



STREAMLINED FOR SAFETY.

complex manufacturing • robotic welding • assembly solutions • inventory management • machining

OUR OPPORTUNITY:

Work Area Protection invented a retractable crash barrier that not only provides superior safety to alternative roadway barriers but can also be repaired in a fraction of the time at minimal cost. They were searching for a contract manufacturing partner that could handle the size and volume of the crash barrier and had the ability to consistently reproduce the complex design. WAPCO was also interested in finding a partner that could help streamline production and improve inventory management and, in addition to being strategically located in the midwest. They learned about Lou-Rich through a connection of Jeff Smith, WAPCO's VP of Specialty products and inventor of the retractable crash barrier. He heard that Lou-Rich was highly responsive, easy to work with and more than capable of pulling off a project of this magnitude.

ABOUT THE CLIENT

Industry:

Safety Solutions

Location:

St. Charles, Illinois

Work Area Protection Corporation is on a mission to provide smart, safe, innovative solutions for the traffic safety and highway infrastructure businesses. WAPCO has a well-deserved reputation, established by following one simple formula: providing the highest quality products at a competitive price and back each sale with world class service.

workareaprotection.com

“LOU-RICH IS ONE OF THE MOST RESPONSIVE COMPANIES WE’VE EVER WORKED WITH.” – JEFF SMITH , VP

OUR SOLUTION:

Lou-Rich reviewed the sophisticated crash attenuator, and through a robust Design For Manufacturability process, considered every aspect of how to best manufacture the product. From cutting to welding to material management, the team found ways to help streamline the process. Leveraging the use of advanced laser cutting and robotic welding significant gains in efficiency were achieved, while delivering consistently high quality welds. Even the process for drilling holes has transitioned to laser for increased precision. A marking system developed by the team minimizes the possibility of mistakes during assembly. Lou-Rich also manages inventory on both the front end for materials needed in production and on the back-end for storing the large finished units.

THE RESULTS:

The mistake-proof process consistently delivers high-quality products. Since having Lou-Rich manage inventory WAPCO is experiencing a 66% reduction in lead times for some parts.



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