

ONE AgriTech Programme

Evaluation of New Technology

Technology assessed: Exatrek by D Barron, Nether Aden

Exatrek is a brand independent telemetry and machine tracking platform, that can monitor machinery on the go. Telemetry modules can be placed on any machine and connects to the machines ISOBUS. This can give real-time data on fuel use, work rates etc on an operation, field and crop basis. Bluetooth beacons can be placed on machinery so that module knows which piece of kit is on the tractor. This information is then stored on a platform to allow the farmer to assess later or use for record keeping and compliance purposes.

Criteria	Score (1-5)	Comments
Ease of Use	4	Easy to install in tractors once ISOBUS plug is found. Low maintenance once installed. Platform is easy to use once you get used to it but needs some time to get set up to get the best from the information. Implement beacons have been really good for keeping track of operations.
Reliability	4	No real issues with modules. Platform is continually being upgraded and improved with new features available
Value – what are the benefits?		• Easy to use once installed, records with no manual input • Real time fuel use • Ability to track when operations were done in fields • Fuel use by operation/field/crop • Spilt of time by preparation, road, working, turning, waiting • Historic records of when operations were completed and associated data
Any drawbacks?		• Platform needs a bit of setting up to get the best of the data with field boundaries and machinery • Annual subscription for the platform on a per modules basis
Effectiveness – delivered what anticipated?	4	The modules and platform have delivered what we anticipated. The added benefit is being able to see how much time operations are taking especially tasks that require a lot of roadwork.
Value for money?	2	Modules and annual subscription are quite expensive for a unit of our size, but I can see the benefits for a larger operation that is working over multiple sites and multiple brands of tractor.
Overall Assessment	3	Exatrek has given us a real insight into the fuel use and efficiency of our machinery. As the data builds up and we get multiple years data for fields we will have a far better idea of fuel used to grow our crops and where potential savings can be made.