

# What lies beneath

Geological exploration generally involves drilling into the soil to access the treasures lying beneath. There is certainly an abundance of treasures to drill for, and not just the obvious ones of valuable minerals and precious metals. The earth's capacity to store heat can also be exploited, and the quality of the soil for civil construction purposes can be ascertained. A leading specialist manufacturer of mobile drilling rigs is the Finnish company Geomachine Oy.



Managing Director and company owner Jukka Ylänen



Geomachine specialises in the design and manufacture of drilling rigs and equipment for geotechnical purposes. Since it was founded in 1984, it has pursued an ongoing mission to develop and modernise investigative drilling operations by supplying the market with innovative solutions. The company's most recent innovation is the GM8 family of body driven, rubber-wheeled drilling rigs. They have been designed specifically for use in the urban environment where the rubber wheels do not leave any traces on city streets or parks. Nevertheless, the rig's fast transfer speed allows it to cover large distances with great efficiency. "The GM8 is a third-generation drilling rig that consolidates the innovations of the past three decades to provide outstanding performance," says Managing Director and company owner Jukka Ylänen, who took over Geomachine in 2010. "The rig easily traverses 45° hills and stays steady at more than 35° tilt. It rolls over 70 cm high obstacles without leaving a trace." Geomachine has already delivered several GM8 rigs to customers in Finland and abroad. "The GM8 was developed in response to two growing trends – ur-



The GM8 body driven, rubber-wheeled drilling rig has been specifically designed for use in the urban environment

banisation and mineral investigation. Increased demand for housing in cities means more soil investigation while there is a constant worldwide scramble to find new sources of precious minerals," adds Mr. Ylänen. "By introducing new machines that meet these needs, we can benefit greatly from these trends." Over the years, Geomachine has constantly expanded its product portfolio to take its place as one of

the leading specialists in the fields of soil investigation, environmental sampling, mine exploration and geothermal drilling. Its product range now covers drilling, coring and sampling rigs ranging in size from two t to ten t, drilling rods, couplings, bits, coring equipment and measuring equipment, groundwater pipes and samplers. The company also offers a full range of spare parts as well as overhauling, upgrading, calibra-

tion, certification and training for all of its rigs. Geomachine has also successfully applied for patents for several of its innovations and has a dedicated research and development department as well as service workshops.

The technical superiority of its rigs and the company's strong service offering have allowed Geomachine to achieve an important milestone. In the summer of 2010, the company delivered the 500<sup>th</sup> rig, cementing its leading position in the industry. The company employs 40 people and generates just under seven million EUR in turnover. Three quarters of sales are to export markets in Scandinavia, Poland and Russia. ■

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