

"THIS HITACHI 350 IS A VERY STURDY AND EXTREMELY WELL BALANCED EXCAVATOR. IT HAS NOT MISSED A BEAT IN OVER 1100 HOURS OF HARD WORK"



Below: This long-reach Hitachi has been fitted with a Topcon 3D GPS guidance and control system, together with a height and slew limiter.



→ constructing a new sea wall to protect the site, part of the last phase of the works being undertaken on behalf of DEME.

To support this project, AFP has invested heavily in new machinery, including Komatsu PC290i-11 excavators with integrated machine control, Hydrema low ground pressure dump trucks and a 22m long-reach Hitachi. AFP also deployed a raft of attachments and other kit to this project as and when required. This included a new tractor-towed dust suppression tanker, fitted with a water cannon to reach all areas of the site.

Kevin Parker said, "Having recently bought five new Komatsu excavators, the sales and service support from Marubeni-Komatsu has been first class. And the same can be said about the other dealers too, as we purchased seven 20t capacity 922G Hydrema articulated haulers and Kobelco excavators from the Molson Group with service agreements. As for the performance of the Hitachi Zaxis 350 super-long-reach, I would say the experience has been very good. The operator likes it and it's been reliable. Both man and machine have been

invaluable on this project thanks to its high lifting capacity and 22-metre reach."

DEME project manager Hendrik Nollet said, "At DEME we like to work with local contractors and suppliers such as AFP. We can both bring our relevant skills, experiences and equipment, to execute the project plans in the safest, most environmentally friendly and efficient manner. The modern fleet of equipment and the skilled operators that AFP Construction has brought to this project have been to a very high standard."

SITE VISIT

The main reason for the site visit was to chat with Earthmovers reader Donnie Bruce, who has racked up over a thousand hours on AFP's 22m long-reach Hitachi Zaxis 350 excavator. Donnie has been creating a new sea wall for the site, for which all the material was sourced from a Thompsons Quarry just across the road. Once the last loads of the 40,000 tonnes of stone used for the core of the structure have been placed, using the Hitachi's 2m-wide bucket, he will use a hydraulic grab to place the final layer of large rock armour pieces into position.

Donnie said, "This Hitachi 350 is a very sturdy and extremely well balanced super