



## *Avtron Industrial Automation*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **Avtron Industrial Automation Receives Drive Upgrade order for Port of Houston RTG's**

May 30, 2008

**Independence, OH – May** – Avtron Industrial Automation has been selected by the Port of Houston as the DC drive supplier for the upgrade of eight Bardella Rubber Tire Gantry (RTG) cranes located at their Barbours Cut facility. The existing DC crane drives and programmable logic controllers (PLC's) are obsolete and are no longer supported by the original manufacturer. This obsolescence is exposing the port to potential crane downtime and lost production.

The current system includes two DC drives that control the main motions of the cranes. The main PLC rack communicates to remote I/O blocks that are distributed throughout the RTG. The I/O blocks are still manufactured and supported by the original OEM but the Main PLC CPU rack is not. The existing GE DC300 DC drives are also outdated and replacement parts and service are hard to find.

Avtron's Crane Systems Group worked with the Port of Houston to develop a cost effective solution for the project. Avtron proposed replacing the obsolete DC drives with its ADDvantage-32 DC platform with Ethernet Communication. The Port saw a significant benefit using the ADD32 DC drives because they could set the up to operate like other ADD32 drives already in service at the port and because the drives have common controller boards throughout the line the cost of spare parts would be significantly reduced.

Avtron also proposed replacing the obsolete PLC with a GE Fanuc RX3i processor and rack. Serial communication will be utilized for the remote I/O and Ethernet communication will be used between the PLC and DC drives. Avtron's ADDvantage-32 DC platform can communicate to the PLC using the manufacturer's native protocol producing an extremely high speed connection without the need for adapters and converter boxes.

### About Avtron Industrial Automation

Avtron Crane Systems, a part of Avtron Industrial Automation Inc., delivers both AC and DC drives, pre-manufactured and custom engineered panels, automation solutions and diagnostic software designed to help users reduce costs, increase efficiency and enhance profitability. With system solutions and services catering to virtually every material handling need, Avtron Industrial Automation provides a diverse array of capabilities and automation

**QUALITY, RELIABILITY, SERVICE, AND VALUE**



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solutions. Headquartered in Independence Ohio, Avtron Industrial Automation, Inc. provides solutions for the global market.

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