

NEWS

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CREFORM AGV IDEAL FOR TIGHT TURNS AND NARROW AISLE MATERIAL HANDLING

An international building hardware manufacturer was searching for a solution to its material delivery capabilities at one of its plants. The problem was, unlike its other location, this facility had narrow aisles with tight turns. The manufacturer already was a customer of Creform customer, so they looked to Creform's engineers to provide a solution. That solution was a Creform Tite-Space BST AGV Tugger. To prove its point Creform demonstrated the unit prior to the sale.

The need to efficiently transport materials and parts to support assembly cells in its production area was the primary concern of this manufacturer but the problem they faced was tight turns and narrow aisles. That's where the Creform Tite-Space BST AGV Tugger comes in. The unit is especially well suited for delivering to line-side assembly points when space is at a premium. With a minimum turning radius of 15.7 in. (400 mm) it slips into tight spots and leaves just as easily.

The initial project called for a single Creform AGV but once it was evaluated the manufacturer plans to add three other units before year's end.

Like all Creform BST AGVs the Tite-Space features a low-profile, sleek design consisting of a drive motor, 24 Volt DC system powered by 2—12 volt AGM batteries, and guidance sensors. It travels in a single direction along an easily installed magnetic tape guidepath at speeds of 13-164 ft./min. (4-50 m/min.). The AGV unit will stay connected to the primary cart except for battery changes or when the AGV is removed for maintenance. The primary cart, with a convenient push/pull handle for manual

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CREFORM AGV IDEAL...2/

maneuvering, features a small load deck for box handling as well as a rear-mounted towing hitch so that a second cart can be towed behind. For this manufacturer the AGV will typically be towing two carts at a time.

The Creform Tite-Space BST AGV Tugger will be in operation for two shifts, five to six days per week. The unit runs along 500 ft. long guide path, with a route that features 11 stops. The unit stops automatically and restarts after a set period of time.

A major advantage of the Tite-Space unit, like all Creform BST AGVs, is its ability to mobilize multiple carts with a single drive unit, making it an economical alternative to other delivery methods. For larger operations, a series of BST drive units can power an entire fleet of carts. Typically BST units tunnel under carts and connect with the lead cart by raising its tow pin automatically or manually.

The Tite-Space unit boasts a maximum towed weight/draw bar of 1320 lb. (600 kg) /57 lb. (26 kg). For safety it has electromagnetic braking, audible warning and flashing light, obstacle sensor, bumper switch and e-stop. It also has a battery tray cart for easy battery changing. Command tapes initiate AGV functions such as speed changes, route selection and extend/retract tow pin, but control options include PLC, RF, RFID, and optical communicator. As always with Creform AGV products, superior service and support programming are featured, plus cart/structure designs and kitting or assembly assistance along with route layout installation if required. Optional equipment includes battery upgrade for longer run time, opportunity charging system, radio communications to integrate into a Creform traffic control system and preventative maintenance program.

The Creform System is used to create an array of material handling and efficiency enhancing devices and is a proven component in continuous improvement and Lean Manufacturing programs. The company partners with customers in developing and implementing these programs.

CREFORM AGV IDEAL...3/ with photo and caption

Embedded photo is for reference only. Hi-res photo is attached as separate file.



Caption CRE-532: The Creform Tite-Space BST AGV Tugger is an efficient and cost-effective material handling solution for installations with tight turns and narrow aisles.