OGURA
"What you need in a clutch"®
ON THE MOVE
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IATF 16949/ISO9001 AUDIT

Kiryu, Japan

The IATF 16949/ISO1809001 external audit was conducted for the head office, the first factory, the second factory, the Akabori factory, the Kobayashi factory, and the sales management and sales development section.


2023 IATF Inspection

It was originally scheduled for 01/16-01/20, but because one of the auditors contracted Covid-19, the schedule was changed to 01/16-01/18 and 02/06-02/07 and 02/21-02/22. So, the audit was divided into three sections and some of ISO1809001 audit was done remotely.

As a result, 3 major nonconformities, 13 minor nonconformities in the IATF16949 audit, and 2 minor nonconformities in the ISO9001 audit were found. The corrective actions should be reported within 60 days. Then, after the approval of the correction content is obtained, the auditors conduct the follow-up audit.

The results of the audit go to all related departments and are used to further enhance the understanding and performance of Ogura's QMS.●

SUPPLIER MEETING

Kiryu, Japan

The 2023 Supplier Meeting was held remotely again this year. The event was held successfully with the participation of 235 people from 208 companies.

The briefing session began with a greeting followed by the moderator announcing the award for excellent contributors. After that, Factory Manager Iimura explained QCD process and the current purchasing policy.

Finally, Managing Director Matsumoto made a closing remark, saying that business partners are required to take measures to prevent defective products from being sent to customers and post-processes. ●

THE 2023 SALES REPRESENTATIVES CONFERENCE

Tokyo, Japan

On February 6th, the 2023 Sales Representatives Conference was held at Ogura's Tokyo office. It was held for the first time since 2020 due to the impact of Covid-19. The executives of each representative office attended the conference along with President Ogura and department heads from Ogura Japan.


Sales Conference in Tokyo

President Ogura said, "The global situation is changing rapidly, including the current economic situation, and I believe how we overcome this fast-changing environment will be a major issue in 2023. In order to survive as a specialized manufacturer of clutches and brakes, it is important to sell products at appropriate prices and profits. For that reason, we believe that the role of a manufacturer is not just to develop and continue business in the same area and ideas as before, but to establish a system and environment that can generate solid growth."

Representatives commented, "Last year, advance orders contributed to the steady increase in orders. However, this year, some industries, such as those related to semiconductors, are already in a downward phase, so we would like to firmly grasp other customer trends and information and use this to acquire new markets and expand sales."

After that, Ogura reviewed the 2022 sales results report, sales expansion activity, production headquarters overview, and technology headquarters reports. Finally, Managing Director Inokoshi said, "In order to secure orders, it is essential to build relationships of trust with customers and focus on developing new business."●

Ogura Sales Rep Profile

Mike McPhee
Summit Agencies, Ltd.

Mike McPhee

Good day! My name is Mike McPhee. I am the Ogura Sales Rep for British Columbia, Canada. My background is in industrial equipment sales, supply chain, logistics and project management.

I started working with Ogura in March 2022. Ogura has a proud history in B.C. mainly with two world-class manufacturers: VMAC, utilizing Ogura's mobile clutch technology for work truck air compressors, and Ballard Power, a leading Hydrogen Fuel cell manufacturer that uses Ogura Superchargers. Working with Ogura on these long-standing accounts is a joy and I love leveraging the knowledge to B.C.'s many fabricators in Marine, Robotics, Forestry and Agriculture.

I have lived in Langley BC (near Vancouver) for over 30 years. My hobbies are skiing, hiking, camping and carpentry. I am also a reluctant but respectful organic vegetable gardener. My current project is automating the watering system of our ever-expanding "farm". I look forward to digging up those nuggets and projects that can utilize Ogura's innovation and quality.●

LECTURE BY SENIOR OGURA RESEARCH ENGINEER

Kiryu, Japan

Last quarter, Dr. Nozawa from Research and Development Division at Ogura's Technology Department gave a lecture titled "Products That Use Friction and Wear technology, and Improving the Competence of Engineers" at the Highland Kanto Liaison Organization. Dr. Nozawa introduced Ogura's products, focusing on spring applied brakes for robots and elevators, SC (roots blowers) and ORC. Ogura's basic technologies include friction and wear technology and electromagnetic technology. As an example of improving the former, Dr. Nozawa introduced research and development of friction materials that Ogura started in 2001 in collaboration with Gunma University. As an example of the latter, he introduced the "DQH type torque sensor."●

INTRODUCTION OF QC CIRCLE ACTIVITY

Kiryu, Japan

Kame QC Circle participants

Kame Circle is operated by a total of 16 people in 4 departments: Overseas and Air Conditioning Control Department, General Trading Department, Cost Control Department Section 1, and Cost Control Department Section 2. Each department cooperates with each other to perform operations related to various aspects of product life such as sales management and cost management in Japan and overseas.

Kame Circle recently worked on the simplification of electronic stamping.

Before, the work of the 2nd Cost Control Section was mainly to create various materials in Excel, check and stamp approval on the printed materials, and store them. However, due to the problem of the storage period of paper materials and the increasing number of occasions in which people are required to work from home in recent years, the need to refer to the electronic files is growing. Ogura decided to affix an electronic seal for review and approval to the electronic files. Stamping is performed using electronic stamping software, but searching for a file and stamping in the stamping column of that file obviously required more time compared to stamping onto a paper. The high frequency of stamping was a factor slowing down the work speed of the entire department.

In order to simplify the process, participants of the project broke down and analyzed the stamping work according to the QC process, and finally succeeded in automating the entire stamping work by using macros.

Through this activity, stamping time has been reduced significantly, and as an intangible effect, the mental fatigue of stamping has been greatly reduced.●

	Before improvement	After improvement
Time for stamping one file	60 seconds	5 seconds
Time for stamping each month (94 files on average)	94 minutes	7.8 minutes

WHEN THE WIND IS YOUR FRIEND, NOTHING CAN STOP YOU

Parasailing fun

Living outside of your comfort zone can be fun, and Parasailing adds a whole new dimension to water sports excitement. Parasailing is a sport where one person or multiple people are towed through the air behind a boat while attached to a device similar to a parachute.

Ogura MMC-28G-06 clutches are leading the way to improved customer safety and superior performance hitherto unknown to this industry.

Parasailing uses a winch assembly driven by hydraulic motors and brakes. To generate the required RPM and torque of the winch system to create flight, designers use Ogura's MMC-28G-06 24 Volt DC clutch, connected to their propulsion engine, to drive a hydraulic pump to supply the needed hydraulic pressure and flow for hydraulic motors and brakes to spool or unspool the parasailing lifeline.

Ogura MMC style clutches used for Hydraulics

Extensive life and performance testing has been performed by our customers before placing them into service. Burnishing is always a good idea for these critical to safety applications.

If any part of this system should fail, customers could end up in the drink, waiting to be rescued. Failure is not an option for this application.

That said, should the boats batteries fail, or clutch wiring become broken or torn while in use, and the clutch DC control becomes inoperative while in flight, there is a clever Ogura clutch "limp home" feature which will allow for a full lock up of the clutch to continue full hydraulics operations and control without DC power.

Designed for marine use, Ogura MMC clutch contains a full epoxy encapsulated coil, that when energized by a DC voltage, becomes an electromagnet. This electromagnet then attracts a multi pole armature plate across a small air gap. Once the armature crosses the airgap, it is then in contact with the multi pole rotor. This connects the input hub to the output bore, transmitting torque to the hydraulics. When power is removed, a strong bidirectional spring works to open the airgap to disengage the clutch and shut down power to the hydraulics. With higher torques, and significantly better corrosion resistance, our customers are enjoying many safe seasons of full-time clutch use in this demanding and growing water sport.●

Line slacked to "Dip" Pair

OGURA INDUSTRIAL CORP.

Happy Spring from the Staff of Ogura

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Ogura in the News

BRIAN MATHER PROMOTED TO VICE PRESIDENT

Somerset, NJ

Last quarter, Brian Mather was promoted to Vice President and Sales Manager of Ogura Industrial Corporation. Brian is a graduate mechanical engineer from Drexel University in Philadelphia. Prior to joining Ogura, Brian worked with SKF, Deltran, Electroid, and Falk. His well-rounded background in both clutches and brakes and other power transmission related equipment will help to guide Ogura's future.

Brian Mather

Over the past few years, Brian has written many articles for various trade magazines on clutch and brake related subjects and will continue to be an industry resource in his new role.●

YOU CAN'T RUN WITH DIRTY CLEATS AND YOU CAN'T SIT IN DIRTY SEATS

Kiryu, Japan

As reported in last year's newsletter, Ogura is the sponsor, for the next few years, for the baseball stadium in Kiryu. Prior to the start of the season this year, volunteers from Ogura's manufacturing plants cleaned the stadium from top to bottom so that fans would have an enjoyable visit this year. More than 160 Ogura group executives and employees participated in the cleanup activities. The cleaning and painting was completed within one weekend. Ogura's sponsorship this year also allowed for construction of a new scoreboard for the stadium.●

Ogura cleaning crew

LAWNMOWER RACING UPDATE

Fruitland Park, FL

The Ogura racing team season started in March in Fruitland Park, Florida at The Original Raceway. It was a great track and very fast and smooth! Bobby was racing his newly painted Ogura racing mower, and now both Chuck and Bobby have matching mowers and suits.

The race setup, for the mowers in Florida, was very important and both Chuck and Bobby made adjustment mistakes. They ended up with a 4th and 5th place finish.

The next race will be at 12mile Indiana the 4th of July weekend. 12mile is known as the birthplace of mower racing dating back to 1963 as far as records can tell! It's always a great time and Team Ogura hopes to do well!●

Chuck and Bobby on their newly painted racing mowers