

# Introduction of 3D Technology & Machine Control Systems

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**Bret Alsobrooks**

# Introduction

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- ◆ **De-mystify 3D Machine Control**
- ◆ **Highlight areas where 3D Machine Control is used and how these projects benefited**
- ◆ **How to analyze which tool will help you meet or exceed project specifications**
- ◆ **A look at some new, high tech grade control tools that are changing the way grading is being done.**

# Jones Bros., Inc. GPS Project List



<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>D.O.T.</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>CITY</u>
<b>INTERSTATE 840</b> 7 mile 4-lane rock subgrade / I-65 Interchange	Tennessee	Williamson	Franklin
<b>HIGHWAY 452</b> 6 mile subgrade / I-840 Interchange	Tennessee	Wilson	Lebanon
<b>HIGHWAY 153</b> A. 4-Lane, 5 mile 1. Lack of radio signal 2. Poor plans elevation 3. Poor JBI training	Tennessee	Hamilton	Chattanooga
<b>JOE B. JACKSON PARKWAY</b> 4 mile subgrade / I-24 Interchange	Tennessee	Rutherford	Murfreesboro
<b>EASTGATE BLVD.</b> Access road for industrial park	Tennessee	Wilson	Lebanon
<b>PRIMARY 29</b> A. 14 miles 1. Soil cement subgrade 2. Base cement in rock cuts	Virginia	Amherst	Amherst
<b>FM 1187</b> 4-lane, 7 mile subgrade; lime treated subgrade	Texas		Fort Worth
<b>US 71 / 59 INTERCHANGE</b> 6 mile subgrade, select fills	Texas		Texarkana
<b>INTERSTATE 4 / MEMORIAL BLVD.</b>	Florida		Lakeland
<b>CORRIDOR H (Two Projects)</b> 10 mile; 200 ft cuts and fills; boxed cuts; select fills	West Virginia	Hardy	

# Introduction

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- ◆ **3D Systems require a set “Process” to be followed**
- ◆ **3D Machine Control Systems are not “Plug and Play” products**
  - I. Key Points for successful 3D operations
  - II. Trouble shooting techniques that apply to all 3D systems

# “Stakeless” Grade Control



**SiteVision GPS**



**BladePro 3D-ATS**

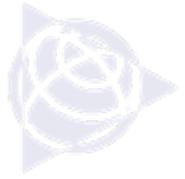
# What is “Stakeless” Grade Control ?

## How does the ‘process’ work?

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# 3D Begins Data Flow Process



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**START** —————→ **FINISH**

# TOTAL SOLUTION



**SURVEY**



**SiteVision**

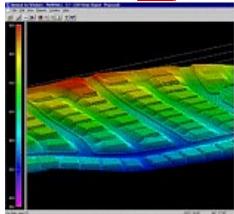


**3D  
Project  
Data**



**BladePro 3D**

**ENGINEERING**

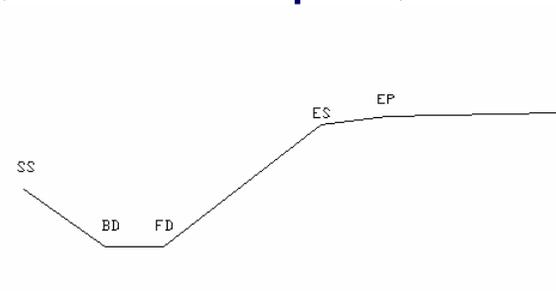


**Quality Control**

# Data Preparation



- ◆ **What is required for the field?**
  - ◆ Finish grade or sub-grade?
    - ◆ Site – finish grade
    - ◆ Road – finish grade, top of rock, dirt
  - ◆ Pre-calculated points for field layout
    - ◆ Structures
    - ◆ Drainage structures
    - ◆ Edge of pavement, edge of shoulder
  - ◆ Road data with special coding, toe of slopes, ROW, or template breaks

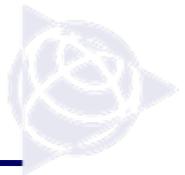


# To create a Digital Terrain Mode



# Applications of 3D Machine Control and GPS Survey Systems

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- ◆ **BladePro 3D (BP3D)- Total Station Based**
  - I. Finishing Subgrade
  - II. Knockdown and placing of materials in various zones
  - III. Finish Grading
  - IV. Phased Construction
  - V. Erosion Control
  - VI. Bridge Structures
  - VII. Drainage
  - VIII. Signs, Guardrail

# What is BladePro 3D?

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- ◆ **A Fine Grading tool operating on a Motor Grader.**
- ◆ **BP3D uses a Geodimeter Automatic Tracking System (ATS) measuring to a sensor mounted on the Motor Grader blade.**
- ◆ **One ATS Base runs one Motor Grader. Multiple Motor Graders cannot share one ATS.**
- ◆ **Accuracy  $\pm .02$  foot**

# Applications of 3D Machine Control Systems

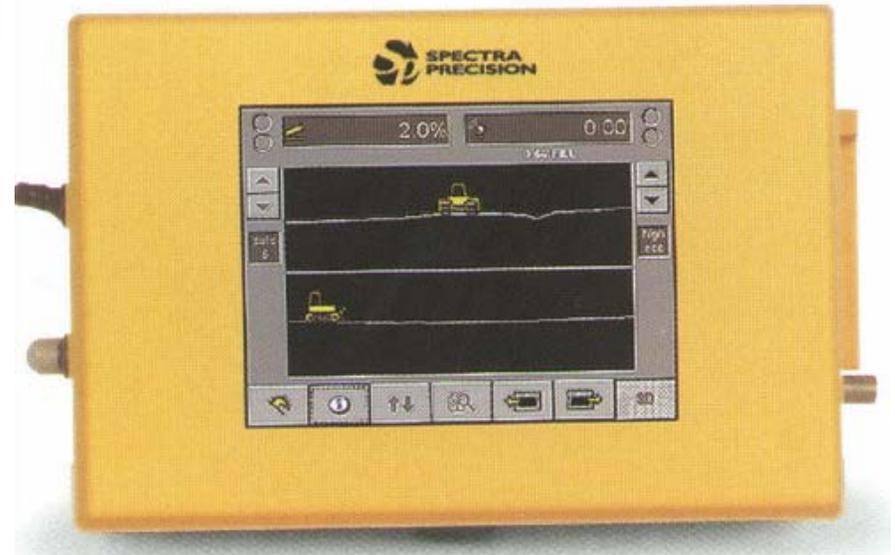
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- ◆ **Blade-Pro 3D (BP3D) – Motorgrader**



# The Components





- ◆ **ATS Robotic Total Station Tracks the Position Of The Machine**
- ◆ **Transfers Position Information Via Radio To Operator Interface**



# Considerations when using ATS

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## Advantages

- ◆ Accurate results in the range of 0.0'/.02'
- ◆ 1000' to and from instrument for 2000' total with one instrument set up
- ◆ Easily upgraded to BladePro 3D-GPS, single antenna variant

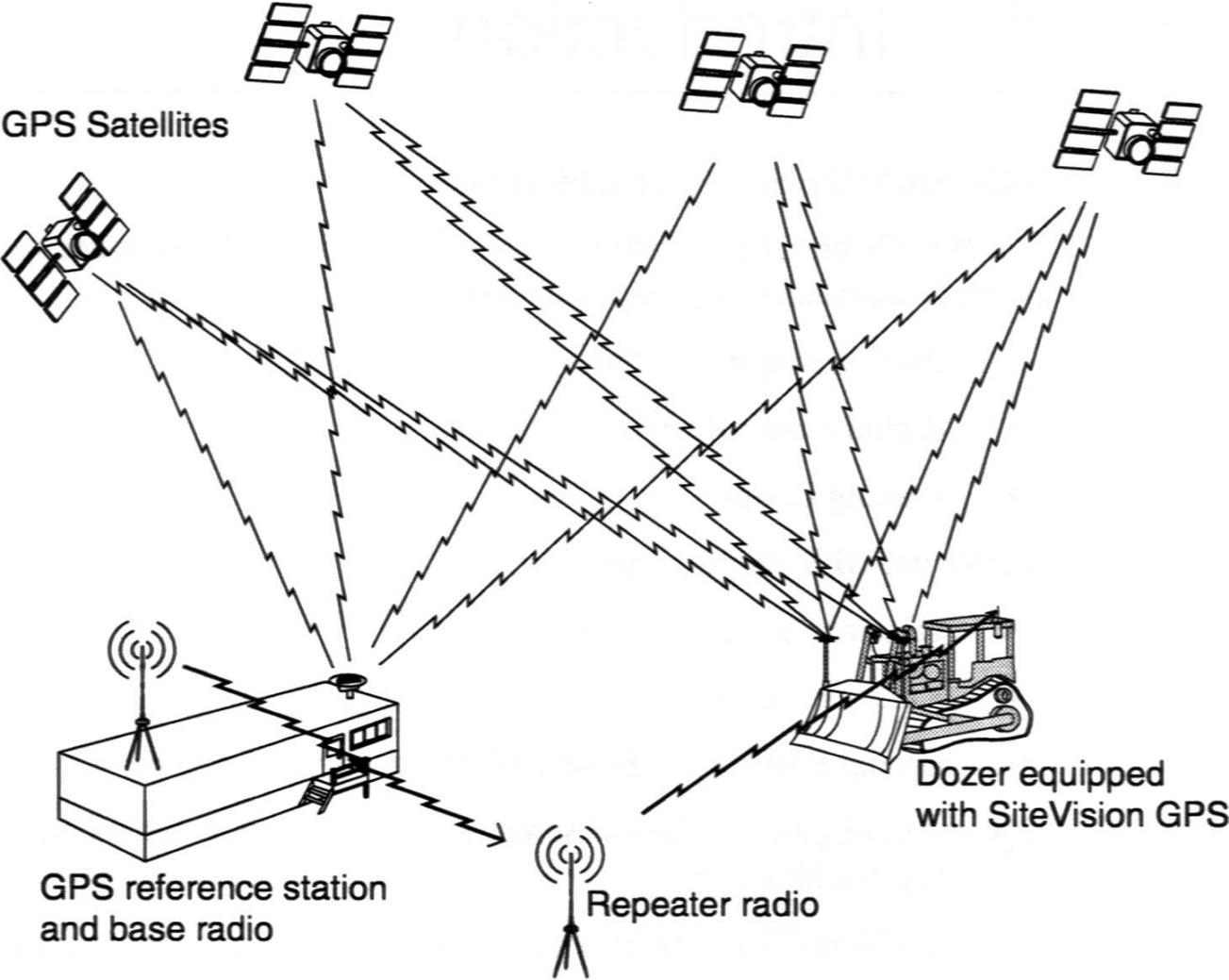
## Disadvantages

- ◆ Must be line of sight to the machine
- ◆ Controls only **ONE** machine
- ◆ Gun must be protected from being run over
- ◆ Requires a .PRO file format from Terramodel
- ◆ Range is effected by fog, dust, snow or heavy rain

# SiteVision GPS



# Real Time Kinematic GPS



Repeater for difficult terrain

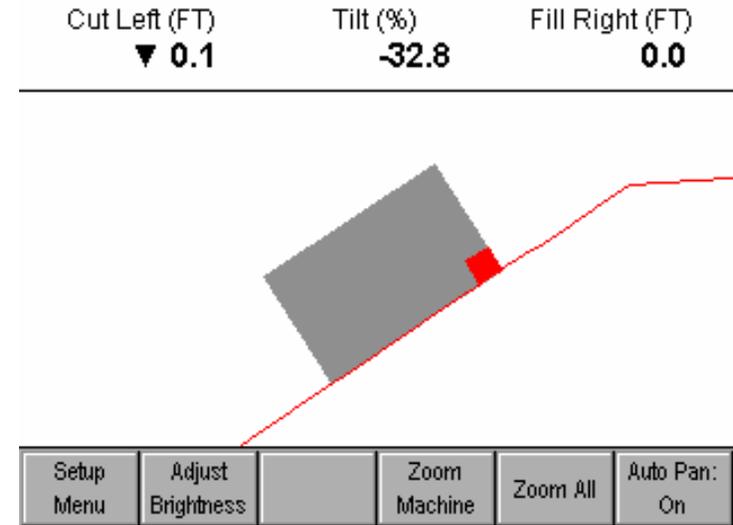
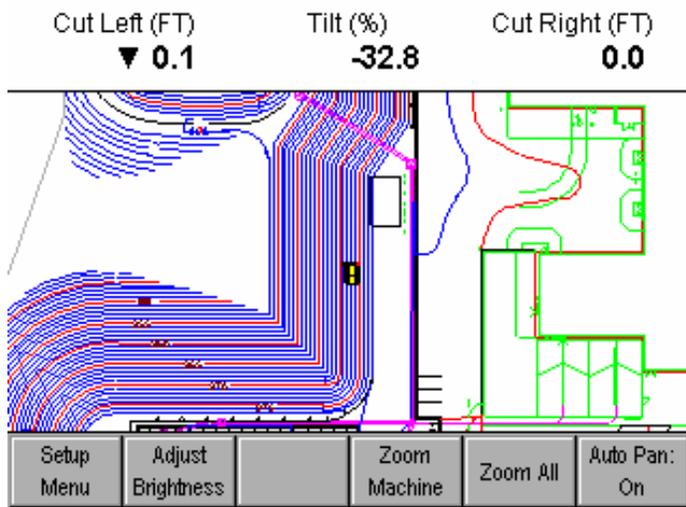
# The Global Positioning System (GPS) is used to...

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- ◆ **Accurately position the grading machine BLADE , on the 3D digital model of the project**
  - ◆ Within 1cm in X and Y
  - ◆ Within 1-3 cm in Z = 1.18 of an inch
  - ◆ Old school one tenth = 1.2 of an inch
- ◆ **This puts the blade on the design, precisely located in 3D**

# Four screens available to the operator



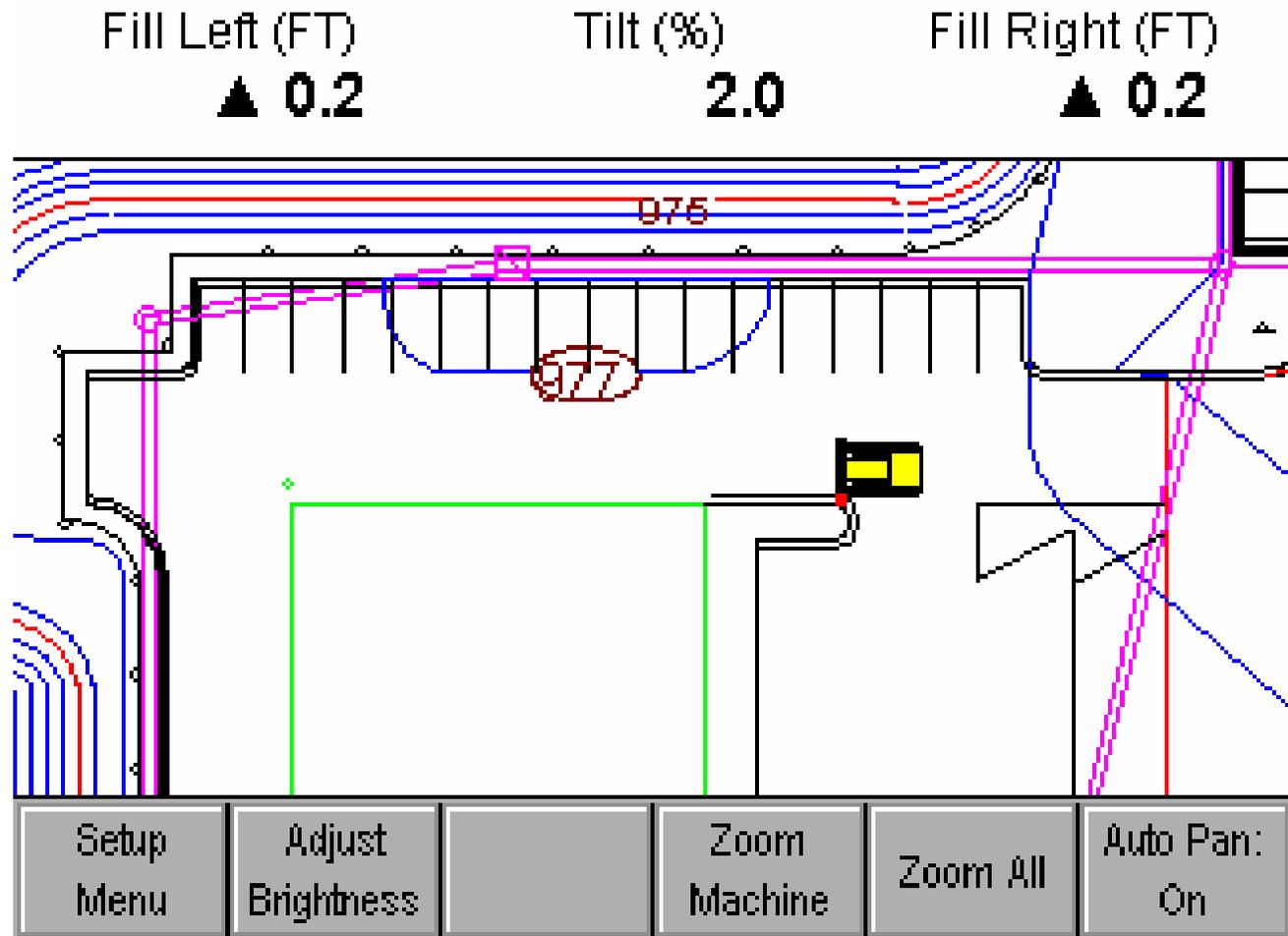
Cut Left (FT) ▼ 0.1  
 Cut Right (FT) 0.0  
 Design Elev (FT) 975.0  
 Tilt (%) -32.8  
 Satellites 7

Setup Menu	Adjust Brightness				
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Northing (FT) 10381.8  
 Easting (FT) 9937.8  
 Elevation (FT) 645.4  
 GPS Status High Accuracy  
 Satellites 9

Blade: Left		V. Offset: 0.000FT		Design: Good Surf
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# Guidance to Any plan Line



# Scaleable Lightbars



**Lightbar Scales**

Vertical Tolerance

FT =

	<0.050	FT
	<0.100	FT
	<0.150	FT
	<0.200	FT
	<0.400	FT
	<0.800	FT

Vertical	Horizontal	Half Set 0.050	Double Set 0.200	Default Set 0.200
<input type="checkbox"/>				

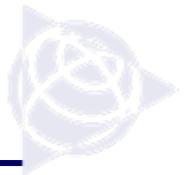


# Two 13" GPS antennas



# Why Two GPS Antennas?

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# Summary - Two Antennas



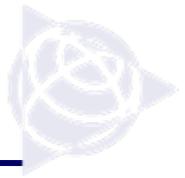
## Gives You:

- ◆ **Most Accurate Solution!**
- ◆ **Cuts/Fills calculated along the entire blade cutting edge, from the right tip all the way to the left tip (no matter how the blade is tilted or rotated)**
- ◆ **Always know which way the machine is facing and moving. (operator must tell the system which direction with single antenna)**
- ◆ **No need for rotation or tilt sensors that are affected by vibration (especially on dozers)**
- ◆ **No daily/weekly/monthly calibration of sensors**



**TWO ANTENNA'S**

# Dozers D3-D11 manual and automatic



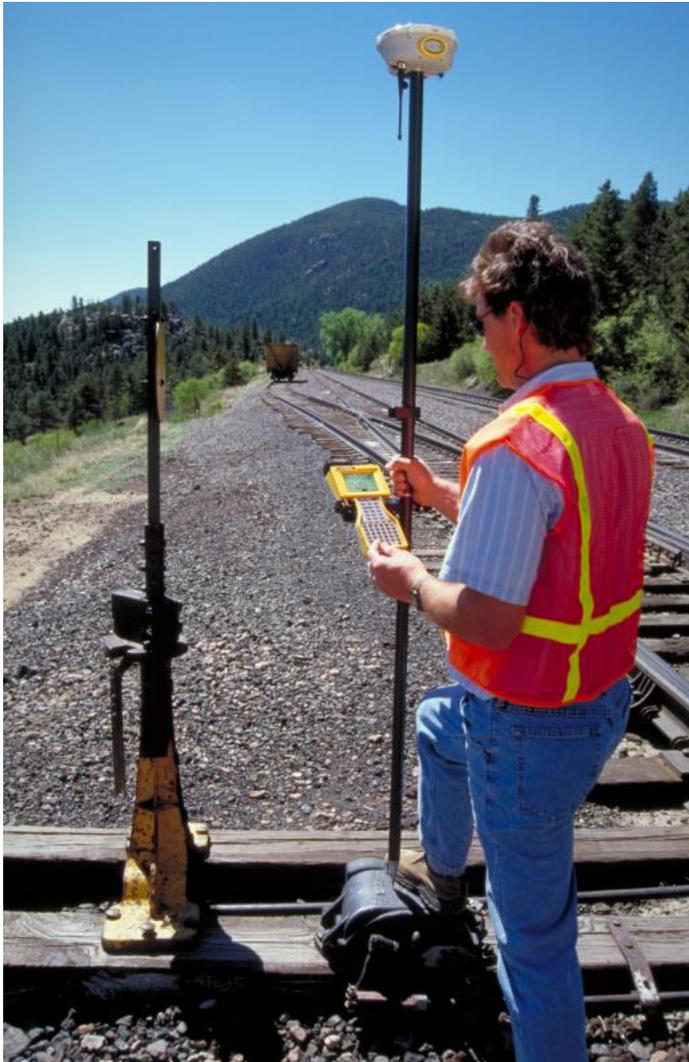
# Blades-manual and automatic



# *Grade checker's rover*

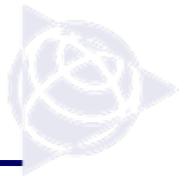


# GPS Rover



# Considerations when using GPS Technology

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## Advantages

- ◆ Places the design in front of the operator.
- ◆ Unlimited machines possible on one base
- ◆ Line of sight not required
- ◆ Dramatically increases production
- ◆ Dramatically reduces labor costs-layout, stakes
- ◆ Not effected by fog, dust etc.
- ◆ Operators love to use it!

## Disadvantages

- ◆ You need a clear view of the sky
  - ◆ Tree canopy
  - ◆ Tall buildings
  - ◆ Blocking terrain
- ◆ Requires a local “champion” to manage-
  - ◆ Data and site Cal
  - ◆ Radio coverage
  - ◆ Proper application requiring attention
  - ◆ PDOP issues

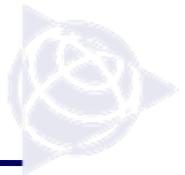
# GPS Technology Gains Construction Phase



GPS technology	Compared with	Estimated savings
Grade Checking	Manual method	Up to 66%
Reduction or Elimination of Stakes	Using stakes	Up to 85%
Improved material yields/select fills/undercutting	Overruns using manual methods	3% to 6% in volume
Un-interrupted earth moving production under any weather conditions (24/7)	Daytime / fine weather operation only/night work	30% to 50%
RTK, robotics stakeout	Traditional survey stakeout	More than 100% in speed and 66% in staffing

- ◆ **Other savings from:**
  - ◆ Improved utilization of equipment/30%
  - ◆ Lower skill level required
  - ◆ **Erosion control as you go**

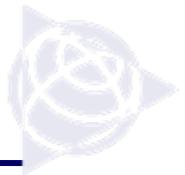




- ◆ **Know your contract specifications and tolerances**
  - I. BP3D tolerances are  $\pm 0.02'$  (@ 750' from the total station) and  $\pm 0.10'$  (@ 1000' from the total station)
  - II. GPS tolerances are  $\pm 0.10'$  (Horizontal and Vertical on the machine)

# Process of 3D Machine Control Systems

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- ◆ **What is your plus / minus grade and elevation tolerances?**
  - I. How do you meet or exceed these tolerances?
  - II. Can 3D Machine Control systems compliment this task?
- ◆ **Trained foreman and supporting cast**
- ◆ **Increased efficiency and cost reduction results from improving the overall process**



- ◆ **How to get up and running faster**
  - I. Fully committed to the process
  - II. Draw upon experienced resources
  - III. Stay the course and be willing to follow through the learning curve
  - IV. Job planning
  - V. Do not panic!



[bret@jonesbrosinc.com](mailto:bret@jonesbrosinc.com)

