

NLB SRT-10 Surface Preparation on Tank Exterior

An East Coast marine contractor recently used NLB equipment to effectively complete a large coatings removal job on a one million gallon liquid natural gas storage tank. The tank had 85,000 square feet of surface area and was covered in two to three layers of paint. The total thickness of these layers measured from 10 to 12 mills. Nearly half of the surface area was in a state of complete coating failure.

The immense size of the operation called for a tool that could remove the existing coating in a timely and efficient manor. However, the quality of the work was also of prime importance. A polyurethane top coat with an inorganic zinc primer needed to be completely removed down to the steel substrate in order to ensure a proper bond with the new coating that was to be applied. The tool that was used to tackle this job was the NLB SRT-10 Crawler in conjunction with four NLB 40201 pumps that provided 6 gpm at 40,000 psi.



The SRT-10 Crawler beginning removal on a new section of tank.

The SRT-10 is attached to the surface through the use of an innovative vacuum recovery system. This system provides a tight grip with the surface (even over welds), as well as recovering debris and waste water. For added safety, a winch skid assembly and locking pulley act as a fall arrest system. The Crawler is controlled from a remote operator console, and moves up, down and sideways while SPIN JET® nozzles strip away the coatings. The SRT-10 is extremely maneuverable due to its unique pivoting design, which allows the drive to rotate around the seal without tangling the hoses.

The project's outcome was a complete success. The old coating, rust and contaminants were removed while maintaining a proper profile to adhere the new coating. Removal rates of 400 square feet per hour were achieved.

* Patent pending in U.S. and other countries



The mobility of NLB's Crawler allows it to get within six inches of an obstruction.

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