



Herrick & Salsbury expands productivity with Topcon's GR-3 RTK



Steve Salsbury sets up a GR-3 base station.

Herrick & Salsbury of Ellsworth, Maine, is a 45-year-old surveying firm operated by Steve Salsbury. His father, Richard, founded the company in 1962 and was involved in daily operations well into the 1990s.

"We are a relatively small company," Salsbury said, "so when we got the chance to supply surveying services for a large environmental remediation project at a former mine site in nearby Blue Hill, we knew it would take some innovative thinking to make sure we could handle it and still serve our existing clients."

Copper, zinc, and other metals have been mined on the 90-acre site since 1880, with all the environmental complications one might expect. In addition, the use of both rock spoil and tailings as construction materials created

Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) that impacted both local groundwater and several environmentally sensitive areas downstream.

"We got involved early," Salsbury said. "In fact, our survey of pre-existing conditions was the basis of the action plan put together by the engineering team and the environmental protection agency that is the basis for the whole project."

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Company: Herrick and Salsbury

Location: Ellsworth, Maine

Project: Blue Hill mine site

Location: Ellsworth, Maine

Topcon Products:

GR-3 base station

GR-3 rover

FC-2000 field controller

Topcon Dealer:

Spiller's, Lewiston, Maine

AT WORK

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"We needed to find ways to improve our productivity" - Steve Salsbury



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"But, we can typically field three crews on any given day, so dedicating one of them to this job meant we needed to find ways to improve our productivity to make up for the additional workload.

"At the time, we owned two single-frequency, L1 static/GIS GPS mapping grade systems, but we didn't let that influence our decision. We already had software and a hand-held computer for them, but that didn't outweigh the benefits of a new system if it offered performance advantages.

"What finally convinced us to go with Topcon," Salsbury explains, "was a challenge from our Topcon distributor, Spiller's, in Lewiston. Russ DesJardins, sales manager, and Hank Boudreau, the Topcon regional manager, told us to use the GR-3 RTK GPS system we'd been considering with no obligation, so we could see how well it worked for us.

"Then they said that if we could find something better than the GR-3 RTK that we should buy it. Understand,

they were offering to leave us \$50,000 worth of Topcon equipment with no strings attached, and with a challenge to try and find something better.

"Well, we took the challenge. We couldn't find anything better. And we bought the Topcon GR-3 RTK and used it for the first time on the Blue Hill job. It was the right decision, and we've never looked back.

"With a total station, or even a robot, we would have to assign two people. Just re-setting control points under conventional conditions would eat up 20 to 40 percent of our time on the site. With the GR-3 RTK we can do it once, and it's good for two years.

"So far our record for performing topographic surveys with the GR-3 is about 600 points in 8 hours. That's better than a point per minute, which is as fast as you can walk. Not needing line of sight between the base and rod is a huge advantage."

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Topcon's GR-3 RTK

Topcon's GR-3 with its wide array of advanced design features is truly a revolutionary receiver—two steps ahead of any other receiver technology available!

Topcon's GR-3 receiver, the next generation of system design and tracking technology, is now available with a completely new digital UHF radio system utilizing DSP technology. This technological advancement delivers far greater reliability and performance than older analog UHF technology of the past and sets new standards for performance, accuracy and innovative design.

