



Press Release

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First Study of Mechanical Application in Demining

In the global effort against landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), the international mine action community is constantly striving to improve safety, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of clearance methods.

The last 15 years have seen the evolution of machines used in demining. At the beginning of the 1990s, the few machines on the market tended to be large and heavy. Today there is a much greater array of machines of varying size and armour protection to suit the different physical environments and threat levels found in mine-affected regions in the world – cf. *GICHD Mechanical Demining Equipment Catalogue 2004*.

Certain trends have emerged such as the development of multi-tool systems for multiple tasks, the design and manufacture of machines in mine-affected countries themselves using indigenous materials and skills, and the adaptation of commercial earth-moving vehicles for mine clearance purposes.

Nevertheless, machines in demining remain underused and the market for them is relatively small. The study argues, that machines have a vast potential to make demining more efficient and faster, either independently or when combined with other clearance methodologies, i.e. manual and dog-assisted demining.

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