

Case Study

The Segway x2 Increased Productivity For An Industrial Manufacturer

MANUFACTURING

Baker Tankhead, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas



Baker Tankhead, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas, has been a leading manufacturer of steel tank heads for the oil and gas industry since 1977. In the spring of 2007, company president, Austin Baker, saw the Oklahoma City police department using Segway Personal Transporters (PTs) to patrol the Bricktown area of downtown, and he wondered if the same Segway PTs would allow him and his staff to more easily navigate their sprawling manufacturing facility.

Upon returning to Fort Worth, Baker called his Authorized Segway dealer, and arranged for a quick demonstration. A day later Baker purchased two Segway x2 models and trained several of his managers to ride them. The first was John Asfar, head of application tooling and design for Baker Tankhead.

"Our manufacturing operations are spread out over nine acres and four different buildings, and I spend a lot of time walking from one building to the next," says Asfar. "In particular, the summer of 2006 was really rough on me. It was unbearably hot and I was walking 6 - 7 miles (10 - 11KM) each day and getting really worn out. The next June, Austin purchased our first two Segway x2s and told me that he wanted me to use one. I tried to talk him out of it a couple of times, but he insisted. I am glad he did."

Within a couple of days riding the Segway

"The Segway PT enables me to go anywhere I want as often as I want, and I am just as fresh at the end of the day as I am at the beginning. Not only am I able to devote more time to supervising our manufacturing, but I am also more productive throughout the day."

- John Asfar
Manager of Application
Tooling and Design,
Baker Tankhead, Inc.

x2 became second nature to Asfar. He used it to make runs to the gravel-covered yard to check on materials inventory, and to talk to engineers working on the fabrication machines. "The environment around our facilities is very rough and harsh, and it is

Executive Summary

CUSTOMER

Baker Tankhead, Fort Worth, Texas

MARKET SECTOR

Manufacturing

THE CHALLENGE

- Enable managers to cover four manufacturing facilities spread over nine acres
- Reduce fatigue associated with walking 6 - 7 miles (10 - 11 KM) each day
- Maneuver in tight spaces and passageways within the manufacturing facility

THE SOLUTION

- Purchase four Segway x2's

BENEFITS TO THE CUSTOMER

- Greatly reduces travel times from the front office to manufacturing shops and the storage yard
- Enables supervisors to travel into and throughout manufacturing shops, where golf carts couldn't fit
- Keeps managers fresh and productive throughout the day

To learn more information or to find a local Authorized Segway Dealer, please visit www.segway.com or call 866.4SEGWAY

www.segway.com

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difficult to walk even on a cool day," says Asfar. "The thing I noticed immediately when I began using the Segway PT is that it eliminated the drudgery of getting from point A to point B. We had a new manufacturing facility that was located at the rear of the complex, and the previous year I was often too tired by the end of the day to run back there and check on things. The Segway PT enables me to go anywhere I want, as often as I want, and I am just as fresh at the end of the day as I am at the beginning. Not only am I able to devote more time to supervising our manufacturing, but I am also more productive throughout the day."

One of the primary benefits of the Segway PT is that it gives off no emissions during operation and thus can be used both indoors and out. For Asfar this meant that he could also travel within the Baker manufacturing facilities. "The interiors of our shops are crowded with many narrow

passageways between machinery," says Asfar. "I tried using a golf cart a couple of years ago, but it was not effective because I had to leave it at the door of the shop. The Segway PT is another story. It is about as wide as I am so I can travel through doorways, get anywhere on the shop floor and drive right up to the operator's table and see what he is working on. If I need to go get him a print or a particular wrench I can do so in a minute. This not only makes me more productive, but also everyone that I deal with."

Bolstered by the success of the first two units, Baker Tankhead purchased two more Segway x2s. All of the company's facility managers now use the machines on a daily basis. "We can get anywhere in our facility in a minute or less – including between machinery and behind buildings," says Austin Baker. "Our Segway PTs have been a great benefit to our supervisors."

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