

Built For It. That's the Cat mantra and exactly what Caterpillar OEM Solutions Group, heavy equipment manufacturer Haulmax and Cat dealer Congo Equipment followed when they delivered the Haulmax 3900, an extended distance haul truck, for mining customer Tenke Fungurume.



Caterpillar and Haulmax build applica



21-kilometer haul each way



Average cycle times of 82.9 minutes



Average payload is 84.14 tons



That translates to 59.2 tons per hour

A GROWING MINE MEANS GROWING DISTANCES

Located in the Katanga Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Tenke Fungurume mine has one of the world's largest copper and cobalt deposits and covers about 1,500 square kilometers. The operation produces about 145,000 TPD of material from seven separate pits. As operations grow, however, so did their need for extended distance haul trucks.

"As we began expanding, it became necessary to find a solution to the TKPH challenges brought on by increased haul distances," said Frank Van de Wille, General Manager Mine Operations and Central Services at Tenke Fungurume. So, Tenke Fungurume began looking for trucks that could handle a 21-kilometer haul – each way.

THE CALL COMES IN

Haulmax first learned about Tenke Fungurume's needs through Cat dealer, Congo Equipment in June 2014. "Almost immediately I was on a plane and met with the customer and Congo Equipment. We also visited an existing Haulmax customer in Australia and the Haulmax factory in Tasmania. It was a great

experience and a joint effort that helped them feel confident in using unfamiliar Haulmax equipment," said Zak Brakey, Haulmax Sales and Marketing Manager.

MANUFACTURERS TEAM UP

Haulmax uses major Caterpillar components from Cat models 772, 773, 775 and C27 ACERT engines to build their machines – specifically the Haulmax 3900. That includes everything from a Cat 775 powertrain to Caterpillar torque converters, bearings, switches and even nuts and bolts.

"Other factors that proved Haulmax is well backed by Caterpillar were the strong support Caterpillar OEM Solutions gave Haulmax in specifying Cat components and the logistics of how to supply them. In fact, 96 percent of all consumable parts on the 3900 are Caterpillar components. Besides being known for reliability and durability, we chose Caterpillar because of access to local Cat dealers and their ability to provide support and spares," added Zak.

A TRIAL RUN

Thanks to customer confidence and the availability of a Haulmax demonstration model in South Africa, Tenke Fungurume





ation-specific machines

purchased a 3900 for a six-month trial. “The trial included on-site maintenance personnel to help support the dealer and customer. The Haulmax 3900 met or exceeded all customer expectations,” added Ross James, Major Accounts Manager with Congo Equipment. “It’s a purpose-built truck for this application and wet conditions.”

The Haulmax 3900 is also longer and narrower than a traditional truck of its size. “Because our trucks are narrower, haul roads don’t need to be as wide, saving money. That means we can also ship trucks ‘roll on, roll off’ for easy delivery via ships and on delivery trucks,” said Zak.

SERVICE, SUPPORT AND PERFORMANCE

On the service side of the sale, Haulmax is working closely with Congo Equipment and Tenke Fungurume to make sure there is a comprehensive list of recommended spares – at the dealer and in the customer’s warehouse. “We had two, 40-foot containers of components shipped to help reach the customer’s goal of 90 percent or above mechanical availability. These trucks haul the highest-grade copper on site. Having just one down has

a big effect on their bottom line. That’s why so much effort is put into ensuring the dealer and customer have the parts and expertise they need,” Zak said confidently.

Haulmax also brought Tenke Fungurume and Congo Equipment technicians to their Tasmania facility to spend time getting to know the people there and the trucks. In addition, an equipment specialist is spending six months with Congo Equipment to help the dealer and customer put in place all the maintenance and service plans, including training and establishing a service bay.

During the initial Haulmax 3900 trial, the truck performed at 93.9 percent mechanical availability, well above the required 90 percent. As a result, five additional trucks were ordered.

Now, average cycle times of 116.25 minutes (for the articulated trucks) are down to 82.9 minutes with the Haulmax 3900s. And, payload is up

from an average of 42 tons (on the 740s) to an average 84.14 for the Haulmax equipment. That translates to a 37.52 ton per hour increase in material hauling with the Haulmax. “The Haulmax team and the 3900 have a terrific ‘can-do’ attitude and the team has provided great support to their product,” concluded Frank. ■

[Additional details at: www.cat.com](http://www.cat.com)

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