The construction sector is a significant contributor to the two primary pollutants in diesel exhaust that affect human health: nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate matter (PM), creating 32 percent of all mobile source NOx emissions and 37 percent of PM emissions. While stringent new emissions standards have significantly reduced emissions from new non-road equipment starting in 2008, much of the equipment in the current non-road diesel fleets will continue to operate for many years to come. Leonardo Academy, through a grant provided by the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program, coordinated efforts to reduce emissions among two Wisconsin construction companies.

Michels Corporation and Terra Corporation were awarded funds to help offset the cost of repowering two unregulated engines to Tier 3 emission standards. The repowered engines aged between twelve and twenty-five years old, will assist the construction companies in achieving better fuel efficiency and help improve air quality by producing fewer emissions.