

A Uniquely Historic Lift

Cortland provides helicopter lifting slings for huge America's Cup trimaran

The Challenge

When the Oracle Team USA sailing team decided to move their revolutionary 2010 America's Cup winning trimaran to a landlocked lake outside Oracle's corporate complex, they knew it would require a difficult skycrane lift. At 120 feet long by 90 feet wide, the boat would provide numerous challenges during the lift. A 3-point lift was determined to be the best method to keep the boat stable and secure while in flight, and allow it to be carefully lowered into its new permanent display location in between tall office buildings.

The Solution

Cortland was called for their expertise in challenging lifts, and for their relationship with Oracle Team USA. To safely execute, engineered high performance synthetic slings would be needed. Cortland recommended, and delivered, three (3) 20 mm Plasma® Lifting Slings with soft eyes on each end, approx. 50 m in length each. They were used to execute a 3-point lift and helicopter transfer of the boat from the wetlands outside of Foster City to its new home outside of Oracle headquarters.

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Project

Helicopter skycrane lift of Oracle Team USA's 2010 America's Cup winning trimaran from a San Francisco warehouse to the Oracle corporate headquarters in Redwood Shores, CA

Location

San Francisco, California

Technologies used

20 mm Plasma®

Features

- 3 point lift
- 15:1 safety factor
- Soft eye
- Standard shackle pin diameter

"Cortland's synthetic fiber sling lift, and all other aspects of this unusual move, was executed as planned, and USA-17 now sits in her proud new home as a testament to both technology and teamwork."

Chris Sitzenstock, Logistics
Oracle Team USA

Cortland International operates the world's largest synthetic rope manufacturing organization with capacity to produce over 70,000 metric tons of rope and netting solutions per year. Collaborating with customers, our team uses its experience in high-performance materials and market knowledge to transform ideas into proven products. cortlandinternational.com

The Project

Oracle Team USA is a two-time America's Cup winning professional sailing team that has revolutionized the sport with their high-speed boat designs. The boat lifted—using Cortland's 3-point Plasma® sling solution—was their 2010 winning entry called USA-17. It had been stored in a San Francisco Bay warehouse since its successful return from Valencia, Spain, where the regatta took place.

At the time of the event, USA-17 was the first of a new generation of giant racing multihull sailboats created by Oracle Team USA in association with BMW for the America's Cup. The enormous trimaran design truly pushed the limits of both man and technology to previously unseen levels. USA-17 easily defeated the Société Nautique de Genève's yacht, Alinghi 5, in to win the 33rd America's Cup challenge of Spain's Mediterranean coast.

Understanding the historic importance of the USA-17 design, it was decided that the boat would be moved to a new permanent outdoor display for all to see. This meant the boat needed to be relocated from a San Francisco warehouse to its new display location in a lake on the Oracle corporate headquarters campus in Redwood Shores, CA.

To achieve this unique relocation of the 120 foot wide by 90 foot long trimaran, a helicopter skycrane lift was required to lift and transport the boat to the landlocked lake. The boat was then crane lifted onto a new set of piers that had been previously installed in the pool.

Cortland custom engineered three (3) lifting slings to execute a 3-point lift used during the helicopter portion of the move. The lift and relocation of USA-17 went as planned and this significant piece of sailing history is now in position on the Oracle campus as a symbol of technological triumph.

For more information visit cortlandinternational.com.

