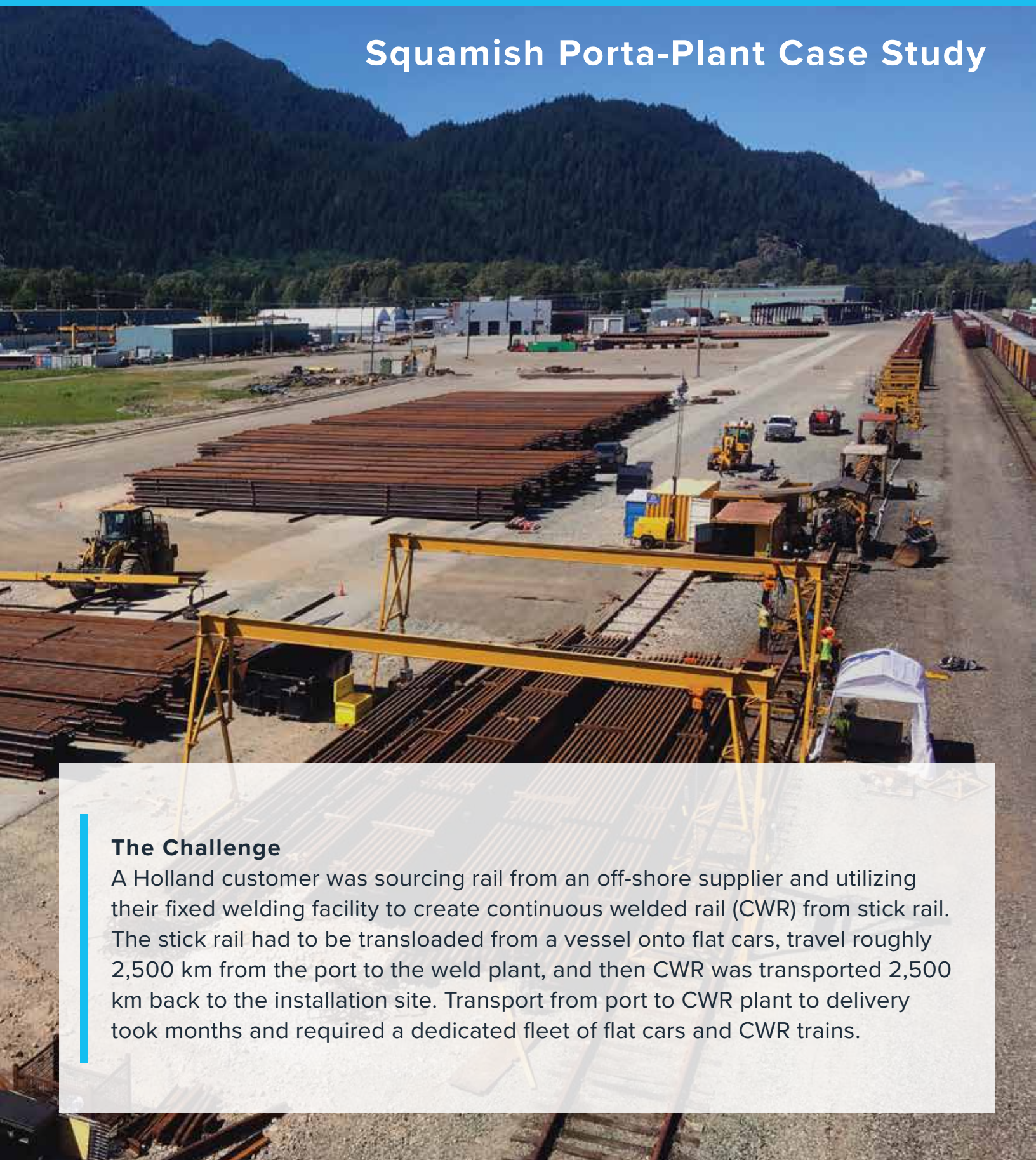
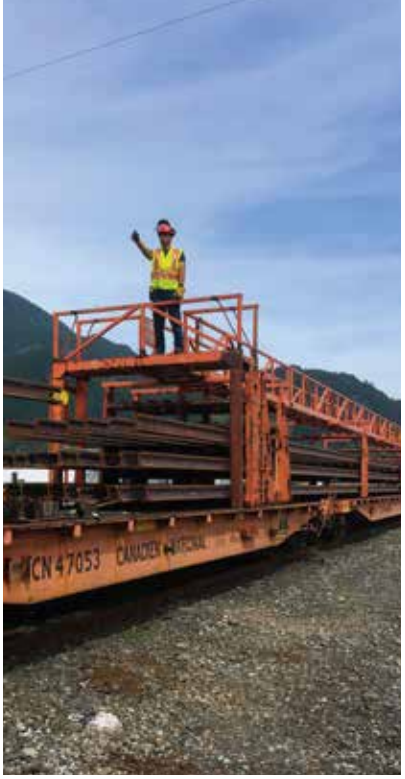
Holland®

Squamish Porta-Plant Case Study



The Challenge

A Holland customer was sourcing rail from an off-shore supplier and utilizing their fixed welding facility to create continuous welded rail (CWR) from stick rail. The stick rail had to be transloaded from a vessel onto flat cars, travel roughly 2,500 km from the port to the weld plant, and then CWR was transported 2,500 km back to the installation site. Transport from port to CWR plant to delivery took months and required a dedicated fleet of flat cars and CWR trains.


SOLUTION

Using Holland's proprietary welding technology, we set up a temporary welding facility to minimize the transportation and handling costs needed to create CWR while optimizing the limited supply of CWR trains and flat cars. This temporary welding facility was strategically located within miles from the port facility where there was sufficient space to clear a track for the weld line as well as lay down rail inventory coming in.

The process included offloading stick rail into a staging area at the port, from which flat cars could be loaded and shipped from the port to the temporary weld facility. The next step was offloading the rail from these flat cars to the stockpiling operation which was independent from the welding line. This operation was set up to run 24 hours per day, if needed, with the customer delivering up to 8 flat cars per day of stick rail. From the stockpiling operation, stick rail was loaded into the weld line staging area and moved onto a roller-line using a gantry crane. Once a part of our standard roller-line practice, Holland team members polished rail webs and rail was welded into 1,600 ft strings and finish ground.

After inspection, rail was pushed onto a CWR train using a hydraulic rail pusher and lead-out stands and tied down. From there, the rail strings were transported wherever the customer found necessary!

The results of this temporary welding facility maximized overall production of their rail renewal program with an average of 95 welds per shift and eliminated the need for a large, dedicated fleet of CWR trains as well as flat cars. The customer reduced the average CWR train days per turn for delivery from 60 to 14! At the center of the success of this project, is the superior quality of Holland's welding technology and operations. With our in-house weld quality lab, our technicians are available in real-time and can remote in 24 hours a day to monitor or run diagnostics on every and any weld even in the most secluded areas. This maximizes the uptime for facilities such as this so that operations can continue to operate on schedule.

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