MARINE CONSTRUCTION: METHODS FOR USING LARGE STONE



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FOR

USING THE RIGHT STEEL, STRENGTHENING TECHNIQUES, LIFTING STRATEGIES, AND MORE

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Photo credit: Foundation Technologies, Inc. - ShaftSpa

TEAMWORK TACKLES Hard Rock Foundation Challenges

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ESSENTIAL CHECKLISTS For Geotechnical Projects **GIKEN MANHATTAN PROJECT** Utilizing the Press-in Piling Method



By Luke Wittenbraker

STEEL PILE REMOVAL AT BROADWAY BROADWAY Little Rock, AR

Photo credit: Massman.

JOB STORY

The client had recently completed a bridge project which entailed building the arch spans of the new bridge on barges connected to steel piles and anchored into the river bottom with concrete. Once the new arch spans were erected, the old bridge was demolished. The new spans were then floated into position on the barges and lowered onto the new substructures.

This project was meticulously planned with a tight deadline in order to remove traffic from the old bridge and get it flowing over the new bridge within a timeframe of 180 days. Once the new arch spans were in place, the client needed to remove the 19 steel piles that were used to hold the barges in position during the erection process. The piles had an outside diameter of 48 and 60 inches with a 7/8-inch wall thickness.

Mactech Offshore was chosen for the job due to their ability to quickly and efficiently make internal cuts to the piles, using their Internal Diameter Milling Machine — also known as an ID Sever.





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JOB STORY

MACTECH OFFSHORE'S Role in the project

Mactech provided its 33-60-inch ID Sever to cut piles which lay 15 feet below the river bed.

This tool reliably cuts casing, pilings, and other round, hollow tubes from the inside. Cutting below the mudline (BML) is made safe and efficient with this unique tool. No external dredging or digging is required. The ID Sever is lowered into the cleaned pipe, and then the self-centering mechanism is activated and the cut is made.

MACTECH OFFSHORE'S VALUE Adding to the project

With recent rains in the area, the river was running higher than normal and the current made it difficult to work in the river using conventional methods. Mactech's machine enabled the client to cut and remove the piles





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JOB STORY

without any need to use divers for torch cutting.

Mactech always makes a total commitment to safe working practices, both in equipment design and services performed. The ability to utilize the ID Sever in this specific circumstance kept human resources safer in under less than favorable conditions.

The company's emphasis on reliability and consistency in equipment design allows contractors to produce full thru-cuts on pipe sections, giving operators both confidence and confirmation regarding cuts. Being sure of your cuts when it is time to make them puts project managers' minds at ease and helps a project schedule stay on pace for on-time completion.

Because of funding and timelines, there is always a focus on producing the best cut times in the industry. With cut times of just under 60 minutes for this project, Mactech more than satisfied the client, allowing them to have confidence that time was on their side with regard to planning the removal of these piles.

ALTERNATIVE METHODS TO MACTECH OFFSHORE'S SOLUTION

Diving was considered, but ultimately deemed less economical, as the ID Sever offered greater production rates and allowed the client to salvage more lengths of piling.

STEPS TAKEN TO COMPLETE THE JOB

- The client contacted Mactech in February to discuss the possibility of using their equipment for the final phase of the project.
- The project mobilized in March.
- The cutting of 19 piles was completed in four days.
- The average cut time equaled 60 minutes per pile.

RESULTS

The customer was very pleased with both the ID Sever and the cutting. Going forward, the client now has an alternative to using divers for the removal of piles. ■

