



Ideas @ work

KRONES, INC.

Krones, Inc., located in Franklin, Wisconsin is the US headquarters for the world's leading manufacturer of bottle packaging equipment. The facility supports hundreds of customer facilities running production lines in food, beverage, cosmetic and chemical plants across North America with spare parts and repair service. The diversity and longevity of the machinery, along with Krones' consistent growth has created an ever expanding inventory that maxed out the warehouse. "We do 40,000 to 45,000 picks per month and we have so much inventory that we've out grown our warehouse, but we can't get a bigger footprint," said Jim Brantner, Head of Warehouse.

"What made the Joey the right decision for us is we were able condense the warehouse, double our storage capacity, increase our productivity, all at the same time making it safer for employees. It's an all-around win-win for us."

Inventory was stored in standard racking set in aisles that were 9 feet wide by thirty feet long. Krones employees were using traditional rolling ladders to access stock, which required workers to ascend and descend an excessive amount of times throughout their shift - often with large items in their hands.

ISSUE: An overstocked warehouse, using unsafe rolling ladders to access stock resulting in general inefficiency and creating the potential for serious employee injury.

SOLUTION: A task support vehicle designed to safely lift an employee to access the stock and a redesign of the warehouse floor plan to maximize the vehicle's potential. For Krones, that solution was the J1 Joey. "We brought in some other competitors that we researched online and we found the Joey to be the most stable and the most economical for our dollar," said Brantner.

"Using the Joey, it's so stable it's so solid you raise up go down there's no wobble when you're up top, it's just a very solid sound unit," he said. The Joey's maneuverability and stability at full height allowed Krones to reconfigure the aisles and condense their width from nine feet to just 50 inches.

RESULTS: By rotating the existing racking 90° and creating long, narrow aisles specifically set to allow an operator to access both sides without moving the Joey, Krones was able to achieve 2X as much storage per square foot versus the previous layout. The improved space utilization afforded Krones by the implementation of the Joey without need of construction has saved the company tremendous expense while ultimately increasing the facility's productivity. Brantner cites the Joey's lifting capacity and large storage tray as essential elements to improved throughput, "you're not limited to just grabbing one thing and going back. You can pick multiple parts with the use of the Joey. It moves faster than we can walk. We've probably doubled our productivity using it." Worker safety has also been improved dramatically since Krones purchased their Joeys, with no injuries reported by operators in over three years of continuous usage. "What made the Joey the right decision for us is we were able condense the warehouse, double our storage capacity, increase our productivity, all at the same time making it safer for employees. It's an all-around win-win for us."





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J1 JOEY



The J1 JOEY combines attributes of elevated work platforms, order pickers and tuggers into a compact vehicle design.



BIG JOE MISSION:

We believe that we can help North American businesses improve their results and the quality of their workers lives by providing simple innovative material handling products and genuine responsive support. Big Joe equipment focuses on supporting customers changing needs related to how they Move, Stack & Access materials in their operations with the goal of helping companies and their workers **move more and hurt less.**

ABOUT THE J1 JOEY:

- + **Safety** – Reduce exposure to worker injuries compared to ladders
- + **Productivity** – Complete 2x as much work as compared to ladders
- + **Capability** - Carry up to 2x the load weight of other vehicles
- + **Capability** - Tow up to 2,500lbs with the optional tow hitch
- + **Capability** - Elevate operators as high as 192" on the J1-192

Key features:

- Electronic power steering with infinitely variable speed control
- Finger tip controls integrated into vehicle guardrails
- Premium steel I-beam mast construction and steel frame
- 180 degree articulating driveline with 72" minimum turn radius. The Joey can can be driven at height to move from task to task. Travel is provided by a high efficiency AC drive motor that can be programmed through the on-board LCD dash, while power comes from a standard 224AH AGM maintenance free battery pack that supports opportunity charging from a standard 120v outlet or a lead acid industrial battery and external charger which is required on the J1-192.