

Carts with connections: Innovative equipment solutions for stadia draw design inspiration from wider venue architecture and the local area

IRP's carts at US Bank Stadium drew inspiration from the architecture and materials used in the venue design.



Founded in 1983, Iowa Rotocast Plastics (IRP) takes pride in being a trusted manufacturer and supplier of custom-fabricated foodservice and beverage equipment for stadia, convention centers and arenas. IRP's equipment can be found in more than 200 professional and collegiate sports venues, spanning six continents.

IRP was honored to supply the fabricated beverage equipment to the new state-of-the-art US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, home of the Minnesota Vikings. The company's contribution to US Bank Stadium included 36 carts, ranging from the typical beverage offerings (craft draft, liquor, bottle, combo) to specialty carts such as popcorn carts, farmers' market cooler kiosks, and support and sink carts. This was a milestone project for IRP, as US Bank Stadium is the first stadium to receive equipment designed with the new lift-assist technology, IRP's patent-pending innovation in the field of equipment manufacturing. This new technology enables

vendors and employees to effortlessly raise and lower the headers and canopies on their carts as needed for storage and mobility.

Local inspiration

During the initial bid process for US Bank Stadium, IRP's in-house team of engineers and designers felt it was imperative that the cart design draw inspiration from the architecture and materials used in the stadium. Elements of chrome, glass, faux wood and stainless steel were incorporated into an angular cart base designed to provide a cohesive appearance with the interior and exterior aesthetic of the stadium. The beverage carts used wood-like ACM elements in the base and header, while specialty carts used a more simplistic stainless and ACM header. The bases on all carts featured two triangular acrylic accent overlay panels, backlit with LED lighting.

Another IRP project worth noting is the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento, California. IRP was awarded the entirety of the

foodservice and beverage carts, slated for an early September delivery. In addition to the standard draft beer, cocktail and hot food carts, IRP will also provide carts for specialty food items, bringing the grand total to 33 units. IRP's team wanted the overall aesthetic of the cart to draw inspiration from Sacramento's climate and culture, while enabling it to pair seamlessly with the thematic design elements of the stadium's architecture. The UL-approved cart design, which pays homage to the stadium's 'million trees' theme, will feature a stainless-steel panel die-cut in a modernist leaf pattern, layered over an acrylic panel backlit with LED lighting. Other design elements include responsibly harvested maple accents, glass and stainless steel. ■

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