

WIRTGEN: STRINGLESS PAVING IN PENNSYLVANIA

Advantage: AutoPilot!

A western Pennsylvania contractor is using one of the first Wirtgen AutoPilot systems in North America to save time and money placing curbs and curb islands in parking lots.





A. Folino Construction Inc., Oakmont, Pa., uses its new SP 15 slipform paver – equipped with AutoPilot – to enable in-house curb-and-gutter capability

SEE IT!

Booth C6561

In October 2013, A. Folino Construction Inc., Oakmont, Pa., was using its new SP 15 slipform paver – equipped with AutoPilot – to enable curb-and-gutter capability, and was finding stringless paving to be a huge cost-cutter for curb construction in a competitive arena.

AutoPilot™ is a GPS-based system that ensures highest precision and optimum efficiency in Wirtgen concrete slipform paving, regardless of whether straight profiles or highly complex curved paths are being poured.

In suburban Pittsburgh, Folino was constructing a parking lot for the \$100 million, 74,000-sq.ft. Wexford Medical Mall, scheduled to open in September 2014. There, Folino was grading the parking lot site, placing 9,000 ft. of slipformed curbs and curb islands, then paving between them with over 4,000 tons of asphalt.

“We have all the exterior site concrete work, which includes curbs, sidewalks and miscellaneous deck slabs and loading dock walls, said Mike McFarland, general superintendent for Folino.

Folino began placing curb-and-gutter in April 2013, and acquired the SP 15 at that time. “We had previously used subcontractors for the curb portions of our jobs,” McFarland said. “But with curb placement having such an effect on our paving schedule, we felt it was something we should move in-house to have better control over our schedule.”

Thus the SP 15 is Folino’s first curb-and-gutter machine, but its experience with Wirtgen Group equipment gave them confidence in moving forward. “We’ve had great success with all the Wirtgen equipment we’ve owned, including Hamm rollers, Vögele pavers, and Wirtgen cold milling machines,” McFarland said. “We’ve also had great support from Groff Tractor & Equipment, Inc., which is outstanding in every way. Any problems we’ve had with the new curb machine have been minor, but Groff was on them immediately with little-to-no downtime. We can’t say enough about the support we get from Groff.”

While the SP 15 can accept molds of other manufacturers, so they are not made obsolete by acquisition of an SP 15, Folino

bought all new Wirtgen molds with the paver. “We bought those molds when we bought the SP 15,” he said. “We have an 8 x 18-in. and 8 x 24-in. combination, a 6 x 18-in., a curb-and-gutter mold, and a sidewalk ledge mold which extrudes 8 in. wide, while giving you a 6-in. curb with a notch in the back to accept the sidewalk that is attached to the curb.”

AUTOPILOT FOR STRINGLESS PAVING

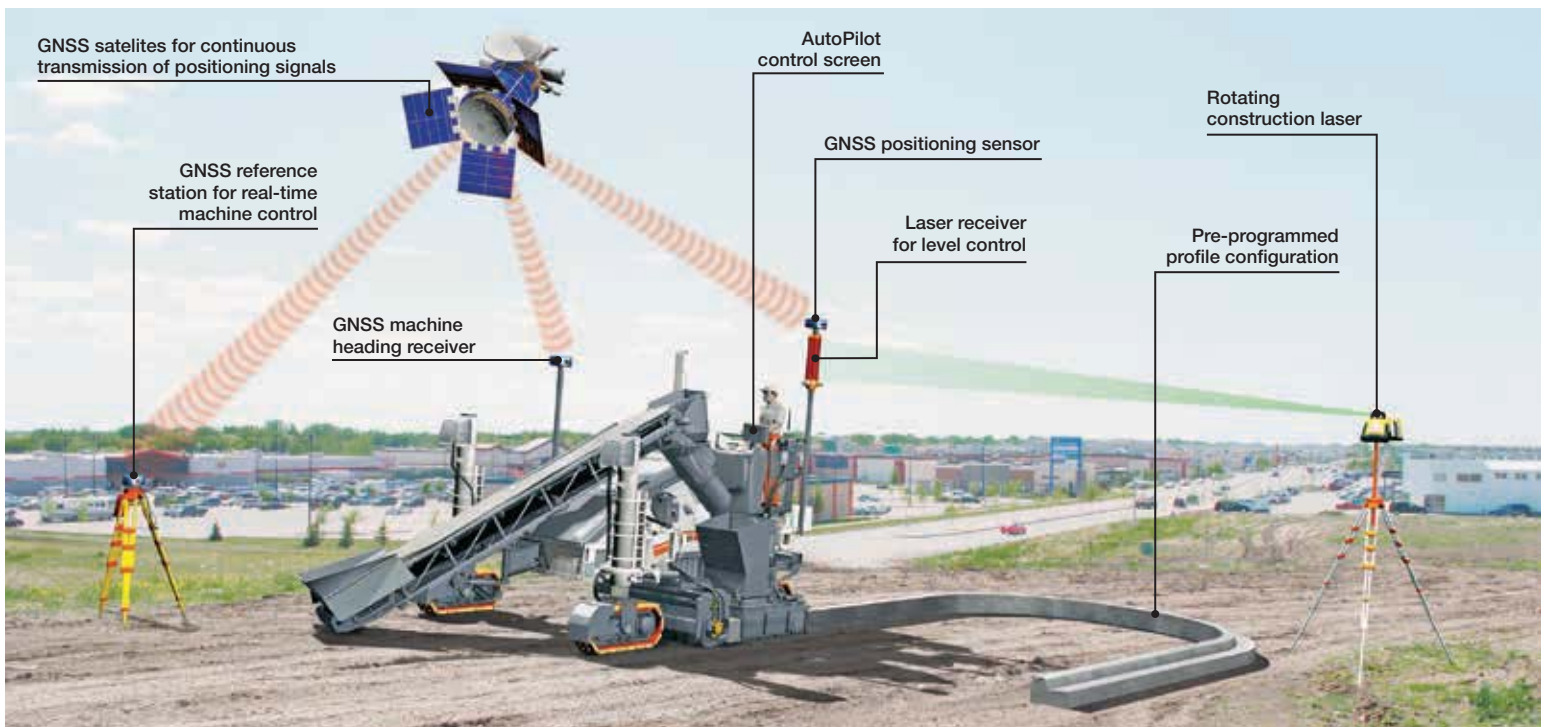
In addition to the SP 15, Folino took the extra step of acquiring the AutoPilot stringless paving system. “We felt we could increase production by not having to have the steps of installing and removing stringline on the job, with stakes in harm’s way of our grading operation,” McFarland said. “It was the logical choice.”

The proprietary Wirtgen AutoPilot control system gives construction companies a distinct competitive edge, as it bypasses the need to establish a digital terrain model. That’s because programming is completed by using a “Field Rover” pole to capture coordinates or by simply using the jobsite plans. This means a surveyor is not required. For course control, two machine mounted GPS receivers communicate with an additional GPS reference station positioned on-site. For precise grade control, a laser, ultrasonic sensor or total station is used. The machine control software is a proprietary Wirtgen development.

So compelling is the AutoPilot that it received the Bauma Innovation Award 2013. The jury honored the AutoPilot Field Rover in the Machine Components category as a pioneering development in road construction.

Even though the SP 15 was the first curb-and-gutter machine Folino had owned, and the AutoPilot was the first in the country, the contractor was undeterred from its purchases. “Our confidence in Wirtgen and their support staff, and the great products and support from our local dealership, was such that, even though a learning curve was involved, we’d work through it. And it’s been working well.”

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AUTOPILOT
CONTROL
SCREEN



AUTOPILOT CONTROL SCREEN

The AutoPilot control screen has self-explanatory menu navigation and clear graphical visualization of the profiles to be paved. It keeps the operator informed of current machine and system parameters.