Drywall Contractor Shifts from Scaffolds to Scissor Lifts

Procon, Inc., a drywall contracting company based in Greensboro, N.C., with commercial projects statewide, has been a user of scissor lifts since 1992 when it began shedding the excessive time and costs of using roll-on scaffolds for overhead work.

It took a little time, according to Procon Foreman Bobby Johnson, for the company to find “the one machine that we ask be rented for all of our jobs, because it’s just simply the most reliable machine out there and meets every one of our needs.”

Equally important, notes Ronnie White, project manager and part-owner of the lo-year-old firm, is “the reliability of the
source of supply, BPS Equipment in Charlotte, from both the actual machine availability and the standard service stand-
points.”

The two Dyna-Mite models from Mayville Engineering, with 19- and 22-foot work heights respectively, have platform sizes and railing heights that allow Procon workers to load and unload, and handle large drywall panels with great ease. A roll-out platform exten-
sion makes sure that there is adequate space for the panels along with one or two Procon workers and other material, tools and miscellaneous items.

“The Dyna-Mite’s overall dimensions of 32 inches by 66 inch-
es,” Johnson says, “are ideal for moving easily through narrow door-
way, aisles and open-
ings, as well as moving in, out and around the

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clutter and items located at a construction site. As an added feature, you can turn corners with more ease because of the machine’s tight turning radius.”

Procon crews often are seen where the new Lowe’s grocery store chains are going up throughout North Carolina. Standard store design calls for different ceiling heights in the different parts of the store—20-foot ceilings at the front entrance and check-out area and 16-foot ceilings toward the rear where merchandise is docked.

For drywall installation, this means a lot of movement. It is especially important when moving from place to place and from level to level, Johnson notes.

“We need a scissor lift that moves fast and easy wherever and whenever we are on
the job. We’re constantly moving up and down, back and forth to another new location, back into a tight corner, then up and down again.

“Our people want to feel completely comfortable and at ease with the equipment that they are working with, and they also want to feel safe when they’re moving at ground level or when they are at full extension high up in the air.”

Both of the Dyna-Mite models from Mayville have the company’s exclusive pothole protection system, which helps prevent tip-overs when an unexpected pothole or deep depression in the floor is encountered on a jobsite.

As the platform rises, hidden stabilizer bars located on both sides of the machine are lowered to the ground; as the platform is brought down, they both disappear under the framework of the scissors.

“Safety is probably the most important feature we are concerned with,” White says, “and
It is something we look for in all of the equipment we rent and use. Accidents can happen anywhere and can be very costly, in addition to the pain and grief that they cause both our workers and members of their family.

“It just simply makes good sense to take advantage of every safety feature available to us, to teach good safety practices and to learn to live by the laws set down by the government and other regulatory agencies. It benefits everyone.”

Procon and equipment provider BPS have a close relationship “that is built on trust and respect for one another’s best interests,” White adds. “We’re certain that our company’s future success will depend to a great extent on such a relationship as well as the efforts we make with manufacturers like Mayville to keep them strong and all the more satisfying.”