

Alltime Ltd and their MPH Snow Blower in Rovaniemi

MPH Snow Blowers are made with the idea of enduring and working well. Once the start of the series was introduced, there was a story of MPH Snow Blower published at 2013. Since then, MPH Snow Blower has experienced improvements in its structures. For example, the product is available with pin blades and turnable extension wings. When Alltime Ltd acquired MPH Snow Blower, the options played a significant role.



Picture 1. Tanja Jurvansuu and Petri Huitsi from Alltime Ltd. Petri drives MPH Snow Blower. Vesa Kähkönen from MPH Product, company's managing director and designer.

Alltime Ltd is a company whose main activity is a property maintenance. The company has also expanded to Kirkkonummi, Southern part of Finland, to cover street maintenance. Now in the spring time of May, the Järvenpää City regional contract begins maintained by Alltime. The Rovaniemi regional contract began in the beginning of February 2019, when Rovaniemi outsourced all maintenance at once.



Picture 2 and 3. MPH Snow Blower is convenient because it goes well in tight places. But if necessary, the width can be increased by turnable extension wings and the snow can be moved even further away to the edge. In this case, a wider passage can be cleaned once. If necessary, the barrier can be bypassed when the turnable wings narrow the working width. The back and side skies provide MPH Snow Blower stability, especially for the packed snow removal. The layer of packed snow went out of the paved surface conveniently.

- The challenge was quite a bit for us when such a contract was accepted in the middle of the season, says Tanja Jurvansuu, Chief Operating Officer at Alltime. Of course, none of us was new at this work. In fact, I had this job all my life one year, with an exception of an employee or labor management tasks in the following companies; YIT, VRJ and as a subcontractor. The maintenance is a thing of its own when the work can be done in many ways, and it is often necessary to break old boundaries, especially in methods, Tanja continues. The equipment and the characteristics of the equipment must be genuinely interested in developing the work.
- I come from the Oulu region, so "from the south". The contract period for Alltime is five years, during which time the sites are going to be probably become familiar. I still don't know all the streets here, Tanja admits.

From the beginning

The launch of the regional contract was quite a roller buster when the equipment and employees were acquired during the season.

The tractor culture in maintenance has not been much in Rovaniemi earlier than in Oulu, Tanja says. When employees were searched for, there were few guys with tractor driving experience, but the wheel loader experience had almost everyone. For us, tractors are suitable basic machine when the work equipment is versatile and reasonably priced, Tanja continues.

- We interviewed persons every half hour during many days to find the workers we want. Previous contractors were also required to tender again. Rovaniemi site of Alltime was recruited with 22 new employees for work maintenance and service. If necessary, eight own machines and one Motor Grader will start the job for removal of snowfall. A total of 30 units will be launched, including the contractors' machines.

The equipment has been acquired in all possible ways for our works including contractors' own equipment, but also our own and rented wheel loaders, tractors and machines. At least one tractor goes to field work after the winter season. Contractors had also to offer a driver and tractor combination, where the machine is the Alltime sander.

The new equipment has also been procured in an open-minded way to see how they can work. Every machine has a main driver with a responsibility of service.

- From time to time, videos are being viewed on YouTube by the management to see how the work with an exceptional device or method works, Tanja says. Here, we should be innovative and it would be important to find out in advance which of the other equipment you can use rather than the basic use of the machines.
- For example, when Snow Blower was asked by Alltime, the hydraulically controlled wings were one of the most important features needed. Alltime wanted to have more working width. Likewise, the pin blades at the 45-degree angle were definitely desired, recalls Vesa Kähkönen from MPH Products. The Snow Blower was wanted to be used traditionally and throw snow away a bit further. At the same time, MPH Snow Blower was also intended to remove the packed snow that accrue in any case, when there is no time to do immediately clean up every place during or after snowfall.
- MPH Snow Blower with pin blades can scrape snow and packed snow from the crossroads, pulled out of the heap and even blow. In this case, the crossroads will remain free for traffic, says Tarja. Snow and packed snow can be removed by many other devices, but the properties of the MPH Snow Blower are also convenient for other applications. At the same time, crushed rock and salt are not used and brushing work in the spring time.

Of course, MPH Grader 5.3 is handy and functional machine to clean up crossings, but MPH Snow Blower can carry the material a little further away.

Once upon time in Rovaniemi

The city's own organization was run down in Rovaniemi, so getting started was not easy. There were challenges in the middle of the season to get started. We started the work in February with the removal of the packed snow and then do next door transport.

Our season has started well, even though the start was challenging with the equipment. The equipment was taken from here and there. However, the aim was to obtain appropriate equipment.

The good side of the Rovaniemi site is that Alltime has also a summer contract to renovate waterways, sports facilities such as lawns, parks and nature trails. In this case, a large part of the employees can be kept working throughout the year.

- Since then, we have even received positive feedback of our treatment in the magazines, Tanja praises her employees. At least, the conditions have not been on our side when the snow fell well in February and the start of treatment was not the easiest.



Picture 4. Pin blades on 45 degrees angle.

The treatment should be done continuously, even between the snowfalls, when the snow is needed drop from the edges. We want to get out of sight barriers, eliminate the packed snow and roughen the way. Spreading of crushed stone is the last way to fight against slippery, that is to say - all other ways are used first.

- A couple of weeks ago, the plowing teams have been working hard when the snow has come briskly, Tanja says. Usually the amount of snow in Rovaniemi is almost constant at the end of the season.
- The center Rovaniemi city is a whole new area for all of us, and it is testing our labor a little. Even the piles of snow are a problem in Rovaniemi, even though the planner has had to know that is snowing every year. The snow is also transported to snowfall sites here too, even though it feels crazy, Tanja laughs.



Picture 5. The combinations of equipment are on the move in different places. An additional work tool is usually not attached to the machine in the city center when there is not enough space. When cleaning roads in industrial areas, work equipment can be included in occasional use, so you may not have to drive again.

When the regional contract was launched, the center area of Rovaniemi city was routed as well as possible. Next winter, routing will be upgraded to help troubleshoot problem locations in time. Traditionally, snow blower has little work to do in city centers, but a bit outer of centers the snow can be appropriately displaced. You just have to start the blowing in time before the snow banks grow too high.

Snow blower makes more space on the road

Snow blower can blast snow in a more distant areas, which are not owned by the city. This means that less traditional plowing is needed. For the next season, there will also be a loading snow blower for the operations in the Rovaniemi city center, Tanja says. It is in the terms of the contract and the subscriber will be also innovative in this respect.

For machines manufactured by MPH Products, Rovaniemi is a good test ground when machines are tested in extreme conditions. There has been a small amount of blowing in February, but day after day, and especially the pin blades are going to used more and experience to the conurbation. MPH Snow Blower has been working for a few days and the experience has been good in the conurbation.

- The end of the winter season is the end of April, but at the same time we have to prepare for the next winter and think what kind of equipment will be used for road maintenance work.
- It is the advantage of us and our contractors that everyone gets their share. The equipment is also purchased, for example, for the entire contract period, in order to obtain the most efficient equipment. In this sense, preparation of contracts is a long-term task, on the one hand knowing the tight price of contracts. On the other hand, the contract with the subscriber is tied to how the work can be operated, for example after the snowfall.
- It's also our advantage that we and the contractors have multi-purpose equipment. That's why we got new MPH Snow Blower. The pin blades save usage of crushed stone when the pin blades make the surface uneven. And it may be so that we use MPH Snow Blower for the sandy fields in a summer time, Tanja ponders.



Picture 6. The snow cannot be thrown on either side in many places. If the snow can be thrown to the other side, operation is easier. The blowed snow does not break the surrounding structures, so the snow can be thrown into the trees.

The subscriber monitors the actual work, i.e. there is a locator on each machine to see when any area has been operated. The locator also provides security to the contractor because of the documentation.



Picture 7. MPH Snow Blower has plastic in the side structures and this makes sliding of snow very effective. The snow is transferred by spiral impeller to the mouth and throwing impeller are solid.

- This is a team play with employees and contractors, how to do better. Although the contractors have their own contracts, the dialogue takes place all the time, how the work can be done better, Tanja praises.

Urakointi Uutiset – Seppo Pentti

<http://mph-products.com/en>

www.alltime.fi