

# *“Taking Space Efficiency and Productivity to New Heights”*

Recently, a national tooling manufacturer was planning to add a new manufacturing line to their facility. Like every other facility, floor space was a precious commodity. Their options were to either add on to their existing facility (requiring a major renovation, which would disrupt business), or search for another option. Southwest Solutions Group was called in to explore possible alternatives to a costly facility expansion.

Southwest Solutions Group performed an in-depth survey. They asked questions, many questions actually, regarding floor space, flow of materials, security, and employee productivity. After listening to the client, all agreed the Tool and Supply Room storage areas presented an opportunity to consolidate space. The Tool and Supply Room storage areas required 1,127 square feet of floor space using traditional 7' high industrial shelving with plastic bins and 4' high modular drawer cabinets. Four individuals worked the two areas retrieving, storing and inventorying parts.



The Southwest Solutions Team recommended three (3) 20' high Vertical Lift Modules (VLM) storage machines. Each machine measures 9' wide by 7.5' deep storing an impressive 437 cubic storage feet in a measly 60.5 square feet of floor space. The required floor space was reduced to just 182 square feet (compared to 1,127 square feet), freeing up 957 valuable square feet of floor space for their new product line! Vertical Lift Modules are fully enclosed automated storage and retrieval units. Storage trays are moved by the push of a button from their storage location to an ergonomic waist-high access opening, enhancing productivity and safety.

The Vertical Lift Module's unique and flexible design allow the customer to store small, large, heavy and light parts all within the same machine. Storage trays for small parts were subdivided to replicate the drawer layout in their modular drawer cabinets. Each unit has a computerized inventory system to provide the operator with inventory counts, locations and reorder points. The VLM's inventory software provides cube utilization since you no longer need to put like name products close to one another in order to find them. The software controls the location of the product, not the product controlling the location.



## Summary of Benefits:

- ◎ **Space Savings.** The Remstar Vertical Lift Module (VLM) storage system uses just 182 square feet of floor space. Compare this to the 1,127 square feet (saving 945 square feet of floor space) used with conventional shelving and modular drawer cabinets.
- ◎ **Labor Savings.** The Remstar (VLM) brings parts to a waist-high access opening for retrieving, storing and inventorying parts. The machine's ergonomic design allows personnel to be more productive with their time since parts are delivered to the operator with the push of a button (versus repetitively walking, bending and lifting) to retrieve, store, and perform inventory functions.
- ◎ **Inventory Control.** The Remstar (VLM) improves inventory management functions by securing and tracking the usage of supply parts. The machine's totally enclosed and lockable design prevents unauthorized access of stored items. Inventory is tracked via system software reducing costly "stock-outs" and "over-stock" situations.
- ◎ **Design Flexibility.** The Remstar (VLM) storage system's flexible design allows storage trays from 40" to 120" wide, 24" to 36" deep and vertical openings from 3" high to 27.5" high, allowing very small parts and larger bulky items to be stored within the same storage machine.
- ◎ **Compelling Return on Investment.** In addition to saving floor space, reducing labor costs, and reducing inventory costs associated with stock-outs and lost parts, the real payback came from the increased revenue production associated with the expanded production line which now occupies the space previously used to store tooling supplies.

