

Geomachine's Nordic niche

Finland's Geomachine has recently launched a world-first rig

Ggeomachine is a specialist in the fields of soil investigation, environmental sampling, anchoring, core drilling, mining investigations and ground-water piping including: drilling, coring and sampling rigs from 2-10t and drilling rods, couplings, bits, coring equipment, CPT and measuring equipment.

Last year Geomachine launched one of the world's first special purpose, body-steering eight-wheeler GM8 rigs for surface rock and soil investigation.

"This rubber wheeler has excellent manoeuvring and climbing capacities in rough terrain, leaving no traces behind – [something that] is more and more appreciated in urban environments," Jukka Ylänen, Geomachine managing director, says.

Thanks to its fast transfer speed, the GM8 is specially made for large soil investigation projects where there are long distances between investigation sites. Due to the solid heavy construction, all soil-investigation methods can be handled as well as diamond core drilling.

The company delivered its 500th rig in the summer of 2010, 26 years after it was founded. In addition to its large product family of surface-investigations rigs, Geomachine introduced two special rigs for underground coring and DTH-jet grouting in 2010 and 2011.

"Both rigs are very compact and versatile in operation. Underground coring GM-Kava can operate in 3.5m



A Geomachine rig on its way to the Gazprom Stockmann gas terminal in Murmansk, Russia

tunnel space and underground DTH-jet grouting GM-Kelpo has [a] zooming [facility] and 360° mast with the weight below 2,400kg."

Expansion drive

Demand in native Finland trails behind exports to Nordic countries and Poland and Russia. "The order intake has remained about the same level [as 2011]. We see more and more inquiries for sub-surface operations in mining exploration and underground foundations and reparation works," Mr Ylänen says

The company is recruiting more staff to cater for the increased workload. "Our second factory is specialising more and more to the service operations including maintenance, modifications, special rig building and renting."

Despite this, Mr Ylänen acknowledges:



The first two GM-Kelpo units are in operation under the main railway station in Stockholm, Sweden

"Pan-European uncertainty is freezing the big infrastructure investments".

Geomachine's priorities for the year are high-quality deliveries with faster delivery time, Mr Ylänen says.

While he expects drilling demand and investigation work to remain steady, Mr Ylänen plans for more exports with increased production capacities over the next five years.

"Sales forecasts for this year sit at a 10-15% increase. [In other news] we have launched our first own Vane Test equipment GM-4W, independently assembled and fully electric with constant speed." ▼

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Far left: GM8: one of the first purpose-built surface investigation body-steering eight-wheeler rigs. Five have already been sold to Norway
Left: Jukka Ylänen

GM300 GE (launch date 2012)

Length (mm)	6,500
Width (mm)	2,200
Height (mm)	2,400
Weight (t)	6.5
Ground clearance (mm)	300
Bore holes to (m / mm)	300 / 76