

The assignment

Kraatz has been awarded a project to fabricate a conditioner tank for Namibia Custom Smelters (NCS) under the supervision of an international project consultant group named SNC Lavalin.

The conditioner tank is 18 meters long and 5.5 meters in diameter. The total weight of the tank is 36 ton.

Getting the job done

Upon award, we did not have the ideal equipment to fabricate the tank, but by sticking out our necks and applying breakthrough thinking, we have found a way. Equipment lead times were more than 8 weeks and we had to deliver the completed tank within 12 weeks of order. What a TALL order! We decided to design and fabricate our own tank rollers with a capacity of up to 40 tons to enable us to fabricate even bigger (heavier) tanks in future.

Our plan worked and we successfully fabricated the conditioner tank for our client.

Key learnings

If you can apply your mind and think the unthinkable, you will stumble on solutions never thought before. This project is a good example with what is possible within the dynamic Kraatz team.



Figure 2 - Tank on the road to the north



Figure 1 - Half section on rotators in the workshop



Figure 3 - Tank installed in position