

# AVANT<sup>®</sup> MAGAZINE

AVANT TECNO CUSTOMER MAGAZINE 2017/2018



New faster  
**Avant 530**

p. 4

New Optidrive™ -drive system p. 8

Full electric Avant e5 on a dairy farm p. 14

# AVANT ORIGINAL PARTS

## LED lights

### LED work light

- On ROPS frame
- Product no 66068

### LED work light

- On front cover
- Can replace the original halogen light
- Product no 66266



### LED work light kit

- 2 front, 1 rear
- Includes all necessary fitting parts
- 700 lumen
- Product no A33916

## Telescopic boom service kit

- Compatibility: R series, 400 series, 500 series starting from 2008, 600 series, 745 and 750 until the year 2011

- Includes all the pivot pins, bearing and slide pieces needed for the service of the boom

- Product no A419462  
A422891

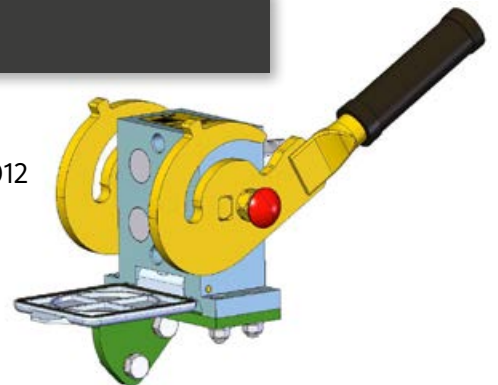
– 700 series from sn xxxxx1113 ->



## Multi connector A34366

New generation hydraulic connector available for old Avant loaders!

- Can be mounted to Avant 300–700 loaders manufactured 1998–2012
- Very easy to operate: all hydraulic connections by one handle
- Three different connector models for attachment side
- Standard on 300–700 -series Avant loaders since 2012



Multi connector attachment side:



65250  
3 connections,  
pressure line, return  
line and tank line



65251  
2 connections,  
pressure line and  
return line



65371  
2 connections,  
pressure line and  
tank line

*For more details, contact your dealer!*

## Editorial

A few of weeks ago we returned to Finland from the Agritechnica exhibition, which was held in Hannover Germany. At the Agritechnica world's leading manufacturers present their latest technologies and innovations, showing a wide range of all kinds of machinery related to agriculture. It is the world's leading agricultural machinery trade fair with over 450 000 visitors. Avant has participated in Agritechnica since the 1990's. This year we did something special, something that no one has done before.

We premiered the full electric Avant e6 with lithium ion battery technology at our stand and are the first in the world to have this technology installed in a loader. But we did not just have a groundbreaking machine at the stand – we also demonstrated it live inside the hall. A loader driving inside an exhibition hall and doing spectacular stunts was a showstopper in the truest sense of the word. Every time we drove the loader we had an audience of at least 200 people watching the demo. We have been to hundreds of exhibitions during Avant's 26 years of existence, but this was the best exhibition stand we have ever had.

Avant e6 revolutionizes the electrical loader market because you can work on a continuous cycle through the entire working day. You work for 4 hours and then charge back to 100% battery in less than an hour. This makes it possible to work continuously, because you can charge the loader during your lunch break and reach the full 8-hour day with only one charge stop. So, if you need to work longer hours during a working day and you need a zero-emission loader, e6 is the right choice for you.

We also premiered another exciting loader, the Avant 530, at Agritechnica. It is a two-speed model from one of our most popular loader models, the Avant 528. It features a simple but rugged 26 hp Kubota engine, plenty of lifting capacity, simple controls, and an affordable price. With a 19 km/h drive speed it becomes an interesting model for many of our customers. Like one of our employees, who owns a 528, said: "We will have to have a serious talk about switching to a 530". Better drive speed makes everything just a little bit faster, better, and sweeter.

So a lot of new products and innovations, which is how we like to keep it at Avant. Wishing you all a happy new year from Avant.

*Jani Käkelä*  
Executive Vice President  
Sales & Marketing  
Avant Tecno Oy

### Avant Tecno Customer Magazine 2017/2018

**Editor-in-chief:** Ella Lahtinen / Avant Tecno Oy

**Publisher:** Avant Tecno Oy

**Layout:** Tulus Oy

**Print:** Offset Ulonen Oy, Tampere

**Edition:** 3000

**AVANT**

Ylötie 1, 33470 Ylöjärvi, Finland

P. +358 3 347 8800

E-mail: sales@avanttecno.com



## Content

- 3 Editorial**
- 4 New Avant 530**
- 8 New Optidrive™-drive system**
- 10 New Avant attachments**
- 14 The full electric Avant convinced a farmer**
- 16 A loader that changed my life**
- 17 All for the art!**
- 18 Avant News**
- 20 Avant – an outstanding loader for vineyards**
- 22 Our Avant? We cannot be without him anymore!**
- 23 The main partner for the Finnish Biathlon Team**
- 24 Avant Dealer Meeting 2017**
- 26 The rising star of Avant Group: Leguan Lifts Oy**
- 27 Avant Shop**



# M


## 530 compared to other 500 series loaders

- two-speed transmission
- faster drive speed, 19 km/h
- 10% more pulling force



# ew **AVANT**<sup>®</sup> **530**

***loader brings  
more speed and  
power to the  
500 series***



The Avant 500 series gets a much-desired boost when the range is complemented by the new Avant 530. The new 530 loader has significantly more speed and power than other loaders in the same series. The new 530 loader is equipped with Poclain 2-speed drive motors.



	<b>AVANT 530</b>
Length	2 550 mm
Width	1 130 mm
Height	1 985 mm
Weight	1250 + 170 kg
Standard wheels	23 x 10.50 - 12" grass/TR
Transmission, drive	hydrostatic
Drive speed	9 / 19 km/h
Aux. hydraulics oil flow / pressure	36 l/min 200 bar
Turning radius inside/outside	995 / 2 050 mm
Lifting height	2 790 mm



The Avant 530 is similar to Avant's most popular 528 model but it has two-speed drive motors, making long distance driving much more comfortable and faster. Maximum speed of 19 km/h and 10% more pulling force compared to 528 models, making the novelty very desirable.

This machine is small enough to fit in many kinds of working places and environments. The dimensions of the new 530 loader are the same as other 500 series loaders, and the weight did not change significantly, so the loader is easy and efficient to use and storage. The loader's lightweight and the above-mentioned small dimensions allow easy transportation between different locations.

"The Avant 530 combines many of the features, which customers have hoped for an Avant: more driving speed, simple and functional technology, and competitive and affordable price," says **Jani Käkeli**, Sales Director at Avant Tecno.

"Compared to the 528 model, the technical difference is not big, while the practical benefit is very high, especially if the loader is constantly driven long distances. In practice, driving with the 530 is also more comfortable and economical, because the loader's engine does not always need to be at high speeds to achieve a higher driving speed. "

In its first presentation at the end of October 2017, Avant 530 received an excellent welcome to the markets. Manufacturing of the loader started in late 2017 and order books for the new 530 model are already being well filling up. The reception at the first show was so good that the 530 is expected to be one of the most popular Avant models.



# Optidrive™ -drive system improves the performance of compact loaders

In the new system, the amount of hydraulic hoses and fittings has been radically reduced and optimized, hence making the name Optidrive™ very fitting.

The drive system in Avant loaders consists of a variable displacement hydraulic pump, four hydraulic drive motors and some valves, which are connected together with hydraulic hoses and fittings.

This system where the drive power is conveyed from the engine (electric motor on Avant e series) to the wheels using hydraulic oil is often referred to as drive circuit. Instead of mechanical axles Avant uses a design where there are four separate hydraulic drive motors, one on each wheel of the loader.

Avant was the first manufacturer to design and utilize such a system in a compact loader. This system has proven to be very effective, offering lots of pushing power yet enabling a very compact design to the loader while maintaining an extremely low center of gravity. This is an important part of the great stability of Avant loaders.

Through research & development, Avant has now improved this system with an innovative way of rethinking. When hydraulic oil flows at high flow rate in the drive circuit – in hydraulic hoses, fittings, motors and valves – the resistance in these components heat up the hydraulic oil. The more there are hoses and fittings, the quicker the oil heats up, which means that all unnecessary heat generated in the system uses a part of the engine output in vain. This also results in higher fuel consumption, and less engine power is available for the actual job.





**OLD DRIVE SYSTEM**  
hoses and fittings



**Optidrive™**  
the drive system in Avant loaders  
20% less hoses  
60% less fittings

**OPTIDRIVE™**

hoses and fittings



## The principal benefits of the new Optidrive™ are:

- **10% better performance.** The Optidrive™ reduces the power loss in the system by up to 1,5 kW, which is roughly 10% of the total power used in drive circuit. This means lower fuel consumption, less heat in the hydraulic system and more power for the actual job.
- **Less heat build up.** All of the four hydraulic drive motors in the drive circuit use flushing oil to cool the motors down when the loader is working. Especially when travelling longer distances at high travel speed, the cooling is essential. On Optidrive™ the amount of flushing oil in the drive motors is 5 times bigger compared to old system, providing a far better cooling of the drive circuit.
- **20% less hoses.** Depending on the Avant model, the Optidrive™ eliminates at least three hoses from the system without losing any of the features on the loader. This is achieved through intelligent new design with the valves (drive release valve, parking brake valve, dual speed valve) mounted together on one hydraulic block.
- **60% less hydraulic connections.** The amount of fittings is radically reduced. The Optidrive™ features approx. 30 fittings less (-60%) compared to old drive circuit. There are also far less 90 degrees angle fittings and T-junction fittings that are less optimal for hydraulic flow.
- **Parking brake in rear wheels.** In order to get the best possible grip on all load and terrain situations the parking brake on the Optidrive™ is situated in the rear wheels of the loader. Rear weights, load on the boom, uphill, downhill etc. have therefore a smaller effect on the loader's rear wheels. Thus, the loader stays more securely on place when parking brake is engaged.
- **Less engine vibrations.** The Optidrive™ also has an effect on the weight and balance of the engine, and pump assembly on the loader. The altered weight distribution also leads to developing new engine mounts (vibration dampers) that are optimized to the new load and balance of the assembly. This optimization resulted in reducing the total vibrations of the 700 series loaders. This is especially notable in the noise level inside the cab LX and DLX. The new larger engine mounts reduce vibrations by 50% on Avant 745 and 750, and by 37% on Avant 755i and 760i.
- **Better reliability.** The Optidrive™ has the new Parker EO3 fitting system in all of the high pressure hoses and fittings. This new system has a dial on the fitting, which shows clearly the required torque to which the fitting shall be tightened. Also less fittings and less hoses equal to less possibility of a hydraulic leak.
- **Better servicing.** Less hydraulic connections, the new fitting system and more space to work with in the engine bay and front hydraulic motors area all provide a better servicing experience. The Optidrive™ has a centralized valve system, which collects all drive circuit valving into one valve block, located in the front frame of the machine. Drive release valve, parking brake valve and dual speed valve on 750 and 760i are now all located in the same valve block.

# NEW ATTACHMENTS

## Stump grinder

Avant stump grinder is an efficient and easy to operate tree stump remover. The cutting disc is mounted crosswise in relation to the loader, which means it throws the wood waste to the right side – the waste doesn't fly on the operator or the loader. In addition, the stump grinder is equipped with a protective rubber cover which prevents the wood from flying around.

Grinding happens by moving the grinder forward and backward which means easy control with the drive pedals of the loader – or with the tilt movement of the quick attach plate. The sideways mounting of the cutting disc guarantees excellent visibility to the working area. Cutting teeth have three cutting edges: once a tooth becomes blunt, its fastening bolt is easy to open and turn the tooth so that a sharp cutting edge comes into use.



- Equipped with ø 540 mm cutting disc and 20 pcs replaceable teeth
- Teeth have three cutting edges – once a tooth becomes blunt, it can be turned to get a new sharp cutting edge
- Rubber damper on the quick attach bracket minimizes vibrations to the loader and makes working smoother
- Mounted crosswise in relation to the loader: cutting disc throws the wood waste to the right side: the waste doesn't fly on the loader or the operator
- Excellent visibility to the work area, easy to operate
- Equipped with a rubber cover on the right side – prevents wood waste from flying on the operator

Product no.	Cutting disc diameter	Number of teeth	Width	Height	Length	Weight
A37265	540 mm	20 pcs	840 mm	920 mm	630 mm	168 kg

Model	220	225	225LPG	313S	320S	320S+	420	520	525LPG	528	530	R20	R28	R35	630	635	640	745	750	755i	760i	e5	e6	
Stump grinder																								

## Ice rink scraper blade



The ice rink scraper blade is designated only for maintenance of ice hockey and skating rinks. Thanks to the large 3 000 mm working width and hydraulic turning of the blade, cleaning of the rink is fast and easy. The sharp and curved blade moves away the ice and snow quickly and efficiently.

- Fast and easy ice and snow removal on ice hockey and skating rinks
- Large 3 000 mm working width
- Hydraulic blade turning +/- 30 degrees
- Availability: winter 2018

Product no.	Width	Height	Weight
A37346	3 000 mm	722 mm	145 kg

Model	220	225	225LPG	313S	320S	320S+	420	520	525LPG	528	530	R20	R28	R35	630	635	640	745	750	755i	760i	e5	e6	
Ice rink scraper blade																								

Very compatible
  Compatible
  Incompatible

# Backhoe 260 with remote control

Avant backhoe 260 is now available also with radio remote control (wired remote control will be available later). It allows the operator to stand next to the unit when digging and have a perfect, unrestricted field of vision to the work area. This is very useful for utility jobs, cemeteries and similar places where space is limited and exceptionally precise digging where total visibility is necessary.

The backhoe is equipped with a proportional control valve which guarantees easy and smooth operation and exceedingly accurate movements of the booms and bucket with the joysticks of the remote control unit. If necessary, the movements can also be fine tuned.

Range of the radio remote control unit is about 100 m. It is equipped with a rechargeable battery with approx. 11-hour working cycle. Battery charging time is 4 hours. Battery charger is included – a 12V charger or a 80-230V mains current charger.

Backhoe 260 with remote control is a product of its own – it cannot be retrofitted on a standard backhoe 260.

- Equipped with proportional control valve: stepless, smooth and exact movements with the joysticks of the remote control unit with range of about 100 m
- Remote control battery is rechargeable, working cycle about 11 hours – charging time 4 hours
- Remote control can not be retrofitted on a standard backhoe 260
- Availability: January 2018



Model	220	225	225LPG	313S	320S	320S+	420	520	525LPG	528	530	R20	R28	R35	630	635	640	745	750	755i	760i	e5	e6	
Backhoe 260 + remote control																								

Very compatible
  Compatible
  Incompatible

# NEW ATTACHMENTS

## Multi function drive unit

The new multi function drive unit replaces the earlier auger drive unit A21100. Avant auger drills and screw pile adapter are mounted on it as always, but thanks to the new design, the multi function drive unit can also be fitted with various new attachments: concrete mixing drum, screw cone log splitter, screening drum, cable/hose reel, carousel broom and rotary hoe.

In addition, there is a 90 degree angle adapter available on which the drive unit can be mounted. It turns the drive unit 90° to the left. This means that for instance the carousel broom sweeps on the left side of the loader, and the cable/hose reel is crosswise to the loader and winds the cable longitudinally (in parallel to the loader).



- Replaces the earlier direct drive auger drive unit A21100
- Torque 1355 Nm (same as A21100)
- Auger drills and screw pile adapter are mounted on the drive unit like before, in addition the following attachments can be fitted.

Product no.	Width	Height	Length	Weight
A37190	550 mm	560 mm	405 mm	85 kg

Model	220	225	225LPG	313S	320S	320S+	420	520	525LPG	528	530	R20	R28	R35	630	635	640	745	750	755i	760i	e5	e6	
Multi function drive unit																								

Very compatible
  Compatible
  Incompatible

### A37395 Concrete mixing drum

- Volume 140 l water  
90 l ready concrete
- Length 760 mm
- Width 600 mm
- Weight 50 kg



- Reel diameter 190 mm
- End plate diameter 500 mm
- Weight 25 kg
- Can also be mounted on the A37323 Angle adapter 90°



### A37500 Screw cone log splitter

- Log splitter with a conical splitting screw
- Splitting screw equipped with a replaceable tip
- Also equipped with a log holder bar which prevents the log from rotating during splitting
- Weight 30 kg



### A37317 Carousel broom

- Same Ø 1000 m broom as on A2971 Carousel broom
- Replaceable brush A32698
- Weight 67 kg
- Can also be mounted on the A37323 Angle adapter 90°: sweeps on the left side of the loader



### A37207 Screening drum

- Intended for screening of soil, gravel and sand
- Volume: 90 l
- Screening sieve with 50x50 mm holes – included also a separate 22x22 mm sieve, which is bolted on the drum when finer screening is required
- Length 605 mm
- Width 500 mm
- Height 461 mm
- Weight 75 kg



### A37491 Rotary hoe

- For small scale soil cultivating
- Equipped with two knife type blades
- Cultivating depth max. 160 mm
- Length 531 mm
- Width 156 mm
- Height 283 mm
- Weight 15 kg



### A37311 Cable/hose reel

- Inside width 400 mm
- Total width 558 mm



### A37323 Angle adapter 90°

- Turns the multi function drive unit to point to the left
- Length 630 mm
- Width 651 mm
- Height 300 mm
- Weight 41 kg



# Hydraulic side shift adapter



The hydraulic side shift adapter offers easy, stepless side shift of attachment, operated from the driver's seat. The solid and robust design features strong sliding guides which can also be lubricated. The quick attach plate on the adapter can be mounted in three different positions: on the left, on the right or in the middle of the adapter. This gives three different side shift options: 500 mm side shift to the right or to the left, or 250 mm side shift in both directions.

If a hydraulic attachment – 4 in 1 bucket, flail mower, cold planer etc. – is mounted on the side shift adapter, the loader must be equipped with the optional second auxiliary hydraulics outlet in the front, so that the attachment hoses are mounted on the multi connector and the side shift adapter hoses on the optional second outlet.

- Max. load 1000 kg
- Easy, stepless hydraulic side shift of the attachment, operated from the driver's seat
- Side shift max. 500 mm to the right or the left, or 250 mm in both directions, depending on the mounting of the adapter's attachment plate

Product no.	Width	Height	Length	Weight
A37235	1 270 mm	434 mm	218 mm	115 kg

Model	220	225	225LPG	313S	320S	320S+	420	520	525LPG	528	530	R20	R28	R35	630	635	640	745	750	755i	760i	e5	e6	
Hydraulic side shift adapter																								

# Slurry mixer

Slurry mixer is a special attachment for cattle farms: in cattle buildings with slatted floors, where the animal waste falls through the slats directly to the storage tank below the floor. The slurry that forms in the tank needs to be mixed from time to time so that it stays liquid and moves towards the bigger slurry container which is usually located outside the building.

The unit is equipped with a propeller which mixes the slurry, powered by a hydraulic motor. The mixer is 25 mm thick and 490 mm wide, meant to fit through the floor slat into the storage tank. Working depth is max. 1,5 m. There is also a bolt at the upper end of the mixing shaft, which shows when the mixer can be lifted up through the slat: when the bolt is crosswise in relation to the loader. The mixer is also equipped with a coupling for water hose at the upper end of the frame tube. Water is conducted inside the tube down to the mixing propeller.



- Special attachment for mixing of slurry in cattle buildings with slatted floors
- Equipped with a propeller, powered by a hydraulic motor, which mixes the slurry
- 25 mm thick x 490 mm wide, working depth max. 1,5 m – meant to fit through the floor slat into the storage tank below
- Coupling for water hose on the frame tube

Product no.	Mixing frame thickness x width	Working depth max.	Total width	Length	Height	Weight
A37389	25 x 490 mm	1 500 mm	550 mm	920 mm	2 155 mm	75 kg

Model	220	225	225LPG	313S	320S	320S+	420	520	525LPG	528	530	R20	R28	R35	630	635	640	745	750	755i	760i	e5	e6	
Slurry mixer																								

Very compatible
  Compatible
  Incompatible

# The full electric Avant convinced a farmer



The first full electric Avant e5 in Finland was sold to a dairy farm. It has already redeemed its place in daily tasks and got a lot of praise from the farm owners.

“The best qualities that our new Avant e5 has are zero emissions and low noise level. Me, my wife and our dairy cows are not exposed to the exhaust emissions and the health risks anymore. This was an investment for both our own health and animal well-being”, tells the farmer **Tero Lahti**.

The new Avant e series has two models: Avant e5 and Avant e6, which both are full electric, battery-powered loaders. With battery-powered loader, it is possible to work with full power without emissions, so they are perfect for working inside. The new models are developed to meet the needs of farms, horse stables, demolition and construction contractors, and they are in line with tightened emission standards.

“Avant e5 is compact in size and agile to move, it also has a great outreach. Now we are able to take care of bedding with the loader and can forget the wheelbarrows”, rejoices the farmer’s wife **Outi Lahti**.

In addition to agility, the new models also have all the familiar Avant features: ease of use and versatility. Quick coupling system for attachments, multi connector for hydraulic hoses and wide range of attachments make e series a great loader option for all kinds of farms and industry.



**Tero Lahti (left) is satisfied with his purchase. Jorma Venäläinen, who works for the Avant distributor Hankkija, says that the battery powered e5 has been on the market since last spring.**

## Easy to charge, lots of power

From the technical side the e5 is equipped with a 240 Ah lead acid battery. It is equipped with two electric motors: a 6 kW motor for driving the machine and a 2 kW motor for loader boom operation and auxiliary hydraulics. Avant e5 has 30 l/min auxiliary hydraulics flow, which allows working with various Avant attachments, including hydraulic hammer and various grapples.

“An onboard charging unit is included in the machine, which enables charging from any 230V/16A power outlet and makes charging of the loader extremely easy. It is also possible to work while charging if needed”, explains the salesman **Jorma Venäläinen**.

Charging time of the battery pack to 100% battery capacity

**The 60 cm telescopic boom brings more reach and lifting height.**

**The new model retains Avant’s ease of use. With the higher gear the speed is 10km/h. You can monitor the remaining use time from a display.**



is approximately 5 hours, but already in three hours it is possible to reach up to 80% battery capacity. Operation time of the Avant e5 varies highly depending on the type of work it is performing, and typically it is between 1–4 hours.

“Light duty tasks like feeding and bedding do not use so much battery power. We always charge our loader between tasks and every time when it is possible”, tells Lahti.

Lahti has kept his Avant in the warm barn when not using it. It is recommendable to keep the loader stored in warm spaces for battery life. The battery life has been promised to cover at least 1,500 full charge cycles.

“In practice, this means about four or five years, but in light use, life expectancy can be easily over ten years”, estimates Lahti.

“Electric motor always has full torque, so at first the loader feels more rapid with its back- and forward movements. In the beginning, we had to be careful with our gas foot”, says Lahti.

### Familiar quality and design from Finland

The Avant e5 collects praise from its new owners also for low operating and maintenance costs, as the electric motors have fewer parts, many of which are more wear-resistant parts. Great savings also come from fuel costs. In addition to financial reasons, the purchasing decision was strongly supported by the values of the farmers.



**Avant e5 is easy to recharge anywhere using a regular power socket. Charging the batteries at room temperature is the best option for the durability of the batteries.**

**A fully electric loader gets all its power from batteries. This makes it completely emission-free and suitable for indoor work, in spaces with poor or no ventilation.**

“The fact that Avant is made here in Finland and it is environmental friendly are important for us. Our long-term dream is to start using solar energy at the farm. Having an electric Avant is one step closer towards our greener dreams”, tells Lahti.

Before the new Avant e5, Lahti family had Avant 520 at the farm. It has worked flawlessly and still helps around with everyday tasks. At Lahti farm experiences from Avant have been exceptionally positive.

“I am particularly fond of the rigid articulation joint that all Avant models have. It makes the loader very stable. But I’ve heard that in this matter, everyone has their own opinions”, laughs Lahti.

### The other e series model Avant e6 is equipped with lithium battery

The Avant e5 that Tero Lahti has, is the first one in Finland that has been delivered to a customer. This novelty is already in production and customer deliveries has started. The production of Avant e6 will start approximately in Autumn 2017.

Avant e6 is same sized as Avant e5, but with more efficient batteries. The model is equipped with a 288 Ah lithium battery. Due to this, Avant e6 performs more efficient, charging is faster and it is more flexible to use. With rapid charger, it is possible to reach 100% battery charge in one hour. Like Avant e5, Avant e6 also is equipped with two electric motors: a 6 kW motor for driving the machine and a 2 kW motor for loader boom operation and auxiliary hydraulics.

“I would also give a plus from the fact that we are able to change our normal batteries to lithium ones in the future if we want – transform Avant e5 into Avant e6 easily. This loader is an excellent choice all in all”, concludes Lahti.

*Text and photos: Katri Ala-Kleemola*



# A loader that changed my life



**“For the first time in years I felt I was independent” – Jamie Williams**

**J**amie Williams, who represented Team GBR for the first time in Carriage Driving last year, broke his back 10 years ago, which resulted in him being left paralysed from the waist down. Not letting this get in his way, Jamie’s hard work, determination and real passion, has seen him take the Carriage Driving world by storm.

Based in Hastings, Jamie loves everything about Carriage Driving and it has enabled him to travel around the world to participate in the sport.

Last year Jamie and his 14.2hh Hackney, Glen achieved fourth place individually and team bronze at the FEI World Para Driving Championships, held in the Netherlands.

“It was an incredible honour to represent my country, I was over the moon at being placed at my first ever world championships”, says Jamie.

At home, although Jamie has learnt to manage his team of six horses on a daily basis, everyday tasks often required someone else to help – but recently his life has changed – and for the better with the addition of the Hand Drive Avant 528 compact loader to assist around the yard.

The Avant compact loader can be controlled and driven forward and reversed directly using the thumb on the joystick. The driver can manoeuvre and control the movements of the boom at the same time. This makes it possible also for paraplegic people to make full use of the machine.

Jamie tells: “Having the new Hand Drive Avant 528 compact loader on the yard has changed my life. Now I can do 90% of the yard tasks myself, the Avant has given me my independence back.”

“Before I was unable to push a wheel barrow or move shavings but now I can, at the push of a button”, Jamie rejoices.

“The Avant enables me to do normal jobs quickly and effectively, like cleaning out the stables and adding fresh, new bedding. The Avant is just the right size, it fits into every stable and around the

yard perfectly.”

The development of the new Avant series, gives people the freedom to reach their true potential, an innovation that further enables living independently.

Besides being very versatile, the new machines are powerful, easy to drive and provides great 360° visibility. These compact machines are enhanced further by the availability of 200 attachments, making numerous outdoor jobs straightforward.

Jani Käkälä, Sales Director of Avant Tecno: “We got the idea for the hand drive control from our customers some years ago. We wanted to design a loader that would be easy for those people who don’t have functionality in their legs or had weakened ability.

Through launching this hand drive option

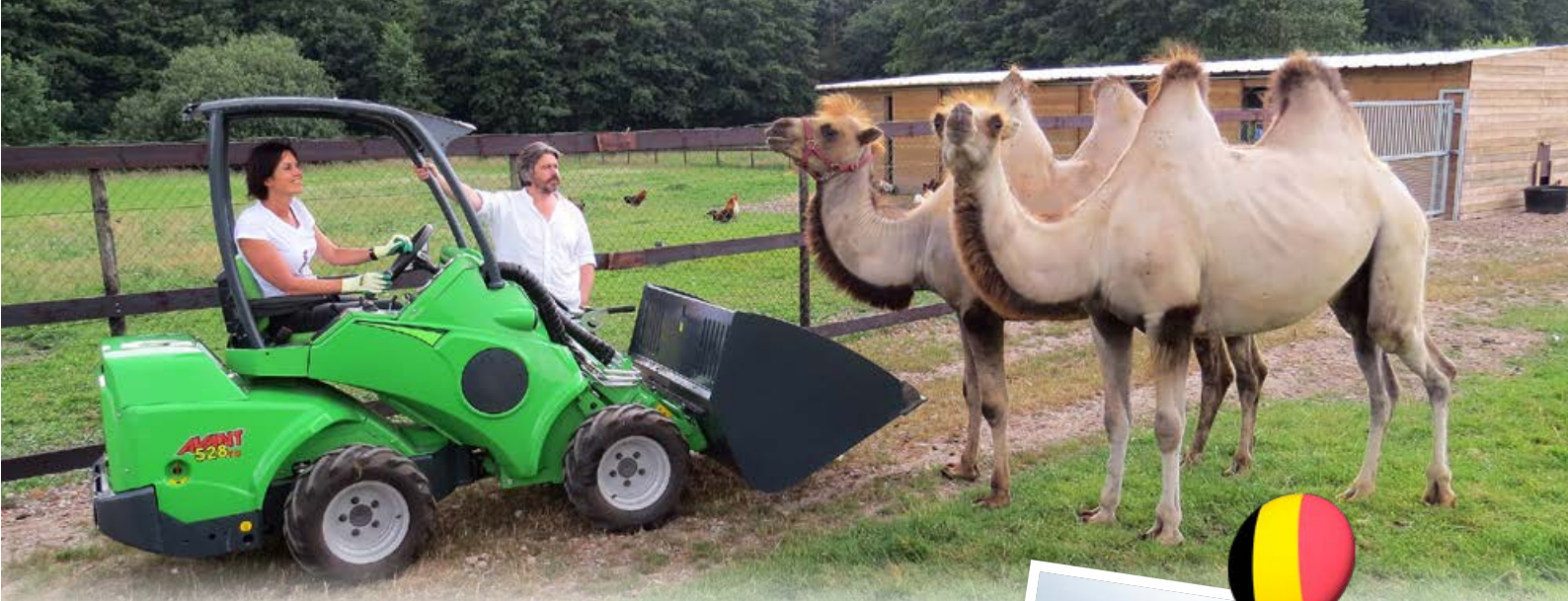
for loaders, we hope to help improve people’s independence and create freedom.

The new hand drive control was launched in Naidex, UK in 2017. We have got a great response from the markets and we are extremely pleased.”



Hand drive control is available as an option to Avant 200, 400, 500, 600 and 700 series.





# All for the art!

Some time ago, an AVANT 528 was delivered to the Cosmopolitan Farm in Meeuwen-Gruitrode, Belgium. The Cosmopolitan Farm is home to the contemporary Belgian conceptual artist **Koen Vanmechelen** and the beating heart of his world-famous Cosmopolitan Chicken Project.



**K**oen started his career as an artist in the early nineties and has now become one of the most prominent contemporary artists in Belgium. His best-known project is The Cosmopolitan Chicken Project, a worldwide artistic project that focuses on the crossing of iconic national chicken breeds into cosmopolitan chickens. The Cosmopolitan Chicken – which carries the genes of all races in the world – symbolizes the future. The project already provided him with international recognition in the art world and beyond.

On the farm, Koen and his wife **Inge** have lots of birds, llamas, alpacas, camels, dromedaries and more than a thousand chickens, including all different generations of realized crossings from the past 21 years. Koen's wife Inge is responsible for the daily operations and the use of their new Avant 528.

"As our farm is growing, we needed some help with all the daily tasks. It became impossible for me and my employees to keep it all up just by hand work", says Inge. "The work here is physically demanding and takes a lot of time, so we decided to buy a machine to ease our workload and help around on the farm", she continues. "After a thorough study and comparison of everything the market has to offer, Koen and I concluded that Avant is the most suitable machine to meet the problems we face at the farm."

Avant is an excellent machine due to its multifunctional character and various attachments. "With Avant, we are able to do almost all the tasks, which we earlier struggled with. We can also do all the jobs that are physically too demanding and exhausting. Avant also gives us much more flexibility", praises Koen.

"Our Avant is currently being used mainly for cleaning our stables (once a month), feeding the animals and maintaining our meadows. However, we have already noticed that Avant is a real multifunctional loader and we can use it for many more things than

we had planned initially. For example, our Avant proved its utility a few weeks ago, when removing our old fences and replacing them with new ones" explains Inge. At the moment they have a bucket, flail mower, pallet fork and manure fork in everyday use. "We are prepared to get more attachments for our Avant once there comes a need. We are sure that when we get to know the loader and its capabilities even more, our warehouse will be full with Avant attachments," laughs Koen.

At Cosmopolitan Farm, the new machine is operated by several employees. For this reason, the safety aspect and driving features are important factors. "It is a pleasant feeling to know that our new Avant is one of the safest machines in the market. A huge plus also is that it is very easy to drive and get familiar with", says Inge.

Apart from all of the above plus points, the beautiful design of the machine was also a reason to choose Avant, according to Koen.

With the project LABIOMISTA a part of the activities will soon move to a new location. "We are building a new area together with the city council of Genk. This area will be located on the property of the former zoo of Zwartberg. On this old mining site our new studio combines art, biocultural diversity and heritage in a unique way. The new studio will be the headquarters for the staff, the studio and the foundations of the artist. Some of the animals currently on the Cosmopolitan Chicken Farm will also move to the new location", reveals Koen.

Vanmechelen's artworks investigate and honor the diversity of life: "Every organism needs another organism to survive." Biological and cultural diversity and the subsequent interaction between art and science are the main theme of his work. His work varies from highly expressive paintings and drawings to photography, video, installations, glassware and even to wooden sculptures.



# Avant 25 years in Denmark

The Avant Importer of Denmark, Sorring Maskinhandel AS, celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Avant Tecno Oy last summer: open door day for the public in August, and evening party with partners, friends and staff at Avant Center in Låsby on the 2 of September.

Denmark is one of the first Avant export countries. The successful pioneer work of Sorring Maskinhandel has set a great example for many other countries, on how to sell green multifunction loaders and how to be able to achieve a significant market position. With a successful and close co-operation, we have been able to continuously improve our products.

Thanks to the first 25 years, **Risto Käkelä** handed over to **Jørgen Jensen**, owner of Sorring Maskinhandel AS, a memento of Avant Tecno Oy.



# Opening of new premises in Austria

Strobl Austria GmbH, the Avant importer in Austria, opened its new premises on 21–22 October 2017 in Waidhofen an der Thaya. During the two-day opening ceremonies, more than 1500 guests visited the new premises. Guests were given guided tours where they visited the new, fabulous showroom, as well as the sales and leasing facilities, offices and warehouses. They also visited the testing and work

demonstration area, which was officially opened during the event.

Moreover, the guests were able to watch different work demos and test drive most of Avant's loader models. Strobl has done a great job, advancing Avant to the second place in the Austrian market between German brands, which operating virtually like their home market. This is a great achievement from both Avant and Strobl!



# Avant 25 years in Germany

**A**vant Tecno Deutschland GmbH, the German sales company of Avant, was founded in 1992. On 29 September, they celebrated its 25th anniversary at the company's own premises in Eppertshausen, near Frankfurt am Main.

In addition to the employees, the event was attended by about one hundred guests, who represented clients, dealers and partners. There were also staff from the Avant factory in Finland.

**Thomas Sterkel**, Managing Director of Avant Tecno Deutschland GmbH, praised their new premises opened two years ago in his opening speech. The new facilities have made it possible to focus on sales and also helped Germany rise to Avant's second largest export country during the current financial year.

**Risto Käkälä**, Avant Tecno's founder and CEO, and **Jani Käkälä**, Executive Vice President at Avant, talked about the company's history, growth and the significance of the German market to the Group, and also shared their vision of the company's future.

The event continued to the next day with Avant Expo open doors. A large number of Avant and Leguan Lifts products were on display. Guests could either follow the demonstrations, or if they wish, could also try out the machines.

Avant Tecno Oy is thankful to every member of the German subsidiary, for their hard work and contribution to the company's success, and wish them more success to come. Happy 25-year anniversary!





# Avant – an outstanding loader for vineyards

In Buellton, CA USA, you can find a calm and cozy private vineyard called the Lavender Oaks. This vineyard is managed by **Michael Benedict**, one of the pioneers of wine industry in Santa Barbara region in California.

**H**e established the first vineyard on Santa Rosa Road in 1971 with his friend **Richard Sanford**. It became the first world class vineyard in cool climate winegrowing region. Sanford & Benedict is one of California’s most historically significant and renowned vineyards, because it proved two things: Santa Barbara County is a perfect place for growing Pinot Noir, and the portion of the Santa Ynez Valley where it is located, is a fabulous cool climate location for vines in general. Nowadays neither of these two pioneers are in commercial wine making business, but the vinery and wines still carry their names.

For Michael making wine is a way of life, he is nowadays mentoring other vineyards in the area. Before he became a vintner, he was an academic, a botanist with UC Santa Barbara. He started to make research about growing wine and decided that he can either write a book about how to make wine right or do it himself.

### Right equipment for each job

Michael started to make wines in Lavender Oaks 2012 when

he planted his first vines there. Last year he got the first harvest from this ranch. Making wine is a delicate job.

The plants are fragile for any changes in the climate, to frost and dust and it takes years before a newborn vineyard starts to make harvest. At Lavender Oaks ranch, all the grapes are handpicked, early in the morning.

Michael has Avant 528 on the ranch as a helper for all the daily tasks around the year. “I end up buying an Avant by an accident two years ago. I drove past the local dealer’s place and this Avant was standing outside, so I could see it. I made a U-turn and went to buy this loader”, tells Michael with a smile on his face. Michael had been looking for a small and agile loader with 4WD and large range of attachments for a long time. “This loader is like



my Dream-come-true!”, laughs Michael. Avant is used in all the logistical tasks, such as bringing grapes to warehouse from the fields.

“This is a spectacular loader, just perfect for working in a vineyard. It has all the good features that I require for a loader. It is versatile and agile, and performs well with all needed tasks,” praises Michael.

The vines grow in tidy rows with quite narrow aisles, a loader must be able to fit to the fields without making any harm to the plants. As the work requires an agile machine, it also requires lots of lifting power so that grapes can be carried to production in larger amounts.

“When all the wine makers here in USA understand what this small loader is capable of, you will be in trouble at the factory”, laughs Michael. The best part is that with this power horse you can take care of the lawn, do all the logistical work and use it year around as a help in all maintenance tasks.



The 528 is one of a range of compact tool carriers available from Finnish manufacturer Avant Tecno. This model is powered by a reliable and economical Kubota diesel engine developing 19 kW (26 hp) and features an articulated chassis and 4-wheel, hydrostatic drive which provides outstanding manoeuvrability and traction at all times. There are over 100 compatible attachments for the Avant 528 loader.





## Our Avant?

# We cannot be without him anymore!

Everyone who visited the historic city center of Bruges has probably noticed them: the stately horse-drawn carriages, which take tourists on a trip along all the important ancient buildings and squares of the city. The equally impressive horses that pull the carriages are constantly in the center of interest of tourists and watchers who want to go for a ride or just take a picture with them.

Of course, there is also a life behind the scenes for these popular and busy workhorses. And that's about five miles outside the crowds of the city center, in Koolkerke to be more precise.

The 28 horses with which the Wentein family has been traveling through the city center for more than thirty years, have recently got a new home. **Mark** and his son **Mathias Wentein** are the arch images of the business. Mark has been doing it for

around 32 years and his son Mathias has also been in the field for some time now.

Nowadays, they cross the city permanently with 4 coaches during the summer months. Because every horse needs 48 hours of rest after one full day of work, a total of 28 horses are required to guarantee the proper functioning of the organization. "Because the well-being of our horses, as a working capital of the company, is central to everything we do, it was extremely important that the necessary attention to this was paid during the construction of our new stables."

And the result is amazing! A beautiful stable complex with 28 spacious boxes, multifunctional horse-bathroom with solarium, rehabilitation room, car parking and relaxation room with changing rooms for the employees. "Especially when designing the boxes, we have taken maximum consideration of the comfort of our horses. We opt for spacious boxes with a lot of light, in- and outside doors, ideal for hot summer days and giving the horses a chance to enjoy the beautiful view over the surrounding meadows."

"In addition, regarding to the practical and smooth daily operation, a lot of attention was also paid to certain specific issues. For example, the top of the boxes are not completely closed and the raised ceiling serves as a storage space for straw and hay bales. Thus, we can quickly and easily take fresh straw and divide it for the horses. Furthermore, the doors can be fully opened so we can drive into the boxes with our machine to get the manure out."

And the machine? That's an Avant 745 equipped with a range of attachments such as a bucket, silage fork, bale grab, collecting broom and pallet fork. "I got acquainted with the Avant at the exhibition stand of the Belgian importer at Jumping Mechelen. Also, I knew a number of people who had already an Avant and who are very satisfied with their machine. They convinced me to buy an Avant too. And we must honestly admit: both myself and Kristof, our employee at the stable, have not regretted our decision for a minute now. Our Avant 745 is a very strong machine with high reach. At the same time, it is a very compact and maneuverable machine, which makes it excellent for a lot of work in our horse farm."



Foto @archief Hippo Reuve



# Avant Tecno Oy becomes the main partner for the Finnish Biathlon Team

**A**vant Tecno Oy and the Finnish Biathlon Association have signed a two-year cooperation agreement that makes Avant one of the main partners of the Finnish Biathlon Team.

The agreement goes into effect immediately and will cover seasons 2017/2018 and 2018/2019. The main competitions during the cooperation are the Winter Olympics in South Korea in February 2018 and the World Cup 2019 in Östersund, Sweden.

In recent years, biathlon has become one of the most popular winter sports, and it continues to increase in popularity. The preparations for the Olympic season, which began in November, have gone well for the Finnish team. We can expect to see success from *Kaisa Mäkäräinen* and *Mari Laukkanen* on the international arena. The other biathletes can also be expected to rise in the international ranking. The success of young athletes in their own championship games has also raised expectations about the future of the sport.

*Kalle Lähdesmäki*, Chairman of

the Finnish Biathlon Association, is very happy with the cooperation agreement. "Avant and Finnish biathlon have a lot in common. They are both built on a foundation of entrepreneurship, professionalism, high quality standards, and a strong international competitive edge. We believe that this cooperation will further strengthen Avant's success both domestically and internationally."





# Avant Dealer Meeting 2017

People at Avant spent the last weekend of October participating in an event with a great international atmosphere. Importers from 40 countries in total, gathered for the annual Dealer Meeting event at the factory in Ylöjärvi. The snow just before the event brought a nice surprise to everyone to start a two-day training and celebration.

**A**s part of the two-day gathering, a seminar-type training event was held at the Avant factory. On the first day, we went through reports on the past year and upcoming new products, while also offering new ideas for selling products. We were extremely proud to be able to introduce a total of four new loader models and 23 new attachments this year.

An essential part of Friday's training was a factory tour, where we presented our big investments in our production in Finland. During the tour, we shared our investment plans for expansion, and proudly introduced our new finishing line and a new dispatching hall.

The second day was dedicated to machine testing. Product novelties were presented in a practical working environment. A chance for a hands-on opportunity to test and try-on with the new machines and attachments, introduced on the day before, greatly satisfied the importers' curiosity and enthusiasm. Unexpected rain kept us inside for the rest of the day, gave us a good opportunity to catch up with each other, and the innovations of our new products was among the hot discussion topics.





A festival gala was held during the evening. Outstanding importers and individual salespeople were awarded with great appreciation from Avant. This year, the biggest sales prize went to the US. The greatest growth in terms of total sales was reached by Ukraine. In addition, we rewarded a single salesman from his great performance of selling more than 2000 loaders in Belgium.



# The rising star of Avant Group

## Leguan Lifts Oy

The product range of Leguan Lifts, a company owned by Avant Tecno, consists of self-propelled access platforms with a working height of less than 20 meters.

Like Avant Tecno, Leguan Lifts was also founded in the early 90's. Their first product was a very simple six-meter battery powered lift. The cost-effective lift was so light that it was easy to tow it by hand everywhere, no matter where it was needed. The product sold well even during a heavy recession, keeping the company afloat.

The idea of a small, self-propelled lift based on an Avant was born during the early years of the company, and in 1994 Leguan Lifts introduced the first self-propelled platform. The idea was based on Avant's skid steer loader, with a nine-meter boom built on top of it. This innovative access platform concept – first of its kind – opened the market for compact self-propelled machines. The development of the model was continued over the years by adding a telescope to the boom. The first platform with a telescopic boom was called Leguan 110.

The next big leap for the access platform was offering an optional 220 V electric motor in addition to the Honda petrol motor. It made it possible to drive the platform to the work site with the traditional motor and then continue working with the electric one. When used with the electric motor, the platform is silent and emission-free. The combination turned out to be so good that now almost all customers select this option.

Since then the platform has been further developed by increasing its lifting height to 12.5 meters. With this height and these

models, the business has continued to thrive. Even though Leguan's volume was small, it could utilize its big brother Avant's resources in component acquisition, subcontracting, financial management, and software (including CAD systems) to remain competitive on the market.

A few years ago, Leguan Lifts decided to increase their R & D investment significantly, and the new models Leguan 165 and 190 were born. New access platforms have received very good reception among customers and users. The robust and clear structure, and the ease-of-use of the machines have been all favorites: for example, getting the machine to its working position is now done by pressing a button. The Leguans also have an automatic setup which speeds up the use of the access platform.

The Leguans are equipped with standard-sized wheels and are always 4WD. If you want to improve the maneuverability of the machine, for example on snow, soft platforms, or on gravel base, you can add an optional crawler track chassis to the machine.

During the last financial year Leguan Lifts Ltd's turnover has grown by nearly 60% and it seems that the growth will continue to be strong in the future as well. The goal is to reach a turnover of €10 million euros within a few years.

Leguan access platforms are sold all over the world – they are tested and used in the hottest Australia and Africa and the coldest Lapland.

More information  
[www.leguanlifts.com](http://www.leguanlifts.com)



# Avant Shop

## Avant Junior DVD 2



- New Avant Junior DVD 2
- 80 minutes
- Product no 65390



## Avant Memo

- 36 pair & rules
- Classic game for the whole family
- Manufacturer Tactic, made in Finland
- Product no 66374

## Weather covers



- Weather cover for 200 series
- Weather cover for 419-760i
- Transport cover for 200 series
- Transport cover for 419-640
- Transport cover for 700 series

Product no  
65435  
65436  
65477  
65478  
65479

## Avant scale model

- With bucket and pallet forks
- Telescopic boom
- Scale 1:25
- High quality zink diecast
- Made in Germany
- Product no 66027



For more details, contact your dealer!

# AVANT<sup>®</sup>

**e** SERIES



INTRODUCING e series  
**FULL ELECTRIC AVANT**  
Suitable for indoor use



**e5**

ZERO EMISSION



**e6**

ZERO EMISSION



[www.avanttecho.com](http://www.avanttecho.com)