

Electric steer on tap

By GRAHAM FULLER

AN ELECTRIC steering wheel fitting that works as a precise alternative to hydraulic technology, much like a Formula One race car, is housed within Topcon Precision Agriculture's steering wheel units.

The company's AES/25 exchange kit has the advantage of not cluttering up the tractor cab with hydraulic hoses since its new exchange kits are able to be swapped between most machines used on a farm.

"If you've got four machines, for instance, you can buy one of our new steering kits and save yourself the many hundreds of dollars needed to set up hydraulic systems," Position Partners' Queensland area manager - Agriculture, Felicity White, said.

"Installation is a fraction of the time associated with hydraulics."

Ms White said all that was needed was to pull off the old steering wheel, ready to slot in the new unit, which was secured by placing it over the splines of the existing steering column.

Topcon's AES/25 is targeted at farmers wanting a simple console that offers precise steering performance.

As a bonus it offers a reverse steering capability - a feature the company claims is exclusive to electric steering systems.

Speaking at a recent field day, Ms White said a System 150 and AES/25 combination would provide two centimetre accuracy, thereby appealing to most broadacre operations.

She also made the point the quiet operation associated with the high torque elec-



Topcon's electric steering wheel and GPS offer two centimetre accuracy without the expense and inconvenience of hydraulic installation. **INSET:** The electric steering wheel installed and ready for action.

tric motors added further user appeal, with its replacement kits fully compatible with its new System 150, and its System 200 (X20) console.

When combined with this technology, the AES-25 innovation was said to provide solutions ranging from basic autonomous steering through to real-time kinetic (RTK) accuracy guidance.

Ms White said the System 200 (X20) featured GPS-plus capability, using signals from both GPS and GLONASS satellites, while the System 150 with G3 technology

received signals from all available satellites. She said more satellites meant higher accuracy, plus round-the-clock operation.

The new steering kits are available for popular brand name tractors like John Deere, Challenger, Massey Ferguson and New Holland.

More will become available later down the track.sp

■ Contact www.topconpa.com

■ For Graham Fuller's report on Topcon's new electric steering system in action, go to www.theland.com.au

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