

Caterpillar announces Next Generation M323, specifically designed for railroad applications

- Cab revisions improve operator comfort, safety and visibility.
- Easier access to service and maintenance points.

IRVING, Texas, March 7, 2025—Caterpillar has upgraded its M323F road-to-rail excavator, announcing a fresh model built on the company's next generation platform.

This next generation machine helps boost efficiency, productivity and operator comfort. The redesign has also extensively incorporated feedback from users in the field.

"The M323F's ability to switch effortlessly from rail to road has made it a well-recognized machine amongst operators across Europe," says Jerome Perard, market professional in Europe.

"By introducing the Next Generation M323, not only do we open up a further sector to the benefits of the next generation platform, but we've also increased the appeal of this machine by offering a platform configuration that's adaptable to a broader customer base."

Perard says the M323 is a comprehensive reworking of the M323F, focusing on operator comfort, ease of service, performance and safety. "About the only thing we haven't changed is the engine, which remains the trusted and proven Cat® C4.4, offering up to 129.4 kW fed to all-wheel drive and is EU Stage V compliant."

Two transmission types—hydrostatic (9A) and friction (9C)—are available on the M323 and can be used with either the Long Tail or Short Tail configurations. A hybrid solution combining the hydrostatic and friction options is also available to provide maximum value and meet country regulations.

Improved operator comfort is one of the most significant aspects of this next generation upgrade, with the M323 now sporting a single shell cab for both operator and passenger. The new cab offers greater visibility to the front, while Caterpillar's decision to lower the counterweight has also improved visibility to the rear. Moreover, the new 9C Long Tail configuration now offers the same visibility as the standard model.

The cab revisions have also improved accessibility, while the simple addition of lighted steps aids safety. Caterpillar's renowned safety technologies are a continued presence on the M323.

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“Easier service and maintenance continue to feature highly amongst user requests which is why we’ve focused on improvements to fuel and AdBlue filling, as well as providing simpler access to the battery,” says Perard. Changes to access checkpoints, including the engine and cooling compartments, take the hassle out of daily maintenance tasks – making them easier and faster to complete.

The new M323 doesn’t stint on performance either. Caterpillar engineers worked diligently to help enhance customer efficiency in daily operations with the new hydraulic pump, mechanical air compressor, and increased swing torque capability. Additionally, extra electrical power is available at the lower part of the machine for installing additional systems.

Despite the upgraded features and design, the M323 retains the same 23-tonne machine weight.

“It might retain the model name for familiarity, but the redesigned M323 is very much a new machine in every respect,” says Perard. “To bring a platform configuration that’s adaptable to every industry, with options for specific segments, and simultaneously taking safety, operator comfort and machine performance to new heights, is to set a new reference point, with better value that meets operators’ expectations head-on.”

For more information about the Cat M323 Excavator, contact a Cat dealer or visit: www.cat.com

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NOTE TO EDITORS

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