Leica adds another feature to mojoRTK platform

Leica Geosystems has announced that the new No Drift mojoRTK auto-steer system is now compatible with John Deere's AutoTrac Universal (ATU) Steering Kit. Customers can now buy a cable that plugs directly into the ATU steering kit from www.mojoRTK.com.au or a Leica Geosystems' Value Adding Reseller (VAR).

This dramatically increases the number of agricultural vehicles that can be driven with the new, affordable RTK system, which retails at just $16,980 excluding GST. The AutoTrac cable adds more than 130 tractors, sprayers, combines and other farm equipment to the current mojoRTK auto-steer platform.

"Plugging into the AutoTrac Universal Steering Kit allows us to expand the compatibility of the mojoRTK platform to a wide array of vehicles across multiple brands," said Glenn Clark, Agricultural business manager at Leica Geosystems.

"With the use of the AutoTrac Universal Steering Kit and our new cable, the mojoRTK's accuracy can be applied to a vast line of equipment manufactured by John Deere, AGCO, CaseIH, New Holland and others."

The mojoRTK will plug-and-play into a standard CANbus ISO 11783 for the Challenger MT series tractors and factory-installed John Deere XX30 series (including articulated) and John Deere 7X20 tractors.

The system also plugs directly into the EZ-steer and now John Deere's AutoTrac Universal Steering Kit.

Add-on features as you need them

The mojoRTK allows farmers to buy a basic RTK system and then upgrade, adding only the features they need. This provides a completely customised solution at an affordable price.

"The mojoRTK is great for the do-it-yourself farmer," adds Tony Witney, Australia service and support manager.

"It is really simple to install. The console just slides into the radio slot, you plug in a few cables and you're done. There's no cab clutter to deal with because there are no external monitors."

Leica Geosystems is also a leader in virtual service and support with *Virtual Wrench* – the agriculture industry's first real-time, remote service, support and diagnostic tool. *Virtual Wrench* gives service technicians the ability to support the mojoRTK system without being in the field themselves. With one touch of a button, farmers can connect to technicians who can view and adjust settings in the cab from a remote location.

The technician sees exactly what the farmer is viewing, and can even 'push' buttons on their behalf.

For more information got to www.mojoRTK.com.au ■

Choosing the best variety using the NVT

Grain growers considering which variety to grow this winter have a new resource to help them compare things like disease tolerance, agronomic traits and yields from trials in their local area – and across the country.

The website for the National Variety Trials (NVT) has been re-vamped in response to user feedback and now offers a wider range of information on trials plus historical performance of winter crops such as barley, canola, chickpeas, wheat and triticale.

NVT is a national program of comparative crop variety testing with standardised trial management, data generation, collection and dissemination. The program is supported by the Australian Government and growers through the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).

The improved NVT website allows growers to check on the suitability of winter crop varieties based on local and national trials.

Two main search methods

NVT Manager, Alan Bedggood says there are two main ways to search for information, and they can both be selected down to a specific region.

"The section on variety information includes quality type, test code, breeder and marketer, and allows you to compare varieties. The link to variety performance offers trial yield results, receival standard test results and information on trial management."

Alan said that while the results of a single season's trials can be interesting, they're not such a good indication as a comparison over many years and many trial sites – which is what NVT offers.

"A great performance may still be questionable if it's the first year out, while a variety that may not be the top performer every year, but is well up there, could be a more reliable choice.

"When looking at the results, I always break them up into thirds. The top third are all good varieties, and definitely worth a look. Anything in the bottom third I would probably avoid for that target area.

"The middle third could suit a grower depending on the variables that can't be measured through the trials, such as availability of the seed, their classification and whether they wanted to target feed grain or prime varieties, and marketability in their region," Alan said.

The NVT website can be found at www.nvtonline.com.au ■