

Genie introduces telematics connector

Genie has developed a telematics connector which allows for a wide range of telematics devices to be plugged into its S-80 and Z-80 boom lifts. The move is intended to allow customers to use existing systems they have or to source a system of their choice, rather than introducing a new proprietary system onto the market.



Genie's telematics connector.

Available worldwide, the factory-installed telematics connector works in conjunction with multiple telematic systems capable of providing a variety of machine data such as the machine's hour metre report, location and utilisation. Some devices are also able to prevent machines from theft and un-authorized use as well as being able to geo-fence the location of the equipment or set time restrictions for machine operation.

The company is also working on a connector for its S-100, S-120 and ZX-135 models with plans to develop a connector for its smaller boom lifts over the next 12 months.

Fifth generation HookCam

US safety device manufacturer Pacific Systems Solutions has unveiled the latest version of its HookCam wireless camera system.

Designed to be attached directly to the hook block on all types of crane, HookCam wirelessly transmits a live video stream to the operator cab, eliminating any blind spots. New features on the Generation Five model included a new adaptable mounting system, advanced battery technology, solar charging, and options for black box recording. Its lighter weight also makes it easier to transport, store and install.

The company claims that the system not only helps to eliminate accidents by providing crane operators with a close view of the area around the hook, but that it also decreases pick time by up to 38 percent as well as allowing the operator to monitor the pace, balance, swing and security of the load.

Pacific Systems Solutions' Generation Five HookCam



The view from the cab

Tyri lights



The BluePoint/RedPoint provides a visual alert in busy or noisy environments

c&a innovations

Gauging the wear of a belt

US belt manufacturer Gates has developed a free Smartphone app - PIC Gauge 2.0 - allowing phones with inbuilt cameras to quickly and easily diagnose the condition of an ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM) drive belt, which are difficult to visually check. Unlike Neoprene belts, which visually show signs of wear and damage, the EPDM belt rarely shows any visible signs of deterioration.

In order to determine the condition of a belt using the PIC Gauge app, the user needs to enter the vehicle/machine's description before removing the belt and marking it with a light pen - the company recommends a silver Sharpe pen. The belt is then placed on a high contrast background (i.e. a white piece of paper) before using the app's camera to take a picture of it. The app will automatically target the marks on the belt, determine the number of ribs and adjust the picture accordingly. Once diagnosed it will inform the user if the belt is in good working condition, worn or in need of replacement. There is also an option to save the image or email it."



Gates' manual belt wear gauge



Determining belt wear.



Taking a picture on a high contrast background.

If the belt cannot be removed or if it is not easily accessible, the company provides a complimentary belt wear gauge - essentially a small strip of plastic - to manually measure wear. The gauge is placed in the belt's grooves and if the plastic of the gauge protrudes it is in a good condition, while if it disappears completely the belt needs to be replaced.

Off-highway lighting manufacturer Tyri has developed its BluePoint/RedPoint LED light warning system suitable for a variety of machinery.

Available in blue or red the system projects a large concentrated beam of light onto the floor either in front and/or behind the machinery, to visually alert those in the area that a machine is approaching. By providing a visual warning workers are not solely relying on sirens or alarms which can be difficult to hear in a busy workplace.

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