Maximising equipment utilisation in the demanding construction environment is a difficult at the best of times, but with the impact of COVID-19 adding to other pressures, there is much greater focus on construction site managers to unlock efficiencies wherever possible. Increasing new output by using fewer resources may seem like a conflicting equation, but available bottom line gains can be achieved by going back to basics and focusing on the variables that are in your control, such as your consumables. The fuel and lubricants you select can have a big impact on your equipment. The ability to maintain engine efficiency while operating with heavy loads or in uneven terrain is vital to your construction businesses, particularly those that are consistently running at a high capacity.

Over the course of four months and more than 600 hours, the DLG team tested Shell FuelSave Diesel and Shell Diesel Extra in combined use with Shell Rimula R6 MPlus SW35, against regular diesel and standard lubricants. The premium consumables were first put through DGO’s PowerMix test procedure using test home and parameters designed by an independent expert commission, a format regularly used by leading global manufacturers to compare the quality of their machines. Additionally, Shell and DGO designed a new Power Take Off (PTO) testing programme which consists of series of assessments to verify the quality of premium fuels versus standard ones. The result was a real-world measurement of how the tested fuels can impact the overall performance of the engine.

While there is a growing awareness across the construction sector of the benefits that either a premium fuel or a premium lubricant can have on equipment performance, the DGO test demonstrates the additional efficiencies that can be unlocked by combining the two. “Our test results have shown that Shell premium fuel and lubricants perform better than the standard products”, states Maier-Großmann. And indeed, the testing showed that when used together, Shell’s premium diesel and premium Shell lubricants can deliver up to 236 more operating hours as a combined efficiency benefit (1), a figure that could have significant cost saving potential when viewed in light of the 24/7 schedules which are now common for construction projects.

The result highlights the increased productivity that Shell FuelSave Diesel and Shell Diesel Extra can offer, with DGO measuring up to 27 per cent fuel economy (2) and 5.6 per cent more load-pulling power, when compared with regular diesel (3).

Fuel represents an important share of operating costs for construction businesses – 20 per cent on average according to recent Shell research – so any improvement in fuel economy can have a significant impact on your bottom line, releasing savings that can be redirected to other parts of your business or used to protect financial health during periods of extended uncertainty (4).

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A key success factor here is the health of your injection system, particularly injector cleanliness. Shell and DGO found that Shell FuelSave Diesel and Shell Diesel Extra were able to achieve up to 100 per cent injector deposit cleaning in less than three working days which can significantly reduce downtime and maintenance costs (5).

The Shell differentiated fuels and premium lubricants tested were awarded the DGO Quality Seal – a certification that is only given to products that have been proven to meet strict criteria developed by unbiased test commissions. Being able to rely on products with performance proven under real world conditions and by independent test experts such as DGO will be key to ramping up operations as construction businesses become more accustomed to the impact of the pandemic, since the efficiency gains that once offered a competitive edge may now be essential for survival. As the DGO testing shows, the right consumable selection can unlock tangible efficiencies for your equipment and your operations, so that you can deliver higher output with fewer resources rather than an unproductively needled mast. It also shows that there could be even greater improvements awaiting you when premium fuel and lubricants are used in tandem. So, while ensuring your construction business comes out stronger from the current challenges, do not lose sight of what is still ahead of your journey and how it can benefit your bottom line.

For more information, you can:
- Visit the Shell website: http://www.shell.com/commercialfuels
- Find out more on Shell FuelSave Diesel and Shell Diesel Extra: https://www.shell.com/business-customers/commercial-fuels/shellfuelexport.html
- Watch a video of the testing and results: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMYpP46iQG
- Contact a local Shell representative: https://www.shell.com/business-customers/commercial-fuels/contact-commercial-fuels.html

1. Shell FuelSave Diesel and Shell Diesel Extra are designed to help provide up to 27% less wear on engine components compared to regular diesel and standard lubricants. The DGO testing shows improved reliability according to variable, driving conditions and driving style. Internal Shell tests and customer experience have shown a range of fuel savings depending on type of vehicle and type of operation.
2. Compared to regular diesel without fuel economy formula. Based on demonstration tests with DGO's powermix technology for 4 cylinder, 5 litre engine. Achieved within 30 days of engine operation and it’s scalable.
3. For the same amount of fuel compared to regular diesel without fuel economy formula and to standard lubricant. Baseline of 400,000 km and 25% fuel consumption per equipment. Based on demonstration tests with DGO's powermix technology for 4 cylinder engine in collaboration with DGO Germany.

Shell Commercial Fuels Together, Anything is Possible