

How to automate 104 tons of steel?



In the Czech Republic Topcon is writing history by automating 104 tons of steel. Recently a Caterpillar D-11 of the APB-company from Plzen was fully automated with a Topcon 3D GPS+GLONASS leveling system. The Caterpillar D-11 series of tracked-type tractors are among the largest conventional bulldozers in the world: ten meters long and four meters wide. Without a doubt they are some of the heaviest; with a staggering 104 tons of raw steel and 850 horsepower.

The D-11R is being used at a new production plant of the Hyundai Motor Company. Hyundai is the largest South Korean car manufacturer.

The task at hand is no small one either, with an area of 200 hectares where six production units and a testing path will be developed. For this project three million cubic meters had to be excavated and another three million cubic meters were filled.

On this construction site - besides the D11-R - the company uses Topcon 3D GPS+GLONASS leveling systems on: a CAT D8R series 2, a CAT D8T Dozers, a CAT 160H Motor Grader and a CAT 330 excavator. The GPS base station is constantly placed on the cellular area. Besides which the APB-company also uses four units of GPS+GLONASS Hiper receivers for surveying and control work.

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