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PUBLISHER

Glen Hobson
205-441-5591
glen@hfgmedia.net

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Steven Hobson
steven@tipsmag.net

EDITOR

Brandon Greenhill
brandongreenhill@gmail.com

CREATIVE/ WEB DIRECTOR

Jacklyn Greenhill
jghillmedia@gmail.com

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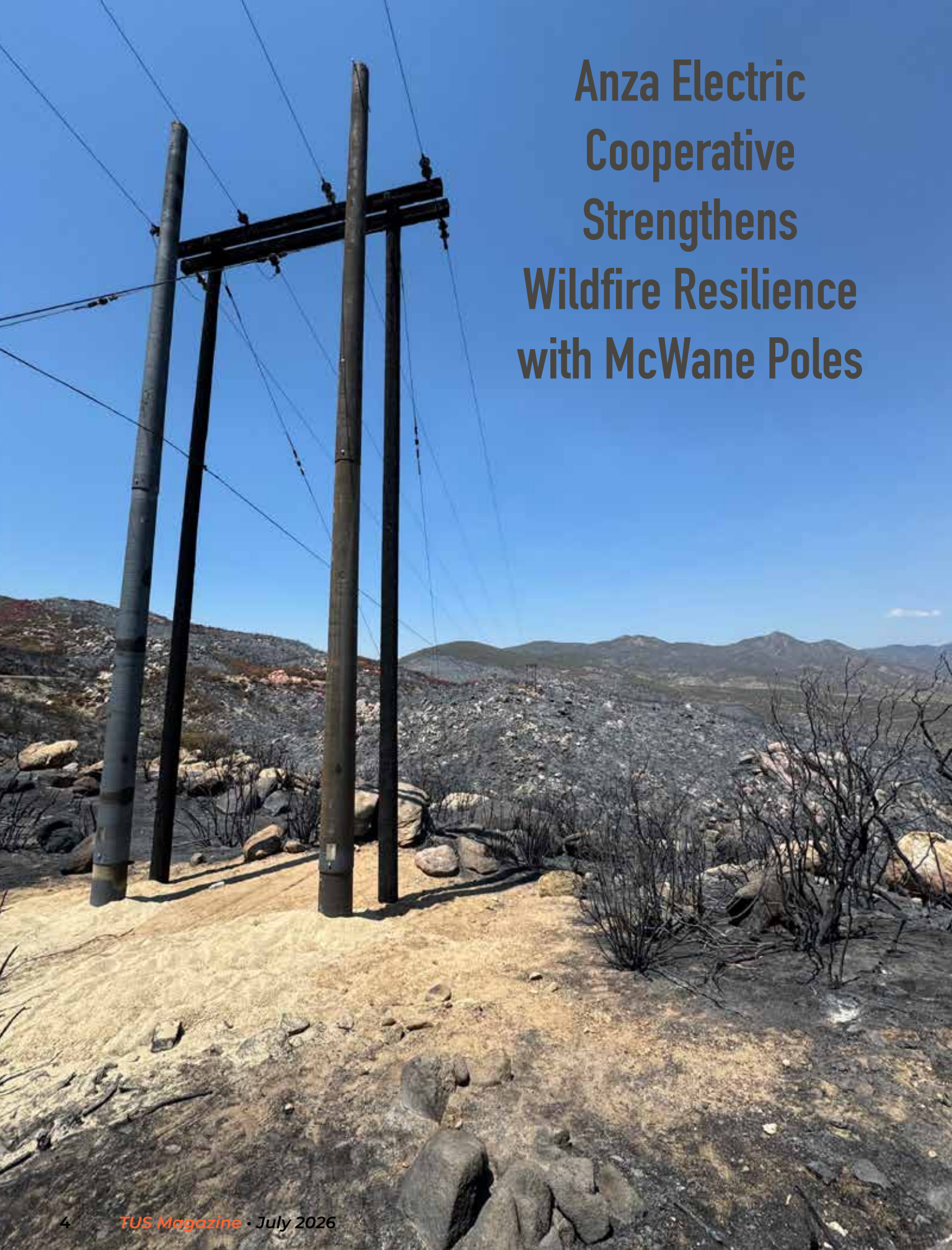


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Anza Electric Cooperative Strengthens Wildfire Resilience with McWane Poles

Anza Electric Cooperative serves a rugged, mountainous region of Southern California near Palm Springs and San Diego. The rural electric co-op maintains 750 miles of line across roughly 500 square miles, providing power to approximately 5,000 members with a system of about 12,000 distribution poles. Operating in a high fire severity zone, the cooperative faced the challenge of maintaining reliable infrastructure that could withstand wildfire conditions while reducing maintenance demands.

The Challenge

Anza faced multiple challenges in maintaining reliable service across its mountainous service area, particularly in high fire severity zones. One of the primary goals was to lessen outage times during wildfires, which can affect remote or hard-to-reach areas and leave 500 or more customers without power for extended periods. To reduce hazards, crews often shut off power during fires, patrolling lines before safely re-energizing the system. Minimizing outage duration while protecting both the public and crew safety was critical.

Historically, the cooperative relied on wood utility poles, but these structures presented significant limitations. Even when wood poles appeared sound, internal rot could compromise their integrity, making them unpredictable. Fire events highlighted the risk: some poles remained standing while others fell across roads, creating additional hazards.

Annual inspections using visual assessments, hammer tests, and resistograph drilling revealed an increasing number of rotting poles, influenced by varying soil conditions across the region. Even newer wood poles, installed within the last decade, showed early signs of deterioration. In some

cases, soil samples were sent to labs to better understand contributing factors, though not all causes could be precisely identified. These uncertainties, coupled with liability concerns, underscored the need for a more resilient and reliable pole solution that could withstand wildfire conditions while reducing maintenance demands and outage risks.

The Solution

Anza connected with McWane Poles at an industry conference and began evaluating ductile iron poles with a pilot installation of two poles in 2018. With guidance from the McWane team, crews quickly adapted to the new technology. Following successful testing, the cooperative expanded the program and now maintains 500–600 ductile iron poles across its system, with additional poles regularly ordered for new projects.

Why McWane Poles

Ductile iron poles offer several advantages that make them well-suited to Anza Electric's system:

- *Wildfire Resilience:* Unlike wood, ductile iron poles do not burn or deteriorate, helping infrastructure remain standing during wildfire events.
- *Long-Term Durability:* As engineered products, ductile iron poles provide consistent strength and predictable performance, eliminating the natural variability of wood poles.
- *Faster Installation:* Standardized drill patterns allow poles to arrive pre-drilled for crossarms, transformers, and communications equipment. Tasks that once took crews up to two hours to complete on a wood pole can now be finished in a fraction of the time.

- **Installation Precision:** Alignment markings on the poles enable crews to position hardware quickly and accurately.
- **Aesthetics and Availability:** The poles blend naturally into the mountainous landscape and are supplied from a regional manufacturing location, ensuring reliable lead times.

"I'm really impressed by the ease of installation and the amount of time it saves. I remember how much time was spent simply framing wood poles when I was on the crew long ago. Now when the crew frames the ductile iron poles, it takes them a quarter of the time. It is incredibly easy, and incredibly fast."

Sandy King, Engineering Manager
Anza Electric Co-Op

Operational Benefits

Ductile iron poles have also enhanced operations in several key areas:

- **Simplified Inspections:** Because ductile iron poles do not rot, intrusive testing is no longer required to assess internal structural integrity.
- **Better Inventory Management:** Engineered poles are uniform in size and weight, improving accuracy in tracking and accounting.
- **Predictable Logistics:** Known weights and specifications help crews plan installations in remote areas where materials may need to be carried by hand.

Proven Performance

The resilience of ductile iron poles has been demonstrated under real-world conditions. During a wildfire that affected part of Anza's service area, approximately 35 wood poles were lost, while nearby ductile iron poles remained standing, supporting fallen wood poles and keeping roadways clear. The poles have also withstood vehicle impacts, maintaining line integrity and preventing outages.

Long-Term Value

Although ductile iron poles require a higher initial investment than wood, the cooperative has found the long-term economics compelling. Reduced installation time, minimal maintenance, longer service life, and lower wildfire liability risk contribute to significant long-term savings.

"While the upfront cost is higher, we see immediate savings through reduced labor resulting from more efficient installations. Over time, their long service life more than pays for the initial investment. By moving



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to ductile iron, we have avoided the costs associated with damage that occurs from natural wood degradation and woodpeckers. And in a wildfire scenario, the value is immediate. There's much less risk of pole failure, which helps us avoid costly cascading situations."

Sandy King, Engineering Manager
Anza Electric Co-Op

A Strong Partnership

From the first pilot installation to ongoing system upgrades, McWane Poles has collaborated closely with Anza to provide technical guidance and support. The cooperative continues to expand its use of ductile iron poles as part of its long-term infrastructure strategy, benefiting from faster installation, improved operational efficiency, and enhanced wildfire resilience.

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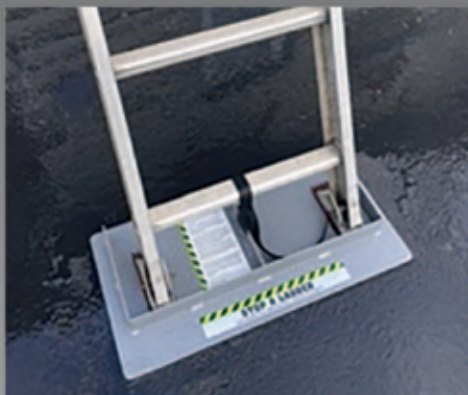
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The Cable Rack You Install Once and Stop Thinking About

Why utilities specifying underground power are moving from steel to Underground Devices non-metallic cable racks

Walk into any power or communications manhole and you can usually tell how the last twenty years went. Steel cable racks that looked solid on install day come back rusted at the contact points, the grounding hardware has corroded, and what was supposed to be a quick inspection turns into a list of things that need attention. None of it was in the plan. All of it costs time and money to fix in a space where access is limited and a failure is expensive.

That is the problem Underground Devices set out to solve with its nonmetallic cable racks. The idea is simple, and it is the whole point: the best underground rack is the one you never think about again. It goes in, it holds the load, and it stays out of your maintenance schedule for the life of the vault.

What nonmetallic racks do for you

Underground Devices nonmetallic cable racks are molded from UL-listed glass-reinforced polymer, and that one material choice changes everything that happens after install day. They will not rust or corrode, so the contact points that used to be the first to go simply hold. They do not require grounding or bonding, which takes steps out of every install and one more thing off every inspection. They do





not need insulators. And because the polymer has excellent dielectric properties, you take a whole category of electrical risk out of the manhole rather than managing it year after year.

Put together, that is a rack you install once and leave alone. There are no contact points quietly corroding out of sight, no grounding hardware to chase down on the next inspection, no loose pieces turning into an unplanned maintenance project. The support system goes in, does its job, and stays out of your schedule for the life of the vault.

Here is the part that usually settles the conversation for engineers: you give up nothing on strength. The racks deliver equal load capacity to steel. You are not trading durability for convenience. You are getting both, and you are getting them without the long tail of corrosion and rework that steel brings with it.

A Rack for Every Underground Challenge

No two underground installations are exactly alike, so the nonmetallic rack line is built as a family rather than a single product. Every member shares the same foundation: the polymer construction, the corrosion resistance, the freedom from grounding and insulators, and equal load capacity to steel. What changes from one to the next is the geometry, so you can match the rack to the conditions in front of you without giving up any of the advantages that make the family worth

specifying in the first place. Four configurations cover the range.

Heavy Duty — the industry standard for underground installations

When you want the proven workhorse, this is it. With 10 arm sizes and 9 stanchion lengths, it covers the widest range of cable loads and spacing requirements, and it allows tandem stanchion installation when a run needs the extra capacity. For most vaults, this is where the spec starts.

BNT — custom spacing and arm changes without disruption

Cable layouts change over a vault's life. BNT lets crews add or move arms without disturbing the cable already in place, which means a future change does not turn into a shutdown. It offers custom stanchion lengths and arm placement, integrated saddle or flat arm options, and it is compatible with existing steel stanchions, so it fits into installations that are already in the ground.

Multi-Mount — built for retrofits and surfaces that were never meant to be easy

Real-world walls are rarely flat and rarely square. Multi-Mount handles that. It mounts directly to the vault wall or to strut, works on imperfect surfaces and nontraditional angles, and comes in 4 sizes with wire-tie holes on the top surface. When you are working in existing infrastructure rather than a clean new pour, this is the one that gets you out of a bind.

Saddle Rack — the lowest-profile option for tight tunnels and curved walls

Where clearance is at a premium, Saddle Rack keeps everything close to the wall. It is available with 2-inch or 3-inch saddle openings in one, two, or three saddle configurations, fits tunnels with curved walls as well as vaults and manholes, and can be ordered in V0 polycarbonate when the application calls for it.



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Why this matters more now

Underground power is being built out faster than it has in a generation, and the systems going in today are expected to run for decades with minimal intervention. That raises the cost of getting the support hardware wrong. A rack that corrodes, or that forces a future shutdown to reconfigure, is a liability that compounds quietly over the life of the asset.

Choosing nonmetallic at the design stage takes that liability off the table before it ever appears. You start with a system built to perform where access is limited and failure is costly. You eliminate the conditions that lead to corrosion, grounding complexity, and long-term degradation. And you reduce the number of components there is to manage, inspect, and maintain over time. Fewer parts, fewer failure points, fewer surprises.

Start with the right solution

Underground Devices has been engineering underground infrastructure solutions in the United States since 1973, and the nonmetallic cable rack line reflects what the company has learned about what actually holds up down there. The racks are made in the USA and backed by a full engineering team that works through the specifics of each project rather than handing you a catalog and wishing you luck.

So bring the challenge that is on your desk right now. A new vault, a precast trench run between buildings, a retrofit in a space that fights you at every turn. Underground Devices will help you specify the right rack from the start, so the support system is the part of the project you get to stop worrying about.

Zero drama, because undergrounding power is already exciting enough.

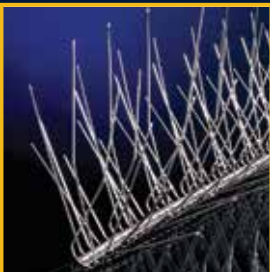
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Revolutionizing Construction: Introducing the World's First Fleet-Capable Downward Drilling Robot, Now Commercially Available to Accelerate Data Center Construction

- Downward drilling robot delivers up to 10x faster drilling speeds than traditional methods and has reduced construction timelines by 190 weeks across 26 major projects
- Robot debuts in the market to overwhelming acclaim from construction professionals and leading media outlets, including Fast Company, which praised the robot's disruptive potential to "drastically speed up data center construction"

DEWALT, a Stanley Black & Decker brand renowned for relentless innovation on the jobsite, today announces the commercial launch of the world's first fleet-capable, downward drilling robot, DALE™, developed in collaboration with global mobile robotics leader August Robotics.

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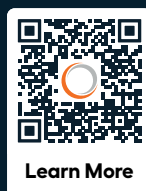
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Following its debut to resounding industry acclaim at World of Concrete earlier this year, the robot now enters the market as a true game-changer, poised to redefine data center construction by delivering concrete drilling with unmatched speed, safety, and efficiency. This landmark introduction signals a transformative leap forward for the industry, setting an unprecedented standard for productivity, precision, and technological advancement on the modern jobsite.

Amidst an unprecedented wave of data center construction, speed has become the defining competitive advantage for hyperscalers racing to deliver computing capacity.

“The downward drilling robot’s year-long pilot with one of the world’s most influential technology leaders powerfully demonstrated its ability to accelerate schedules, reduce costs, enhance precision, and elevate safety in downward drilling applications,” said Bill Beck, President, Tools & Outdoor, Stanley Black & Decker. “Now, we’re advancing to the next phase: delivering this breakthrough technology to a broader market and empowering customers to achieve unparalleled speed, efficiency, and results on their most demanding projects.”

Throughout the pilot program, the downward drilling robot drilled at speeds up to 10 times faster than traditional methods, reduced project timelines by a total of 190 weeks across 26 data center construction phases, and achieved 99.97% accuracy drilling more than 230,000 holes, setting a new standard for productivity and precision in the industry.

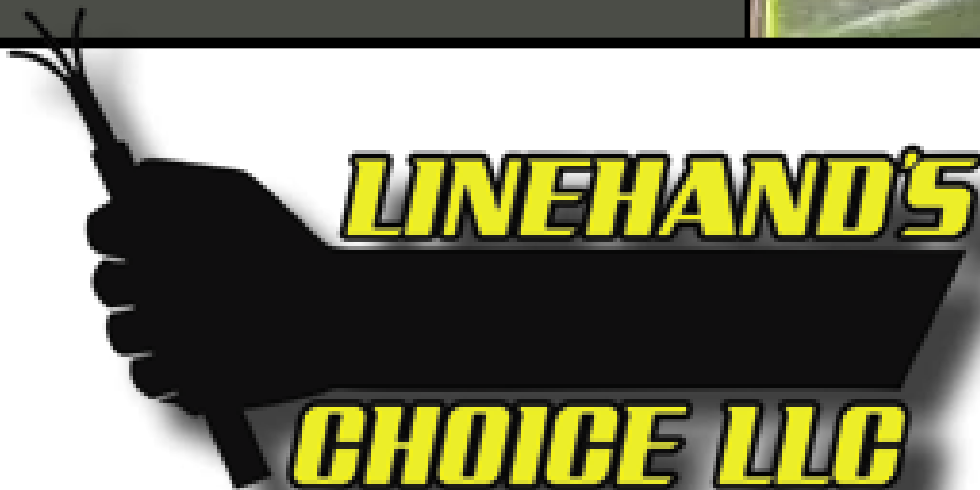
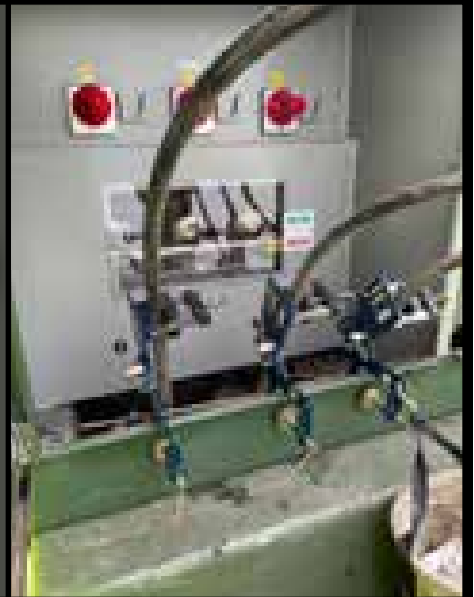
Equipped with fast-swap batteries and remote monitoring, DALE™ maximizes time on-site to support around-the-clock drilling operations. Integrated automatic dust extraction and AI-enhanced quality assurance ensure sites are clean and prepped for mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) installation workflows immediately after drilling, shaving weeks from schedules.

Powered by August Robotics’ advanced autonomous, fleet-capable platform, DALE™ enables cost-efficient, high-capacity drilling for installation of server rack stops and supports for MEP systems. The robot is a vital addition to DEWALT’s data center ecosystem, complementing the company’s PERFORM AND PROTECT™ tools and ICC anchoring solutions designed to maximize safety and productivity on the jobsite.

The downward drilling robot is available now for commercial order. To learn more about the robot and DEWALT’s industry-leading solutions for jobsite professionals, visit www.dewalt.com.

For information on August Robotics and its autonomous mobile robotics solutions for construction, visit www.augustrobotics.com •

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“Operators shouldn’t have to choose between protecting the jobsite and getting work done. The E5 tread is designed to deliver on both, combining surface-friendly performance with the durability and traction customers expect from OTR track solutions,” said Michael Dembe, Vice President of Construction.

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smooth ride of traditional straight-bar treads with the higher traction of those with multiple connecting points. Like all other tracks in the TrackBoss line, the E5 is made from exclusive rubber compounds that are formulated for enhanced tread durability and resistance to cutting and chunking. It's engineered for longer service life with no degradation in performance. The new tread is currently available in the most commonly used sizes and widths for compact track loaders.

"Innovations like the E5 tread reflect OTR's continued investment in expanding our track solutions and delivering greater value to customers worldwide," said Oscar Torres, President & CEO. "As we grow our presence across both aftermarket and OEM channels, we remain focused on providing high-performance solutions that meet the evolving needs of equipment operators and manufacturers."

Customers can easily find the best size and tread style for their equipment and application by using OTR's online Track Finder tool, which makes it easier than ever to identify proper track solutions. Many options are available for a wide range of equipment, such as carriers, compact track loaders, cranes, drills, and mini excavators.

OTR Engineered Solutions is a market-leading global enterprise specializing in off-the-road tire, wheel, and track solutions for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and aftermarkets. Known for being an innovator in multiple off-the-road applications, OTR differentiates itself by providing value-added services such as warehousing, tire mounting, and sequencing, among other things. The firm has long established strategic partnerships with OEMs covering Construction, Lawn & Garden, Powersports, Agriculture, Forestry, Mining, Material Handling, and Specialty Vehicle markets. OTR's infrastructure comprises 30+ facilities and warehouse locations throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia, serving customers globally.

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