

KASTO-Racine, Inc.

3002 Venture Court
Export, PA 15632

Sales: Phone 724-325-5600 – Fax 724-325-5611

Parts/Service: Phone 724-325-5605 – Fax 724-325-5612

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PRESS RELEASE

Automated Warehouse Up and Running

Recently, Contractors Steel Company of Livonia, MI was named one of the top 50 service centers in the US. Similarly, KASTO-Racine, Inc, Export, PA was named one of the top 20 service center equipment brands. So it is no accident that both top companies got together to create the most automated service center warehouse in the greater MI-IN-OH region.

Back in September 2004, Contractors Steel saw the need to expand its Belleville, MI steel warehouse. Envisioning the need for a high-rise storage facility, Donald R. Simon, President and founder of Contractors Steel, had the foresight to add a high bay to his existing warehouse.

Throughout 2005, extensive design and project talks were held between Contractors Steel and KASTO-Racine to find the best possible solution to receive, store, and ship Contractors' more than 2,000 bar products. The final outcome:



A 50-foot tall automated storage & retrieval system with approximately 2,500 cassettes, each cassette holding up to 11,000 lbs. of material.

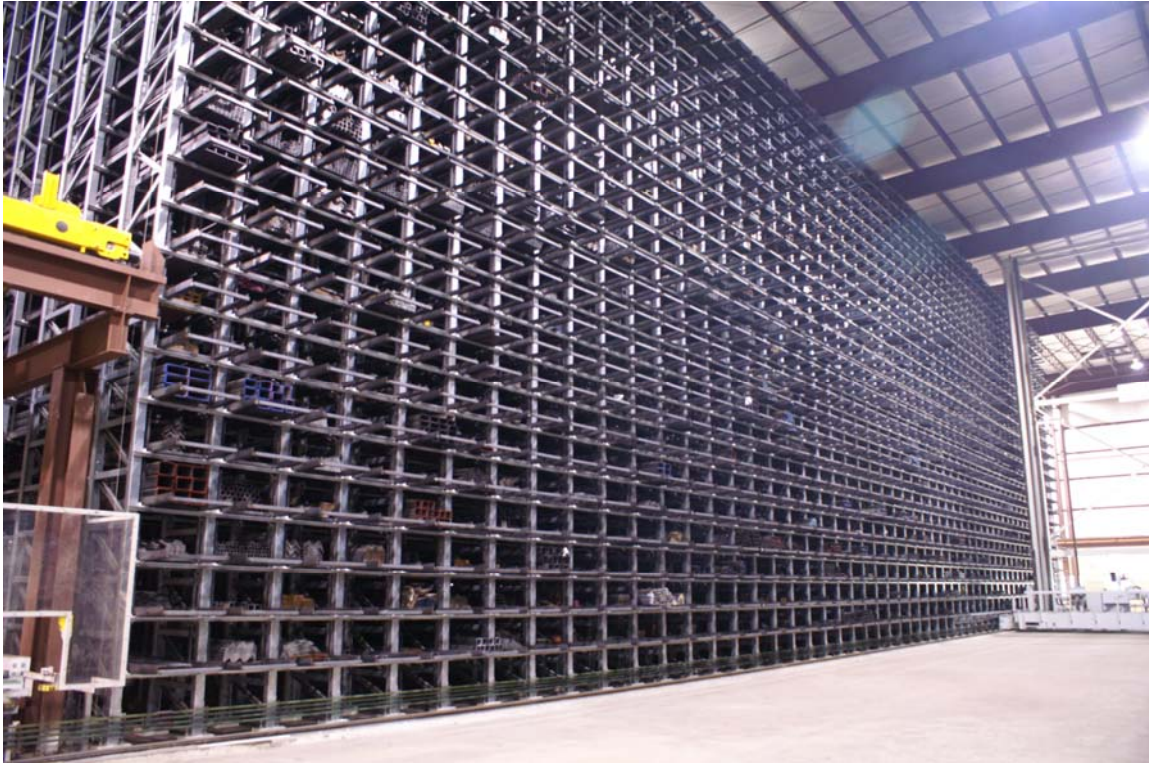
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Due to the high-rise design, the necessary floor space to store a total of approximately 27.9 million pounds of steel is only 158 x 86 feet or 13,588 square feet!

The system was installed late in 2006 and has been continuously running ever since. To be linked to Contractors Steel in-house MRP system, the KASTO server constantly updates inventories in real time – as they happen: each material move (in or out) is weighed and compared with the electronic pick ticket. Any deviations are immediately recognized and can be dealt with.

A master record of each item in Contractors' inventory is maintained by the KASTO/*vr* software. Each record contains the description of the products as well as the physical dimensions, the weight per foot and the unit of measure. In addition, the custom software stores inventory levels, re-order points and material heat information. After downloading the orders to the KASTO system, it automatically sorts the orders according to predetermined truck routes. With a single operating gantry crane, the system supplies a new cassette every 100 seconds to one of the two order-filling stations where one operator per station handles the material in and out of the cassette.

With system speeds that fast, the loading/unloading equipment at the order-filling stations has to be "up to speed."

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Sway-free cranes together with magnetic spreader beams allow fast, safe and easy handling of Contractors' bar stock inventory. The magnets automatically de-magnetize the material when it is set down into a cassette or onto the bundling table.

To complete the installation, KASTO-Racine installed a KASTO*tw*in A4, double column production bandsaw near one of the order-filling stations to handle the necessary sawing jobs.

As Don Simon puts it, after the first eight months of operation, "The system does everything as advertised, just better."

For more information, please contact

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