

CASE STUDY

TELETA GROUP



CATEGORY:
Manufacturing

LOCATION:
Geelong, Victoria

PRODUCT:
TRUSPEC® steel

Big Wheel Keeps On Turning

It goes without saying that when people are hanging metres above the ground, such as in the case of a ferris wheel, equipment maintenance and renewal is paramount to ensure every component is up to the task, and that the highest safety standards are maintained. Safety aside, the equipment must also look pristine and inviting, to attract the public to take a turn on the attraction.

When the Teleta Group, a company with a broad business portfolio encompassing property and structural developments, as well as amusement rides through their HiLite Amusements business, required refurbishment work on their Giant Sky Wheel, they ultimately knocked on the door of **BlueScope Distribution** for material advice and supply.

The Giant Sky Wheel, which is the largest travelling ferris wheel in the southern hemisphere, has been a regular part of Geelong summers since the company imported it from Europe and first set it up in 2006. Located on the bay foreshore in the Eastern Beach precinct during summer each year the amusement ride has been a central tourist attraction for Geelong.

After several years of service, the Wheel's 36 gondola carriages were starting to show some age. While still structurally sound, the many welds used in the gondola's structural cage, panels and doors meant keeping surface rust under control required time-consuming and detailed maintenance.

TruSpec®

“Having the gondolas rebuilt in Geelong, the outlay was going to be similar to having the units made in China”

One of the company’s welders raised the idea of using laser cut steel as the structural skeleton to rebuild the gondolas, but according to Teleta Director, Ryan McGarigle, he initially thought that a laser cut option was going to be cost prohibitive.

“We were worried about the cost of the sheets and product wastage, but after consulting with Andrew Curtis at BlueScope Distribution, he thought it could be done cost-effectively,” Ryan said.

In discussing the requirements, BlueScope reviewed the engineering drawings and recommended the use of laser cut **TRU-SPEC™** steel plate. Teleta was very receptive to the idea and local Geelong fabricator Robert Lange Engineering was engaged to deliver some sample 3, 4 and 5mm cuts for review.

By replacing the existing RHS skeleton construction with **TRU-SPEC™** steel, the benefits would be many - including reduced welding and likelihood of cracks, less fabrication time leading to cost savings, and a much faster overall project turnaround time.

Ryan said he was extremely pleased to have used BlueScope steel in the project, and to have had all work on the wheel undertaken in Australia.

“Having the gondolas rebuilt in Geelong, the outlay was going to be similar to having the units made in China,” Ryan said.

“Manufacturing in China you really need to have someone on the ground there to ensure your high quality and safety standards are maintained; when you add up paying for a few weeks’ accommodation and the inconvenience of having to go over there, the decision to stick with an Australian-made and built product was easy.”

Also calling on local resources for the gondolas’ finishing touches, ‘Body Shop Paint Supplies’ and decals by Geelong Signs, work on the Sky Wheel was completed in an impressive four weeks – well in time for the holiday season. All the benefits reaped during the manufacturing process aside, a number of other efficiencies were gained through the use of laser cut **TRU-SPEC™** steel, particularly in terms of the gondolas’ ongoing maintenance.

“The gondolas can now be disassembled much more easily for periodic inspection, and if replacement parts are required, these are largely now interchangeable, further reducing equipment downtime and costs,” Ryan said.

BlueScope has been working with Teleta Group for 10 years across a number of projects.

For more information visit www.teletagroup.com.au



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