△ Schäffer launches a new edition of its 8620 T telescopic wheel loader. Superficially, the updates manifest in the new styling and cab design.

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TEST

More operator comfort for the next generation

A new cab, a new operating system and customisable setting options are the promises of the new third generation telescopic wheel loader 8620 T from Schäffer. We climb into one of the first machines that rolled out of the factory.

T-3 stands for the third generation of this telescopic loader model. Schäffer says that one of the reasons for starting a new chapter in the 8620 model history is the directive DIN EN 474-3 on earth-moving machinery as enforced in February 2025, which among other details stipulates an automatic cut-off system in the event of overloading. While the technical data, the dimensions and capacities remain largely unchanged over the predecessor, the 7t telescopic loader boasts a new cab and new remote services, which are the focus of this article.

TECHNICAL UPGRADES

The hydraulic pump was upgraded from a 63ccm³ unit to a 75ccm³ load-sensing pump that supplies an oil flow of 172l/min (from previously 145l/min). Unlike its predecessor, the 8620 has all its remote spools controlled electronically, which increases the number of comfort control and sequence control options.

The new cab is FOPS class 2 certified and has a wider door opening than the T-2 cab. It is also 100mm wider and 20% bigger overall. The roof hatch extends further to the rear, enhancing visi-

bility of the implement on the raised and extended boom, which is excellent. A minor drawback that takes some getting used to in this context is the slim cross tube in the operator's upper field of vision.

The new cab has no offside door but a fold-up side window. With the door gone, there is room for accommodating the heating and the air-con equipment, which is installed in the front and all of the machine's electronics are positioned behind – a solution that doesn't affect the legroom at all.

NOW WITH TERMINAL

Those who are familiar with the previous generation of Schäffer telescopic wheel loaders will instantly notice a few details in the new cab:
• The hand brake has eventually moved to the left front instead of hiding underneath the right armrest
• The steering column offers two pedal-operated setting options for tilt and height.
• Switches and blister buttons, once cluttered around the cab, are now neatly grouped on the right-hand side
• The door opener is now in easy reach from the seat and several handles have been fitted up the steps.

In addition to these detail improvements, there is a new joystick which houses all basic functions and two thumb-operated sliders that offer proportional control for the telescoping boom and the third service (you can swap the slider functions from the terminal). Furthermore, there are three customisable function keys (e.g. for the hydraulic coupler at the rear) as well as one button for float position. A button for the shedding function and one for enabling comfort control are also included and discussed later on.

The 10-inch terminal has a Schäffer-developed user interface that is well designed and has clear icons. All functions are operated exclusively from the touchscreen. In the Home view, operators find a graphic representation of the telescopic loader with several icons positioned to indicate the corresponding functions. These functions can also be executed from symbols arranged in a vertical column on the right side of the screen. Additionally, the Home view shows various machine parameters, including various filling levels, the current forward speed, engine speed, cooling water temperature and the current load.

MULTIPLE OPTIONS

Selecting 'Settings' opens a menu with six sub-menus, some of which offering further setting levels. Among the most intriguing menus are 'Attachment' and 'Remote Services'. In the 'Remote Services' view you can alter the settings of the remote spools and edit the user profile. The system offers three setting options for the loading rates and how responsive the loading system is to joystick movements. This is particularly useful when stacking palettes, for example, because this requires great pre-

KEEPING IT BRIEF

The T-3 introduces a new cab and new operating system to the Schäffer 8620 telescopic wheel loader.

Unlike the predecessor, the new model has an electronically controlled third service, which among other things allows operators to program 'sequence control' into various operating functions.

The new terminal offers many setting options and also visualises camera images. A rear-view camera with people detection is an option.

cision and control. By selecting the slowest response time and operating speed, operators are able to control the boom with greatest precision. Sadly, these useful functions cannot be saved (as yet) to a user profile or to a specific attachment profile for later retrieval.

A NEW ASSISTANT

Another new feature is the attachment assistant which is designed to increase operator comfort during repetitive work cycles. For example, it allows operators to program various scenarios, such as filling a trailer.

Also, they can preset one end position for each lift, lower, crowd and tilt function and retrieve the position by clicking the Kick-Out button, which activates the comfort functions and moves the joystick to the preset position. A particularly neat feature is the automatic control of the boom during lift/lower as well as of the third circuit (e.g. the grab bucket) and the shedding function during crowd/tilt.

Setting up the assistant was straightforward. The feature reduces the need for manual joystick movements, a significant relief for operators during long shifts.

However, the settings cannot be stored to individual user profiles or scenarios. They are stored to the memory and are retrieved automatically unless you change them.

BETTER SAFETY

Another comfort feature is the new and optional rear-view camera with active pedestrian detection (€2,400), which means that the software draws a clear, red circle around the people shown on

the screen. Our prototype unit didn't have the acoustic alarm yet but this will be available in the future. The camera image can be viewed on the terminal, no extra terminal required.

As for the price, comparing the new loader with the Gen-2 model, it is clear that an extended list of functions and higher-spec standard features reflect in a higher price. Consequently, the price difference between an entry-level T-2 and a T-3 is about €7,400. The list price for our test machine in almost full spec is €148,600 (all pricing excl. VAT).

Your contact at the editorial team: andreas.huesmann@topagrar.com

▽ The 10-inch touchscreen forms part of the new operating system.

△ A rear-view camera with people detection is an option.