



"Robo-Cat" is small enough that it can go inside buildings and through narrow doors and alleyways.

Robotic Skid-Steer First Of Its Kind

Two exclusive features separate Jim Dedrick's revolutionary Robo-Cat from all other skid-steer loaders:

- It has no driver's seat. You control it with a hand-held transmitter-receiver equipped with two "joy" sticks — one to control directional movement of the Robo-Cat, and one to raise, lower and dump its front-mounted bucket. The transmitter is programmable with 7 different functions.

- It's the smallest skid steer on the market, designed to go places you can't get to with conventional skid-steer loaders — inside buildings, and through narrow doors and alleyways.

The pint-size Robo-Cat (34 in. wide, 54 in. high and 8 ft. long) uses a rear-mounted, low-emissions 16 hp Briggs and Stratton "Vanguard" gas engine to power a 3-gear sectional pump, one pump for each of the two hydrostatic motors and one pump for the lift bucket," explains inventor Dedrick.

"With a TV camera mounted on the Robo-Cat, you can be up to 2 miles away and still be able to control the loader with precision accuracy and dexterity. It only takes a few hours of practice to get the hang of it," says Dedrick. "Your wife or teenage son or daughter can do it."

With the Robo-Cat and remote control electronic guidance system he's developed, you can scoop snow, dirt or manure right from the comfort of your living room, or the cab of your pickup. What's more, you can steer the "driverless" loader into areas considered unsafe for conventional skid-steers because of steep terrain, toxic waste or gases, and other hazards.

"What's nice about this guidance system is that it's totally fail safe. If anything happens to the signal coming to it, or if another signal tries to take over command, the entire system shuts down automatically on the spot. If the operator would happen to trip and fall, sending the transmitter flying, the system would instantly shut down."

The front bucket raises to a height of 6 ft., 3 in. and mounts or dismounts in a matter of seconds, allowing you to match bucket size to the job. Other attachments you can use on the 2,000 pound Robo-Cat include snow blowers, post hole diggers, lawn mowers, grapple forks and cement mixers.

Here's another key feature: Using the electronic guidance system he's developed for the Robo-Cat, Dedrick can equip your conventional skid-steer loader, regardless of



Rear-mounted, low-emissions 16 hp Briggs & Stratton "Vanguard" gas engine powers a 3-gear sectional pump that drives hydrostatic motors on each side.



Unit has no driver's seat. You control it with hand-held transmitter-receiver equipped with two "joy" sticks.

make, model or vintage, for remote control. "With this technology, I can remote control other equipment as well — anything from a lawn mower to an earth mover."

The Robo-Cat, slated for commercial production by the fall of 1995, is expected to retail for \$17,000 to \$20,000, including about \$7,000 for the guidance system.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Dedrick, Robo-Cat Dept., Hydraulic Specialty Co., 1131 72nd Ave. N.E., Minneapolis, MN 55432 (ph 1-800 622-0788, or 612 571-2330).



"Snow sled" rides on three 10-ft. long aluminum skis - two in back and one in front.

RIDES ON SKIS AND IS POWERED BY A BIG 3-BLADE AIRPLANE PROPELLER

Air-Powered "Snow Sled"

"It gives me the feel of the outdoors without being exposed to the cold," says a Minnesota inventor who built an air-powered "snow sled" that's powered by a big 3-blade airplane propeller and rides on three 10-ft. long aluminum skis - two in back and one in front.

Jeff Benson, of Wanamingo, built the "Air Sled" last January. The body is made from a steel tube frame covered with .040 aluminum skin, and the fully enclosed cab is fitted with large Lexan windows. Power is supplied by a 1962 Oldsmobile 215 cu. in. aluminum V-8 gas engine. The 66-in. dia., 3-blade propeller is bolted to the engine's flywheel.

It rides smooth and comfortable and is a lot of fun to drive," says Benson. "I'm surrounded by large windows so I have a great view of the countryside. It's ideal to use on large areas such as a frozen lake. The big, wide skis ride on top of the snow. It has a heater and defroster so I always stay warm. I had the blades custom made by a propeller company in Oklahoma. The blades are surrounded by a steel rod safety cage. The electric start engine has an advance throttle - when the engine is idling the propeller doesn't produce enough thrust to move."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeff Benson, 617 2nd Ave. S., Wanamingo, Minn. 55983 (ph 507 824-2908).



Computerized Feeder Works On Pasture

An experimental, high-tech, mobile concentrate feeder for cows on pasture delivers the same precision as in-barn concentrate feeders, say researchers at Penn State University who developed it.

The solar-powered system consists of a Farmtronix computer-controlled feeding system, a feed station, and individual animal transponders. It's fitted with a 2 1/2-ton grain bin that only needs refilling every 10 or 12 days and 6-ft. long stall gates of 16-ga. steel that can be folded back during transport. Photovoltaic cells and solar panels generate DC power.

The feeder is 11.7 ft. high by 7.8 ft. wide. Wheelbase is 9 ft. It's pulled with a

tractor.

The unit measures out up to 12 feedings a day to each cow. A transponder around each cow's neck tells the system's computer how much feed she's allowed. The feeder puts out only about 3/4 lb. per minute.

If it's ever manufactured, the system should be priced competitively with similar stationary systems, in the \$8,000 to \$10,000 range, they project.

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