D&T Fiberglass / Harrington Industrial Plastics Success Story Northrop Grumman Marine Systems Pickling Tanks





Background

Harrington Industrial Plastics (HIP) was contacted by Northrop Grumman (NG), a local defense contractor that was looking for a source for large chemically resistant rectangular tanks for their pickling line¹, approximately 9'x 9'x7' high. They had been using fabricated polypropylene tanks but were looking for something more structurally sound, as one of the polypro tanks had leaked.

Jim Smith at HIP in Fremont, CA contacted D&T Fiberglass (D&T) and met with NG to provide a solution for NG's leaking tanks. D&T brought in an engineer to help assess the application and specify a suitable solution.

Solution

D&T was able to mold a fiberglass tank around a steel structure that would provide both strength and corrosion resistance. Additionally, they were able to provide an outsourced polypropylene tank liner² to provide impact and abrasion resistance for the fiberglass tank. This was necessary due to the fact that the customer's process involves immersing a large metal basket with parts to be pickled down into the tank.

Jim Smith stated that, "D&T was able to complete the task in a very timely manner. This is now a fully engineered system that is now operational and functioning well for our customer. I would not hesitate to contact D&T in the future for any other projects involving FRP rectangular tanks."

¹ Pickling is a metal surface treatment used to remove impurities such as stains, inorganic contaminants, rust and scale from ferrous metals, copper precision metals and aluminum arrays. A solution called pickle liquor contains strong acids is used to remove the surface impurities.

² Datco Mfg.- Anderson, CA (right photograph). NG would not allow photographs at their facility due to national security reasons.