

Piling Industry Canada

# PIC magazine

www.pilingindustrycanada.com

ISSUE 2 • 2016

## Digging the Downtown Scene

TELUS Sky features  
innovation from below

## Deep Connections

Doublestar Drilling  
partners with Resolve and  
Accessible Housing

## Climbing the Social Media Ladder

Mix and mingle with  
your customers online





**Vancouver:**  
**P:** 604.214.9453  
**F:** 604.214.9455  
**TF:** 1.877.252.0070

**Calgary:**  
**P:** 403.252.0070  
**F:** 403.259.3992  
**TF:** 1.877.252.0070

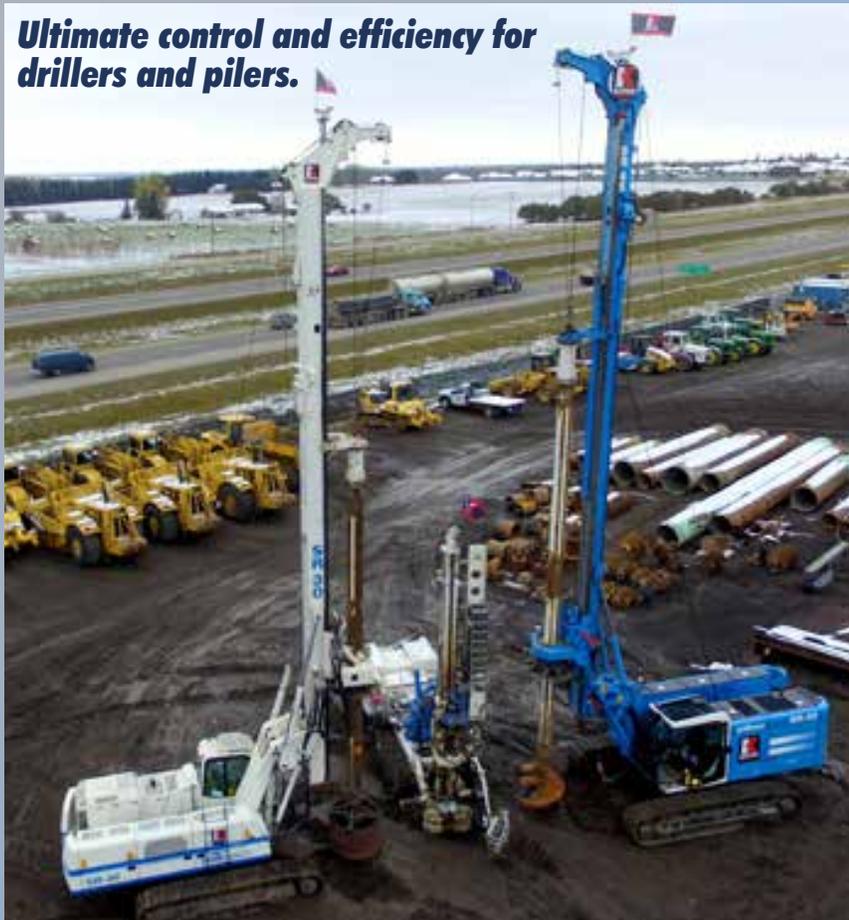
**Edmonton:**  
**P:** 780.486.2111  
**F:** 780.486.2155  
**TF:** 1.877.252.0070



[www.spatialtechnologies.ca](http://www.spatialtechnologies.ca)

# Leica iCON iRD3/iRP3 - Driller & Piler System

**Ultimate control and efficiency for drillers and pilers.**



## GPS80

The Leica iCON GPS80 machine receiver shows you all GNSS relevant information on the built-in display.



## iRD3

Drilling complex patterns is a breeze – even directional drilling is possible. Create drill patterns directly on the display, log holes on the fly and share with entire site via telematics. Log hole depth, angle and position and import drill patterns from telematics.



## iRP3

Eliminate stake out – start working right away. Document pile positions on the fly, with faster navigation between piles. Get real-time status of project with telematics.



The Leica iCON rig solution for drillers and pilers maximizes productivity in drilling and piling applications. Drilling and piling rigs can be guided easily into position via the control panel with a 3D design plan. There is no need to stake out the positions of the holes to be drilled or piles to be driven.

The Leica iCON rig iRD3 and iRP3 solutions drastically reduce costs by eliminating dependency on stake outs. This solution gets the machine working sooner and keeps the operator on target with real-time feedback.



when it has to be right



# Saving Time and Money



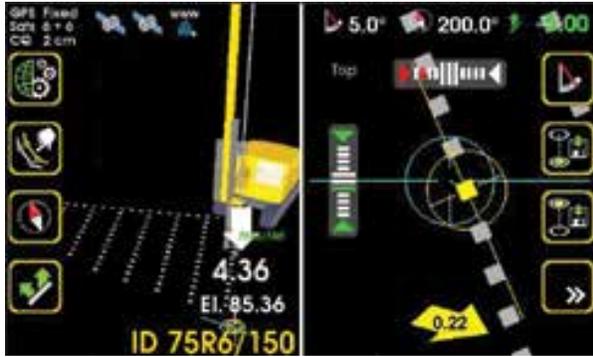
## The Leica Geosystems iCON Piling Rig game changer

By Melanie Franner



Having come from Eastern Europe, Matus Toth was very familiar with the Leica Geosystems brand. So when the company he was working for in Edmonton decided to expand into underground infrastructure and foundation/shoring work, Toth naturally looked back to his roots.

“I have been in the surveying business for as long as I can remember,” states Toth of Kichton Contracting Ltd. “Five years ago, when Kichton decided to invest in machine control, I spearheaded the project of putting GPS systems on dozers. More recently, we began thinking of putting GPS systems on piling rigs. I did my due diligence. Leica Geosystems has a really good name in Europe. I saw how successful they have been with their GPS-



enabled piling system. So that's where I started."

Today, Kichton Contracting is working on a pilot project with Spatial Technologies, a Western Canadian distributor of Leica Geosystems products. Kichton is one of the first piling companies in Canada to do so.

The new technology, which incorporates the Leica Geosystems iCON GPS system on piling rigs, has the potential to significantly change the future of the Canadian piling industry.

#### GROUND-BREAKING GROWTH

Having begun as a family-owned and operated business in 1963, Kichton Contracting has expanded beyond its initial foray into civil, industrial, and commercial earthworks to oilfield, water/sewer operations, and foundations, including shoring and piling. The company is based in Edmonton, with a branch office in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan.

Toth has been using the Leica Geosystems iCON system on its piling rigs for about a month. And the experience – to date – has been very positive.

"I love it," states Toth. "It saves me so much time. Before, I had to go out and put every single piling point in the ground so that the guys would know where to drill. Now, I sit in my office and send the information to the machine."

The Leica Geosystems iCON system uses a 3D control panel, GPS receivers, and angle sensors to offer huge time and cost savings with every drilling job by eliminating the need to stake out the work. It also provides for wireless updates of the project files and remote support via telematics.

Other benefits include: increased safety – due to fewer people needed onsite; automated documentation so there is no need to survey the finished project; faster navigation between piles; and remote progress checks.

According to Cletus Young, manager for Machine Control and Construction Positioning, Spatial Technologies, the new iCON GNSS piling rig system can eliminate about 90 per cent of the survey costs on site. Given that, he adds, it could pay for itself on the first big job or a small number of lesser jobs. Either way, the savings will quickly pay for the initial investment.

#### INTEREST ON THE RISE

The Leica Geosystems iCON piling system was introduced in Europe in 2010. The technology has been available in Canada since the start of 2016.

"So far, the larger manufacturers of drills and rigs, Atlas Copco, Sandvik, Bauer, Soilmec, Leibherr and Junntan have been the ones to fully embrace the technology," states Magnus Thibblin, Segment Manager, NAFTA Machine Control, Leica Geosystems Inc. "But we're seeing a big shift in interest from the general earth-moving machine control companies."

Kichton Contracting has been using the product on many of its piling jobs over the last month.

"We're getting a lot of interest already from what we're doing with Kichton," says Young. "And we've only just started working with them recently."

#### CRITICAL COLLABORATION

Although Toth is quick to say that the new Leica Geosystems product is easy to

use and intuitive, he admits that there is a learning curve.

"Because we use a variety of technology, the Leica system was a little different from what we were used to," he explains. "We knew how things were supposed to work but it was sort of like Mac and PC. After about a day with the equipment, however, we knew what was going on."

Part of that learning experience required some close co-operation with Spatial Technologies and their local support team to get their other equipment to work with the Leica solution. For example, the former works on a 900MHz frequency while the latter is 400MHz.

"Spatial Technologies was really good at helping us bridge the technologies," says Toth. "They really helped us out."

There was also a bit of learning curve for the piling rig operator.

"It was just a matter of establishing a new habit for the operator," says Toth. "He had to get used to looking at the GPS display instead of out in the field. After using the system for about half a day, he was a happy camper."

#### A PROMISING FUTURE

With Kichton Contracting already well in the midst of its pilot program with the Leica Geosystems iCON GPS piling system, interest in the product will undoubtedly continue to rise. As evidenced in Europe, the product has proven to be hugely advantageous for companies of all shapes and sizes. This can only translate into good news for the future of Canada's piling industry. ●