Wheelabrator 8 Wheel Monorail Blast Machine Improves Performance at D&L Foundry

LaGrange, Georgia  D&L Foundry in Moses Lake, Washington, installed a Wheelabrator® 8 wheel monorail blast machine in early 2003 as part of a process to modernize their foundry. This new monorail machine, formerly marketed as a BCP product but now sold under the consolidated Wheelabrator brand, reduced the amount of material handling to one time on and one time off the system, and eliminated all fork lift work and much of the manual labor involved with the previous process.

Known for producing municipal castings such as man hole covers and rings, gratings for trees, and commemorative event plaques, D&L Foundry decided to change the process for handling castings after they come out of the rotary shake out barrel. Previously, either a Wheelabrator 22 cubic foot Tumblast® machine or a Wheelabrator 96" Swing Table machine were used at this point in the process to remove the remaining sand that is left over from the casting process. Now parts are picked directly off the shaker conveyor and hung in baskets on the overhead monorail system. Because the parts are extremely hot, they leave the building on a zig-zag conveyor line at a rate of 10 feet per minute to cool before returning to the 8 wheel monorail shot blast machine. When castings leave the blast machine they gain elevation to go directly into the cleaning room in an adjacent building where castings undergo automatic or manual grinding. Jason McGowan, General Manager of D&L Foundry, states, “Because of the change in the overall system, the new monorail machine is reducing the labor rate and material handling costs, and the cleanliness of the castings is much better.”

Previously marketed as a BCP product, monorail machines are now sold with the Wheelabrator brand as a result of company consolidation. Founded in 1906, Wheelabrator is one of the most recognized names in the blast cleaning and surface preparation industries. Wheelabrator designs and builds a full line of blast cleaning equipment and systems suitable for a variety of finishing requirements at their LaGrange, Georgia and Burlington, Ontario facility.