

VERSATILE >> UNIMOG

PLATFORM IS A WORLD FIRST

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A GO-ANYWHERE Unimog has gone on duty on NSW railways. The one-of-a-kind model has just been imported from Europe by Sydney's Cavanagh Cranes and Transport, which aims to rent it to rail operators.

It can be comfortably driven on the road but also has the ability to run along on train tracks. The vehicle was produced by Mercedes-owned Unimog in Germany and transported by rail to England, where it was fitted out with a special rail maintenance platform and bucket by LH Access Technology.

The platform has a working height of 10m, can rotate 360 degrees and can reach out 6.5m. It has many rail specific features, including pole grabbers, a cable stand and a boom system that doesn't

need stabilisers, which means the operator can save time moving along the line.

"The people in the man-cage can reach out seven metres and the vehicle can traverse backwards and forwards without outriggers, which would need to be packed up every time you want to move along the line," says Sam Cavanagh of Cavanagh Cranes and Transport.

"That saves a lot of time and, of course, money."

The body is fully detachable, allowing for other bodies to be fitted depending on the job.

Cavanagh says three vehicles would normally be needed to do the range of tasks the Unimog can handle.

"There is nothing else that can do what this Unimog is capable of," he says.

"The work platform is the first of the new generation from Access Technology, it is the only one in the world."

Unimogs are also known for their ability to traverse

tough terrain, a fact that is not lost on Cavanagh.

"You don't get any harder environments than the ones it will be working in so the four-wheel-drive capability and clearance of the Unimog is a big advantage," he says.

"It will have no problem getting up on to the tracks."

Thanks to their go-anywhere ability, Unimogs are used for many different applications in Europe, including fire-fighting and powerline maintenance.

The Australian Army is by far the largest customer of Unimog vehicles in this country, with 2000 on its fleet. There are only a handful of non-military Unimogs in Australia. Some are being used for fertiliser spreading and one is fitted with a passenger body for extreme tourist adventures.

The Unimog U400 has a 130kW and 675Nm intercooled turbo diesel four-cylinder engine with common rail and direct injection technology.



Big advantage: Unimog is used by NSW railways