

# Hermitage is home to world's largest manufacturer of car carriers ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



Contributed by Dick Davis

Miller Industries is the world's largest manufacturer of car carriers from its Hermitage manufacturing facility. But you might not know it from walking through its recently expanded, high-tech plant at 2755 Kirila Boulevard.

Miller's 260 employees construct more than 100 of the specially-fabricated steel platform carriers each week in its 225,000 square-foot plant, including a recent 125,000 sq. ft. addition. While bustling with production activity, the plant is surprisingly clean and not noisy.

Dust collection systems installed by Imperial Systems, of Jackson Center, handle the ever-present shop dust and dirt, while, according to Dale Pittman, general manager, noise levels of the facility are professionally tested to ensure the noise is well below established norms. The plant has a paint shop and is Wi-Fi enabled for the computerized equipment and tracking of all materials.

For its 2016 expansion, the Hermitage plant recently was awarded a Phoenix Award from the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce in the Large Growth Manufacturing category. Miller's investment in plant and equipment totaled \$20 million.

"This is the most modern, best equipped facility of its kind," said Pittman as he and Dan Sebastian, a Miller vice president, conducted a tour for city and local officials. "Our employees work hard in every department. We get three deliveries of steel and other raw materials every day—some workers are busy stocking those materials among our 895 in-house storage locations."

Miller's car carriers are flat-bed platforms with hydraulic tilt mechanisms that enable a towing operator to drive or winch a vehicle onto the bed for transport. They can be used to transport new or disabled vehicles and other equipment. Car carriers are also used for other purposes, such as transportation of industrial equipment.

Types of carriers by Miller include conventional, low center of gravity (LCG), conventional industrial, and LCG industrial with sizes for one, two, three or four cars. Most carriers leave unattached to a truck chassis while some are attached in the Miller plant.

Sebastian says Miller's market is the towing and recovery



Miller Industries complex in Hermitage.



industry, auto and truck salvage businesses, and the rental equipment industry. Sunbelt Rentals, which services a variety of customers in the commercial, residential, industrial, municipal, and specialized service industries, is one of Miller's largest customers.

Tennessee-based Miller Industries has four manufacturing facilities in the U.S., one in England, and one in France. The firm's products include wrecker, car carrier, and trailer bodies. Miller brands include Century, Vulcan, Challenger, Holmes, Champion, Chevron, Eagle, Titan, Jige, and Boniface.