

MAATS B.V., NETHERLANDS

Last year was probably one of the most important in the recent history of Maats. Although the company and people remain the same, there have been smaller and larger changes that all aim at making the company future-proof. Most obvious to the eye is that, after around 25 years, there is a new logo. More importantly, 2018 marked the end of Maats European Pipeline Rentals B.V., the entity that was responsible for all rental activities within Maats. This merely means that all activities: manufacturing, sales and rental, are now brought together in Maats B.V. As a result, all the options of rental, sale, rental-purchase, leasing and buy-back can now be offered from one entity, making it easier for the company's customers.

The end of Maats European Pipeline Rentals B.V. in no way marks the end of rental of equipment, on the contrary, the last year was also spent bringing the rental fleet up to full force. In particular, the fleet of pipelayers has been extended substantially, almost doubling the numbers.



Maats SR716 concept drawing.



RL24, predecessor of the Maats RL26.

The large increase in numbers was mainly for the Liebherr RL54 with a 70 t lift capacity, and especially for the Liebherr RL64 with a 90.8 t lift capacity. All the added machines are from 2016 or newer, have low hours and are in full 'Maats-spec', complete with a long boom with protection strips, closed cabin with heater and A/C, low temperature kit suitable for -40°C and load monitoring system. All this makes the units suitable for projects around the world, regardless of international, national or local legislation and regardless of climate conditions.

2019 will not necessarily be about a further extension of the fleet, it will be more about introduction of new equipment. In addition to the Maats Internal Bender, 2019 will mainly focus on:

Maats SR716 LGP welding tractor

Based on the Liebherr PR716 crawler tractor, this new model welding tractor will basically have the same set-up as the successful predecessors SR712 and SR714, offering a carrier tractor with a 126 hp engine that complies with Tier 4f. The PR716 will be modified to have a front platform with a HIAB XS111 knuckle boom crane of 10 m length and a 93 kNm capacity, as well as a rear platform with a 125 kVA generator and room for at least four welding machines. All the attachments are powered from the same tractor engine and even if the machine, as a tack-rig, is equipped with the optional compressor, there is still just one engine to be fuelled. For this new model, special attention has been paid to the sound emission, making it more pleasant for a welding crew to work next to.

Maats RL26 pipelayer

Later in the year, Maats will present the successor of the RL24 pipelayer, the new RL26 that is based on the same Liebherr PR716 crawler tractor as the SR716 welding tractor, featuring the same 126 hp, Tier 4f engine. As for the SR714 welding tractor, the RL26 is equipped with 762 mm wide track plates, giving the machine an increased stability. Although the layout will not be very different from the RL24, the wide track plates and a slightly changed design result in an increased lift capacity that will be closer to 30 t. 