

FROM ONE EXTREME TO THE OTHER

Two Hydra-Slide customers take advantage of the XLP150 extreme low profile system's portability and compact design, suiting it to indoor applications where limited clearance is common.

Edwards Moving & Rigging utilized a variety of equipment, including a 150-ton capacity low profile hydraulic skidding system from Hydra-Slide, to remove small transformers and replace them with new units over a two-year period at a high security power plant in the south east of the U.S.

Edwards completed changeouts, taking three to four days a time, approximately every eight weeks. Each existing transformer weighed around 10,000 lbs. and measured 5.5 ft. long, 8.4 ft. wide, and 6.5 ft. high. The replacement units were a similar size and weight.

Over the course of the project, the Kentucky-based provider of heavy hauling and specialized rigging services employed rollers, hydraulic jacks, aluminum cribbing, a modular tower, and Hydra-Slide equipment. Other than the building's overhead crane, all equipment required for the changeouts was sourced from Edwards' expansive stock. This equipment was disassembled and stored onsite and reassembled each time the plant scheduled a changeout.

The XLP150 extreme low profile system provided a cost-effective, safe, simple, and reliable method for moving the loads. Edwards noted that all components are hand portable. It has a 1.25-in. profile, reducing jacking time and space requirements. It features 150-ton push and pull capacity and is ideal for areas with restricted access and flat, continuous support. The XLP150 was used with 20 ft. of track and powered by a Hydra-Pac synchronous 10,000-psi hydraulic power unit.

Bill Watts, vice president of operations at Edwards, explained that the main challenges were presented by low headroom, a confined workspace, and no access for forklift trucks, in addition to the fact that the site did not allow gasoline motors or any flammable materials, such as wood. The only viable alternative to the Hydra-Slide system would have been to employ overhead trolleys to move the loads across the length of a beam, but the XLP150 presented a myriad of safety and productivity advantages, he added.

Another focal point of the project was the max. 27 ft.-tall modular tower, which provided access to the four floors where work is taking place. At the top of the tower, aluminum cribbing and steel shims were used for blocking and leveling a secure base for the XLP150 system.



Edwards Moving & Rigging use the XLP150 with 20 ft. of track and power it with a Hydra-Pac synchronous 10,000-psi hydraulic power unit.



Mountain Heavy Transport first used the XLP150 for skidding small transformers and generators.



Mountain Heavy Transport chose to use the XLP150 for this indoor application due to the minimal personnel required to mobilize the system. Here, one worker connects the push cylinders and hoses while a second lays out tracks parallel to the first skid run. The project was minimally disruptive to hospital operations.

Increased uptake

Extreme low profile and other Hydra-Slide equipment will increasingly be used in heavy lift and rigging applications, according to one contractor that is seeing heightened demand for 500-ton and 150-ton capacity systems. Mountain Heavy Transport, a division of Salt Lake City, Utah-based Mountain Crane Service, has a HT500 hydraulically powered heavy-track skidding unit and a smaller XLP150.

Ryan Oliverson, manager at Mountain, said: "We see increased uptake being led by raised awareness. Once we get the systems in front of customers, they quickly apply advantages of their use to additional heavy-lift and rigging situations. That is a trend being replicated elsewhere in industry. As that interest continues to grow, we would consider expanding the fleet further with a third, smaller capacity unit."

The Mountain businesses serve power generation and distribution; plant maintenance; steel erection; wind farm; industrial construction; and other customers from a Utah facility, but work is supported by satellite offices and wind maintenance service locations in Nevada, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Iowa, Texas, and Michigan.

The XLP150 system, which was purchased in 2015, can be assembled in minutes and controlled by one operator working from a remotely positioned power unit.

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Oliverson said: "We originally acquired the XLP150 for skidding small transformers and generators inside a hospital. Height was a concern as was the ability to quickly move and relocate the equipment. The ability to put the kit to work with one person was hugely advantageous in this and subsequent applications."

While the capabilities of both Hydra-Slide machines stand out, Oliverson reiterated the importance of Hydra-Slide's ability to back it up with world-class product training and customer service, crucial to safety and ongoing improvement of best practices as use of hydraulic skidding systems becomes more widespread, he said.

Oliverson concluded: "Hydra-Slide's training is second to none. They realize that for customers to be happy with the equipment they must have a good on-boarding. Along with the basic operational training, they provided plenty of subtle tips that make the operation extremely simple. We've been very happy with the Hydra-Slide product itself, while exceptional customer service completes the offering."



The XLP150 offers customers a cost-effective, safe, simple, and reliable solution.

Did you know?

The XLP150 extreme low profile system features a 1.25-in. (32mm) profile, reducing jacking time and making it ideal for situations where overhead space or clearance is limited, such as inside buildings or within live power stations. It can be assembled in minutes and controlled by one operator working from a remotely positioned power unit.

