

Press release

Liebherr to premiere its hydrogen prototype engine on the US market

- The Liebherr components product segment introduces one of the first prototypes of its hydrogen combustion engines, the H964, at Conexpo 2023
- The 4-cylinder engine prototype H964 exhibited in South Hall at the components' booth S80821 is equipped with a direct hydrogen injection technology (DI)

At Conexpo 2023, the Liebherr components product segment presents a prototype of its hydrogen engine for construction sites of the future. It employs a direct hydrogen injection technology to power the engine.

Las Vegas (USA), March 14, 2023 - In the future, combustion engines will no longer be powered solely by fossil diesel. In order to achieve goals in line with the collective commitment from different countries to take global climate action under the Paris Agreement, fuels from sustainable energy sources must be used. Hydrogen is one of them, since it is a promising carbon-free fuel that does not cause any CO₂ emissions when burning inside the internal combustion engine (ICE). Liebherr's expertise in the development of ICEs will further facilitate a quick introduction of hydrogen technologies to the market – even for heavy-duty applications.

Hydrogen engines: a promising future

The Liebherr components product segment has recently made a significant investment into the development of its hydrogen engine and test facilities. Prototype engines have been tested since 2020. Meanwhile, the prototypes have shown encouraging results in terms of performance and emissions, both on test benches and in the field. Different injection and combustion technologies, such as port fuel injection (PFI) and direct injection (DI), have also been assessed in the process. The first prototype construction machines equipped with these engines have been running since 2021.

PFI technology: a starting point in the development

Initial efforts in the development of a hydrogen engine have considered PFI as the first suitable technology. The first machine running with a 100% hydrogen-fueled Liebherr ICE is the Liebherr R 9XX H₂ crawler excavator, which won a Bauma Innovation Prize in October of 2022.

DI: a step towards efficient hydrogen engines

Encouraged by the results achieved with the PFI technology, Liebherr further pursues its research and development activities in the field of DI. The 4-cylinder engine prototype H964, exhibited in South Hall at the components' booth S80821, is equipped with said technology. In this case, hydrogen is injected directly into the combustion chamber, whereas with the PFI solution it is blown into the air intake port. The DI offers increased potential in terms of combustion efficiency and power density, making hydrogen engines an attractive alternative to diesel engines when it comes to more demanding applications.

What is next?

The components segment expects to kick off series production of hydrogen engines by 2025. In the meantime, the company continues its research activities in fuel injection to further optimize combustion and to ensure maximum power density.

In addition to 100% hydrogen-fueled engines, several research endeavors in the area of alternative fuels are currently in progress. One example is a dual fuel engine that can run on hydrogen ignited by HVO injection or fully on HVO. This technology will allow for more flexibility in vehicle operation with different configurations.

About Liebherr USA, Co.

Liebherr USA, Co. based in Newport News, VA provides sales and service on behalf of ten different Liebherr product segments: earthmoving, material handling, mining, mobile and crawler cranes, tower cranes, concrete technology, deep foundation machines, maritime cranes; components, and refrigeration and freezing.

About Liebherr Machines Bulle SA

Liebherr Machines Bulle SA is the competence center for combustion engines, as well as hydraulic components (axial piston pumps and motors). The company is part of the Liebherr Group's Components product segment. Located in the canton of Fribourg in Switzerland, the company develops and manufactures high-quality components and systems that are used not only within the Liebherr Group, but also in machines of other manufacturers. Target applications range from earthmoving and civil engineering machines, mining excavators, mobile and crawler cranes, maritime applications, material handling machines to biogas, as well as combined heat and power plants. The focus is highest quality and tailor-made solutions for different requirements.

About Liebherr-Components

In this segment, the Liebherr Group specializes in the development, design, manufacturing of high-performance components in the field of mechanical, hydraulic and electric drive and control technology. Liebherr-Component Technologies AG, based in Bulle (Switzerland), coordinates all activities in the Components product segment.

The extensive product range includes combustion engines, injection systems, engine control units, axial piston pumps and motors, hydraulic cylinders, slewing bearings, gearboxes and winches, switchgear, electronic and power electronics components, and software. The high-quality components are used in cranes and earthmoving machinery, in the mining industry, maritime applications, wind turbines, automotive engineering or in aviation and transport technology. Synergy effects within the Liebherr Group are used to drive continuous technological development.

About the Liebherr Group

The Liebherr Group is a family-run technology company with a highly diversified product portfolio. The company is one of the largest construction equipment manufacturers in the world. It also provides high quality and user-oriented products and services in a wide range of other areas. The Liebherr Group includes over 140 companies across all continents. In 2021, it employed more than 49,000 staff and achieved combined revenues of over 11.6 billion euros. Liebherr was founded in Kirchdorf an der Iller in Southern Germany in 1949. Since then, the employees have been pursuing the goal of achieving continuous technological innovation, and bringing industry-leading solutions to its customers.

Images



liebherr-d964-DI-hydrogen-engine-in-development.jpg

Liebherr presents its 4-cylinder engine H964 equipped with DI technology in South Hall at the components' booth S80821.

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