Morgan City, Louisiana is a quiet and unassuming town in the Southeastern USA. Locals gather annually to celebrate the Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum festival at the heart of the city, and for those unfamiliar with the area, this combination can seem unusual. A quick glance at a map illustrates that this small town is located on Intercoastal Waterway and the Atchafalaya River which connects local industry to the Gulf of Mexico, where much of the USA's shrimping and offshore oil exploration take place.

New Industries, a pressure vessel and specialty fabricator, is among the many local firms that thrive on deep water oil and gas production in the Gulf. Bill New, Founder and President of the firm, made Morgan City his home after a stint with Mobil Oil Company. Using the tools he learned as an engineer with the oil giant, Bill’s firm has grown since its inception with a handful of employees in 1986 to over 170 employees today.

**Underwater Pipelines - A Different Type of Fabrication**

The underwater pipeline industry requires fabrication that is vastly different from the typical “beam and column” structural work we see above sea level. Much of the fabrications done by New Industries are so deep under water that humans are not able to install or service the lines. Pipelines require state-of-the-art insulations and coatings to survive in this environment and installation must be accomplished by
ROV (remotely operated vehicle). This means no bolted connections and a lot of plate.

The limited population of the Morgan City area, paired with the amount of industry within the region, provides challenges to New Industries when it comes to sourcing qualified labor. Because of this, automation is critical for the firm to remain competitive. Burn tables have long been instrumental within the New Industries production facility for cutting large sheets of plate for pressure vessels. When it came to smaller components cut from heavy plate, New Industries needed a better solution for handling the plate and the parts for the complex underwater projects.

The Peddinghaus Solution for Plate Processing

In 1997, Bill and his team discovered a different way to process plate. Upon seeing the Peddinghaus FPB-1800 plate punching and cutting machine in action, Bill was impressed. “The plate could be loaded on the machine, pulled into the machine, processed, and have finished parts dropped off the other end. Our gantry style machines are great for the larger pressure vessel parts, but the Peddinghaus machines are perfect for smaller parts. There is no machine faster when it comes to processing small parts from heavy plate especially if the parts have holes in them.” Convinced of the concept, Bill purchased his first Peddinghaus plate processor and operated it until 2011. “When we saw the latest machines from Peddinghaus that could process thicker plate [up to 3” / 75 mm] and could drill smaller holes, we knew we needed that additional capacity and flexibility.” New Industries invested in an HSFDB-2500/B to replace their original Peddinghaus plate processor, but always wanted it to do just a little more in terms of its cutting capabilities “We love our HSFDB-2500/B. Immediately it allowed us to do many things that our FPB-1800 could never do. It can drill, mill, tap, countersink and more, but I told Peddinghaus from the start that it needed a beveling torch. In our industry, we need a bevel for weld preparation on a lot of our plate parts. It didn’t take long for Peddinghaus to come up with the new bevel machine. As soon as I saw it was available, I knew I had to be the first to have one!”

The First Ever HSFDB with Bevel Technology

Bill and his team installed the all new HSFDB-2500/C plate processor with integrated bevel torch and hard stamp part marking system shortly after witnessing it at the FABTECH exhibition in Chicago. In the short time since its commissioning, the machine has already begun to yield results. Bill elaborates, “Before this machine, all beveling had to be done manually, either by hand or using a track torch. This meant that we had
two or three fitters working several shifts at times to accomplish what we do now on the machine. In addition, those fitters had to be some of our most talented craftsmen. The machine bevels are more accurate which saves us a lot of welding time and our best fitters can go back to doing what they do best - fitting!"

Beyond bevel cutting, the new marking system has proven to be a great benefit to New Industries due to the need for full traceability when it comes to materials. “With the new stamping unit, I don’t have someone writing a part number on the part with a paint pen. This means that we don’t have to worry about numbers being transposed or unreadable like we used to,” states Bill.

With such a large facility and scope of work, Bill and his team are familiar with many different types of machinery. They choose Peddinghaus due to the technology and longevity of the equipment. “I like big, strong, robust machinery. Peddinghaus makes a strong machine and they service it. At the end of the day, your machine doesn’t make you money if it’s not running. That is why I chose Peddinghaus,” concludes Bill.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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