

CASE STUDY

Preventing Back Injuries

THE COMPANY

American Metals Supply Co., Inc. is a leading wholesale distributor of sheet and coil steel, prefabricated duct and fittings, and HVAC products. Located in Hazelwood, Missouri, American Metals has over 8 locations across 12 states in the United States.

THE PROBLEM

The filament winding process was an exhaustive and manual process. The process required employees to manually lift and load layers of pipe, weighing over 100lbs, from a low-level powered cart into a machine known as the Winder. Due to the weight of the pipes, this manual and strenuous process has resulted in numerous employees sustaining back injuries. As a result, finding the right safety solution became a high priority.



THE SOLUTION

The company's Engineering Team and the Blue Giant Sales Engineering Team worked together to develop a safety solution. The solution was to customize a Blue Giant tilt table that could raise a layer of pipes from a horizontal position to a vertical position. This allowed the cart to be driven into the Winder, eliminating the need for employees to manually lift and load the pipes into the Winder. The Blue Giant team developed and customized a Blue Giant Hydraulic Upender (HUE-20-90) and through 3D modeling and file collaboration between engineering teams, helped design a fixture to hold the pipes in place for unloading. This safety solution allowed this once intensive and manual process to become fully automated, resulting in increased productivity and safety for employees.

Features

- Upenders are ideal for the safe re-positioning of pallet loads and odd shaped objects
- 0° to 90° tilt angle
- Can be customized. Engineering and design services are available for unique applications.
- Can be mounted to the lift table platform to assist with positioning.

