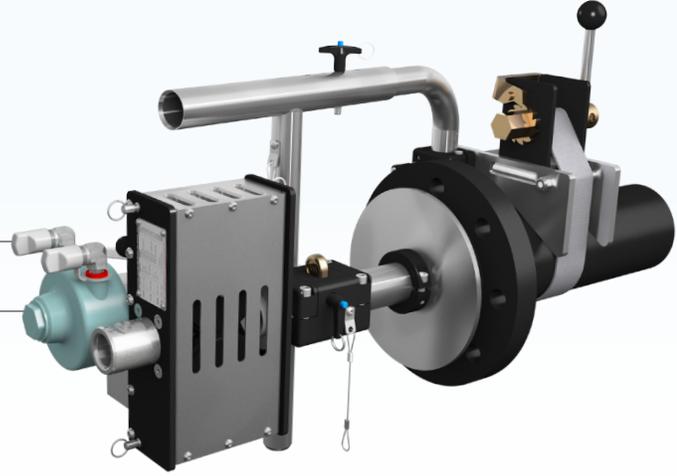




IMPACT Another PSC Success Story

Industrial Services Operations — Automated Hydroblasting



ProDrive automated flex lance tool - light weight, versatile pipe cleaning technology!

FAST Initiative Produces Tech Breakthrough

Necessity may be the mother of invention, but partnership often spurs the development of new ideas. This was certainly the case with PSC and its vendor/partner, StoneAge, a leading manufacturer of industrial waterblasting equipment, with headquarters in Durango, Colorado. As part of PSC's FAST hydroblasting hands-free initiative to automate conventional high-risk manual hydroblasting, PSC teamed up with StoneAge to develop a high-tech solution.

"I have been extremely pleased with the new pipe-cleaning workhorse, ProDrive, that we co-developed with StoneAge. I am excited to see what other tools StoneAge and their 'ear to the ground' engineering team can dream up!"

-Bradley Coble, Director
FAST/Mechanical Integrity, PSC

In recent years, PSC had used StoneAge's ABX 500 waterjet apparatus to clean process piping at its customers' facilities. Since it was automated, it was an excellent tool for shell cleaning, low-level pipe cleaning, and coker line cleaning, among other applications. It was, however, relatively heavy, making it difficult to use in elevated scenarios.

PSC and StoneAge engineers spent several weeks exchanging ideas on how to improve and miniaturize their pipe cleaning technology so it would be light enough to use in overhead pipes. Their first solution was a helix drive unit dubbed the "mini autobox," by PSC personnel. This spiral wrapped lance threaded through a set of gears that provided both forward and reverse motion. After PSC spent a month testing this prototype, StoneAge created an upgraded version in which traditional lances replaced their higher-priced spiral-wrapped counterparts. PSC teams found they could easily use this new design in tight, confined pipe rack

situations, a situation which would have been nearly impossible for the ABX 500. After more than 250 hours of testing, the new technology allowed the PSC test location to operate fully automated 98% of the time; only operating manual shotgun applications when required to clean gasket faces and small components.

Encouraged by PSC's success with their new technology, StoneAge put the new device, now named "ProDrive," into full production. The hose-fed device weighs just 30 pounds, has a maximum feed rate of 2.5 feet per second, inter-

changeable gears that allow for a wide range of hoses, a built-in backout preventer and splash guard for operator safety, and two control box options: tripod-mounted for stability or floor-mounted for portability. Both have an air operated dump control. The technology can navigate multiple 90-degree elbows without hose rotation which makes it incredibly flexible.

Paving the way for safer hydroblasting solutions to the industrial cleaning market, PSC was naturally one of StoneAge's first – and largest – buyers of this new technology, making safety first priority for its employees and customers.

Working with industry leaders in specialized tooling is how PSC continues to deliver the innovative solutions their customers demand.



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