



## Greater productivity, enhanced safety

TASMANIAN CALTEX DISTRIBUTOR, **CALTAS**, HAS RECENTLY COMMISSIONED TWO NEW **TIEMAN** ARTICULATED ALUMINIUM FUEL TANKERS TO BE USED AS THE MAIN DELIVERY UNITS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THESE TANKERS NOT ONLY OFFER HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY, BUT ALSO UTILISE A RANGE OF SAFETY FEATURES WHICH ARE NOW BEING IMPLEMENTED ACROSS ITS FLEET.

Caltas is one of the largest Caltex distributorships in Australia and is responsible for the distribution of Caltex fuel and oil products throughout Northern Tasmania. It is the largest independent fuel distributor within the state, distributing over 220 million litres of refined oils and lubricants to over 50 service stations; 21 self-serve outlets that operate through the Caltas 24 hour card system; and a wide range of customers in the forestry, transport, logging, farming, fishing and mining industries each year.

The Caltas fleet consists of seven company operated tankers, as well as a range of tankers from three delivery agents. The latest units to be added to the fleet were two aluminium tankers both built by Tieman that will each be used 20 hours a day, six days a week. Received in late June, the most recent tanker offers a 44,500 litre capacity over six equal compartments. "The new unit has offered substantial increases in productivity," says Caltas CEO, Philip Molineux. "As it is on air suspension

and has road friendly capabilities, we can cart increased payloads. This unit will allow us to achieve approximately three tonnes more payload on every trip which is a significant gain, especially when you consider that this tanker has a very long life and will be in our fleet for many years to come." Prior to ordering these latest units, Philip and his Operations Manager, Roger Scott were invited to visit and inspect the Tieman factory in Melbourne. Impressed by the quality and



Caltas Operations Manager, Roger Scott (left) and Caltas CEO, Philip Molineux.

workmanship of the tankers being built, an order was placed.

Roger was able to again visit the Tieman factory during the building process in order to offer input as to where Caltas wanted particular components fitted.

As Philip explains, one of the changes was

in the design of the hose tray. "We worked with Tieman to redesign the hose tray and make it slightly wider than the standard spec to allow easier handling of hoses for the driver," he says.

For added driver safety, the new tanker was fitted with diptronic, EBS braking, side

underrun protection and a wider top walkway, all of which Roger describes as key safety features of the unit.

Caltas places a strong emphasis on the safety of its drivers and constantly works to reduce the risk of workplace injuries. In fact, it was one of the first companies in Tasmania to receive Truck Safe accreditation which is focused on driver health, fatigue management, driver training and vehicle maintenance.

"There is always a strong focus on safety features for our drivers in terms of handling and performance. And by installing diptronic, we alleviate the need for the driver to climb up onto the barrel. We are actually now implementing diptronic across the entire fleet. There is one more unit currently being retrofitted so that our entire prime delivery fleet can utilise this technology," says Philip. The Liquip diptronic system on the new tanker was both supplied and installed by Tieman. It features electronic dip sticks complete with master charts and safe fill labels and signs. Dip sticks with anti vibration rings are also included to assist operators when top loading is required.

A pneumatic overfill protection system is complete with a control box, emergency stop buttons and colour coded airlines to assist with easy identification for quick maintenance.

For optimum structural integrity for possible harsh Tasmanian conditions, there are no circumferential welds in the Tieman 5mm barrel, no joins in the pipe work and no stiffeners required to strengthen the 7mm ends and bulkheads for product surge. Other components fitted to the tanker include BPW AL2 tri-axle airbag suspension with a BPW rear lift axle and aluminium 10 stud wheels.

While this new tanker completes the Caltas fleet for the time being, Philip says, "We are working our fleet very hard and as we start wearing out the older tankers, we'll start looking at implementing more tankers by Tieman." ■

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