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GENERAL ELECTRIC DRIVES INTO INDUSTRIAL MARKET
WITH BATTERY TRACTOR/FORKLIFT

A multi-job electric industrial tractor was unveiled by General Electric Company today as a powerful entry into the commercial/industrial vehicles market. It fully complies with all applicable sections of ANSI B56.1-1969 and is the first such tractor to receive Factory Mutual Engineering Corporation Class E approval as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OHSA).

The announcement came from Bruce R. Laumeister, General Manager of GE's Outdoor Power Equipment Operation in Scotia, New York. That operation also manufactures and markets seven models of cordless Elec-Trak^T lawn and garden tractors in the eight to sixteen horsepower class.

The I-5 Elec-Trak tractor is a totally electric tractor powered by six special lead-acid batteries that quickly recharge on 110-volt, 60 Hz a. c. The batteries provide 36-volt power to the DC drive motor and to receptacles which power a large number of major attachments and hand tools. The advantages: the tractor is powerful, pollution-free, quiet, easy to use and has multiple safety interlocks. Recharging and maintenance costs are very low, and there is no need to store volatile fuel.

The low cost I-5 is especially suited to medium to smaller sized industrial plants, commercial concerns, and institutions that face growing pressure to use equipment conforming to stringent safety rulings. The tractor is approved for the Class E label by the Factory Mutual Engineering Corporation and conforms to applicable American National Standards Institute B56.1-1969 specifications.

"The I-5 tractor can be a rugged pollution-free power center for material handling, maintenance and groundskeeping for thousands of commercial establishments," said Laumeister.

Three forklifts, a 48-inch, 74-inch and 92-inch telescoping type, quickly attach to the I-5 tractor and plug into the accessory receptacle for power. They are rated at 750 pounds on all ANSI B56.1-1969 tests. A unique feature of these lifts is quick change front or rear mounting at the user's option.

The forks are 36 inches long (18-inch load center) and the electro-hydraulic lift is actuated by simply pulling a lever to raise the forks. To lower, the lever is pushed forward varying degrees for the desired speed of descent. With each of the three lifts is a rugged 200 pound bumper/counterweight and a full overhead guard meeting ANSI B56.1-1969 specifications. Many attachments for barrel handling, appliance stacking and a wide variety of other tasks, will also be available for the forklifts.

For building maintenance, the I-5 pulls a rolling maintenance shop to bring men and tools to the job quickly. A maintenance cart kit converts a 1,000 pound capacity, 12 cu. ft. cart to a cart with galvanized

steel work top, twin lockable storage compartments and tool separators forward. A 180-amp DC Arc Welder is offered which derives its power from the tractor and an optional 110 volt AC inverter provides small tool power. Also available: a double seat (for the I-5 tractor too) and foot-plate to give the rig four-passenger capacity.

An electro-hydraulic trash compacting trailer, 500 lb. capacity front end loader, 48-inch rotary broom, and industrial tow-behind vacuum are also available to operate off I-5 power for plant maintenance.

For groundskeeping, the I-5 Elec-Trak tractor plugs in the established line of Elec-Trak lawn care and snow removal equipment. "This product gives us a decided competitive advantage three ways", says Laumeister.

"First, we are far ahead of other manufacturers in conforming to the E label specifications required by OSHA." Laumeister noted that propane and gasoline powered vehicles may now require extensive and costly pollution abatement modifications. In addition, large capacity ventilation systems may be needed to meet the 50 PPM limit on carbon monoxide as specified under OSHA for interior working areas.

"The second advantage is that the I-5's unique versatility permits the smaller manufacturer to purchase one machine that performs a very large variety of tasks. Storage, vehicle maintenance/service, and operator training are all much easier with the one-tractor I-5 system", he said.

"Third is a solid price advantage. Costs are far, far less than that of most comparable specialized equipment, not only in original purchase but in low cost of maintenance. The businessman can get his forklift,

welder/maintenance cart and grounds care equipment, all without a back-breaking investment, because it's all powered by one machine."

The basic I-5 Elec-Trak industrial tractor is a rugged 1,000 pound vehicle which itself produces up to 900 pounds of drawbar pull, even without wheel weighting. Special wiring protection, motor protection, heavy-duty spindles, bearings, brakes, 4-ply road tires, front bumper, fenders, rear quick release hitch, on-tractor operating instructions, industrial orange color and the all-important Class E certification plate are important features.

The I-5 Elec-Trak tractor is being sold through a nationwide network of franchised Elec-Trak tractor dealers. They are all full-servicing and are backed up by regional parts distributors.

More information can be obtained by writing to the Outdoor Power Equipment Operation, General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York.