

Cost of Operation

Today with fuel and labour costs being so high most purchasing departments factor in the cost of operation when evaluating bid submissions, RFQs and RFPs. Awarding an order to the lowest bidder simply based on price is not practical if the difference in the cost of operation is far greater than a difference in the price. The following are a few points to consider when determining the true cost of ownership and operation.

High Range

High range allows the MT7 to be driven to and from the job site or start of a route planned for that day. Having to trailer the equipment is simply too inefficient, time-consuming and costly.

Work Mode/Standard Mode

This feature reduces fuel consumption by approximately 50% which saves up to \$2,000 per month in fuel cost. While driving, plowing or sweeping the MT7 can be run in standard mode. In standard mode, the foot pedal appears to function the same as a gas pedal in a car. The engine only accelerates if you push the pedal down, but at the same time, the pedal is also stroking the hydrostatic transmission. Every time you let off the pedal, the engine comes back to an idle. Therefore, every time the MT7 stops before crossing a street to continue on plowing the sidewalk or stops at a stop sign or stoplight and is waiting to cross, the engine is at idle, not at full RPM. This saves a huge amount of fuel versus leaving it in work mode with the engine revving at full throttle the entire time. Only when operating a PTO driven attachment does the MT7 need to be switched to work mode. In work mode, the tractor allows the operator to set the engine RPM at full throttle to run the attachment and the foot pedal has no control over the engine RPM. Most hydrostatic tractors and power units on the market do not have work mode/standard mode so be careful to not lock into old technology that will drive your fuel cost up by tens of thousands of dollars over the life of the tractor.

Auto/Run

The Trackless auto run feature is another operational cost saving feature that most manufacturers do not offer. When switched to auto mode, the rear sander will automatically stop dispersing sand or salt whenever the MT7 either stops or is shifted into reverse. This can reduce your material consumption/cost by 50% and also the amount of lost time and labour cost of having to refill. The auto run feature also works in the same way when spraying water during sweeping operations. The only time the operator should need to use the run mode is when the sander or water tank needs to be emptied, such as at the end of their shift.

Variable Flow Sander Control

The MT7 has a rotary dial flow switch which allows the operator to adjust the flow without getting out of the tractor. Not only does this save time but the operator is much more likely to adjust the flow rate up and down when it is just a matter of turning the dial beside him/her. Otherwise, there is a chance the flow would be left at a higher flow rate for the entire shift.

Anti-Idle

The Trackless MT7 also saves on fuel cost by not allowing the tractor to sit parked and run for long periods at idle, wasting fuel. The anti-idle, however, does monitor engine temperature so it will not shut the tractor down if it has not reached operating temperature. Even if an operator tries to bump the engine RPM above idle in order to leave the tractor running while taking a break, the tractor will shut down to conserve fuel and reduce emissions.