

Monstrous meltdowns

Eliminating large volumes of snow is fast and efficient with a TreCAN Snowmelter

Loads of snow piled up high this past winter in many parts of North America. So what do you do with it? Don't haul it away. Instead, melt it away with a Snowmelter manufactured by Nova Scotia-based TreCAN Combustion.

TreCAN Snowmelters are a fast and efficient way to eliminate large volumes of snow, and it's a necessity for many airports, parking garages, parking lots, municipalities, and any other location where there is insufficient space to pile it. In the past, most organizations have opted to have the snow loaded, hauled, and dumped at a remote site; however, this alternative is becoming increasingly less attractive due to the scarcity of dump sites, environmental issues, and rising trucking costs. In fact, TreCAN vice president Glen Burnett estimates that the Snowmelter can often save 50 percent or more of snow disposal costs when compared to trucking.

The TreCAN Snowmelter is essentially a large, mobile snow-eating machine, and the company builds several models with varying appetites. All TreCAN Snowmelters are powered by John Deere engines that drive a hydraulically powered air blower that supplies combustion air to one or more burners.

Drift destroyer. With burner outputs starting at 4.5 million BTU/hr and multiple burners putting out 80 million BTU/hr, TreCAN Snowmelters are capable of melting 20 to 500 tons (nominal) of snow per hour, depending on the snow's density. Powering the combustion air blower on these units are Tier 3/Stage III A John Deere engines.



Inside the assembly shop of TreCAN Combustion, technicians install John Deere engines into Snowmelters.

More than 30 John Deere-powered models have been deployed across wintry regions of North America and Russia. The City of Moscow purchased 19 Snowmelters with PowerTech E 4045H engines in 2007. More recently, New York City placed an order for 16 John Deere-powered Snowmelters. Eastcoast Power Systems installed diesel-particulate filter systems on the PowerTech E 6068H and PowerTech E 4045H engines to further reduce emissions.

Because Snowmelters work in cold, harsh climates, Eastcoast Power Systems also engineers a cold-weather engine package, complete with a coolant heater, to operate in sub-freezing temperatures.

"Eastcoast works hard for us," says Glenn, "and they've been responsive to our needs. They developed a package that works well. Plus, we like the price of the engines, which is certainly better than the competition."

And customers like the engines, too, he says. "John Deere is well known. When we ask our customers about the engines, they are quite happy with John Deere."



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Emissions Cert.	Tier 3/Stage III A	Tier 3/Stage III A
Engine Model	PowerTech E 4045HF285	PowerTech E 6068HF285
Displacement	4.5L	6.8L
Rated Power	104 kW (140 hp) @ 2400 rpm	149 kW (200 hp) @ 2400 rpm
Cylinders	4	6
Aspiration	Air-to-air aftercooled	Air-to-air aftercooled
Distributor	Eastcoast Power Products, Truro, Nova Scotia (902) 895-9377, www.sansom.ca	