

FPS | FOOD PROCESSING

R&M Materials Handling, Inc.



R&M chain hoists, wire rope hoists & crane components help our customers rise above their competition with the industry's broadest product portfolio.

With over 90 years of developing and perfecting crane packages, electric chain hoists, and wire rope hoists, R&M is ready to help your business rise above your material handling challenges.

4501 Gateway Boulevard,
Springfield, Ohio 45502
(800) 955-9967
rm.communications@rmhoist.com
www.rmhoist.com
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Industry Group:
Hoist Manufacturers Institute (HMI)

THE APPLICATION:

Food Process Solutions (FPS) is a rapidly expanding company that specializes in the design and manufacture of large refrigeration vessels for the food processing industry worldwide.

FPS has a strategy to invest in in-house manufacturing to ensure its customers receive the highest quality and best technologies in its freezing and cooling equipment. The company maintains sheet metal fabrication, a machine shop, specialized insulated enclosure manufacturing, and control panel assembly in-house.

Growth & Impact



WORKING TOGETHER

18 cranes across the FPS facility allow for easier collaboration between production teams.



REDUCE DOWNTIME

Using R&M's equipment impacts production by at least 30%, according to FPS plant operations management.



INCREASE THROUGHPUT

Its new 80,000 sq ft facility increases the company's production area by 80% with a 50% uplift in capacity anticipated.

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“To date, these existing cranes have been trouble free with little or no downtime due to maintenance issues, etc. FPS relies heavily on the performance of its overhead cranes to maintain its ongoing production. FPS is extremely pleased with R&M SX hoists.”

- Keith Ellis, Norelco

THE CHALLENGE:

Eric Lau, plant operation manager at FPS, explained: “We expect the monthly volume of stainless steel coil for sheet metal to be about 200,000lbs. Other raw materials will be about 80,000lbs per month. The sheet metal coil size has a diameter of 4 x 5ft, weighing about 20,000lbs. The size of our tunnel freezer is, on average, 100 x 18 x 15ft.”

As such, overhead lifting is an essential part of its operations, offloading incoming materials, during the fabricating process, and when handling finished products.

Over the last few years, Norelco has supplied FPS manufacturing sites with more than 20 R&M QX® bridge cranes with capacities ranging from five to 10 tons. For this project, Norelco received an order for 18 QX 10-ton bridge cranes and runways to drive FPS's enhanced manufacturing capacity.

For FPS, Lau noted that different production teams are located at different bays around the facility. Different teams will make their own parts, before final assembly and packing. Each bay must have overhead cranes to support the progress of jobs through manufacturing.

THE SOLUTION:

All 18 cranes and runways have now been installed to drive FPS's enhanced manufacturing capacity. Norelco designed, manufactured and installed complete crane systems in collaboration with the building engineer to incorporate the crane runways into the building.

Ellis stated: “We have the utmost confidence in the reliability and performance of the R&M product and recommend them to all potential customers. Using R&M allows us to maintain our esteemed reputation as a reliable crane manufacturer.”



THE RESULTS:

“The overhead cranes are definitely important equipment to assist our production,” said Lau. “With most of our components made in stainless steel, we always use cranes to support the heavy parts for our production. We use sling and shackles to hang the parts. Under proper rigging training by our safety team, our production team uses overhead cranes frequently and safely.”

For R&M and Norelco, the food processing industry is one which offers lots of opportunity, as Ellis explained: “Presently, FPS is our only customer in the food process industry. However, this is a sector that is showing signs for significant growth especially due to the ever-expanding global population's insatiable need for food products.”

“If we don't have this equipment, the efficiency will drop 30 percent at least, as lots of raw materials and finished components will be moved by the cranes.”

- Eric Lau, FPS Operations Manager



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R&M Materials Handling, Inc.

Case Study