



Piling Industry Canada

# PIC

magazine

ISSUE 1 • 2025

**NAIT's Foundation Drill  
Rig Operator Program  
is building a safe,  
skilled workforce**

**Innovations in piling**

**Junttan introduces new Evolution series with  
the launch of DR5 drilling rig**



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# The hammer

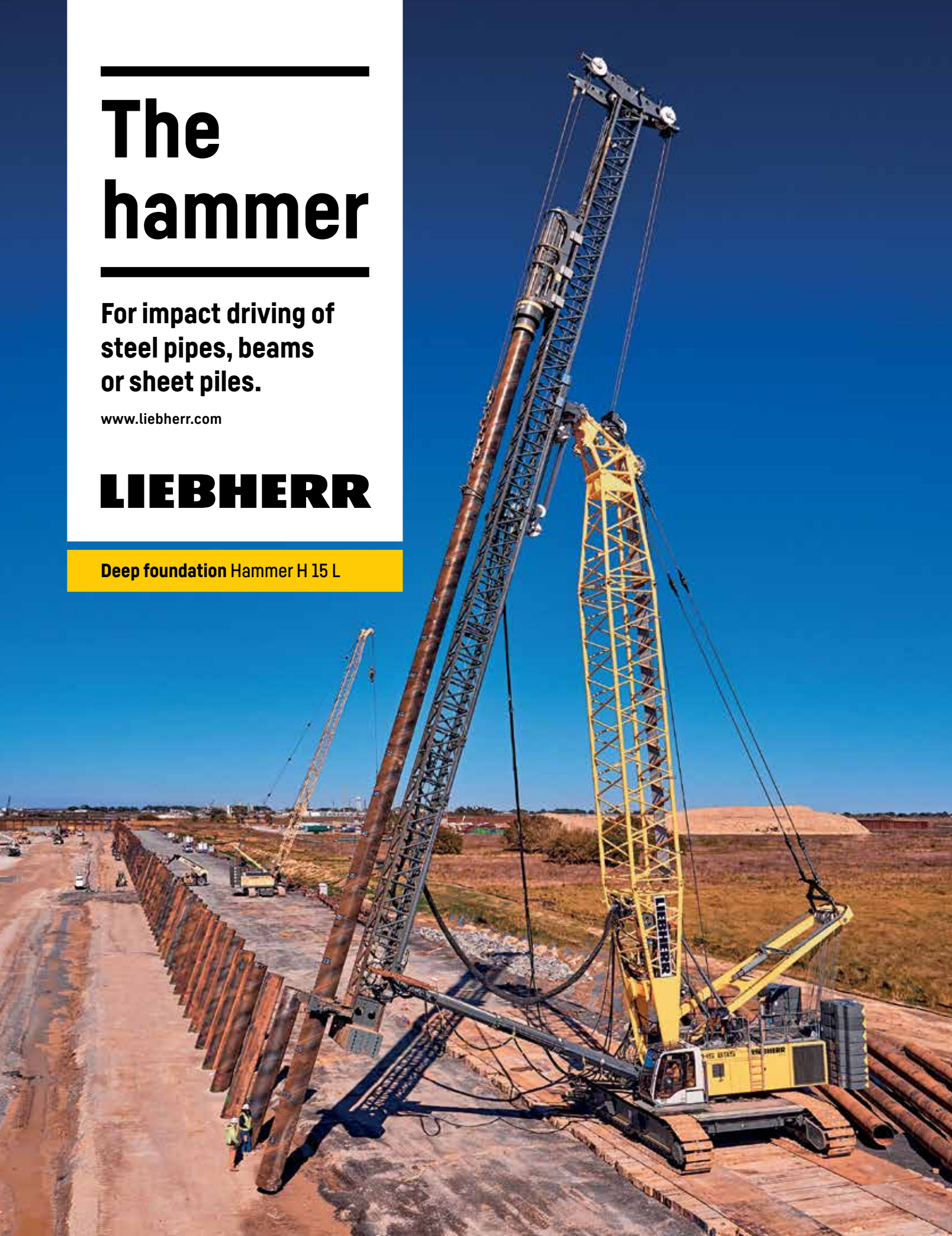
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# RAISING THE BAR: *The Canadian Construction Association unveils new Gold Seal Certification portal and directory*

The new Gold Seal Certification portal offers a faster, more efficient, and user-friendly way to submit and manage Gold Seal Certification applications, as well as validate Gold Seal certifications, further promoting excellence within Canada's construction industry.

In May, the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) launched a new online portal and directory to improve the user experience for current and future Gold Seal Certified industry professionals. The new directory also allows employers and industry partners to easily verify and identify



Canadian  
Construction  
Association

accredited professionals across Canada, supporting the program's credibility and visibility.

"This portal and directory have been a very important project for our Gold Seal team over the last year as part of our ongoing commitment to digitize first," said CCA President Rodrigue Gilbert. "The Gold Seal portal joins our various digital resources and directories, which help to maintain and increase integrity and transparency within our services."

CCA's Gold Seal Certification is a nationally recognized standard of excellence for construction management professionals. Earned through industry experience, education, and examination, Gold Seal Certification enhances professional development, improves job mobility, and demonstrates skills, competence, and experience.

"In our industry, we have to keep raising the bar – and that is exactly what our Gold Seal Certified workers and Gold Seal employers do each and every day," said Gilbert. "We will continue to make it easier for construction professionals to become Gold Seal Certified and encourage them to continue leading with the highest standard of excellence so our industry can continue to build a stronger Canada."

Employees who enroll and complete Gold Seal Certification take pride in their work and expertise. As we seek to develop and enhance our workforce, programs like Gold Seal help to not only ensure confidence in our industry, but to set a standard to which new workers can model during the early stages of their career. Together, we can all take pride in building a better Canada. ●



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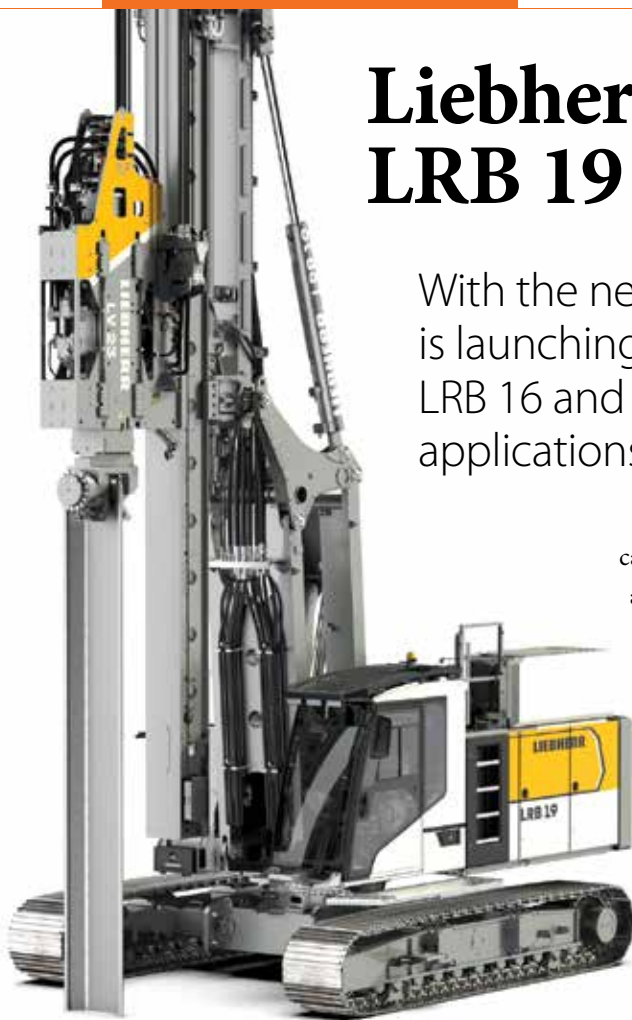


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## Junttan

# Liebherr unveils the new LRB 19 piling and drilling rig

With the new LRB 19 piling and drilling rig, Liebherr is launching the successor to the tried-and-tested LRB 16 and LRB 18 models, designed for all common applications in the deep foundation sector.



*Liebherr LRB 19 - The new all-rounder for deep foundation work: the piling and drilling rig LRB 19.*

Liebherr's new LRB 19 is a multi-faceted rig that can be used for a wide range of applications in deep foundation work. For piling or vibrating applications, the all-rounder is equipped with the H6 hammer or the LV 23 and LV 23 F vibrators, all from Liebherr. Drilling with Kelly equipment, double drilling head, full displacement equipment and continuous flight auger or soil mixing are further areas of application. The name LRB 19 reflects the maximum travel distance of the sledge: 19 metres.

The various attachments can be easily exchanged using the hydraulic quick connection system – without tools and without the driver having to leave the

cabin. All hydraulic, mechanical, and electrical connections are automatically coupled. This significantly reduces the set-up time and prevents connection errors. An improved hose guide further optimises the work process. A new hose sledge ensures that there are no more obstructive hoses during use, which makes the installation of sheet piling in particular much easier. When drilling, the optional pulling device can increase the pull force of the LRB 19 by 110 kN.

The new piling and drilling rig scores with a powerful 450 kW diesel engine, the BAT 180.1 rotary drive with a maximum torque of 180 kNm as well as a low transport weight of 48.2 tonnes including eight tonnes of counterweight and auxiliary winch. The compact design allows for transportation in one piece with the vibrator attached, making mobilisation between jobsites straightforward and more flexible. The remote control simplifies the loading process for transportation as well as the assembly of the machine.

The LRB 19 has a self-assembly system for the counterweight. This can be easily lifted using the leader of the

LRB 19, which means no additional crane is required for assembly. The all-round platform with railings on the uppercarriage ensures both high accessibility and safety during maintenance work or inspections on the machine. The optimized arrangement of the LED headlights ensures the best possible visibility in the work area, even at night.

## ***Digital assistance systems for highest efficiency and safety***

All well-known Liebherr assistance systems for deep foundation applications are available for the LRB 19. The LIPOS positioning system uses the latest satellite technology to support the operator in precisely aligning the attachment tools during drilling or piling operations. During continuous flight auger drilling the concreting process is automated thanks to the drilling assistant. The pre-defined parameters are implemented by the control system. These can also be adjusted during the drilling process, if necessary. The vibro-replacement process also runs automatically, thanks to the vibro-assistant.

Working area restriction helps the driver to monitor the rotation range, working radius or machine height (height adjustment). As soon as the



The all-round platform with railings on the uppercarriage ensures both high accessibility and safety during maintenance work or inspections on the machine. The optimized arrangement of the LED headlights ensures the best possible visibility in the work area, even at night.

driver tries to move the machine into the pre-defined restricted area, it stops automatically and thus prevents possible collisions. Other assistance systems such as ground pressure visualisation or eco-silent mode increase the efficiency of the machine and the comfort of the operator. All assistance systems contribute to time savings, higher availability of the machine and a significant increase in safety during operation. The newly designed piling and drilling rig LRB 19 convinces through precision, high performance, and a long service life.

### **About the Liebherr Group**

The Liebherr Group is a family-run technology company with a highly diversified product programme. The company is one of the largest construction equipment manufacturers in the world. It also provides high-quality, user-oriented products and services in a wide range of other areas. The Liebherr Group includes over 150 companies across all continents. In 2024, it employed more than 50,000 staff and achieved combined revenues of over 14 billion euros. Liebherr was founded by Hans Liebherr in 1949 in the southern German town of Kirchdorf an der Iller. Since then, the employees have been pursuing the goal of achieving continuous technological innovation and bringing industry-leading solutions to customers. ●



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# HC Matcon forges ahead on the Highway 401 Highbury Avenue Interchange project with their Junttan PM25

## *The Project*

- MTO 2022-3004 Highway 401 Highbury Avenue Interchange and Underpass (Site 19-373), the CNR Overhead (Site 19-371), Pond Mills Road Overpass (Site 19-372), Murray Drain (Site 19-650/C), Elliot-Laidlaw Drain (Site 19-651/C), and pavement rehabilitation 620 metres west of Old Victoria Road
- Shoring for three bridge structures, six abutments, and two centerline culvert flips.

## *The Machine:*

- In many cases, the machine makes the job, and this was no different at Highbury with our Junttan PM25 leading the way. HCM is the proud owner of the sole PM25 in Ontario which was instrumental in the completion of this job.

## *The Challenge*

- Work within proximity to an active CN railway and live traffic on Highway 401.
- Proposed testing program could not be executed to site constraints, posing difficulty on site.



## *The Solution(s)*

- HCM utilized a Junttan PM 25, a versatile machine that allowed us to work between two shoring systems with live rail and vehicle infrastructure safely without compromising schedule.
- HCM had to make many track crossings over the duration of the project. With consideration of the cleanup that is required with a traditional drill pad over a rail crossing, HCM coordinated with the rail personnel to use alternative methods that allowed faster transition from machine mobilization back to live rail traffic.
- On the Highbury protection portion of the project, HCM coordinated with the GC and their design team to refine the originally approved testing program as the site constraints necessitated. The provision of this solution was achieved



through alternative pile sizes and onsite strategies to ensure the program could be executed.

## *Project Facts*

- Four Phases
- General Contractor: Dufferin Construction
- Owner: MTO

- Techniques:
  - Design-Build temporary shoring
  - Two centerline culvert flips
  - Driven Piles
  - Lagging
- Market: Ease of travel for commercial, residential, provincial, goods and people.
- Work within proximity to active rail and vehicle infrastructure. ●



# FOUNDATION DRILL RIG OPERATOR PROGRAM:



## *Building a safer and skilled workforce*

By Josh MacEachern, Program Manager, Construction, Trades, and Advanced Manufacturing, NAIT Corporate and Continuing Education



The construction industry has long been a reliable source of employment, particularly for those interested in operating drill rigs. Since 2016, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) has offered a Foundation Drill Rig Operator program, through its Continuing Education department, in collaboration with the International Association of Foundation Drilling (ADSC-IAFD). This program is tailored for industrial, commercial, and residential

construction projects and is designed to be accessible to everyone. It's a self-paced online course, allowing students to complete it at their own speed.

Prior to the existence of this program, industry-recognized training wasn't available for foundation drill rig operators in Alberta. Through conversations with industry associations and leaders, the need for this training was identified. The local chapter of the International Association of Foundation Drilling

approached NAIT with a significant investment to develop a program that would fill the need for training in Alberta.

"The ADSC Western Canadian Chapter recognized a significant gap in the availability of specialized training programs for drill rig operators in the region," notes Kevin Sharp from the ADSC Western Canadian Chapter. "There were no existing programs tailored specifically for this field, and we saw this as a crucial opportunity to support





both our members and the industry. By partnering with NAIT, we aimed to create a comprehensive program that would not only train new drill rig operators but also provide ongoing education for seasoned professionals.”

The program includes nine modules covering topics such as safety, mechanics and maintenance, and calculations and rigging, equipping students with the tools they need to succeed in the trade. While the NAIT program does not directly offer certification to operate drill rigs, it provides certificates of achievement for Level I and Level II upon successful completion of the courses, and it prepares students to write the NCCCO Drill Rig Operator exam.

Currently, there is no mandatory certification for drill rig operators in Canada, except in Ontario. The NAIT program is proactive in anticipating future regulatory requirements across North America, focusing on safety concerns before they arise. In Ontario, where certification for drilling sites is mandatory, injury rates are significantly lower. The latest data suggests that sites in Ontario experience approximately 30 percent fewer injuries compared to jurisdictions where training isn’t required. The reduction is largely attributed to the enforced compliance with safety protocols and ongoing training and certification programs.

Sharp emphasizes the safety component: “The ultimate goal was to reduce the risks of machine damage, injuries, and incidents on the job site. A well-trained and educated workforce would contribute to a safer, more efficient work environment, benefiting both the operators and the industry as a whole. By investing in this training program, we’re helping to foster a skilled workforce that will be better equipped to meet the demands of the job and help minimize the risks associated with drill rig operations.”

Investing in drill rig operator certification has long-term benefits for both companies and the industry. First, companies that allocate resources to employee learning and development programs tend to have stronger performance and productivity metrics. Second, employees who receive continuous training are less likely to leave their current job. In contrast, companies that do not prioritize training and development have much higher turnover rates, as employees seek out opportunities for growth elsewhere. Finally, companies that allocate resources to employee learning and development programs not only see improved retention but also experience higher job satisfaction and engagement among their workforces.

Training and certification create a strong culture within companies, attracting and retaining talent and addressing the

ongoing labor shortage. Having trained operators provides stakeholders with confidence in their ability to complete tasks safely and efficiently.

The collaboration between the ADSC-IAFD and NAIT exemplifies how industry and education can work together to address training gaps and ensure a skilled workforce. Training not only boosts operators’ confidence but also sets them apart in the industry, enhancing professionalism and credibility.

The Foundation Drill Rig Operator Program at NAIT is more than just a training initiative; it’s a critical step toward ensuring the safety, efficiency, and sustainability of the foundational drill rig industry. By investing in training, we not only enhance the skills and competencies of our workforce but also address the pressing issues of safety and labor shortages.

To sign up for the Foundation Drill Rig Operator program, visit NAIT’s Continuing Education site at NAIT’s Continuing Education page. Each module ranges from 25 to 40 hours and costs between \$225 and \$400. This self-paced online course is designed to accommodate both working professionals and anyone with two to five years’ experience working as a Front-ender on a piling site, providing flexibility and accessibility for students. ●



# Junttan introduces new Evolution series with the launch of DR5 drilling rig

*The Junttan DR5 performed successfully on the test site in Belgium.*

Junttan, a global leader in pile-driving equipment manufacturing, recently announced the launch of the new Evolution series, starting with the DR5 drilling rig. This new series represents the most significant investment in Junttan's history and introduces completely new technology and design set to redefine the piling industry. The Junttan DR5 drilling rig represents class-leading single-pass drilling performance with technology designed for both FDP (Full Displacement Piling) and CFA (Continuous Flight Auger) applications.

The new Evolution series is the culmination of years of research, development, and innovation, marking a new era for Junttan

and its customers worldwide with the further enhanced combination of efficiency, safety, and ease of use.

"The Evolution series has been designed with a strong focus on customer needs, ensuring that its advanced technology and innovative features directly address the challenges our clients face," says Tommi Lehtonen, Group CEO at Junttan. "Working in close co-operation with our customers, I'm truly excited about the new machine we've developed together – we believe this series will not only meet but exceed the expectations of our customers, providing them with the tools they need to succeed in even the most challenging environments."





*A wide range of options allows the Junttan DR5 to be customized to meet diverse customer requirements.*



*The new Junttan DR5 represents a drilling rig that is more efficient, simpler to use, and easier to transport.*

### **Key features of the Evolution series**

- **Design:** The Evolution series introduces a completely renewed design with a streamlined profile engineered for durability, while the new components enhance accessibility for maintenance. Optimized kinematics and component layout enable the best possible center of gravity, low ground pressures, and high capacity.
- **Modularity:** A wide range of options allows the DR5 to be customized to meet diverse customer requirements. Customers can now easily configure the DR5 in various machine setups – standard, long, or extended – tailored to their specific piling needs and desired drilling depth.
- **Operator interface and cabin:** The Evolution series features a completely redesigned cabin with state-of-the-art ergonomics, advanced controls, and a modern user interface. Operators will benefit from new features such as real-time diagnostics and feedback, including a modern measuring system with real-time view of the pile or drilling tool interacting with soil layers, and offer safety enhancing assistant features such as stability and capacity assistance, ensuring safer and more precise operations.
- **Safety:** The Evolution series includes top-class safety features, such as a new SIL-compliant control system, 360-degree cameras with active object recognition, and stability monitoring.
- **Remote control & transportability:** The DR5 can be transported fully assembled, reducing setup time.

Additionally, operators can drive and set up the rig using remote control, enhancing safety and convenience.

- **Sustainability:** The Evolution series DR5 is designed with 20 percent less steel and 70 percent fewer electrical wires and hydraulic hoses (compared to previous equivalent Junttan machine), reducing the use of materials and cutting down transport emissions as it can be transported in a single load. The machine's advanced control system, optimized hydraulics and engine's start/stop functionality has been engineered to enhance fuel efficiency.

"Our investment in the Evolution series is a testament to Junttan's commitment to pushing the boundaries of what's possible in the piling industry. The new DR5 represents a drilling rig that is more efficient, simpler to use, and easier to transport," says Tomi Voutilainen, Director of Engineering and Product Management at Junttan.

### **About Junttan Oy**

Junttan Oy is a family-owned company with 210 professionals and more than 45 years of experience in hydraulic piling equipment design and manufacturing. With a factory in Kuopio, Finland, it produces pile driving rigs, drilling rigs, hydraulic impact and vibratory hammers, and power packs. Junttan offers a wide range of professional services and innovative solutions and has a service center in Hyvinkää, Finland, and frontline companies in Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK, and the United States.

For more information, visit [junttan.com](http://junttan.com). ●

# INNOVATIONS IN PILING TECHNIQUES:

## *Advancements in the industry*

Piling is fundamental to modern construction, crucial for ensuring stability in challenging soil conditions. Over the last decade, the piling industry has undergone a substantial transformation through technological, environmental, and process-driven innovations. These changes are addressing key challenges like urban space constraints, environmental impact, and structural complexity.

### ***Hydraulic and silent piling systems***

Modern hydraulic pile drivers and press-in systems offer vibration-free and noise-free solutions. These systems are designed to operate with minimal noise and vibration, essential in densely populated urban areas and near sensitive

structures. They're especially suitable for sites where access is limited and there are concerns about community disturbance.

A prime example of this is Giken's Silent Piler, which uses static force to push piles into the ground, reducing disruption and avoiding structural damage to nearby buildings. Unlike traditional piling, which often involves loud impact hammers or vibratory drivers, silent piling presses each pile into the ground hydraulically, making it ideal for urban environments, residential areas, and sensitive sites like hospitals, railways, and historic buildings.

### ***Energy-efficient and electric pile-driving equipment***

With global efforts to reduce carbon emissions, the piling industry is

embracing electric and hybrid-powered piling rigs. These machines not only reduce fuel consumption and emissions but they're also quieter, making them ideal for environmentally sensitive areas.

In recent years, Liebherr has unveiled "unplugged" rigs such as their LB 30, which can be connected to a conventional electric supply or powered by a battery without a cable during operation. The battery-operated "unplugged" units are identical to other rigs as far as possibilities, weight, and transport.

### ***Auger cast and continuous flight auger (CFA) piling***

CFA piles are drilled and filled with concrete without withdrawing the auger from the hole. During installation, the



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auger drills into the ground and is filled with concrete as it's withdrawn, creating a cast-in-place pile. Modern rigs now feature GPS systems, depth monitors, and torque sensors, ensuring consistency and quality control.

### ***Screw piles and helical piers***

Screw piles or helical piers are an innovative solution for low-impact, fast-installation foundations. Installed using a rotating motion, these piles require no concrete curing time and can bear loads immediately after installation. They can also be easily removed and reused.

Screw piles are especially valuable for especially in temporary or lightweight modular structures, in remote locations, and for projects with tight timelines.

### ***Geopolymer and sustainable piling materials***

Sustainability has become a central concern in piling operations, and interest in the recent advancements in low-carbon concrete alternatives and recycled steel piles has increased.

Geopolymers made from industrial byproducts like ground granular blast furnace slag (GGBS) and pulverised fly ash (PFA) are gaining traction for their lower embodied carbon and high durability. They impact reduce environment, enhance material lifecycle performance, and comply with the move to green building standards.

Companies like Keller use these less carbon-intensive solutions. Alternative ground improvement methods, such as their vibro stone columns in place of traditional piling, can save between 30 and 60 per cent of the cost and up to 95 per cent of the embodied carbon of deep foundations. Keller also uses recycled materials in their foundation solutions, including glass sand in place of gravel,

and GGBS and PFA in place of cement. As well as saving carbon, these reduce waste and contribute to the circular economy.

### ***Smart monitoring, instrumentation, and automation***


Piling has moved into the digital age by adopting smart sensors, IoT, and AI analytics. These technologies enable real-time feedback during installation and post-construction monitoring of load capacity, settlement, and vibrations.

As well, robotics and automation are revolutionizing how piling systems are deployed. From autonomous vehicles that transport piles to robotic drilling rigs that increase piling precision to automated alignment systems, these technologies can improve safety and accuracy on job sites.

### ***Advanced design and simulation software***

The integration of Building Information Modeling (BIM) and geotechnical simulation tools is streamlining the planning and execution of piling projects. Engineers can now model subsurface conditions, simulate pile behavior, and detect potential conflicts before installation. This approach enhances collaboration across disciplines and improves project outcomes.

Much like the construction industry as a whole, the piling industry is shifting toward smarter, greener, and more efficient practices. Innovations in equipment, materials, monitoring, and digital tools are enabling better performance, faster installation, and reduced environmental impact, transforming the way foundations are built. ●




  
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# Equipment Corporation of America announces key leadership promotions



*Dave Schell.*

In December, Equipment Corporation of America (ECA) announced three strategic promotions that reflect their continued commitment to excellence in the foundation construction industry. Effective immediately, Dave Schell, Steve Sigmund, and Caleb McNeill are assuming new leadership roles, strengthening ECA's position as a trusted leader in the field.

## ***Dave Schell – Washington DC Branch Manager***

After two decades of loyalty to ECA, Dave Schell has been promoted to Washington DC Branch Manager. A second-generation ECA team member, Dave began his journey as a service technician in 2003. Over the years, he advanced through roles in parts and service management and most recently served as a Mid-Atlantic Account Manager, excelling in sales and customer relationship building.

As Branch Manager, Dave will oversee sales and operations at the Washington DC branch, including customer relations, safety, property management, and financial functions. His leadership builds on a legacy of excellence established by



*Steve Sigmund.*

his father, Pete Schell, who retired as Vice President of the same branch after 37 years back in 2013.

## ***Steve Sigmund – Philadelphia Branch Manager***

Steve Sigmund has been promoted to Philadelphia Branch Manager, bringing a wealth of experience in equipment rental and sales along with him. Since joining ECA in 2016 as an account manager, Steve has demonstrated exceptional sales performance, leadership, and problem-solving skills.

In his new role, Steve will take on full responsibility for the Philadelphia branch's sales, operations, and customer service. His focus will include building customer relationships, ensuring safety and operational excellence, and managing financial reporting at the branch level.

## ***Caleb McNeill – Account Manager***

Caleb McNeill has been promoted from his role as a Product Support Sales Representative to Account Manager for the ECA Jacksonville branch. Prior to coming to ECA in 2023, Caleb was a drilling equipment specialist and account



*Caleb McNeill.*

manager for a heavy equipment company in Florida for several years.

Caleb will bring years of experience in the drilling industry to the Account Manager role as he will oversee the sales efforts across Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama. His enthusiasm and drive to help our customers succeed will be a boon to the ECA operations across his territory.

## ***About Equipment Corporation of America***

ECA has been a leading supplier of foundation construction equipment for more than a century. We are the exclusive distributor for BAUER Drilling Rigs, KLEMM Anchor and Micropile Drilling Rigs, RTG Piling Rigs, and BAUER MAT Slurry Handling Systems. We also distribute HPSI Vibratory Pile Hammers, WORD International Drill Attachments, Pileco Diesel Hammers, Dawson Construction Products, ALLU Ground Improvement Equipment, Pile Master Air Hammers, DIGGA auger drives, and Olin Concrete Pumps. ECA offers sales, rentals, service, parts and training from 11 facilities throughout the Eastern U.S. and all Canadian provinces. ●



# Pile driving solutions that add to your bottom line.



Sales | Rentals | Parts & Service | Training

At ECA, we've dedicated ourselves to helping our customers become more effective, efficient, and profitable. By encouraging collaborative problem-solving, developing leaders in equipment training, and fostering an environment of continued learning, we keep our customers' equipment and projects running smoothly and safely. Together, we are moving the industry forward.

Let us help build your legacy one successful project at a time.

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**Gulf Region**

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**Mid-Atlantic Region**

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