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Spider Wraps Up Burlington Bristol Bridge Trolley Work

Seattle - Spider, a division of SafeWorks, has completed the final stages of powered access work on the Burlington Bristol Bridge in Philadelphia, PA.

Spanning across the Delaware River to connect the industrial towns of Burlington, NJ and Bristol, PA, the truss bridge was in dire need of renovations. The latest inspection revealed extensive wear on all components of the trolley system, some of which dated back to the bridge's original 1931 completion date.



On site renovations took place nearly 130 feet above the roadway (200 feet above the river) with minimal existing walkways to access the work points. The ST-17 Air Spider was the perfect solution, allowing access throughout the project and requiring only a single rigging point.

The scaffold system itself involved the attachment of a series of needle beams, fall protection, and a scaffold hand controlled system at the tower's top level. By adding flydecks, the crew was able to work the full width of the job without having to reposition the Spider basket, saving valuable time.

Spider equipment allowed rigging to be cleared in 15 minutes, so that the project could take place on an active lift span -- an essential element to keep the Delaware River's waterway traffic flowing smoothly.

"Spider's equipment worked flawlessly," says Jack DiGiovanna, Field Engineer at Pennoni Associates Inc., Tacony-Palmyra Bridge Field Office. "At the end of each shift all we had to do was lower the hoisting wire and raise the two safety lines and the bridge was good to go. The top rigging was easy to install, with very adaptable attachment hardware. Safety was never compromised and the production rate was outstanding."

Extreme bridge work is nothing new to Spider. Every bridge from the boroughs into Manhattan, to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in Washington state, from the Bridge of the Americas in Panama to our work on the Mackinac Bridge in Michigan featured on Dirty Jobs with Mike Rowe® - Spider's expertise in accessing bridge restoration work is well-known among bridge contractors, DOTs and private owners.

"Bridge work poses some of the most significant challenges Spider faces in applying standard equipment to access a structure," comments John Sotiroff, Vice President -

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Sales & Distribution. "To execute a bridge restoration job, we configure hoists and platforms to work spans with numerous obstructions, limited power availability and extreme project conditions. We develop custom adjustable rigging solutions, plan for debris accumulation, perform specialized training for the crew, and manage equipment moves around vehicle and shipping lane traffic - all in typically remote locations with high winds and under tremendous schedule pressure to re-open the traffic lanes."

"Spider's Philadelphia team literally went the extra mile to provide a customer in need with a safe, reliable, successful solution to their project challenges," adds Sotiroff. "Whether working over land or water, whether in North America or overseas, Spider remains the go-to powered access expert...just what you'd expect from the market leader."

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About Spider:

Founded in 1946, Spider, a division of SafeWorks, LLC, created the powered suspended access business by introducing the well-known Spider basket. Since then, our product and service offering has expanded greatly to serve the needs of an ever-growing marketplace. Spider is the largest manufacturer and distributor of access and safety solutions in North America, serving more customers from more locations with a wider variety of products and services than any other company. From baskets, traction hoist and platform rental, to safety and training, to specialty engineered products - Spider has a strong team of professionals, along with a national network of sales, service and support capabilities to provide you with the most reliable access solutions available.

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