



HAVE YOU HEARD?



Aktion Attraktionz
SERIOUS FUN FROM NEW ZEALAND



ARE THE HOTTEST NEW PRODUCTS IN THE INDUSTRY

THE FUN IS IN THE FALL!



FREE FALL SUPER JUMPZ



LAUNCH!!

YOUR LOGO HERE

NEW TRAMPOLINE JUMPZ

HARNASS-FREE SUPER SWINGZ



CLIMB TO THE TOP UNTIL YOU DROP!



NEW KRAZY LADDERZ



NEW!
MOBILE
AKTION
ATTRAKTIONZ
WITH SOFT
STAIRZ

QUAD FREECLIMBZ

NO HARNASS OR BELAY SYSTEMS NEEDED



ULTIMATE JOUST!

FACEOFFZ!

THE WORLD'S ONLY HARNASS-FREE AKTION ATTRAKTIONZ

KRUSH KUSHIONZ®

THE WORLD'S SAFEST LANDING SYSTEM

FIRST PLACE AWARD BEST NEW PRODUCT
TECHNOLOGY IAAPA EXPO 2007

-  **SERVICE PROVEN SAFE**
6 YEARS NO INSURANCE LOSSES
-  **PROVEN DRAW**
SPACE CENTER HOUSTON ATTENDANCE UP 30%
-  **PROVEN PROFITABILITY**
PAYS FOR ITSELF AND TURNS A PROFIT QUICKLY
OUT-PERFORMS OTHERS



www.sansgearNZ.com +1 818 445 8902

WOWproduct@sansgearNZ.com - Los Angeles - Orlando - Worldwide

OVER 30 UNITS PLACED IN OVER 8 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE!



NZ™

"Gravity in Aktion!"





ultimate control

The past and future of Control

Chief's wireless wonders

by *Martin Palicki*

operators have been able to move out of cabs positioned high on top of the equipment completely.

It was through their experience in material handling that led them to locomotive controls. Naturally, most material handling sites use railroads to transport their products, which gave Control Chief an insight into how they could develop a solution for that market as well.

When trains are being put in order, so to speak, it is extremely beneficial for the engineer to be able to see what is going on. With a wireless remote control, the engineer is able to move the locomotive back and forth

precisely and carefully while observing from the side, which gives him a better perspective on the process. In addition to providing better accuracy, fewer engineers are needed to accomplish the same task. When previously having to rely on hand signals, communication often lacked precision. For example, a hand signal might indicate that the locomotive should move forward two feet. However, with the amount of slack taken up between the cars the actual movement may only have been 6 inches. The remote control allows the engineer to start and stop precisely, while he is able to observe. Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, the wireless remote control can include a "man down" feature, whereby the controller shuts down the system if it is tipped, the result, perhaps of the engineer being injured or compromised.

It wasn't until relatively recently that the company started providing products for the entertainment and amusement markets. There are four main areas within entertainment that Control Chief has seen the most progress. The first is in aquatics. Pool and slide operators have found the wireless remotes as ideal ways for lifeguards to always be within reach

of a remote shutdown in the event of an emergency, shutting down pumps or wave machines, enhancing rescue operations. Since the initial controllers were designed for all-weather operation at a railyard, they are durable and reliable in the wet and corrosive waterpark environment.

Bungee swings have also been a great market for the controllers. With a simple up and down operation, that increases or releases the tension on the bungee cords, an operator can monitor and control multiple jumping units from one location, but is also mobile and can respond to one unit if necessary.

Theatrical venues have started utilizing the controllers as an added safety measure for firing special effects or remotely stopping show control systems if needed. One recent project Control Chief worked on for a national touring production involved integrating a wireless remote into a motorized prop piece. The unit received its cues from the AV control system. The project utilized redundant radio links, so if one connection failed, the prop would still move with the precision and control necessary for the production.

One of the newer and most exciting applications has been Control Chief's recent partnership within the amusement industry. One application, a giant swinging ride, typically found at amusement parks, straps one to three riders into a harness and hoists them back and up, releasing them to swing back and forth in a long and dramatic arc.

Control Chief began working on the project at IAAPA 2006 and have since rolled out wireless control systems on several new installations. Clients can now opt for the wireless remote as an option on a new system, or can also retrofit current systems. The controller utilizes Control Chief's TM2200HT product, which is a simple four-button remote. The buttons control the up and down movement of the winch that hoists the riders up and back.

"The main advantage with the amusement industry applications is mobility," explains Control Chief's Standard Products Manager

Unless you have worked in the railroad industry, you may not immediately understand the benefit of having a locomotive wirelessly and remotely controlled. But to understand what made Control Chief into what it is today, it's imperative. A train chugging along a track with a happy engineer hanging out the window and waving is just about as American as apple pie. And, in reality, engineers still perform that job. But it's what happens at the beginning and the end of a train journey that put Control Chief on the track to success.

The real beginnings of Control Chief started from a visit to a local factory and an observation of a crane operator receiving hand signals from another worker on the ground. It seemed somewhat inefficient and even raised some safety concerns for the worker in close proximity to the material being handled on the ground.

Control Chief then developed a radio control specifically for that application. The wireless remote control allows the operator to move away from critical danger zones around the machine, observe from a safe distance, and gain a better perspective on the entire area around the equipment. In most scenarios,

CONTROL CHIEF CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26...

Zach Dase. "The operator is able to move around the ride platform and position themselves in the best spot to monitor the riders' safety."

The remote also includes a remote shutdown feature, for use in the event of an emergency. The shutdown feature can be reversed and resets the attraction in the event of an accidental activation. The controller also features what Dase affectionately refers to as a "chicken out" button, to halt the movement of the ride for a particularly terrified passenger, without disabling the ride system.

There are still more applications within the amusement industry, says Dase. "Any ride with a safety stop can be fitted with a wireless option, providing access to a safety stop for any ride attendant, no matter where they are stationed." But even beyond safety stops, the controllers are able to handle a variety of functions, and are completely customizable.

"Most of our locomotive and materials applications use custom-designed systems, while to date most of the entertainment venues have utilized our standard line of products," explains Control Chief sales manager Brian Landries. "We are used to customizing solutions for our customers and can build a remote to fit the specifications."

That flexibility is one of the company's top compliments it receives from customers. "Our clients tell us that they appreciate the level of service we provide, the reliability of the products, and our ability to develop solutions," says Landries.

Most of that positive service feedback comes through the production and repair departments. "With all of our manufacturing services and support located in one facility in Bradford, PA," says Landries, "we are able to easily control the quality and the reliability." Even with the product's established reliability,

repairs are occasionally necessary, though not as frequently as one might expect. Indeed, during IPM's tour of Control Chief's offices, units in for repair appeared to have been to hell and back, with engraved tags virtually rubbed off and square steel corners worn smooth and rounded. "We have clients who tell us their units from 20 to 30 years ago are still working as good as new," claims Landries. Which is pretty amazing, considering those first clients are using the controls to operate machines in the roughest of environments.

But it's just as true now as it was thirty years ago, whether they're being used to move coal cross country or just moving some thrillseekers high up on a giant swing, Control Chief has staked its reputation and success on their record of safety and reliability...and making life a little easier along the way.

ipm

The final installment of The Expo Series will appear in IPM's December/January issue.



GO GREEN!!

Subscribe to the electronic or print versions of IPM

Please send me the print version of IPM

I would prefer to receive the electronic version of IPM via email

Name: _____ Title: _____

Company / Institution: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Fax this coupon to 414-377-0769 or mail it to IPM, 2349 E. Ohio Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207

Free subscription is valid for USA addresses only and subject to management approval. Offer good for museum/amusement industry professionals only.