

## Manufacturing Industry

# PT Tech expands PTO clutch line - Powertrain

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PT Tech has expanded its range of hydraulically actuated clutches for diesel-powered equipment. The company, which introduced its first microprocessor-controlled clutch system in 2001, has unveiled two new sizes that, like their predecessors, are designed to address the typical problems that can occur with manual clutches in heavy-duty applications.

Joining the existing HPTO14 clutch are the HPTO8, which is designed for applications between 80 and 140 hp, and the HPTO12, targeted for equipment between 200 and 400 hp. In all, the HPTO line can cover an output range of 80 to 650 hp. All of the HPTO clutches are available in belt- or direct-drive configurations, making them suitable for a variety of equipment, including crushers, grinders, brush chippers and road working machines.

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At the heart of all of the HPTO units is a proprietary microprocessor control unit programmed to precisely operate the clutch based on engine speed and load. "We have a new controller for these clutches using ISO specs," said Joe Guinter, PT Tech engineer. "The start switch has also been integrated into the control panel. It makes for a very neat configuration that is very simple to operate."

The controller is designed to eliminate service issues that can be encountered because of operator abuse. At the push of a button, an automated start-up sequence is engaged that involves a series of pulses that can deliver as much as 200 percent of peak engine torque. This allows the clutch to engage equipment such as chippers or grinders even under partially clogged conditions, the company said.

In addition, the microprocessor will not engage the clutch unless start-up parameters are within specific ranges. This, PT Tech said, eliminates clutch damage that can occur when an operator engages the clutch at high speed or if the hydraulic pressure is not high enough to safely transmit engine torque. In the event of a jam or clog in a chipper or grinder, the controller will recognize three start-up/stall cycles and will render the start button inoperative for a period of time, allowing the obstruction to be cleared.

The HPTO8 is designed to mount to an 11 in. flywheel with an SAE 3 housing. Maximum



