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*For Immediate Release*

### **KOBELCO USA Adds First Team Members to US Manufacturing Division**

*Spartanburg, SC, April 29, 2015* – KOBELCO Construction Machinery USA progresses the development of its excavator production facility in Spartanburg, SC with the employment of two new team members. Ralph Wabnitz, General Manager and James Hill, Human Resources Manager are the first employees to be welcomed as part of the KOBELCO USA manufacturing division.

“By taking full advantage of our US production facility, we plan to further enhance our service functions, reinforce our foundation in the North American market and put forth a group-wide effort to grow our market share,” says Pete Morita, President and CEO of KOBELCO Construction Machinery USA. “The first step in reaching our goals for the production facility begins with recruiting talented and skillful team members like Ralph and James.”

Wabnitz and Hill each display the knowledge and determination to establish and advance KOBELCO’s manufacturing facility. Wabnitz brings with him to KOBELCO 15 plus years of manufacturing management experience in the Spartanburg area. Wabnitz is well-versed with the challenges of staffing and managing a production facility and has strong experience implementing lean manufacturing and quality programs within the production process. As the General Manager, Wabnitz will be responsible for directing quality, safety, manufacturing and cost reduction activities throughout the manufacturing facility, as well as develop and implement process improvement and production/scheduling plans.

Likewise, Hill brings 15 years of experience in human resource management. He has supported thousands of manufacturing employees and supervisors across multiple locales, as well as managed the creation and implementation of HR policies and procedures for leading manufacturers. In his new role,



Hill will be responsible for the recruitment, selection and training of new employees at KOBELCO's production facility. Hill will also manage employee relations as well as prepare and implement compensation plans for the manufacturing operation.

"The excavator production facility in North America will allow for the reorganization of KOBELCO USA into a company with integrated production and sales, all on US soil," says Morita. "We are very excited to have the expertise and passion of Ralph and James on board at the new facility as we begin a new phase of growth in the North American market."

KOBELCO Construction Machinery USA offers industry-leading crawler excavators in the 3,000 lb. to 245,000 lb. classes including zero tail swing, compact, standard, long-reach, mass excavation, and demolition models. Well-known as the excavator authority, KOBELCO is committed to producing quality machines with advanced productivity-boosting features and innovative technologies. With premier capabilities such as no time limit power boost and exclusive independent travel, KOBELCO machines ensure superior performance and efficiency for the toughest worksite challenges.

For more information on KOBELCO Construction Machinery USA or KOBELCO products, please visit [www.KOBELCO-USA.com](http://www.KOBELCO-USA.com) or call 281-888-8430.

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Photo Caption 1: Ralph Wabnitz, General Manager of the KOBELCO excavator production facility in Spartanburg, SC.

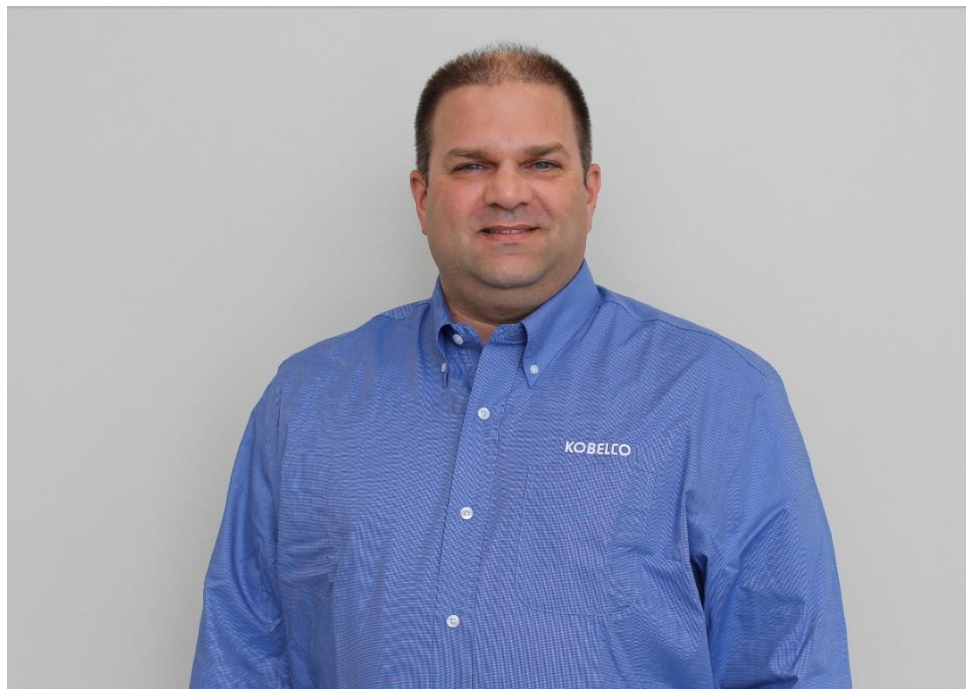


Photo Caption 2: James Hill, Human Resource Manager of the KOBELCO excavator production facility in Spartanburg, SC.