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the whole machine. We have increased the width and height of the rig so larger diameter spreaders can be tested. If there is demand in future to go even bigger we will consider it, but that would certainly mean replacing the rails."

Upon completion of a beam's manufacturing process, it is placed into the test rig and pinned into place at each end. A compression load is then applied to the pin at one end, while supporting the pin at the other. The drop links are then tensile tested separately in their own test rig, also located at Modulift's facility. The on-site tensile rig can test drop links up to 50t capacity, while independent test houses have conducted tests on Modulift's behalf up to 825t.

Spencer said: "Tensile test rigs are quite common, where the applied force is in the opposite direction to compression test rigs. These rigs are popular for testing slings, shackles and other tensile items. However, compression test rigs do not generally exist, which is why we manufactured our own and specifically designed it to fit our design of spreader beams."

Modulift keeps the machine outdoors because of dimensions that now accommodate 28m-long beams. CTR1 comes into its own at the extremities of its ca-

pabilities where advantages over staging live tests using a crane and other rigging equipment are most apparent.

Spencer concluded: "Traditional beam designs with fixed lugs welded at each end [without separate drop links] cannot be tested in our rig as applying an axial load will not fully mimic all the forces that are going through the spreader beam in real situations. This type of fixed end spreader beam will experience induced bending moments and would need a live lift with a crane and weights to test them properly. Imagine the logistics involved in such a process where a large beam is concerned."

A Century of Wire Rope Excellence

Union Wire Rope, a WireCo WorldGroup Brand, is proud to announce its 100th year as the industry leader in the design and manufacturing of wire ropes and assemblies. Union products deliver exceptional service and unmatched support worldwide. In addition to oil and gas applications, Union Wire Rope products are used in construction, logging, industrial, and surface mining.

Union has a rich history dating back

to just before the United States entered World War I. Commodity prices were steadily increasing and headlines such as "Oil Prices Bound to Soar" were typical. Industries were experiencing shortages of supplies and rising prices. The lack of wire rope had become so acute that drilling and production of petroleum products were threatened.

Legend has it that a group of men were playing poker at the Tulsa Club, in the basement of the Tulsa Elks Club. One of the players was Henry Black who was lamenting that he had no wire rope to sell. He suggested that they supply the money and he would build them a rope mill. Black became the catalyst for the oil men who gathered later to determine the course of action. They purchased approximately 12.5 acres of land on the east bank of the Blue River in Kansas City, Missouri, and on May 17, 1917, Black Steel & Wire Company became a reality.

In 1927 a new management team reorganized the company as Union Wire Rope. After the War, Union was still strong in the oil fields, but they began to seek other types of business. This led to the development of shovel and drag hoist ropes for the mining industry,

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