

SKID AND TURN

Hydra-Slide hydraulic skidding systems and a turntable combine as demand for new power distribution and generation equipment rises.

St Louis, Missouri-based heavy rigging and haulage specialist HWP Rigging used a Hydra-Slide HT500 system to skid a failed transformer out of an electric generating facility and replace it with a new one during an emergency callout.

One of the Missouri plant's four generators was out of service due to the failing step-up transformer, which increases the voltage of electricity that is generated by the turbine so it can be transmitted through the grid to homes and businesses.

The 500t capacity heavy-track system skidded the transformer 120 ft. clear of the existing foundation before a replacement was unloaded from a self-propelled modular transporter (SPMT) and slid into position, again utilizing the HT500. Both transformers weighed approximately 400 tons; the replacement unit was designed to be as close a match to the original as possible.

Steve Hentrich, project engineer at HWP Rigging, said: "We started removal of the failed transformer on a Friday afternoon and worked around the clock until the replacement transformer was set in its place, working five consecutive shifts until Sunday morning. We spent two to three days on the front and back end mobilizing equipment and assembling / disassembling the modular trailer onsite."



A HT500 skids a failed transformer out of an electric generating facility during a recent emergency operation.

HWP owns four HT500 skidding systems that are typically employed in the power distribution sector. HWP is also widely acclaimed in the heavy rigging and haulage sector for utilizing a custom 500-ton capacity turntable, also manufactured by Hydra-Slide. The turntable, designed for rotating heavy and oversized loads, was first used to lift and remove an overhead bridge crane in a foundry, hold it for a short time, and place it back on its foundations in one continuous motion.

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HWP used a set of hydraulic gantries and the turntable to lift the 75-ton load and rotate it almost 90 degrees to clear its foundations before lowering it to the ground. After a short time the crane was again lifted, turned back to its original orientation using the turntable, and set in place on the foundations.

The turntable measures 10 ft. in diameter and weighs approximately 5 tons. Hentrich explained that the parameters were selected for ease of transportation and handling. It can be placed on a road truck and hauled to a jobsite as needed, he said. It is light enough to be handled with a rough-terrain construction forklift, which are commonly found on jobsites. The turntable is sufficient to handle most large distribution power transformers.

Hentrich said: "In recent years we have observed an increasing demand for transportation and rigging of new power distribution and generation equipment to replace our aging infrastructure. This equipment includes large power distribution transformers, steam turbines, generators and industrial electric motors."

He added: "The Hydra-Slide skidding systems and turntable are an integral part of many of these projects. Their products can be utilized to efficiently and safely move large loads in confined spaces and allow for precise placement and alignment of heavy loads."



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