

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shuttlelift
49 E. Yew St.
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235-1976

Contact: Amy Paul
Marketing Communications Specialist
(920) 743-6202
amy@shuttlelift.com

PLAINS FABRICATION & SUPPLY GETS LEAN WITH NEW SL 75II

Steel fabrication company increases productivity with new Shuttlelift product

STURGEON BAY, WI (June 21, 2011) – Plains Fabrication & Supply, a steel fabrication company based in Alberta, Canada produces heaters, separators, pressure vessels, skid packages, and other custom fabrication items. The global market supplier recently invested in a Shuttlelift SL 75II to increase productivity and workflow.

Several years ago, Plains Fabrication & Supply participated in a Lean Manufacturing program to improve profit margins, increase productivity, save time and reduce waste. The Lean Manufacturing training helped the steel fabrication company recognize unnecessary movements and the time it took to complete tasks.

Paul Pagenkopf, operations manager at Plains Fabrication & Supply explains, “Once we had the facts it was time to find the product that would help us achieve our goals and the Shuttlelift SL 75II fit the bill.” He continued about why the new mobile gantry crane works well in the operation. “For example, on a WAC vessel the old material handling time was approximately 10 hours of labor. That required two pieces of equipment and three workers to move product from assembly to the paint process.” The mobile gantry crane reduced the workflow by more than half. “Now, it takes approximately four hours of labor using one machine and two workers to complete the process.”

Besides the increase in production, Pagenkopf is pleased with the company’s first partnership with Shuttlelift. “This was our first unit and it was remarkably easy for the operators to become confident using the unit.”

He also explains how the new machine is utilized, “The Shuttlelift SL 75II moves product from bay to bay and raw product from outside to the fabrication area. It moves fabricated products to the blast bay and into the paint bay. It also moves completed products to storage or it can load products directly onto trucks for shipment to customers.”

The mobile gantry crane was chosen to avoid installing outdoor stationary cranes on either sides of the building due to the cost associated with the cranes; as well as the limited specialized lifting capabilities for each application. “The stationary characteristics limits your work area; whereas the Shuttlelift allows you to move anywhere in the yard or building and allows us to easily adjust the crane for each application. It is invaluable,” said Pagenkopf.

The Shuttlelift SL 75II was designed with custom features for Plains Fabrication & Supply. It includes a hydraulic block adjust that maximizes the versatility and lifting potential enabling the operator to change the spacing between the slings at the touch of a button. "This feature gives the ability to maintain a straight wire rope to the products attach points and allow adjustments to suit the variety of lifting lug center distances," added Pagenkopf.

The mobile gantry crane also included a wireless remote control that allows the operator to be on the ground anywhere around the crane. "It is a very tight fit at our facility between the door frame and the crane; so the remote makes the operator's job much easier. The operator almost always uses the remote control," added Pagenkopf.

Another key feature that has provided flexibility is the all wheel electronic steering that enables each wheel on the gantry crane to steer independently. Plains Fabrication & Supply specifically purchased the optional carousel steer because it allows all wheels to turn around a center or axis point at the machine's center. Pagenkopf explained that the operator moves the product through the bay door outdoors and then uses the carousel steering to pivot 90 degrees before traveling to the next set of bay doors where he uses carousel steer again to pivot 90 degrees." The machine's flexibility does not stop at carousel steering but also includes front, rear, crab, traverse and coordinate steering. "The various steering modes are used extensively when moving product from bay to bay."

An additional amenity included in the mobile gantry crane was a sound suppression kit that reduces engine noise and reduces audible range fatigue. "It offers quieter working conditions when working inside and is well worth it for safety reasons," said Pagenkopf.

For more information about Shuttlelift and its full range of rubber-tired gantry cranes, email the sales team at sales@shuttlelift.com or visit www.shuttlelift.com.

Shuttlelift rubber-tired gantry cranes are the preferred customer-inspired solution for heavy lifting requirements and are manufactured to specification for a multitude of applications, worldwide. The Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin-based company manufactures cranes with capacities ranging from 15 to 1,000 U.S. tons, all of which are supported by a global network of experienced dealers. Through superior engineering innovations, Shuttlelift has become one of the premier lines in the today's materials-handling industry.

###