

Robel starts production of the new Romitamp 2.0 tamper

Andrew Keens, Sales, Robel, describes the new generation of tamping machines from the company.

With the first orders signed, Robel has started production of the new Romitamp 2.0, a machine designed to bridge the gap between emergency manual repairs with vertical tampers and strategic tamping with larger machines. After nearly a year in development, it is really exciting to see the concept move from the drawing board to the manufacturing phase and, with orders steadily increasing, Robel plans to develop a production line approach to meet demand.

The machine comes in three base models equipped with high performance tamping aggregates from Plasser & Theurer and a lot of additional modular configurations:

- Single plain line tamping with one single sleeper unit.
- Double plain line tamping with two single sleeper units.
- Switch & Crossing tamping with one single bearer unit.

With its compact construction, the vehicle compliments the larger tamping fleet by delivering a flexible, low cost and fast repair solution for shorter maintenance and renewal sites. Yet it still has large tamper performance to give track engineers the confidence for linespeed handback.

Fast and versatile, low-cost bi-directional tamping

A new lightweight design allows for easy road or rail transport to the worksite. Rapid deployment and recovery is realised by an integrated on/off-tracking device and optional turntable. The chassis can be configured to run on track gauges from 900mm up to 1,676mm for deployment on all track designs.

The tamper also self-propels at 25km/h between worksites within a possession to allow multiple sites to be treated in one shift. When on-site, the tamping production rate reaches 150 metres per hour or 300 sleepers per hour. Furthermore, the new machine is capable of tamping in both forward and reverse directions. This means tamping either side of a fixed track structure can now be completed without the need to turn the



machine on the turntable improving speed and safety of the operation.

Easy and comfortable operation

With the option of a fully-protected work cab with heating and air control, Romitamp 2.0 offers the latest comfort and optimised ergonomic control system. The cab design and proximity to the tamping head gives a clear view to the worksite and thereby minimises the risk of sleeper strike. The driver chair has integrated controls allowing the operator to rotate the driving position by 180° for fast bi-directional transit without turning the machine.

Optional track lift and lining capability

With the option for an integrated lift and lining module with superelevation measuring unit, the tamper is able to deliver the complete repair solution with minimal manual intervention. The achieved lifts, slews and cross-level are then displayed to the operator to confirm the track has been successfully repaired.

High performance tamping of medium-sized worksites

For shorter maintenance sites that are too large for the use of manual tampers and too

small for conventional tamping machines, the Romitamp 2.0 saves significant time and money when compared to conventional repair methods. For example, either manual tamping or using an excavator with tamping attachment. Just two staff manage the operation, compared to the six to eight normally required for manual repairs, and production can easily be doubled. On this basis, payback on investment will be realised in a matter of three to four years.

Equipped with a large machine tamping bank with high ballast consolidation pressures, Romitamp 2.0 repairs with great speed, accuracy and efficiency. The machine is ideal for jointed track with the joints consistently maintained to the correct level. Furthermore, the repair retains the correct track geometry for a longer period than was achievable using manual methods.

Using the Romitamp 2.0 causes less damage to the sleepers and ballast, reducing the risk of drainage issues and, with less manual handling and noise pollution, improves health and safety for the operators.

Robel will be seeking UK approval for the Romitamp 2.0 through the course of this year and hopes to have an operational model in the UK by the end of this year.