Automatic Guided Vehicles Maximize Space in Automotive Stamping Plant

Features and Benefits
Increased productivity, creating a "fork-free" manufacturing environment

Flexible solution for plant's changing production demands

Safe, reliable method for delivery of steel blanks and panels

Ability to alter guide paths to save time and free up vehicles that may be needed elsewhere

Utilization of previously unused plant space

Industry Group: Automatic Guided Vehicle Systems (AGVS)

The use of AGVs has enabled the use of space on both floors for manufacturing in this stamping plant

A fleet of five Unit Load automatic guided vehicles (AGVs) pickup steel blanks at a load stand in the receiving area and are carried by the AGVs about a half mile there up a concrete ramp leading to the second floor of a large Automotive Stamping Plant. Once there, the steel blanks are unloaded at or transferred to a press for stamping into truck door and hood panels.

Stamped parts are fed by belt conveyor to a three lane loading area. There, workers manually load each panel into a mobile rack, which is released to the vertical conveyance system to take the parts back down to the first floor.

Once back on the first floor of the facility, a laser-guided Tugger AGV pulls into position alongside staged racks of doors that are automatically loaded onto a trailer.

The fleet of 8 Tugger AGVs, pulling three trailers each, take away the racks of door panels from the automatic pickup station to the work-in-process market where they are staged on three-high racks to be picked up for final assembly and shipment to the truck assembly plants.

Using AGVs for material handling has opened up a large amount of unused space in the plant. Also, the

paths of the AGVs have the ability to be altered to accommodate the changing demands of the plant.

This SGV system has helped to efficiently handle door and hood production between the two floors of the Automotive Stamping Plant.

JBT Corporation
400 Highpoint Drive
Chalfont, PA 18914
mark.longacre@jbtc.com
www.jbtc-agv.com