



*Innovative Solutions for Material Handling*

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## **RICO DESIGNS VEHICLE TO HANDLE SPACE SHUTTLE SOLID ROCKET BOOSTERS**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**(June 26, 2006 – Medina, Ohio)** BPR/RICO Equipment, Inc. has just announced their completion of an articulated vehicle that is specifically designed to handle the Solid Rocket Boosters (SRB's) for the Space Shuttle.



Each space shuttle has SRB's designed to produce the main thrust to lift the space shuttle off the pad and up to an altitude of about 150,000 feet, or 24 nautical miles. The two SRB's carry the entire weight of the external tank and orbiter. The SRBs are the largest solid-propellant motors ever flown and the first designed for reuse. Each is 149.16 feet long and 12.17 feet in diameter.

RICO's propane powered, hydrostatically driven, SRB handler will take individual solid rocket booster sections and transport them throughout the manufacturing process of a government prime contractor. "There were some difficult design requirements that had to be incorporated into this vehicle," said president Dave Mueller. Lift is accomplished through three lifting pads that are individually control by an onboard Programmable Logic Control (PLC). This PLC monitors each lifting pad to ensure levelness within 1/8" during transport of the SRB. Each trip can be up to 0.5 miles long and grades of up to 5% may be encountered.

RICO is proud to be fabricators of the world's finest specialty lift trucks. With more than 125 years of industry experience, RICO has pioneered the design, development and manufacture of specialized lift trucks with capacities ranging from 3,000 to 300,000 lbs. The company's products are sold to a diverse customer base which includes users in the industrial, military and commercial markets.

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