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DICA to purchase Linton Edge Protector Products

DICA announces it has reached an agreement with Ray Linton to purchase the assets of Linton Rigging Gear Supplies, LLC. Following the completion of the acquisition, DICA will assume all ongoing operations.

The timing of the announcement during the 2020 ConExpo-Con/Agg show could not be better. As a shipyard crane operator, crane and rigging supervisor, and lift planner, Ray Linton had attended several ConExpos in the 1990s seeking a solution for sling protection. Finding nothing, he devised his own solution. "Much as DICA was founded on the quest to build a better outrigger pad, the Linton edge protector was born out of an industry need," said Kris Koberg, CEO of CIS.

"We started with \$1000 and an idea," said Ray Linton. "We are happy this idea became a product that reduces risk in the crane and rigging industry."

Linton Rigging Gear edge protectors prevent sling damage and potential failure from sharp corners or load edges, and increase D/d ratios, preserving sling capacity around corners. Made of solid nylon, the edge protectors are 1/7th the weight of steel and are available with Velcro straps to ensure slings stay in place. The patented edge protectors attach to metal surfaces with magnets, requiring no tools to install.

ASME B30.9 and OSHA 29 CFR 1926.251(c)(9) require slings to be protected in scenarios when slings are in contact with edges, corners or protrusions. "Ray Linton's design was a revolutionary concept when he introduced nylon sling protectors to the rigging industry nearly 20 years ago. Linton's engineered products are designed to be lightweight, easy to use, and improve safety and productivity. These are the type of qualities customers expect from all DICA products," said Koberg.

Linton and his wife, Patty, who have operated Linton Rigging Gear Supplies as a team, are ready to retire. "We are glad the legacy of our work will

continue under the care of DICA," said Linton, who will serve in a consulting role with DICA to provide product support through the transition.

Regular, Heavy Duty, Plate Edge Groove and other examples of the nylon edge protectors will be displayed along with DICA products at two booth locations – C20838 and F8258 – during the 2020 ConExpo-Con/Agg show, to be held March 10-14 in Las Vegas. "We are excited to have Ray and Patty Linton in the booth with us at ConExpo," said Koberg.

About DICA

DICA is a family-owned and operated company that specializes in building high performance engineered outrigger pads, crane pads, and cribbing blocks that are lightweight, easy to use, and long-lasting. DICA products are proudly Made in the USA, ASME B30.5 compliant and used in more than 40 countries around the world.

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Unfortunately, traditional pneumatic and hydraulic gas boosters used for this purpose come with some inherent limitations. Pneumatic (air-powered) units work well to boost pressures at intermittent, low-flow rates, but are extremely noisy during operation. At higher flow rates the sound is further increased, since multiple units must fire in parallel. This also increases the amount of electricity required. Hydraulic-powered units, on the other hand, are more suited to continuous operation and are slightly quieter than pneumatic options, but come with the potential risk of hydraulic oil leaks and spills.

Now, a new category of advanced electric gas boosters is promising to provide quieter, cleaner, high-pressure, high flow rates up to 6,500 psi – along with improved monitoring and controls.

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Quieter, Cleaner, More Efficient

Perhaps the most significant drawback of pneumatic and hydraulic industrial gas boosters is the sound levels produced during operation. In some cases, many multiples of the units are used in parallel, particularly when higher flow rates are required. The combined noise generated can be excessive.

"Pneumatic-driven gas boosters are extremely loud during operation, and even louder if multiple units work in parallel, which can make complying with OSHA regulations related to sound levels in the plant more difficult," says George Volk, Global Director of Sales and Business Development at Haskel, a division of Ingersoll Rand that manufactures gas/liquid transfer and pressurization technology.

According to Volk, the operation of typical air-operated and hydraulic-driven gas boosters can exceed the 85-dBA threshold, which can cause hearing loss. In fact, OSHA requires employers to implement a hearing conservation program when noise exposure is at or above 85 decibels averaged over 8 working hours, or an 8-hour time-weighted average.

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remaining hearing, and equip workers with the knowledge and hearing protection devices necessary to safeguard themselves. Under OSHA's Noise Standard, the employer must reduce noise exposure through engineering controls, administrative controls, or Hearing Protection Devices (HPDs) to attenuate the occupational noise received by the employee's ears to within levels specified.

In contrast, advanced industrial electric gas boosters such as the Q-Drive, which is scheduled for release in early 2020 by Haskel, is much quieter (<77 dBA) during operation, while still offering up to 6,500 psi for high-pressure applications.

"This eliminates the need for regulatory scrutiny, along with hearing conservation programs," says Volk. "The use of the electric units can also

streamline production, since workers can spend more time in the vicinity without worrying about exceeding the regulations or potential hearing loss."

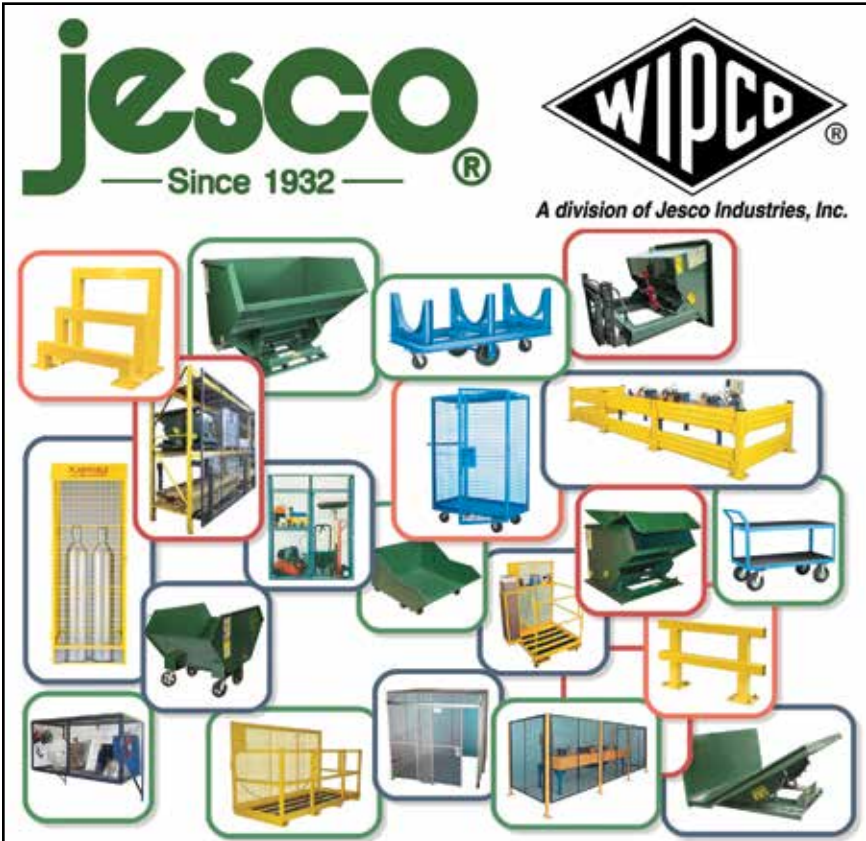
In addition to the noise produced (even though it is less than air-powered units), there can be some concern that hydraulic gas boosters might leak or spill hydraulic oil. This can be a deterrent for applications that mandate a certain level of cleanliness, including cleanrooms.

"Whenever you have hydraulics, there is the potential for leaks or spills," explains Volk. "That is essentially the reason the automotive industry moved away from hydraulics in their production line – because of the potential contamination issues."

Electric energy consumption is also a concern. Despite being electric-powered, the more advanced units are more energy efficient than both pneumatic and hydraulically driven boosters.

"Compared to pneumatic gas boosters, advanced electric units use one-third of the energy and offer flow rates 10 to 20 times higher," says Volk. "Compared to hydraulic boosters, the electric units also provide energy savings due to lower cooling requirements."

Although there are several electric-driven gas boosters on the market, even within the category there can be significant design differences. Some



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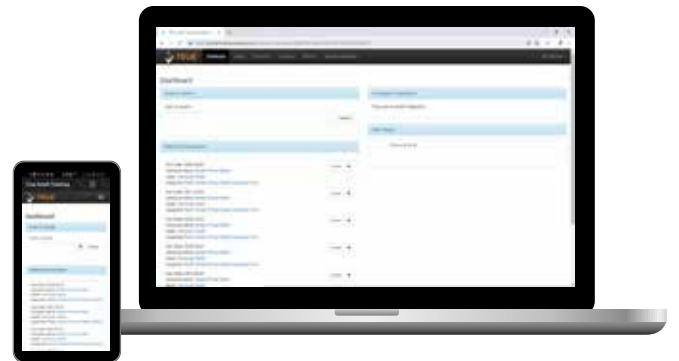
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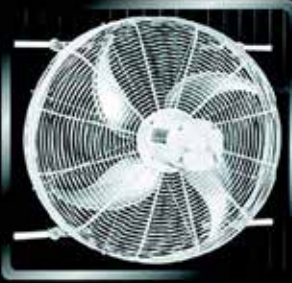


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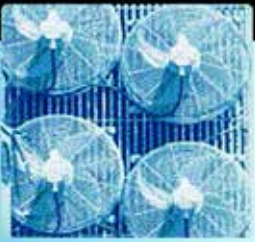
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By Del Williams

Del Williams is a technical writer based in Torrance, California.

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