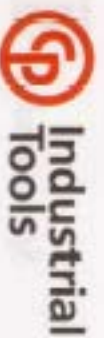


Sponsored By



INNOVATIVE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT OF THE YEAR AWARD



Bomac offers industry an innovative solution

WINNER

THINKING outside the box has often led to the most innovative solutions, particularly when designing and manufacturing products for industrial applications.

According to the judges, family owned business Bomac Engineering and winner of the Innovative Industrial Product of the Year Award, is no exception.

The company had always been aware of the advantages of a kit crane system, but had struggled to see how it was possible. Many ideas had been discussed, but a bolt-together system seemed difficult.

Then they came across the idea of a cross section, where items could be bolted on and off and adjusted if site measurements were incorrect. After extrusion companies were approached and relationships formed, the Altrac Fall Arrest System was developed - a lightweight aluminium rail system which, together with various trolleys and hoists, can be used to lift, move and place almost any product.

The product is simple, visually appealing and weighs only 7kg per



Barry McFarlane from Bomac Engineering with Mark Devitt, business line manager with Chicago Pneumatics.



metre - more than three times lighter than its structural steel equivalent. However, it is said to be extremely strong and can be rated for loads up to one tonne while spanning several metres between supports. These features allow the rail system to be installed in most existing structures without adding unnecessary strain to the building's frame or roof structure.

One of the difficulties encountered by Bomac in developing this product was keeping the section square and tight, as well as having the ability to bend the section without cracking. Careful planning and the use of different material properties, cooling methods and tempering techniques

helped solve the problem, as Altrac was manufactured so that it was straight, square and could be formed into curves. From here, the process of development continued as a group of engineers developed different bolts on the brackets. This enabled users to mount all types of structures, yet kept the system simple and inexpensive compared to one-off designed systems.

The Altrac Fall Arrest System has been used across a variety of industries, including theatre and movie companies for portable stunt rigging and art storage facilities for hanging valuable paintings in easily accessible rows.