

# Ponsse introduces fire fighting equipment for forwarders with a 47-metre reach in rugged terrain



*The Ponsse forwarder-mounted fire suppression system for rugged terrain*

**F**innish-based Ponsse has designed and manufactured a forwarder-mounted fire suppression device that utilises the excellent terrain travel ability and powerful hydraulics of a Ponsse forwarder. Design has been done in close cooperation with the local department of emergency services. The idea is to use a very capable forwarder to fight the challenging forest fires in difficult terrain where other normal fire fighting equipment can't reach.

A water reservoir and pump unit are lifted on the load space with forwarder's own loader and fastened securely. Electric and hydraulic quick-couplings are connected and the machine is ready to work.

A fire fighter can use the equipment with a remote control while the forwarder operator focuses only in driving the machine, communicating with the fire staff with a radiophone. The equipment allows simultaneous use of monitor and free hand held fire fighting hose. The equipment is

connected to the base machine with electric and hydraulic connectors and can be done in 15 minutes.

Ponsse has an option to order new forwarders as fire fighting ready so the actual equipment can be ordered at a later stage. An Installation kit can also be acquired for existing machines through Ponsse spare parts.

The tank has a capacity of 10 000 litres and it's built lightweight so that it's possible to lift into the load space with the loader crane of the forwarder. The tank is made out of aluminium for large capacity in light weight but still strong enough. There are reinforcement/baffle plates inside the tank to support the structure and prevent water from moving around when driving in uneven terrain. The aluminium structure withstands well the different chemicals mixed in the water for fire extinguishing purposes. The water refill hose is lead into an opening in the right side of tank top which has a steel mesh

for screening out thrash and keeping the water clean that enters the tank.

A powerful monitor is fitted that is fed by a powerful Reini centrifugal spray pump with a maximum flow of 950L/min with a maximum pressure of 14bar.

The spray pump is corrosion resistant and would withstand corrosion even when using sea water. Directing the monitor's direction, spray height and the spray nozzle is all adjusted hydraulically by the hand held remote control. The powerful monitor can spray up to 47 metres depending on the nozzle setting of the spray monitor.

Filling the water reservoir takes approximately seven minutes with a flow rate of 3 000L/min for refilling. The pump is powered by the base machine working hydraulic and the filling pump has a lifting bar so the loader grapple can lift and lower it into the water. The refill pump is also insensitive for impurities so that mud, sand or other matters will not damage the pump internals. It can replenish itself from a pond, river, tanker or another fire truck.

"Forest machines are the most natural and effective way to access a forest fire area. Operations in difficult terrain come as second nature to them and they have more than enough capacity in their hydraulic system for demanding conditions", says Juha Haverinen, Ponsse's product manager of forwarders. "When the rescue authorities asked us if we were willing to develop this product together, we were ready right from the beginning because rescue professionals and our customers had a clear demand for fire fighting equipment", Juha added.

Ponsse forwarders and fire fighting systems are available locally in South Africa from MTS Parts. ▲



**PONSSE**

FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

# FOR RUGGED TERRAIN



**Dimensions:** length 5 150mm,  
width 2 250mm, height 2 200mm  
**Weight:** Approx 1 500kg incl. all components  
**Tank volume:** 10 000 litres  
**Transport rack weight:** Approx 1 100kg  
**Spray distance:** Up to 47 metres

 **MTS**  
PARTS

## CONTACT

Tel: 013 752 4571

Email: [chris@mtsparts.co.za](mailto:chris@mtsparts.co.za)

[www.mtsparts.co.za](http://www.mtsparts.co.za)