



## Easy Arm® Eliminates Injuries and Boosts Productivity 25%

**Industry:**  
Oil and Gas

**Product:**  
Turbine motors

**The Problem:**  
Manual loading and unloading of turbine engines for repair

**The Solution:**  
Gorbel Free Standing Easy Arm®



### The Easy Arm® Products Were Very Easy to Convince Workers to Use

A turbine motor overhaul center receives engines which are used in oil and gas industries, power generation and military use. When the turbines are received, they have been in use for long periods of time and are in need of repair and refurbishing. The turbines are unpacked, is assembled and each individual part is inspected for wear and damage.

During reassembly and balance of the turbine engines, parts had been called up from a vertical storage unit, loaded manually onto a cart and brought to a work bench for assembly. A large overhead crane is in the area, but it is slow, bulky, and a shared resource for multiple neighboring work cells, and therefore delayed the work flow for those waiting on the crane.

While some work stations were able to be consistently productive, materials were backing up in other work areas while operators waited on the overhead crane. This prompted many workers to lift parts manually, with larger parts requiring two people to lift. Back injuries were the leading workers compensation problem for the company, and the sequencing of the work flow was not ideal.

In implementing a Six Sigma manufacturing strategy, the company installed two free standing 150-pound capacity Easy Arms to serve the individual work bays. The Easy Arm™ fit beneath the existing overhead crane, and no special foundation was needed for their 6 inch concrete floor.

The primary goal of reducing injuries was achieved, and since the Easy Arms have been installed, there have been no lost time injuries. The goal of increasing productivity by improving work flow was also achieved, as the company has seen a 25% rise in productivity. What made those goals achievable was

the easy integration of the Easy Arm™ into the work process. Thanks to its ease of use and speed of operation, it was easy to introduce to workers.

“We are a very ergonomic-minded company,” said the Manufacturing Manager. “While some products may be good for the workers, they can be a tough sell when we try to convince them to use the products. The Easy Arm™ products were very easy to convince our workers to use. The introduction of the Easy Arms into the work flow tied in perfectly to the Six Sigma strategy and the efficiency of the company’s work flow.”