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*Construction Robotics is Changing the Construction Job-Site-of-the-Future*

August 2020 -- [Construction Robotics](#) (CR) is a world leader in robotics and automation equipment focused on the construction industry, located in Victor, New York. CR's innovative equipment, [SAM100](#) and [MULE135](#) have proven to be instrumental in the evolution of construction technology and job-site functionality.

CR's President and Co-Founder, Scott Peters' love for science and invention led him to study and earn both his B.S. and M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rochester. "I have always been into math and science—inventing things," he said. "I really wanted to get into environmental engineering, but at the time, I just didn't find anything in that field," he continued. Instead, he lent his education and talent to Intel, the semiconductor and manufacturing giant, where he worked as a process engineer. "Although I loved the tech aspect, I wanted to be more creative." Peters' desire for creativity led him to a career at General Motors where he would gain patents and work in tandem on his side project, DNS Designs.

His father-in-law, Nate Podkaminer—CR's Chairman and Co-Founder—who at the time was working for Hueber Breuer Construction as the Executive Vice President, naturally tapped Peters to bring his skills to the industry. Podkaminer is the visionary behind the CR concept. A Registered Architect with over 40 years of experience managing multimillion dollar construction projects and, as an industry innovator, has brought many new construction concepts to the region for clients such as Syracuse University, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, The YMCA of Greater Syracuse, SUNY Upstate, as well as institutional expansion projects in the greater Syracuse region. Podkaminer received his Bachelor of Science from Hobart College and his Bachelor of Architecture from Syracuse University. Nate's emphasis has been on efficiency and productivity of the construction process to the mutual benefit of the client and the construction team. A long perceived goal and responsibility, Podkaminer has long been involved in community service, specifically his involvement with the YMCA of Greater Syracuse where he serves as a board member and committee person.

Peters continued, "On the side, I did all this research and worked with a local automation company to do some work as well. I ended up leaving GM to work for an automation company called Progressive Machine and Design, who invested in our current company, Construction Robotics. We worked within their building and were awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for 1.5 million over a few years, which gave us the ability to hire people and start our first prototype, SAM (Semi-Automated Mason), a brick laying robot. It was clunky at first, but we proved that we could lay bricks with robots on a jobsite" he said.

Because masons had never used the tech provided by SAM, there are many factors to consider, and change is difficult in an industry built on hundreds of years of trade standards. "We have always wanted the masons to use SAM themselves, but the level of planning going into construction isn't always conducive to using SAM. Automation is most successful when you can plan and execute, and in many instances, jobsite changes and current construction practices have presented challenges," said Peters. The team at CR is aware that an evolution in construction is needed and that eventually people will adopt new technology as the benefits can be massive. "The

demand for SAM has increased over time, but for it to be successful it needs to be the right project and the right team, who can plan and prepare successfully."

CR's deep knowledge of the construction industry allowed them to create the MULE (Material Unit Lift Enhancer), their most versatile product. The MULE is a lift assist device designed for handling and placing material weighing up to 150 lbs on a construction site. Its attachments can be designed for any construction application. The MULE allows material to feel weightless, reduces fatigue and injuries, and increases productivity. "It's one of the rare pieces of equipment where you can improve safety, ergonomics, and increase productivity with your team," said Peters. Moving heavy material manually or by machine can be too cumbersome. With the MULE, 150 lbs can just be lifted right over their heads without strain or injury. The masonry industry and block manufacturers are very excited about what the MULE can do to help grow the industry. They recognize they are losing marketshare to other budding materials and due to labor challenges. The industry also wants to see more block buildings, and they are now producing larger, double length (32" long) units weighing between 70-105 lbs, which is perfect for the MULE. These units coupled with the MULE allow for significant increases in productivity with no strain on the worker. Every motion to the wall is double the square footage installed. "The 32" block is now available in over 13 states, with availability increasing dramatically in the coming year," he continued.

At CONEXPO 2020, Construction Robotics developed and launched the MZ100, the latest addition to the MULE product line. When the product launches next year, it will be the world's first smart lift assist co-bot that is li-ion battery powered, features auto leveling and wireless grippers, and is built to directly integrate with JLG and Skytrak telehandlers. The MZ100 will be a great addition to the MULE offering, allowing other trades and interior work to take advantage of the new smaller MULE with improved mobility and flexibility.

For nearly a decade, CR has led the way in the construction industry by developing autonomous solutions and co-bots for job-sites. They have implemented a realistic and practical path towards the job-site-of-the-future. Their proprietary lift assist technology products simultaneously solve for productivity, safety and precision—reducing schedules, adding back profits and driving down safety risks and the cost of insurance. With a passion to change the industry for the better, their leadership continues to innovate and inspire. For more information, visit <https://www.construction-robotics.com/>

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