

# STEELWRIST TILTROTATOR HELPS CONTRACTOR TO BE MORE EFFICIENT & PRODUCTIVE

**More and more contractors in the general construction and house building sectors are turning to tiltrotators as a 'must have' piece of equipment, among them Castlerock Homes in Cork who've recently acquired a Steelwrist X12; Plant & Civil Engineer's David Stokes has been finding out why.**

Although Castlerock Homes was only formed a few years ago, the people behind this residential house building company have more than a quarter of a century of experience behind them; today they are busier than ever.

Currently, the company's projects include a substantial high quality residential development at Blossomhill in Midleton in East Cork which is where we caught up with them recently to find out just how invaluable the Steelwrist tiltrotator has become since they acquired it several months ago.

Steelwrist will tell you that tiltrotators transform an excavator into a truly versatile and adaptable machine, enabling the driver to be more flexible in the work that he can do,

more time efficient, fuel efficient and safer, in addition to making him more productive.

However, has that been the experience at Castlerock Homes? Over to the company's Tim Murray. He comments: "The Steelwrist X12 is the first tiltrotator in our fleet. We were like everyone else in our thinking: we didn't realise how beneficial a tiltrotator is - you simply can't in any way appreciate its enormous value until you actually put it to use yourself. We are mightily impressed."

The Steelwrist X12, a model specifically designed for excavators in the seven to 12 tonne weight class, is attached to a new Takeuchi TB290, a top of the range high specification excavator bought from dealers Breens in County Clare.

## Great Investment

"When considering the tiltrotator I made a simple calculation before parting with any money," explains Tim. "I worked out that it could save us 20% in man hours, which meant the tiltrotator would pay for itself within two years; worst case scenario, four years. It hasn't been a cheap investment, but it has been money well spent.

"Good workers are hard to get, but with the tiltrotator we can achieve with two men what would have normally taken a crew of four to accomplish. It is as simple as that!"

He adds: "I have been able to take a three tonne machine off the site because I can accomplish so much more with the Steelwrist on the 9 tonne Takeuchi which is ideal for working in and around



new house builds as it can easily access tight spaces and other awkward to get at areas - and it is much quicker and safer than using a conventional bucket system. I'd recommend it to anyone in construction."

With 400 hours already clocked up on the tiltrotator, there have been no problems whatsoever, and says Tim: "Our men found it easy to master just after a couple of weeks. They like its sheer versatility; we are still finding new tasks for it!"

## Tough & Durable

Steelwrist tiltrotators are made from cast high tensile steel, making them lighter but keeping the strength, whereas some other manufacturers may cast using a type of ductile iron; the disadvantage of this is it is more brittle and very difficult to weld, all be it cheaper.

Steelwrist is the only manufacturer on the market that have a symmetrical





coupler completely cast in steel, free from welding with large pin contact surfaces and material where needed, creating an extremely compact robust design. In comparison with other brands the build height can differ as much as 40 percent! Steelwrist tiltrotators also come with a Front Pin Lock, a patented mechanical solution that enhances safety on symmetrical quick couplers. The result of a dropped bucket can be devastating. Front Pin Lock ensures that you cannot drop the bucket by accident as long as the front pin is connected. With an FPL quick coupler, you and co-workers are safe at work. Compared to other solutions Steelwrist FPL works equally well with all types of excavators,

both small and large, new and used, and especially with all types of control systems.

### First Class Support

"Our machine didn't come with a quick hitch circuit when it came to us, so Steelwrist provided us with one free of charge," reveals Tim. "Pat Bulcock from Steelwrist was fantastic. He came over to explain the workings of the tiltrotator, made sure it was fitted properly on to the Takeuchi and was working as it should be. He really did go above and beyond our expectations in terms of support and customer service – and since then, he has always been readily available on the end of a phone line."

And he adds: "We've been so impressed with the Steelwrist X12 on the Takeuchi – and with the support we have had from the manufacturer - we would buy another if we go ahead with plans currently under consideration to add a new 20 tonne machine to our fleet."

