

WATERFRONT IN BRIEF



The yard's new lift will be six times larger than the 100-ton lift shown at left; bird's-eye and side views of the new facility, below; VP Todd Roberts, bottom.



Old Yard, New Tricks

A six-million-dollar renovation makes this San Diego yacht yard one of the largest in the country.

SAN DIEGO ➤ Since the early 1980s, one million square feet of land along the waterfront in Chula Vista, California, has grown into San Diego's largest boatyard. Formerly known as SouthBay Boat Yard, the site soon is destined to become one of the largest and most capable facilities in the country. With a new name and a new image, The Marine Group Boat Works is the new incarnation of SouthBay.

With its updated equipment, the facility can accommodate loads up to 665 tons (vessels with an LOA of 220 feet and beam of 54 feet), compared to its former 100-ton/100-foot capacity. Its new lift is the second lift with a capacity of more than 500

tons to be made in the United States and will be the largest one operating in the country.

When questioned on The Marine Group's decision to increase capacity, Vice President Todd Roberts stated a well-known industry fact: "The superyacht market is growing at an incredible rate. There are currently 650 of these yachts under construction worldwide, and the repair capacity for them is simply inadequate." Roberts uses 100 feet as a "superyacht" guideline, a size range for which demand has grown by close to 80 percent in the last six years.

Taking the heat off of refit and repair hot spots in South Florida and the Mediterranean, The Marine Group makes San Diego a convenient locale for owners and crew overseeing service of their yacht. Construction of The Marine Group's new facility began in April and involves three major steps. Phase 1 will clear and pave some valuable real estate for the following phases. Phase 2 will build a new office complex and workshops of about 25,000 square feet. In Phase 3, 150-foot piers will be installed, on which the new lift will operate. Weighing 1.3 million pounds, the lift will be operational by mid-December. "From 600 pounds to 600 tons, we'll do it all," said Roberts.—MATTHEW ESPOSITO □



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