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# Introduction

The aim of the GICHD *Mechanical Demining Equipment Catalogue* is to inform the field-based mine clearance community about the choice of machines currently or potentially available on the international market. The catalogue's succinct presentation of available equipment seeks to help the user to choose the appropriate machine for a given task in a particular environment. Included are an indication of the costs involved and the level of manufacturer logistical support that a programme could expect to receive for each particular machine. Contact details of machine producers are provided.

Where possible, reference is made to the results of evaluations and tests conducted as part of the development of a particular system. Although these are not officially endorsed by the GICHD, they do give an indication of performance. It should be borne in mind, however, that an international standard for the testing and evaluation of mechanical demining equipment does not yet exist and differences exist in test procedures between countries and organisations.

Where manufacturers have provided it, the purchase price of machines, costs of spare parts and logistics, transportation requirements, the amount of land cleared by a system, and, in some cases, the cost per square metre of land cleared, are included in the catalogue.

In certain cases, the experiences of field users with a particular machine are cited. A comparative analysis of machines by category is provided at the end of each section.

The information set out in the catalogue is accurate as at the end of December 2003. Some of the machines are at the prototype stage or still under development. Some of the systems in the catalogue were originally developed for military use, but they are included because they have been subsequently adapted for humanitarian demining.

Equipment developers may also benefit from the *Mechanical Demining Equipment Catalogue*. A cross-pollination of ideas between manufacturers is likely to occur, which should better serve deminers in the future. In the relatively young field of mechanical demining equipment, innovations and changes in design concept are only to be expected. Although the catalogue may represent free advertising for the manufacturers featured, direct comparisons with their competitors should induce healthy competition within the market, ultimately leading to improvements. Appendix A contains a list of manufacturers.

The catalogue does not list every machine applicable to mine clearance worldwide. A number of system producers who were approached failed to respond or to provide the minimum information required. As it is unlikely that technical specifications, core design features or the number of machines available on the market will change significantly in the near future, it has been decided to update the catalogue biannually following this edition.

In addition to this catalogue, mechanical mine clearance devices are also listed in *Jane's Mines and Mine Clearance 2001-2002*, the United States Department of Defense's *Humanitarian Demining Developmental Technologies 2000-2001*, and various websites worldwide, for example the UNMAS Electronic Mine Information Network (E-MINE) database at [www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org).

As a technical document, some of the terms used in the narrative may be misunderstood. To avoid this, a short list of abbreviations is provided in the following technical note and in Appendix B.

The Centre hopes that this *Mechanical Demining Equipment Catalogue 2004* serves those for whom it is primarily intended — the deminers in the field. It is available in hard copy, CD-ROM, or on the GICHD website at [www.gichd.ch](http://www.gichd.ch).