



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**By: Kasto-Racine, INC.**

**Title: HIGH-TECH AUTOMATION FOR WESTERN NEW YORK'S  
PREMIER METAL SERVICE CENTER**

Klein Steel Service, an independent service center headquartered in Rochester, NY, has been growing steadily over the last 30 plus years. "Keeping a broad inventory and providing quick, dependable, friendly service has been our philosophy," says Joe Klein, President of Klein Steel. But rapid growth, increased inventories, and an outdated warehouse have caused growing pains as the company has added many new products and many new processes.

Recognizing the challenge, Klein Steel formed a task force to design a steel service warehouse that would combine the best of the more than 100 service centers the team visited in the US, Canada, and in Europe. As the core of the new warehouse operation, Klein decided to invest in a completely automated honeycomb storage and retrieval system, type UNICOMPACT, made by KASTO.

Working together and analyzing many years of data, Klein and KASTO's US subsidiary Kasto-Racine, Inc. of Export, PA, determined the optimal size of the system to be 10,500 sq. ft. (86 x 121), with a height of 52 feet and holding 1346 cassettes to accommodate over 1500 products weighing 15 million pounds. The individual cassettes are 26' long, 16" wide, and can hold 11,000 pounds of product each. The ability to subdivide the cassettes into smaller storage units effectively multiplies the number of potential items stored.

The storage system itself is only part of the solution. The material is handled with two order filling and/or receiving stations, each with enough cassette buffers to guarantee a fast, reliable supply of materials to the operators. Each station has its own computer client including label printers for automatically finishing the orders at the station. Scales integrated into both stations automatically update the system's inventory as well as talking directly to Klein's ERP software through KASTO's server, keeping all transactions live and in real time 24/7. Two fast commissioning cranes combined with two material tables for manual bundling complete the order filling stations.

Completing this phase of the new manufacturing facility, KASTO will also deliver a "Beam Saw" consisting of KASTO's high production, heavy duty TEC A 5x10 double-column saw with a cutting capacity of 20 x 40" and a 15 HP saw motor. Integrated are an automated in-feed magazine and a magazine for the finished cuts on the out-feed side. This saw comes with a feed unit with a single stroke length of 9.5 feet. For smaller sawing jobs, particularly bundle cutting, Klein Steel will install a KASTO Twin A 4 saw, a fully automatic, double-column band saw with a cutting range of 15.75 x 15.75."

The complete warehouse, including extensive burning, shearing and other processing capabilities, is scheduled to be open for operation in early 2004.

For more information, please contact Joseph Klein at Klein Steel or Werner Rankenhohn at Kasto-Racine, Inc.