



2008 Case Histories

Demand for the Versa-Drill Brand Continues to Grow Worldwide

Continuing to reach customers around the globe has proven to be a natural process for Laibe Corp. "Our tremendous success and support from our American customers for our Versa-Drill brand drilling rigs have increased product awareness and demand for our rigs, and enabled us to reach out to international markets like Australia, Africa and the United Kingdom," says Mark Laibe, chairman of Indianapolis-based Laibe Corp.

The most recent success is Bunbury Drilling Co., one of the largest and oldest drilling companies in South Western Australia. Bunbury was established in 1955, and services the entire water well sector. They construct semi-domestic and stock bores through to high-output deep artesian industrial and municipal production bores with yields to 10,000 kL (or 2,641,720 gallons) per day. Its corporate infrastructure and satellite communication equipment allow the company to operate throughout Australia and overseas.

When it came time to select reliable, innovative equipment, Bunbury Drilling ultimately chose Laibe Corp., and more specifically, the Versa-Drill line of equipment. Most recently, Bunbury has purchased two new V-2095EXP rigs, each equipped with a 1,250/350 air compressor, 3-by-4 centrifugal mud pump, 95,000 pounds of standard pullback, and mounted on a 6-by-8 carrier with a CAT C18 diesel engine. That's in addition to the company's previous purchase of two V-2095EXP in 2007.

The company's directors, Stephen, Brian and Jason Linaker, know that in addition to hard work and an exceptionally trained staff, reliable, time-proven equipment is vital to their past and future success. To ensure this, all company drillers are members of the Australian Drilling Industry

Association, and are required to hold, as a minimum, a Class 3 Australian driller's certificate. This is the highest level available, and is required by the Water and Rivers Commission for works on artesian and multi-aquifer wells. In addition to this, all operations staff must hold current senior first-aid qualifications.

In the case of Laibe Corp., it reached halfway around the world to service the "Aussies." Known as an industry leader for its innovative, state-of-the-art Versa-Drill brand of drilling rigs, Laibe has developed many solutions to its customer's



Bunbury Drilling of Bunbury Western Australia takes delivery of two new V-2095EXP rigs, equipped with 1,250/350 air compressors, 3-by-4 centrifugal mud pumps, 95,000 pounds standard pullback, and mounted on a 6-by-8 carriers with CAT C18 diesel engines.

demands, including the V-2095EXP. This versatile, large-diameter deep-hole water well drilling rig also is capable of reaching shallow oil-and-gas reserves. "As we compete in a global marketplace, and more of the world's far-reaching places are being discovered, a powerful, yet compact and lightweight rig was needed to get the job done," says Jim Hopkins, president and CEO of Laibe Corp. In fact, the Versa-Drill V-2095EXP is just that. It weighs less than 68,000 pounds, is very compact, has a low center of gravity at 12 feet, 9 inches, and yet remains powerful with 95,000 pounds of tophead pullback.

Examples of innovation and attention to customer needs are numerous throughout Laibe's history, and the V-2095EXP is just one example. In 2006, the company introduced the Versa-Drill V-1040DP,



which comes with deck-engine power, a feature some drillers prefer. The upgraded Versa-Drill V-100NG is built on a Peterbilt chassis, another example of the company's focus on continuous improvement. "We look at every rig we build as an opportunity to make an advancement that our customers will appreciate. By continually improving our products, we feel that drillers who demand the best will include our rigs in their decision-making," Hopkins confirms.

What's next? The new Versa-Drill V-1040TRX (now taking orders) adds a track-mounted, lightweight and powerful rig to the Laibe line-up, allowing all-terrain access to drill sites that might otherwise pose a challenge to its operators. "Our people continue to strive to be the best, and it now runs well beyond our management and design team. I'll have members of our production team, at every level, consistently offer new and improved ways to build better products. It's become a company-wide focus to adhere to exacting quality standards, while still delivering industry-leading innovation," adds Hopkins.

Bunbury Drilling Co. certainly has benefited from this commitment to excellence. The addition of the V-2095EXPs to its fleet of rigs helps ensure that it can cover the full scope of not only water well drilling, but also the on-shore oil-and-gas industry. Bunbury Drilling's investments in technology and partnering with companies like Laibe Corp. help keep its quality assurance certification to ISO 9002 for construction, installation and servicing.

Throughout more than 45 years in business, Laibe's focus on innovation, service and an unwavering desire for improvement has earned the respect and appreciation of well drillers throughout North America. With its reputation for quality, we're confident that reputation will quickly spread around the world.

