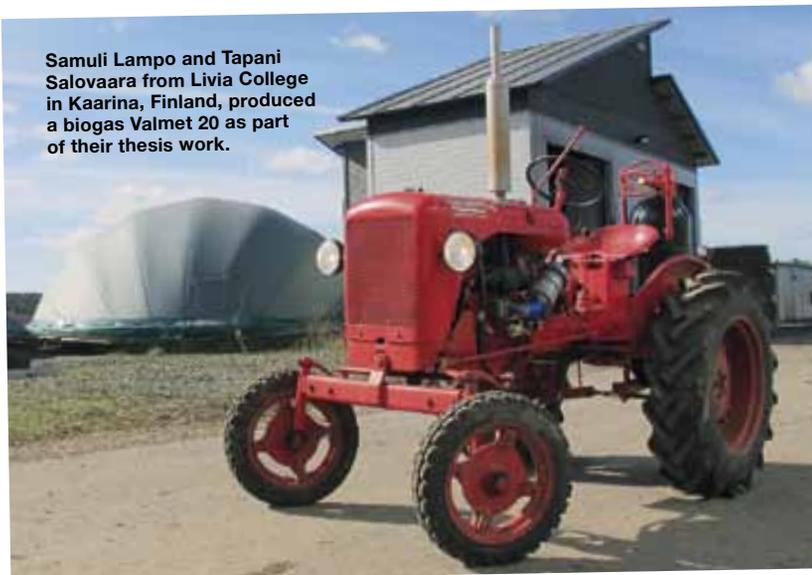
- Gear box
- Shuttle
- Powershift



Find out more from your Valtra dealer.

**YOUR
WORKING
MACHINE**

Samuli Lampo and Tapani Salovaara from Livia College in Kaarina, Finland, produced a biogas Valmet 20 as part of their thesis work.



The easiest to tell a Valmet 15 from a Valmet 20 is by looking at the track rod, which is in front of the front axle on the Valmet 15 but behind the front axle on the Valmet 20.

mum size. There was a clear need for small tractors, and the Valmet 15 was said to replace a pair of horses. Advertising for Valmet tractors also highlighted the range of implements available, including ploughs by Fiskars, harrows by Rosenlew and mowers by Valmet. By the end of 1953 Valmet had manufactured almost a thousand tractors.

However, as still happens today, there was growing demand for more powerful models. Valmet responded to customer demands by offering more horsepower and fitting a hydraulic linkage, first as an option but later as standard equipment. These changes were introduced in spring 1955 with the new Valmet 20, which accounted for 75 percent of the 2100 Valtra tractors manufactured in that year. The Valmet 20 remained in production until 1962, after which petrol engines were replaced by diesel engines. Altogether almost 10,000 “little Valmets” were manufactured.

Just as Valmet tractors were popular in the 1950s, they continue to be much sought after among collectors. Some enthusiasts have even continued to further develop these classic tractors; for example, two students from Livia College created a Valmet 20 BGB model that runs on biogas and petrol as part of their thesis work. •

OUR FIRST STEPS THE VALMET 15 AND 20

Valtra’s predecessor Valmet took its first steps in 1949 when the Finnish State Artillery Factory under the State Metal Works introduced its first tractor prototype. The little tractor was powered by a one-cylinder engine producing 12 horsepower and even Valmet was not impressed. Development work continued and two years later, in 1951, the company’s first serial production tractors were ready.

The conditions during the immediate post-war period were reflected in the factories in which the first Valmet tractors were manufactured. Parts for the prototype tractors were manufactured in what had been an artillery factory, and the main chassis member between the clutch and gearbox was made from a heavy gun barrel. The

tractors were assembled in what had been a rifle factory in Jyväskylä. With the exception of the very first prototype, all Valmet tractors were powered by engines produced at the Linnavuori factory, which still produces the engines for Valtra tractors to this day.

The first ten serial production tractors were put to work on farms for testing. These test tractors attracted such attention that another series of 75 tractors was manufactured in 1952, allowing sales of the Valmet 15 A to begin in earnest.

There was huge demand for machinery and equipment within the agriculture sector in the post-war years, and dozens of small tractor manufacturers were established throughout Europe. The success of Valmet tractors was down to selecting the opti-

VALMET 15 A / VALMET 20 TECHNICAL FEATURES

	Engine	Output	Speed	Tyres	Mass	Front linkage
15 A	1,5 l/4-cyl	15 hp (2000–2200 rpm)	4,1–18 km/h	front 4x15"	780 kg	mechanical
20	1,5 l/4-cyl	19,5 hp*– 22 hp** (2400 rpm)	4,1–18 km/h	rear 8x24"	900 kg	hydraulic [optional]

*[petrol] **[gas]



Bill Brightman is full of praise for the Valtra T234 Versu, a 250-horsepower machine with forestry cab.

IDEAL FOR FARMING AND FORESTRY

Valtra T234 Versu is the perfect year-round tool for the Brightman Brothers.

TEXT AND PHOTO ROGER THOMAS

Cobholden Farm near Eaton Socon in Bedfordshire, England, comprises 500 acres of reasonably heavy Hanslope series soil farmed by brothers **John** and **Andrew Brightman** with the help of Andrew's son **Bill**. The crops are all combinable and include winter wheat, spring wheat, spring

beans and canary seed, all of which are grown under a minimum cultivation scheme. This is pretty much a standard operation with the exception of the canary seed, which is included for two major reasons: it can be a good money earner, and it is an effective way of controlling black grass.

"We do have a black grass problem on the farm, and plans to control it include ploughing every five years. Canary seed has a much later planting date, giving us the chance to lightly cultivate the land, obtain a germination of the black grass seed, then cultivate and kill it. If we're really lucky we get a second germination and cultivation before planting the crop seed. Needless to say, our other crops need to be planted as early as possible to maximise yield," Andrew Brightman explains.

While growing the other crops is fairly straightforward, the canary seed requires specialist operations and knowledge, particularly during harvesting. The seed is small and difficult to thrash out, and special combine adaptations are required. The farm, operating under the name

Brightman Brothers, has purchased a new combine with the necessary adaptations, including a second drum fitted at the factory.

"The seed is small, it runs like water and you can't pile it up quite like wheat or beans," Andrew's son Bill says.

Forestry contracting during the winters

In late summer and autumn, Cobholden Farm is a very busy place with harvesting, preparing the ground and planting the autumn crops. Forty years ago the family developed a forestry contracting business to fill in the remaining months before the spring season and generate additional income for the growing family. Today, the forestry contracting business covers everything from chipping young growth for biomass material to feed heating boilers to managing and removing individual and very mature trees in domestic situations.

"We recently removed some huge Wellingtonia from a private property, which was interesting," remarks Bill.

The company is also responsible for the trees on Kimbolton School's 120 acres of parkland, the trees around Peterborough Housing's two and a half thousand properties along with a great many individual jobs around East Anglia on private, domestic and commercial land.

Valtra T234 with forestry cab

Last autumn Brightman Brothers took delivery of the company's first Valtra, a T234 Versu with 250 horsepower, 1000 Nm of torque and a forestry cab.

"This tractor is suitable for both farm and tree work, so it's ideal as

The Valtra T234 Versu has proven to be ideal on the farm and in woodland. This stand of willow is destined for fuel but other jobs have included removal of large mature trees from enclosed private gardens.

our main tractor," confirms Andrew. "The business runs a couple of much older machines, almost vintage, but this is our main work-horse."

Asked why he likes the Valtra T Series, Bill – the main driver – comments almost flippantly, "To go backwards!"

Brightman Brothers operate a chipper fed by a crane with both mounted on the rear of the tractor for much of their work. Operating this combination in reverse-drive mode is simple and as comfortable as driving conventionally, with the added bonus of excellent visibility – ideal when spending long days in the seat. Bill is also complimentary about the other cab features.

"The roof window is ideal for working with larger trees, be it complete felling or simply giving it a haircut. The lights fitted to the protective bar around the roof of the cab also add to the tractor's driving lights at night – they're most impressive in woodland or when working at night on the farm."

The T234 gets a lot of praise in other areas too.

"Just look at that exhaust pipe from the outside," says Bill. "It's huge, but from the inside it just disappears thanks to the clever shape and position. Visibility is ex-

cellent. The Valtra is also very easy to drive, and all the controls are where you expect them to be and clearly labelled; we've found this when other members of our team have had to just move or perhaps drive the tractor for a while."

Bill has one small niggle: "There is no factory-fitted mounting for the guidance scanner and box of tricks, which is normally in the head lining. This is now taken up by the roof window, but a bit of careful thought by an engineer and it would be all fixed."

Other factory-fitted options on the T234 include front linkage and suspension.

"We have a forestry winch and logging arch that we use on the rear or the front, where we can use it in conjunction with the crane. As for the suspension, we do a lot of travelling over rough country and along roads – it makes it all much more comfortable," Bill confirms.

Once again Valtra has produced a good all-rounder of a tractor, one that is excellent in both field and forest, garden and plantation. Bill Brightman has the final word: "Chipping can be a noisy occupation, but everyone who has driven the T234 has been pleasantly surprised. It is easy to drive, powerful, comfortable and above all quiet!" •





Cross-country skiing legend Gunde Svan visited the Suolahti factory to see his new N154 Direct being built. Valtra Managing Director Jari Rautjärvi handed over the keys to Gunde.

Cross-country skiing legend Gunde Svan

“FORESTRY WORK IS A NICE COUNTER-BALANCE TO TV WORK”

Gunde Svan, four-time Olympic gold medallist and seven-time world champion in cross-country skiing, now focuses on TV and forestry work.

TEXT AND PHOTO TOMMI PITENIUS

Gunde, you are remembered as the best cross-country skier of the 1980s, but what do you do these days?

“I have hosted a number of TV shows. I am now working on a show called ‘I huvud av Gunde Svan’ in which I interview former sporting greats. The other half of the time I manage the forest on my home farm at Vansbro in Dalarna, Sweden. Forestry operations are a nice counterbalance to TV work. It’s always peaceful in the forest, whereas in the TV studio there is always a lot of hustle and

bustle. I still ski, but only to stay in shape and not to compete.”

What kind of farm do you have?

“This is my home farm, which I have combined with other farms. We have no fields at all, only around 1000 hectares of forest. I only work in my own forest and am often joined by my son **Ferry**. Today, Ferry competes in timbersports.

What kind of tractor do you use for your forestry operations?

“I use a Valtra N154 Direct that I got

two months ago and that has 125 hours on the clock already. The tractor has the TwinTrac reverse-drive system, a forestry cab, Premium work lights, belly protection and forestry tyres. It pulls a 15-tonne Moheda forestry trailer with frame steering and a Moheda loader. The tractor also has a front loader for snow ploughing and other tasks. My previous forestry tractors have been a Valtra 665, a 6400 and an X120. I was particularly fond of the articulated X120.”

You visited the Suolahti factory with your son to see your new tractor being built. How was the trip?

“Absolutely fantastic. I’m very interested in technology and industry. It was great to see how efficiently all the work is organised, how the robots work and how clean the factory is. I was really impressed.” •

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Flexible and breathable materials: 46 % cotton, 16 % polyester, 38 % EME (T400) 295 g/m².

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Valtra Unlimited print on shoulder.

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Valtra Models



A SERIES

MODEL	MAX. HP*	
	STANDARD	BOOST
A74	75	
A84	85	
A94	95	
A104	100	
A114	110	
A124	120	
A134	130	



T SERIES

MODEL	MAX. HP*	
	STANDARD	BOOST
T144 HiTech	155	170
T154 HiTech	165	180
T174 Eco HiTech	175	190
T194 HiTech	195	210
T214 HiTech	215	230
T234 HiTech	235	250
T254 HiTech	235	271
T144 Active	155	170
T154 Active	165	180
T174 Eco Active	175	190
T194 Active	195	210
T214 Active	215	230
T234 Active	235	250
T254 Active	235	271
T144 Versu	155	170
T154 Versu	165	180
T174 Eco Versu	175	190
T194 Versu	195	210
T214 Versu	215	230
T234 Versu	235	250
T254 Versu	235	271
T144 Direct	155	170
T154 Direct	165	180
T174 Eco Direct	175	190
T194 Direct	195	210
T214 Direct	215	230
T234 Direct	220	250



N SERIES

MODEL	MAX. HP*	
	STANDARD	BOOST
N104 HiTech	105	115
N114 Eco HiTech	115	125
N124 HiTech	125	135
N134 HiTech	135	145
N154 Eco HiTech	155	165
N174 HiTech	165	201
N134 Active	135	145
N154 Eco Active	155	165
N174 Active	165	201
N134 Versu	135	145
N154 Eco Versu	155	165
N174 Versu	165	201
N134 Direct	135	145
N154 Eco Direct	155	165
N174 Direct	165	201

*ISO 14396



S SERIES

MODEL	MAX. HP*	
	STANDARD	BOOST
S274	270	300
S294	295	325
S324	320	350
S354	350	380
S374	370	400
S394	400	405

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