Testimonial | INDUSTREX HPX-PRO DIGITAL CR System

Kakivik Asset Management Serves Customers in Rugged Environments with Ease

When Kakivik Asset Management took on the inspection of a natural gas pipeline in a remote area in Alaska, the team was confident it could provide quick results. It was their first job using the Carestream NDT INDUSTREX HPX-PRO Portable Digital CR System.

"It was in the middle of nowhere, but we took the risk and brought our Carestream unit," said Jeffrey Donoho, Special Projects Manager for Kakivik in Anchorage, Alaska. "We wrapped it up in its protective case and took it all the way out there."

Previously, others who had performed similar jobs for this client (using conventional film) traveled to the remote site three hours away from Anchorage, conducted the test and then had to return to develop the film. Using the HPX-PRO, Kakivik was able to shoot, interpret results and finish the job in four hours while still at the location. "It was pretty much jaw dropping for the client," Mr. Donoho said.

A full-service asset integrity management company specializing in non-destructive testing (NDT), corrosion investigations and quality program management, Kakivik works to ensure the safe and efficient operation of its customers' facilities.

Kakivik's NDT testing services identify, record and report defects and degradation for major and minor oil producers throughout Alaska. Kakivik also offers NDT services for tank inspections and fabrication shops that construct new pipelines throughout Alaska.

To that end, the company has invested in two Carestream NDT HPX-PRO systems and one Carestream HPX-1 to meet growing customer needs and increase its efficiency and productivity.

"So far, efficiency gains total 30 percent and shot times have dropped by half."

"We never want to get stuck without one," Mr. Donoho said of the decision to buy two HPX-PRO units.

A Digital Solution with Efficiency Gains

The HPX-PRO, designed for NDT environments in which Kakivik operates, is a lightweight, portable system that requires minimal set-up time – less than five minutes – and processes a weld, which can be a common occurrence in new pipelines and fixes, in less than a minute. The high-quality digital images are easy to read and the INDUSTREX Digital Viewing Software enables rapid reporting.

"By far, Carestream's unit is user-friendly, very quick and has better quality images," said Lucas Anzilotti, Lead Level II in Kakivik's Special Projects Group, who has used other non-destructive testing systems in the past.

For this remote inspection site assignment, the portability of the HPX-PRO resulted in a smooth trip. The team used all-terrain vehicles to reach the site and fashioned a cabin as workspace to shoot and analyze images. Unlike conventional film, job set-up preparation with the HPX-PRO was a breeze.

The project required shooting 8 to 12 welds on a natural gas pipeline with several tie-ins—the connection of a pipeline to other pipelines or different sections of a single pipeline.

"Sometimes with natural gas, they make welds while the line is still live. They need results immediately so if the line needs a repair, they can do it right there and then," Mr. Anzilotti said.

"That's why timing is a big priority so they're not losing thousands and thousands of dollars having the NDT provider go back and forth. We're still working with that client, still using Carestream and they've been really happy with us."

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Building Customer Relationships

The ability to offer a digital solution has allowed Kakivik to expand customer relationships. Typically, Kakivik customers are hesitant to make the leap to digital, having used film for years. However, the image quality and rapid results of the HPX-PRO tend to win them over.

"We're not dealing with chemicals anymore, so we can set up the unit in one of their offices or just back up our truck into the shop itself, shoot all the welds and then run them through the scanner," Mr. Donoho said.

HPX-PRO'S INDUSTREX software features Batch Mode, which enables the system to keep up with film. Unlike other CR systems, the HPX-PRO scans and erases in one pass, shortening wait times. Customized reports and raw image views also help Kakivik's customers embrace a new way of non-destructive testing.

"A lot of people are used to getting images in an envelope," Mr. Donoho said. "We take the time to explain how the new system works."

Demos and discussions after a job are commonplace. Kakivik's team ensures customers understand the digital advantage, even if it means spending extra time at a site. In a competitive market like Alaska, the HPX-PRO has offered Kakivik a welcome edge, especially on remote assignments.

Since the arrival of the HPX-PRO units, Kakivik has won more projects, bolstering its Special Projects Group.

"From the first year we started the Special Projects Group, we have almost quadrupled our revenue," Mr. Donoho said. "We wouldn't have done that if we didn't have Carestream NDT."

HPX-PRO Product Benefits

Powerful
- Industry-leading viewing and analysis software
- Processes a weld in one minute
- Customized reporting
- High speed for improved productivity

Flexible
- Simple user controls
- Door extension to support long length imaging plates
- Custom EDGE image display filter to enhance display
- Sharp contrast of NDT film radiography

Reliable
- CR system built specifically for NDT applications
- Replaceable air filter to keep out dust and dirt
- Easy ethernet connection

Portable
- Ergonomically designed lifting handles
- Rugged travel cases
- Can be used inside or on top of travel case

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