

Safespan Multi-Span Bridge Platform System®

The Safespan Multi-Span Bridge Platform System® is a unique structural access system that is revolutionizing the way in which bridges are being rehabilitated. It has greatly improved job performance, safety and productivity for contractors and owners who rehabilitate bridges. With Safespan, Inc.'s product, the previously tentative environment for these professionals becomes safe, stable and strong, offering a much more productive working atmosphere and labor cost savings up to 50 percent.

Safespan's system is cable-suspended. It utilizes corrugated flooring panels that are locked down to the underlying cables and fastened with the company's proprietary cable-to-deck fastening devices. Traditionally, contractors would paint and rehabilitate bridges using small work platforms that they move along the bridge structure. These platforms usually accommodate only four or five workers, resulting in projects that often finish behind schedule and over budget. With Safespan's unique multi-span working platform, contractors can access entire the bridge underside and may deploy scores of workers in various trades at one time. This saves them – as well as the bridge owners and, subsequently, the toll- and/or taxpayers who support them – up to 50 percent in labor costs.

Steel-structure painting contractor Lambros Apostolopoulos founded Safespan in 1995 to bring his breakthrough technology to the industry that was desperately seeking better solutions to its access problems. His challenge was further complicated by environmental issues including containment during lead-based paint removal and repainting, as well as protection of people, vehicles and property underneath the bridges being repaired. Apostolopoulos currently holds seven patents on his cable-suspended platform invention that is now being used for major industrial, as well as for bridge rehabilitation applications. He recently received an award for being a top inventor in New York under 40 years of age. He has several other patents pending on further improvements to his structural access inventions.

Safespan's platform system has catapulted the company to the forefront of the bridge rehabilitation industry. The industry consumes billions of tax dollars in the U.S.A, with close to 200,000 bridges in need of further repair and painting according to federal statistics.

As proof of the rapid acceptance of its proprietary technology, Safespan, Inc. has grown from \$1 million in sales to \$15 million in just five years. The company is seeking recognition on the INC. 500 Fastest Growing Companies list for 2001.

Several of the nation's largest general contractors utilize Safespan's system for their bridge access needs and for industrial applications. A growing number of bridge owners including Caltrans, Massport, Massachusetts Highway Department, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey now specify the use of Safespan cable-suspended access technology in their direct contracts. The company's access systems are currently installed on many world-renowned bridges such as the Golden Gate, George Washington, Triborough, Goethals, Manhattan, and Mackinac, in addition to numerous spans of lesser note.

Safespan, Inc. recently expanded into the European and Canadian markets and expects to double its sales to \$30 million in the next few years. The company has received inquiries from Japan, Australia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and India. It is in the process of setting up additional international outlets. In the future, Safespan expects to be specified by more and more owners, who are beginning to acknowledge the advantages of using its approach for all of their projects. Everyone saves when Safespan platforms are utilized because they're faster to deploy, safer and more economical to use, and available on a no-investment, turnkey basis.

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