EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CUSTOMER NAME: ACL Steel

INDUSTRY: Fabrication and erection of structural steel and miscellaneous metals

LOCATION: Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

CHALLENGE: Finding an automated solution for their detail components (angle parts and plate parts)

SOLUTION: Installed the Anglemaster-HD angle line and the HSFDB-B plate processor

RESULTS: The Anglemaster-HD has proven to be 30 times faster than manual production for clip angles

Just over an hour outside of Toronto, Ontario, the city of Kitchener plays host to a leading structural fabricator within the region - ACL Steel. ACL Steel (which stands for accountable, credible, leaders in steel) is a proud Canadian Institute of Steel Construction member and active SteelPLUS network participant. Known for fabricating multi-story structures, office buildings, big box buildings, food processing plants, and mining facilities, ACL Steel is capable of producing as much as 38 tons of fabricated steel in a single 9 hour shift. Like many fabricators, ACL is a family business, with a keen understanding of what it takes to succeed in an ever changing steel fabrication marketplace.

Competing in a Complex Marketplace

Fabricators in all corners of the globe are automating and the result is lower production cost. This means that whether or not an individual fabricator chooses to automate, the industry as a whole will continue to grow more efficient. As market prices drop, margins shrink, and the solution to this issue is to participate in the industry wide automation trend.

ACL Steel had purchased a drill line before the recession. As the market has stabilized, projects are becoming available, however, prices remain low. With no solution for their detail components (angle parts and plate parts), the team at ACL understood that automating these operations...
Automating Angle and Plate Production

While researching angle lines and plate processors all brands on the market were examined. Paul Seibel, president of ACL Steel, recounts the search for new machinery, “We had visited tradeshows and watched equipment in operation. In addition, we leveraged our connections at SteelPLUS and the CISC to learn about all of our options on the market. We had heard nothing but good things about Peddinghaus’ technology, spare parts, and support. In the end we chose Peddinghaus.”

ACL Steel has since installed an Anglemaster-HD angle line, and HSFDB-B plate processor within their facility. Each machine was chosen due to specific attributes of the system. In terms of ACL’s plate production, Paul elaborates, “The HSFDB does everything we need. It drills, taps, mills, cuts, you name it. The biggest thing is that it is compact. A burn table would have taken up as much as 45’×15’ (13 M x 4.5 M), whereas the Peddinghaus takes up a much smaller space and is capable of doing so much.”

Peddinghaus Provides Results

Did ACL achieve their goals? Brad Doerr, shop coordinator, explains the result of their decision, “We understood that when you have to sub out work, you lose money. Every time you sub something out, you are reducing your margins. With our new machines from Peddinghaus we don’t have that. Also if we need a part we just make it as opposed to waiting to have it done by an outside company. We loved our plate processing vendor, but this machine has made us that much more cost effective and responsive.”

Beyond plate production, a study was conducted by the team at ACL in regards to their angle line. They set out to examine what the machine had actually done for them in terms of productivity. Brad states, “we used to have two ironworkers and a band saw working two shifts to keep up with our fitters and have since replaced this with our Anglemaster-HD. I wanted to see what the true difference was, so one day we had one of our workers make standard clip angles. In a 9 hour shift, our shop employee was capable of making 100 clips using a saw, ironworker, and centerpunch. We then took the exact same parts and ran them on the Anglemaster-HD in 18 minutes. That was impressive.” Brad’s production comparison proved the angle line to be dramatically faster on standard sections, but the machine has also proven itself on the heaviest of materials. Capable of processing angle up to 8×8×1” (200x200x25 mm), the machine has had the opportunity to process full stock lengths that
couldn’t have before been entertained by ACL before.

Leaders Share Vision
When asked if Peddinghaus had met his expectations, Paul agrees, but goes one step further, “Peddinghaus stands behind their machines. When we need parts, we get them the next day. When we need a technician, they send one. I have visited Bradley, and was impressed with how the company operates. I would say that they are much like ACL. They stand behind their products 100%, and do whatever it takes to make sure the customer gets exactly what they need.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION
To learn more about Peddinghaus Corporation visit:
www.peddinghaus.com

PRODUCT LIST:
▪ Beam Drill Lines
▪ Angle Masters
▪ Plate Processing
▪ Coping Machines
▪ Thermal Cutting
▪ Automated Layout Marking
▪ Structural Band Saws
▪ Ironworkers
▪ Material Handling