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HAN-TEK Automated Crane enhances safety at nuclear-waste facility

*System uses customized controls
to ensure precise positioning of hazardous materials
while minimizing risks to workers*

(VICTOR, N.Y., July 16, 2004) – HAN-TEK, Inc., has developed an Automated Crane solution that allows workers at a nuclear-waste processing facility to safely handle hazardous materials by controlling the crane from outside the thick walls of a nuclear hot cell.

Vital to the crane system are customized controls that offer a variety of benefits. A touch screen located outside the hot cell shields workers from proximity to hazardous materials, and offers easy access for maintenance and reprogramming. The system allows an operator to program up to 200 preset positions.

The Automated Crane solution also features unusually tight tolerances. “At HAN-TEK, we pride ourselves on meeting or exceeding our customers’ specifications,” says Todd VandeSande, company vice president. “In this installation, delivering quarter-inch tolerances -- when the project required half-inch -- will allow our customer to perform its painstaking work with greater speed, efficiency and – above all – worker safety.” Tight positioning tolerances avoid the time-consuming, trial-and-error jogging typical of manual crane operation.

In addition, a brake system that secures the crane load whenever power is interrupted enhances the system’s safety profile. Once power is restored, the operator restarts the system using the remote control panel.

The HAN-TEK Automated Crane solution also features:

- ◆ Compactness, operating with only 27.5 inches of headroom.
- ◆ Variable-speed drives for smooth acceleration and deceleration, to minimize hook swing and enhance precise placement of loads.
- ◆ Documentation of compliance with all codes governing hazardous waste.

HAN-TEK, Inc., an ISO 9001:2000 registered company, customizes advanced automation technology to develop and optimize manufacturing-assembly and product-distribution systems. Founded in 1961, HAN-TEK specializes in overhead cranes, integrated conveyors, and systems automation and controls.

To learn more about HAN-TEK, call 800-836-0237 or visit www.HAN-TEK.com.

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