VERTICAL INTEGRATION

Building Up, Not Out, for Frontgrade Technologies

COOK & KRUPA

BUTLER



Reaching New Heights

Frontgrade Technologies, a leading manufacturer of high-performance RF and electronic solutions for the aerospace and defense industries, needed a storage solution to accommodate their sensitive electronic components while maximizing their existing facility's space. Cook & Krupa, in partnership with Butler Manufacturing™ and Abel Womack, designed and implemented an innovative solution that met Frontgrade's specific requirements.

The Butler pre-engineered building, equipped with Kardex VLM technology, provided Frontgrade Technologies with a state-of-the-art storage facility. This innovative solution not only addressed the company's immediate storage needs but also positioned them for future growth in the competitive aerospace and defense industries.

CHALLENGE

Limited Space, High Stakes

Frontgrade Technologies' electronic components require storage in an electrostatic-free, climate-controlled environment. With a 10-foot ceiling height, vertical expansion within their existing facility was not feasible.

The company needed a solution to increase storage capacity without requiring a costly relocation or expansion of their building footprint. They also needed a solution that could be implemented quickly to meet growing demand.

> *The rapid construction and cost savings of the Butler building were game changers for our project.*
>
> - John Kastanek, Plainview Site Director, Frontgrade Technologies

SOLUTION

A Vertical Leap Forward

Cook & Krupa, leveraging their expertise in Butler® pre-engineered metal buildings, designed a 40-foot silo structure to house a Kardex Remstar Vertical Lift Module (VLM). This innovative solution allowed Frontgrade to use vertical space for storage, maximizing their existing footprint.

Cook & Krupa conducted a site survey, obtained soil samples, and had an architect, structural engineer, permit expeditor, and a construction contractor for the building. Despite a six-month delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the comprehensive project management ensured the successful completion of the project.

Butler offered speed of construction, cost-effectiveness, and the ability to create a controlled environment for sensitive electronic components. Butler's Widespan™ Structural System, Metal Roof System, and Thermawall™ Factory-Insulated Metal Wall Panel System made the project possible.

The structure was designed to accommodate the VLM and featured insulated metal panels for superior thermal performance and energy efficiency. To facilitate the VLM installation, the building was built with a removable panel section, allowing the large VLM components to be easily inserted after the building envelope was complete.

BENEFITS

Efficiency and Productivity Soar

The Butler pre-engineered construction and Kardex VLM solution provided Frontgrade Technologies with many benefits:

- **Increased Storage Capacity:** The VLM significantly increased storage capacity within a small footprint, freeing up valuable floor space for production.
- **Improved Efficiency:** The automated storage and retrieval system streamlined inventory management and order fulfillment processes, reducing labor costs and improving productivity.
- **Enhanced Environmental Control:** The insulated metal panels of the Butler wall system, combined with the VLM's climate control features, created an ideal storage environment for sensitive electronic components.
- **Cost Savings:** The Butler building's pre-engineered design and rapid construction timeline resulted in significant cost savings compared to traditional construction methods.

We transformed a space problem into a profit opportunity. This isn't just about storage; it's about unlocking a company's full potential.

- Ron Coan, Abel Womack, Inc.

RESULTS

A Rapid Return on Investment

The successful implementation of the Butler system and Kardex VLM solution has helped Frontgrade reclaim valuable floor space, improve inventory management, and increase production capacity. The project was completed within a year, providing a rapid return on investment in just 14 months.



We are proud to have provided Frontgrade Technologies with a tailored, cost-effective solution that maximized their storage capacity and improved operational efficiency, all within a challenging project environment.

- John Cook, Owner, Cook & Krupa

CONCLUSION

Expertise That Elevates

The Frontgrade Technologies project exemplifies Cook & Krupa's commitment to building trust and confidence through innovative solutions.

By using the strengths of Butler Manufacturing and Kardex Remstar, we delivered a solution that not only met Frontgrade's immediate needs but also provided a foundation for their future successes.

This project is a testament to the power of collaboration and the value of partnering with a construction company capable of providing comprehensive, tailored solutions.

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