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**The great art of panel-handling**

**Many companies in the sheet metal processing business struggle to store their panels securely and use the available space efficiently. Eurotech, the specialist for vacuum, lifting and transport technology, has the solution: together with the company storemaster, its experts have developed a flat vacuum handling device for heavy-duty sheet metal storage facilities.**

When Dieter Paul, the owner of storemaster, set out to look for a suitable lifting device, he soon found: his ‘MasterTower’ warehouse required a unique solution. The metal sheets needed to be stored quickly and securely even in the topmost spaces – by a single worker without a ladder. In order to utilise the available space as efficiently as possible, the new lifting device would need to be very flat.

He found what he was looking for in Eurotech’s product catalogue: the lifting experts from the Swabian Jura region recommended one of the lifting devices from their eT-Hover range. The eT-Hover panel was modified rapidly to meet the wishes and requirements of storemaster. Its new, flat incarnation is only 350 mm tall.

All its functions are operated from an ergonomically designed operating handle; a thumb switch initiates the upward and downward movement, while another button activates the suction and ventilation functions. The operating handle also manoeuvres the telescope arm, which can be bent in intervals of 22.5°, to an ergonomically optimal operating position without requiring any physical effort. This allows workers to reach the top drawer as well as the bottom drawer from a comfortable position without bending over or extending their back. The device automatically adjusts its centre of gravity as a fundamental function.

A system allowing the user to control integrated crane systems from the same operating handle and the option of battery-powered operation without reliance on the power grid are testimony to Eurotech’s enormous ability to innovate.

The spiral cord running around the lifting device serves two purposes: energy supply and control of the chain hoist. A chain guide inside the spiral cable prevents the chain and cable from becoming entangled.

Eurotech equipped the device with a vibrating function upon request from the customer; this makes it possible to separate oiled or adhesive double sheets effortlessly and prevents accidents caused by the uncontrolled removal of double sheets.

A vacuum pump with an integrated non return valve, vacuum reservoir and two solenoid valves generates the vacuum. The components control the suction and ventilation functions. The device is equipped with an aeration unit for fast detachment of the load. All suction cups can be moved along the cross beams and locked individually using a ball valve. The cross beams are also adjustable, which allows the user to scale the lifting device to various panel sizes.

The eT-Hover-panel lifts small, medium-sized and large metal sheets with a size of up to 4x2 metres and a weight of up to  
750 kg. It can also handle other vacuum-sealed panels made from wood, plastic, stone etc. Specially manufactured suction plates adapt securely to problematic surface structures.

**Safety first!**

The lifting device is manufactured to DIN EN 13155 standards. To prevent operating errors and hazards, it is equipped with a range of safety and warning systems: an integrated vacuum gauge with a red/green zone, a red and green signal light, an acoustic signal and a two-handed operating handle for the ventilation system. The electronic alarm system works reliably even in the event of a power cut.

**Countless advantages**

The modified eT-Hover-panel lifting device offers simple handling and an especially flat design, allowing the user to utilise the available space optimally. It is highly user-friendly, as all functions are controlled directly and centrally using the operating handle.

**Sustainable partnership**

The eT-Hover-panel is the result of a collaboration between Eurotech and storemaster. An expert team of technicians and engineers designed and planned the flat vacuum handling device for heavy-duty sheet metal storage facilities. With clear instructions from the customer and their own, detailed expertise, the professionals developed this customised lifting device.

Dieter Paul, the owner of storemaster, is pleased with their work: “We are fit for the future. Thanks to Eurotech, we rapidly realised the project we had envisaged. It saves us valuable time and quite a lot of money, too.”

This sustainable partnership has shown how synergies from different industries can be leveraged effectively. And the Eurotech team is very proud of its work.

Characters: 4.647

Company profile:

euroTECH offers handling and transport solutions in the field of vacuum technology. The company develops customer-specific vacuum systems and components for automated handling tasks. Thanks to the euroTECH modular construction system, the components can be flexibly adjusted to meet individual customer requirements and spare parts can be installed in a quick and cost-saving manner.

**Image attachment:**

Image 1:



Remove of the metal plate from the drawer sheet metal shelf and place it on the parking stand

Image 2:



Ergonomic operating handle with functions as suction and ventilation, vibration function, battery level indicator, crane up/down, emergency stop switch