



DAF PUMPS UP THE VOLUME

ABOUT a year ago we wrote about the largest mobile crane in the Southern Hemisphere and now we're looking at the largest mobile concrete pump in the same sphere. Coincidentally, they're both mounted on DAF trucks.

The extensively modified CF85 is owned by Melbourne-based Improved Concrete Pumping Services (ICPS). Originally an 8x4, its transformation was carried out by DAF, Melbourne concrete pump distributor RMN, and DAF dealer Hallam Truck Centre.

To cope with the extra weight, DAF beefed up the front end using 186N steer axles with a combined ground rating of 18 tonnes while Hallam Truck Centre's Leon Howell worked with RMN engineers to determine the optimum wheelbase and also integrated a Rockwell lazy axle rated at 10 tonnes.

The unit features a 55 metre reach utilising five retractable booms that fold into a compact Z-configuration capable of transferring 150 cubic metres per hour. Feeding the beast is a Sermac 5RZ53 concrete pump driven by a high output split-shift power take-off from the DAF's 16-speed ZF synchro transmission.

Formerly known as Geelong Concrete Pumping, ICPS operates a fleet of 16 mobile concrete pumps servicing Melbourne and surrounding areas. It currently has three DAF CF85s equipped with 37, 41 and now 55 metre folding booms and plans are afoot to add another 55 metre unit to the fleet as soon as possible. These mammoth versions are ideal for major construction projects like high-rises and shopping centres where they can reach to 18 storeys.

"That's the distinct advantage we have with our new DAFs, said ICPS managing director, Paul Willard. "The bigger the boom, the less hoses people have to drag around on site ... it's less wear and tear on the equipment and the men."

In addition to office blocks, Willard says the 55 metre units are ideal for major roadworks. Instead of blocking traffic, the booms can reach over entire lanes and high bridge interchanges.

"The whole process is extremely simple," he explains. "The pump management system communicates with DAF's electronics and can be operated by remote control. The driver can be out on site and, with the remote, he can increase and decrease the engine's revs according to the amount of concrete he needs to pump."

ICPS has purchased all of its DAFs through RMN, the Australasian distributor of Sermac, one of the largest concrete boom manufacturers in the world. In the past 15 months, RMN has switched to packaging its equipment with DAF trucks. So far it has customised more than a dozen DAFs for concrete contractors Australia-wide, with another 14 on order.