

# PORTAFAB

## CASE STUDY

### Class 100 Cleanroom for Data Storage Tape Manufacturer

**Customer:** Ampex Recording Media Corp.

**Location:** Opelika, Alabama

**Application:** 30,000 S.F. Class 100 Cleanroom

**Product:** Cleanline S3000

**Benefits Provided:**

- Flexibility
- Class 100 conformance capability



### THE SITUATION

Ampex Recording Media Corporation is a leading worldwide manufacturer of professional audio, video, and data storage tape. Known for high-quality products, Ampex produces 70% of all professional recording tape for the television and movie industry.

### THE CHALLENGE

Tape manufacturing requires an ultra-clean environment and is a quickly changing industry with frequent modifications in production. So, when Ampex needed to expand its existing clean room manufacturing area in its Opelika, Alabama facility, the company had two major concerns: quality and flexibility.

### THE EVALUATION

Ampex Associate Engineer, Steve Erlandson, set out to find a wall system that would meet his clean room needs. Since flexibility was a major concern, he immediately ruled out the conventional construction methods that Ampex had used in the past and began searching for a modular wall system that could be modified or expanded quickly and easily. After investigating a number of modular wall systems and touring a nearby plant outfitted with PortaFab cleanroom systems, he decided that PortaFab could best serve his needs for quality and versatility. "PortaFab's nonprogressive construction offered more flexibility than other modular systems," according to Erlandson.

### THE SOLUTION

Installation of the walls, ceiling, and floor was quick and easy, according to Erlandson. The project remained on schedule throughout installation and plant disruption was kept to a minimum. Of course, the true test would come after initial installation.

Because Ampex's products are continuously improving and changing based on market needs, the manufacturing process was continually changing. These production changes often required modifications in the cleanroom environments including relocating equipment and reconfiguring the conveyors that ran through the walls of the cleanroom.

Since individual PortaFab wall panels can be moved quickly and easily, these changes in the production process did not cause the disruption, downtime, productivity loss, or dust that normally accompanied conventional construction.

Overall, the 30,000 square foot clean room expansion was considered a tremendous success and it still looks brand new after 2 years in operation. Ampex was also pleased with the attractive appearance and low maintenance of their PortaFab wall system that they have been used on additional cleanrooms in the facility.

### PortaFab Corporation

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