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Sole operator moving multi-ton load via air bearing technology.

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## Industrial Hovercraft Technology is Growing

*Air caster hovercraft technology literally floats the equipment or load on a film of air.*

FROM: AeroGo

Moving heavy machines through a production process by traditional methods can present challenges, as contact pressure can damage flooring. Compounding the problem is the tight design of many factory floors. However, air casters can provide an alternative.

Air caster hovercraft technology literally floats the equipment or load on a film of air. The technology has been around for years - the most notable examples being the air hockey table and hovercrafts. In industrial applications, the use of air casters provides ultra-low friction, allowing movement of loads weighing thousands of pounds to be controlled by hand.

Basically, an air caster is a torus shape bag that captures air to lift and move objects, with an air pressure requirement that's less than 60 psi. Air caster technology also provides omni-directional load movement adjustments, meaning the casters can move in any direction without increasing force.

Air casters work best on smooth, flat surfaces, as well as epoxy-coated flooring, tile, metal and vinyl. Although surfaces including asphalt, gravel and dirt are considered unacceptable, use of a temporary overlay will enable the technology to do its job and successfully complete the move.

While air casters require an initial investment, short and long-term financial calculations will offer a clear picture of return on investment. They cost more than traditional wheels and rollers, but less than cranes.

*John Massenburt the president and chief executive officer of AeroGo, Inc. in Seattle, WA. AeroGo manufactures heavy load equipment utilizing hovercraft technology. For more information, go to [www.aerogo.com](http://www.aerogo.com)*

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MAR 15 2017 13:36 Posted by dwood

### **Frictionless Floor**



This Idea has been around for a long time. This was used at NASA Langley in a test cell to move a very heavy piece of the test cell mounted on a very flat steel base sitting on a very smooth floor. The base had many small holes connected to a male air hose fitting. Plug in an air hose with 90 PSI shop air and the base rose up a mm or so and was then on a frictionless surface. But once you got it moving you also had to force it to stop moving!

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