RRS Uses Hydra-Slide Equipment to Skid Gearbox

U.K.-based Rapid Response Solutions (RRS) used a 270-metric-ton-capacity Hydra-Slide HT300 heavy track skidding system to remove and return a 20t gearbox at a Scottish & Southern Energy (SSE) power generation plant in Weymouth, U.K.

RRS, recently named the only international sales partner of the Canadian manufacturer of hydraulic skidding equipment, accepted a scope of work from Doosan Babcock to remove the gearbox from within a confined space in a plant room, deliver it for refurbishment, and return it to the site for reinstallation.

The gearbox, measuring 2.6m x 1.6m x 1.9m, was slid out about 3 meters inside the facility and then carried by a Versa-Lift forklift to an awaiting three-axle Faymonville semi-low loader from the RRS fleet, where the unit was secured before transportation.

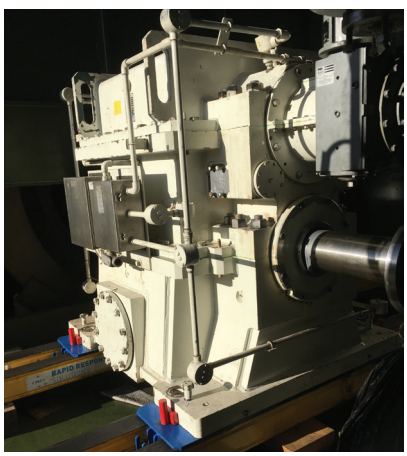
Prior to the removal operation, RRS jacked up the gearbox and placed four 50t wireless compression load cells from Straightpoint underneath it to get an accurate weight measurement. Paul Barber, managing director at RRS, said the exact weight was required because the site was tight on space, and the Versa-Lift jib had to be kept as short as possible.

The HT300 was chosen because the plant's floor was not part of the building's structure and only had load-bearing points on the outer edges. The skidding system was self-supporting across its length due to the relatively low weight of the gearbox in relation to the system's overall capacity.

"Several companies had looked at the task before us, but nobody else had proposed a solution that didn't involve stripping down the plant room, so a large crane could lift out the gearbox," Barber said. "That would have been time consuming and inherently problematic given the close proximity of overhead cables to the working area."

RRS employed 200mm x 100mm x 1m hardwood blocks to support the Hydra-Slide and gearbox. (Courtesy: RRS)

However, using the Hydra-Slide HT300 still required extensive planning to overcome the confined space. Having jacked up and weighed the unit, RRS employed 200mm x 100mm x 1m hardwood blocks to support it, while a 12t Valla from its mini-crane fleet lifted the skidding system's tracks. Once the



The HT300 heavy track skidding system removes the 20t gearbox. (Courtesy: RRS)

tracks were in position, the gearbox was slid away from connectors before turning it 90 degrees, so it could fit through the door.

"The ground was not in good condition, so we had to lay steel plates on the floor to distribute the point loads," Barber said. "Further, the workplace was a live power generation situation, so health and safety were of paramount importance. We were onsite for two days for the removal and two days for the return."

Such was RRS' commitment to making the job as safe as possible, the site's safety manager awarded certificates to the personnel involved. Jon Blampied, Martin Tupper, Bob Counsell, Adam Sherville, Dave Sullivan, and Gary Jones received £20 Amazon vouchers.

"We are very proud of SSE's recognition," Barber said. "The team was awarded for the way the project was carried out in a safe manner."

Source: Rapid Response Solutions

For more information,
go to www.rapidrs.co.uk

The gearbox, measuring 2.6m x 1.6m x 1.9m, was slid out approximately 3 meters inside the facility. (Courtesy: RRS)

FallTech Updates Its Contractor+ Family of Harnesses

FallTech®, an innovator in fall protection products, has updated its Contractor+ family of harnesses.

"The updates to the Contractor+ are a result from the feedback we captured from users of the prior version of the Contractor harness," said Shatiana Griffin, marketing specialist for FallTech.

The Contractor+ family of harnesses now offers a more supportive, secure, and sturdy fit while adding functional elements for all-day comfort to meet the demanding needs of workers.

Upgrades to the Contractor+ family of full body harnesses include:

- New chest slides with integrated lanyard keepers provide a lower profile and easier attachment points for lanyard connectors.
- A stiffer waist belt improves longevity.
- The waist pad now includes belt loops and is sewn into the torso straps, keeping the waist pad from slipping.
- An improved, stiffer waist pad supports heavy tool bag loads.
- Increased padding offers superior internal reinforcement to allow better D-ring positioning combined with improved comfort and usability.

Along with the improvements, the Contractor+ still offers the features the harnesses are known for, including:

- Breathable padded air mesh shoulder yoke with non-slip dorsal D-ring adjustment.
- Paired single-loop dual-fastening lanyard keepers.
- Low-profile spring-tension torso adjusters.
- 5.5-inch torso-sewn waist support positioning pad for construction belted harnesses.
- Mating buckle chest closure with either mating buckle or tongue buckle leg closure options.
- Available in standard non-belted and construction-belted models.

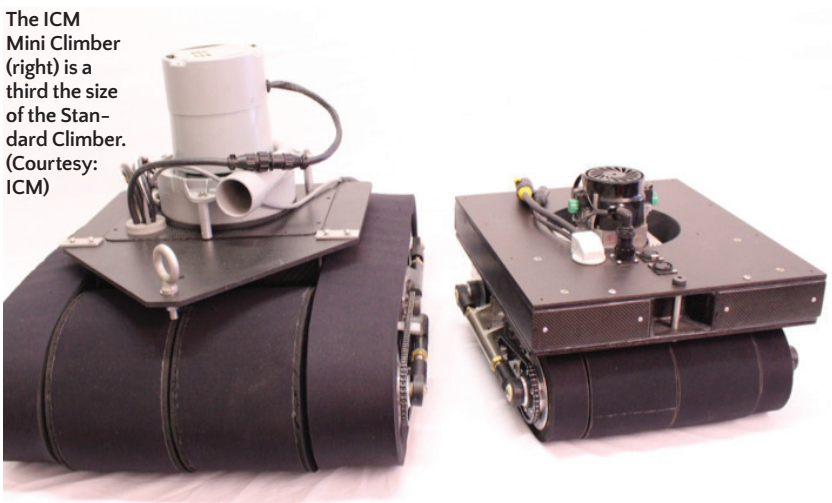
The design of the updated Contractor+ family of harnesses provides an affordable harness with the durability required for day-to-day use with exceptional fall protection qualities and complies with all applicable ANSI and OSHA standards.

Source: FallTech

For more information, go to www.FallTech.com

A Contractor+ harness. (Courtesy: FallTech)

ICM Mini Climber Designed to Get into Tight Places



The ICM Mini Climber (right) is a third the size of the Standard Climber. (Courtesy: ICM)

ICM has announced the introduction of its Mini Climber 2017. It is approximately one-third the size of the Standard ICM Climbing robot.

It will primarily be used where a much smaller climbing device is desired. Such applications could involve tight access areas in power plants, ships, or other industrial or commercial applications.

"There are times when a smaller robot is needed," said Sam Maggio, president of ICM. "The Mini Climber 2017 is designed to address those times."

The Mini Climber was designed

originally to go into tight places inside nuclear submarines.

Yet, since its first project, other uses in nuclear power plants and in the petrochemical industry have arisen that are suited for the smaller size of the ICM Mini Climber. Versus the Standard ICM Climber, the Mini Climber is also about half the weight.

ICM had developed a superstructure that will be useful for the integration of virtually any sensor, tool, or camera. Some integrations for the Mini Climber could include: vacuum grit blasting nozzle, mechanical grinder, laser, almost any non-destructive testing sensor, and virtually any camera.

"We are excited about the introduction of this compact and light weight Mini Climber 2017 to the regular line-up of offerings from our company," Maggio said. "Our mission is to change how elevated height work and dangerous work is performed. The Mini Climber will be instrumental in helping us achieve this mission."

Source: ICM

For more information, go to www.icm.cc

TPC Wire & Cable Introduces Trex-Onics High-Flex Encoder Cable

The next generation of servo motor encoder cable in the form of a single-cable solution recently arrived from TPC Wire & Cable Corp. Whereas traditional methods require three separate encoder cables, one dedicated to managing power with a second and third reserved for signal and data, TPC's Trex-Onics® High-Flex Encoder Cable converges these roles into one cable designed to withstand harsh abuse. Power for the controller is combined with twisted pairs suitable for managing data and signal, resulting in a product that simplifies inventory management, installation, and maintenance to become the ultimate OEM replacement.

The latest capability offered by TPC simplifies what can otherwise be a complicated process when replacing failed OEM cable. Trex-Onics High-Flex Encoder Cable is compatible with multiple interfaces for encoders including EnDat, Hiperface, and Synchronous Serial Interface (SSI).

TPC typically develops cable in a shade of yellow signature to the brand, Trex-Onics High-Flex Encoder Cable is presented in Green RAL6018, the industry's color code indicative of feedback. Finally, Trex-Onics High-Flex Encoder Cable pairs well with TPC's frequently requested Molded & Mechanical M23 Connectors to create a complete connected assembly that arrives ready to install and made to withstand the constant flexing and pulling associated with servo motor applications.

Trex-Onics® High-Flex Encoder Cable. (Courtesy: TPC Wire & Cable)

Trex-Onics High-Flex Encoder Cable is built to withstand the harsh industrial environments in which many servomotors operate. Finely stranded copper conductors, color-coded for easy identification, improve flexibility and extend conductor life in dynamic applications.

Pairs used for analog and digital signals are protected with braid and foil to promote maximum flex-life and signal integrity. A heavy-duty tinned copper braid shields against EM/RF noise and interference. Lastly, the specially compounded thermoplastic polyurethane jacket is a superior first line of defense against abrasion, flexing, oil, and other abuse associated with dynamic applications.

"We're excited to deliver this latest innovation supporting motion control," said Tim Hannigan, engineered cable innovation manager at TPC. "The fact that we can now provide one cable to manage all the needs of a controller and outlast the OEM product is a significant win for our customers. It's a streamlined solution that simplifies their operation, reduces downtime, and minimizes overall costs."

Trex-Onics High-Flex Encoder Cable benefits customers anywhere automation is present, including the automotive, food and beverage, transportation, and general manufacturing markets.

Source: TPC Wire & Cable Corp.

For more information, go to www.tpcwire.com.