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Spider Wraps Up International Bridge Work

Seattle – Spider, a division of SafeWorks, LLC is in the final stages of powered access work on the Angostura Bridge in Venezuela.

Spider has been supplying multiple unique grated deck platforms powered by the premier SC1000 traction hoists to enable VHICOH of Venezuela to perform sandblasting and painting work on the 41-year-old suspension bridge, which crosses the Orinoco River. In addition to the swingstage equipment supplied, Spider provided bilingual on-site support by installing the equipment and training the local crew.

Extreme bridge work is nothing new to Spider. From 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 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 – 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.”

This first phase of renovation of the Angostura Bridge called for sandblasting with a heavier media than commonly used stateside. Spider's innovative grated platform decks prevented this debris from accumulating and overloading the swingstage platform. VHICOH's project plan called for mobile suspension points, which Spider augmented with specially-engineered outrigger beams to ensure safe rigging.

“Spider's Orlando 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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