ON A BRIDGE, UNDER A BRIDGE — MCELROY TRACSTAR® FUSES PIPE ANYWHERE

Has a job ever called upon you to fuse pipe mid-air? More specifically, under a bridge some 50 feet over the water?

This was construction contractor Contech's task when they were hired to fuse 12" water and 6" sewer pipelines across Grand Lake in Grove, Okla. The path of the 3-mile pipelines would run through steel hangars under the deck of a half-mile-long bridge, arched high for sailboat clearance.

The rural water district insisted upon nothing else but HDPE for the new pipelines. Corrosion-free and leak-free, it's the only material they accept. Contech would need to get certified fusion operator training and, just as importantly, they would need the right machine that would allow them to produce quality work on a tight deadline.

Contech has a strong background in welding ductile iron and PVC pipe. This would be their first HDPE job in more than a decade and definitely the largest and most challenging. But it was a job of a lifetime and a tremendous opportunity so the company took a deeper plunge into the HDPE world and turned to Poly Pro, a McElroy equipment supplier, to provide certified training for five new fusion operators. It was a decision they don't regret. Once their crew put their new fusion skills to work in the field, they found that the fusion part of a job can be one of the easier and more straight-forward tasks.

"We didn't have any problem at all with the fusion work," said Contech Superintendent Don Gabbert.

Choosing a fusion machine that could meet the unique needs of the job was critical in getting the job done in less than five months. Poly Pro recommended a McElroy TracStar® 412, a self-propelled, self-contained, all-terrain, tracked vehicle equipped with a fusion carriage and on-board generator to power the hydraulics and heater. Other equipment included a Pit Bull® 26, an 18" carriage and several PolyHorse® units, a pipe handling system that holds a day's worth of pipe and feeds directly into the fusion machine.

The tight spaces under the bridge created no stumbling blocks for the TracStar which has a removable carriage. They were able to leave the vehicle on top of the bridge and place the carriage on a specially-made scaffolding below it. This versatility allowed the entire pipeline to be consistent with leak-free, butt-fused joints that were not interrupted with mechanical fittings.

Contech experimented with another machine brand, but Gabbert said it could only produce four to six fusions a day and required a three-man crew and extra generator to operate. Only one operator was needed on the McElroy machine which produced 24 fusions a day. Plus it was mobile with all the necessary components on board so they could drive it wherever they needed to fuse pipe — from the rocky embankment of the bridge to a muddy ditch.

For pipe liners, it's all about footage. They must be able to lay a certain amount of pipe a day to meet deadlines and stay in business. Gabbert said the McElroy machine played a key role in meeting their goals. Altogether there was a total of 21,000 feet of pipe with a fusion made every 40 feet. With added bends and fittings, it amounted to 550 fusions.

Contech was able to exceed their footage goals on many days and finish the job on time. "McElroy definitely did a faster and better job for us," Gabbert said. "For the kind of project it was and the length of the bridge itself, it went really smoothly."

Learn more about the TracStar 412

THE STAR OF THE SHOW

Once you experience the ease of maneuverability and freedom of movement of a McElroy TracStar, you'll see why they are the number one choice on jobsites. The TracStar line accommodates medium- to large-diameter pipe size ranges and makes even the most challenging jobs more efficient and productive. Here are just some of the attributes that make the TracStar a pipelayer's best friend.

- Self-contained with an on-board generator. All the necessary equipment is onboard so you don't have to haul around extra equipment.
- Ditch Ready. The 4-jaw carriage can be removed from the vehicle for in-ditch or other close-quarter fusion. It converts to 3 jaws for an even more compact unit.
- Track-mounted vehicle with all-terrain mobility. The TracStar's rugged, rubber tracks handles mud, loose soil, snow and even grades up to 30%.
- DataLogger® compatible. Keeps a complete record of the fusion process to insure pipeline integrity.
- Fuses all types of thermoplastic pipe
- 5-year warranty!

Learn more about TracStar models

MCELROY UNIVERSITY — 4 WAYS WE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 2016

2016 — a year for the record books, right? Well, it depends on where you were looking. For McElroy University, it was a record year … in a good way. In the last five years, the year-over-year growth in terms of classes offered has averaged 35%. And, the number of students trained and operator qualifications granted has grown steadily. Here is a little of what 2016 looked like for McElroy University training:

- 261 McElroy University classes conducted throughout the United States, Canada and other parts of the world (22 classes per month, 800 total training days)
- 1,100 students qualified
- 195 different companies

- 75% of the classes took place outside of the McElroy training center in Tulsa

What this demonstrates, in part, is that companies increasingly recognize the importance and value of quality training and we are working hard to meet the industry's needs. However, we can't do it alone and are grateful for the relationship we have with our Industry Partners and, more specifically, our McElroy Certified Instructors. Together we are looking forward to an exciting 2017 for McElroy University.

If you want to learn more about how McElroy University can help you and your customers, please contact Paul Brodsky, Manager of McElroy University, at pbrodsky@mcelroy.com or 918-831-9258.

Learn More About McElroy University

UPCOMING TRADESHOWS

AHR Expo
Las Vegas
Booth: N8741
Jan 30 - Feb 1, 2017

UCT 2017
Fort Worth
Booth 517
Jan 31-Feb 1, 2017

CONEXPO
Las Vegas
Booth S5852
Mar 7-11, 2017

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