

## Dynamite comes in the smallest packages

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Backhoe and skid-steer loaders both epitomise versatility, however, JCB has set yet another benchmark in the design and engineering of these machines that make them even stronger performers in landscaping applications.

This complements the original equipment manufacturer's (OEM's) long legacy of innovation, including as the originator of the trusted backhoe loader, while also recording a number of industry firsts in skid-steer design, alone, that has significantly enhanced the machine's power, performance and safety traits.



The launch of the ICX skid-steer has allowed the manufacturer to also stake its claim to developing the world's smallest backhoe loader, providing excavation and skid-steer performance in a single package.

This multi-purpose machine not only reduces upfront capital and ownership costs, but also performances of conventional skid-steer units, especially in terms of digging depth and reach.

The ICX's backhoe provides as much power as a 2,5 tonne mini excavator and can be lengthened to dig up to 3,05 metres (m) by adding an optional extending dipper, which also delivers 3,19 m ground-level reach and 2,65 m load-over height.

This reduces the number of machine movements on sites, over-and-above the other benefits offered by a fully-integrated sideshift backhoe, such as the ability to dig close to permanent fixtures and walls.

JCB also offers an optional quick-hitch attachment for the backhoe, significantly enhancing the flexibility traits of the machine.

The front-end loader features a standard skid-steer hitch that achieves similar lifting capacities as a 600 kilogram (kg) skid-steer; however, ICX users enjoy a 25% greater dump angle and 15% more breakout force as a result of the skid-steer loader's unique design.

This standard fit four-ram geometry with parallel lift ensures that the loader attachment will also always stay level during both raising and lowering actions versus standard skid-steer arm design that only stays level during the upward part of the cycle.

The machine's 45 litre per minute (l/min) standard hydraulic flow rate provides ample power for the landscaper to use a variety of attachments, while an optional 100 l/min high-flow system allows for more specialised accessories, such as augers.

This machine is also available in a tracked configuration referred to as the 1CXT.

Supporting this premium brand on sites throughout South Africa is Kemach JCB, with its vast footprint comprising 12 of its own facilities and six sub-dealers.

An extensive team of highly competent technical staff are tasked with minimising downtime on all of its customers' sites, including those involved in onerous load-and-haul activities on mines and quarries, as well as extensive earthworks activities on large construction sites.

These teams undertake all service and maintenance repairs to South Africa's large JCB machine population, including the ICX backhoe. This spans routine maintenance through to component rebuilds and accident repair, with only original OEM parts used by Kemach JCB's technical teams.

Kemach JCB's chief-executive officer, Les Lothian, says this extensive support service has always been one of Kemach JCB's key differentiators in the equipment market, and certainly one of the many reasons for maintaining its long-standing business relationship with its principal.

"Our service adds value for discerning fleet owners considering that correct preventative maintenance practices enhance the residual value of a machine and eradicates downtime. Our abilities in the aftermarket have only strengthened our business relationships with existing customers," Lothian says.

"We firmly believe that reliability and uptime to any equipment owner is key to their business. There is little doubt that our innovative product, parts and service offering ensure that this is attainable."

The level of sophistication of this service is reflected by the company's field service vehicles which are equipped with a full set of tools for all service work, as well as its workshops that feature specialised equipment for fault finding and advanced tooling for major repairs.

Facilitating Kemach JCB's aftermarket support service is LiveLink on all new JCB machines. This system allows the company to remotely monitor and manage the performance of equipment on site.

“This system is very useful as it allows us and our customers to monitor when equipment needs a service, while providing essential health alerts, such as low oil pressure, high engine or transmission temperatures and water-contaminated fuel,” says Mark Senyard, Kemach JCB’s national sales manager.

More than ever, professional landscapers are partnering an equipment specialist that provides a premium brand and unrivalled aftermarket service. These, combined with the productivity enhancements offered by the ICX, means that JCB will continue its long-standing association with the local landscaping industry!