

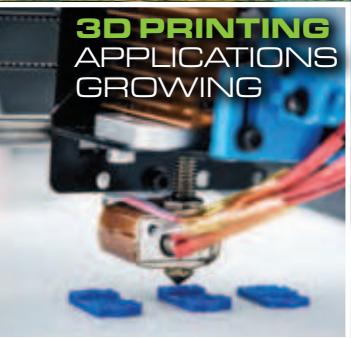
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A NEW NEMESIS FOR TURF

TURF MAINTENANCE



3D PRINTING
APPLICATIONS
GROWING



EQUIPMENT NEWS
A SWITCH
FOR ALTOZ



COMPANY NEWS
KUBOTA'S CENTURY
OF ENGINES

Company's second stand-on machine engineered for all-season capability.

In just over a decade, Altoz has made its name as a supplier of commercial and consumer wheeled and tracked machines for turf management.

Now the company is making a switch to broaden its horizons beyond mowing and grounds management when the landscape is green. The new Altoz Switch is a tracked, stand-on multipurpose compact tool carrier engineered for landscape and snow removal professionals, city utility departments and municipalities and designed to work all year long.

"This is a brand extension of our current products in that it's a multi-seasonal tool," said Karl Bjorkman, sales and marketing director at the Minnesota-based company. "With multiple attachments for mowing or brush cutting, to reclaiming overgrown land on slopes, to blowing snow, ice management or brooming debris, the Switch has the attachment to get the job done.

"It's a multi-seasonal, multi-functional piece of equipment that will accomplish multiple tasks. You'll be able to plug and play various attachments and, going forward, we're going to expand out attachment offerings."

COMPONENT SELECTION

The Altoz Switch relies on much of the same technology and components that are used in the company's mower lines. The machine is powered by a Kawasaki FX air-cooled V-twin gasoline engine rated 29.5 hp. The engine incorporates Kawasaki's multiport electronic fuel injection system and includes a two-stage air cleaner.

The engine drives Hydro-Gear PR-series pumps that power Parker TF-series sprocket motors. These operate each of the 9 in. molded rubber composite tracks separately to deliver zero-turn maneuverability and a maximum forward speed of 6 mph.

Other standard features on the Switch include an electric dial throttle control, a



The new Altoz Switch is a multi-season tool.
PHOTO: ALTOZ

A SWITCH FOR ALTOZ

9 gal. side-mounted fuel tank, a solid-state PTO switch and keyless push-to-start ignition. The SmarTrac monitoring system with SoftStart clutch control is designed to reduce clutch engagement, decreasing mechanical wear and increasing belt life.

The versatility of the Switch is enabled in part by its compact size (55 in. long x 42 in. wide x 52 in. high) and the operator's standing position. "For winter applications, the Switch allows you 360° visibility while snowblowing or brooming and it allows you to maneuver in tight areas," Bjorkman said. "Whereas, if you're sitting on a tracked machine like a skid-steer loader, you can't see 360° around you and you can't turn as tightly."

Versatility is also reflected by the machine's broad range of attachments, which currently include:

- Three mower decks (all-terrain, brush and finish).
- Hydraulically driven 48 in. angle broom.
- Adjustable 44 in. V-blade that can be configured as a 54 in. straight blade and can accommodate extensions.
- A two-stage belt-driven snowblower in 44 and 54 in. widths.

■ A brine de-icing system with 44 to 54 in. coverage patterns.

"As we're introducing the Switch, we started with the attachments that have the highest customer demand," said Bjorkman. "A broom is the best-selling attachment for this type of vehicle and you can use that in any season for snow or debris. We also know that a blade is the second most used attachment for pushing snow, dirt or light aggregate. We also want our dealers to have a product they can sell in the wintertime, so the snowblower, broom and blade accessories all offer them a year-round business.

"For our dealers and customers south of the snow belt, we're looking at different attachments, whether it be pallet forks, stump grinders, trenchers, rototillers – whatever the market leads us toward. We'll explore those needs and be able to design and develop those attachments in-house."

Altoz has begun limited production of the Switch at its 300,000 sq. ft. Greenbush, Minn., manufacturing facilities. Full production is scheduled for late summer of 2023.

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