Ogura Celebrates its 70th Anniversary

Kiryu, Japan

This past quarter Ogura celebrated its 70th year in business. All current employees that could attend the ceremony (1,228) were present along with 33 invited guests. Ogura does not have a facility large enough to hold all employees, so the Civic Center in Kiryu was used.

Mr. Ogura gave a speech praising both past and current employees for their efforts in allowing Ogura to grow as the world’s largest manufacturer of electromagnetic clutches. At some point during this fall’s production Ogura will reach the milestone of having produced its 300 millionth car air conditioning clutch. Mr. Ogura then went on to challenge each employee to utilize new technology to increase productivity efficiencies to allow Ogura to maintain its competitiveness in a global marketplace.

Ogura Rescue Tools Used to Save Trapped Couple

On June 14 an earthquake shook the Iwate and Miyagi prefectures. Because some areas were inaccessible by road the only way to get rescue workers in was by helicopter. Since the Ogura rescue tools are light enough to be carried by the rescuers many teams can be outfitted with these tools.

One of these rescue teams came across a couple trapped in their vehicle under huge rocks. With the Ogura multibiter they were equipped with, they were able to cut away parts of the car and pry back the rocks to extract the couple safely.

Academia Tours

Ogura Manufacturing

Akabori, Japan

In May Professor Kitani of Kyoto University and Mr. Sasaki of the Manufacturing Management Research Center visited the Akabori plant as part of their research into innovative manufacturing companies supplying the automotive market. They were particularly interested in Ogura’s ability to be competitive, not just domestically but also in overseas markets. They asked a number of penetrating questions about Ogura manufacturing, but also gave a lot of insight from their experience. Ogura hopes that this cooperation will help their research lead to further advancements in manufacturing for all companies.
Advantage Sales

Eastern Canada

Advantage Sales Network Corp. was established in 1999 with Steve O'Brien as VP and Dave Cummings as President to cover Canada for Select Principals looking for a professional sales team.

Steve's background is thirty years in the Power Transmission business, all of it with manufacturers such as Tsubaki and TRW. In his spare time he is an avid golfer. Dave was the Sales Manager for SKF/Chicago Rawhide Seals for 20 years prior to them starting their company.

They focus solely on PT type products and carry 11 lines comprised of motors, industrial clutches and brakes, gearboxes and bearings. They have warehouses in Toronto, Ontario, Montreal, and Quebec.

They have 5 salespeople covering the Ogura territory with 2 in Quebec/Maritime provinces and 4 in Ontario. Their customer base comprises some 900 distributor accounts for their products with around 200 OEM's.

Their current annual gross sales for all of Canada are $21 million. While they are the fairly new "kids on the block" with Ogura, they are hoping that they can make their sales in Eastern Canada grow to the levels that a premium quality market leader like Ogura should have.

Environmental Update: Vending Machines?

Kiryu, Japan

Running two plus shifts at most manufacturing plants, Ogura's vending machines run 24 hours a day. Combined, the plants in Japan have a total of 63 vending machines which consume a lot of electricity.

Plant #3 has a pilot program that replaced five of the vending machines with a new energy saving machine. The machines do not use chlorofluorocarbons, which can damage the ozone layer. The new units use a type of heat pump which is more efficient and uses less energy than the older machines.

Combined, the five machines saved 421 kilowatts per month, giving an electrical savings; but more importantly reducing CO2 emissions by approximately 1.7 tons per year. Because of the success of this program the other factories will now start installing these new energy saving vending machines.

Ogura Employees in Yagibushi Festival

Kiryu, Japan

On August 1-3rd the annual Yagibushi Matsuri festival was held in Kiryu. Yagibushi is a collection of popular folk songs, dances and traditional games. In one of these games teams roll a cocoon shaped paper covered reed cylinder between two points, the fastest team wins. This year Ogura had two teams, one dressed as baseball players, the other as soccer players. The baseball team finished second in the overall competition and the soccer team won the performance award.

The Ogura Yagibushi band (consisting of many different types of drums) performed in the Ogura tower (floe). They received many encores and their picture was put on the front page of the Kiryu paper.
Application Story

Actionciam Puts You in the Action

Got HDTV but it still doesn’t feel like you’re really at the game? Need something more? Well, sports fans, get ready for the next big thing — ActionCam HD.

ActionCam, located in Tulea, OK, is currently testing and demonstrating a new and innovative HD camera system that will soon launch them toward becoming the world’s premier provider of the next generation aerial camera systems for broadcast video and professional film production. More specifically, ActionCam delivers the most advanced camera system in today’s industry, which gives an over the field view point that can only be provided through this type of suspended camera. In both sports and entertainment, this gives the viewer a new vantage point, which brings the audience closer to the action and drama, giving them the best possible viewing experience available. Ogura is proud to supply the RNB-20G power off brake as an integral part of this technology.

Unlike current “camera on a wire” systems, ActionCam works by setting up four reels in each corner of any arena or stadium. The cable wrapped around each of these reels is then rigged straight up to the top of each corner and back down to the center of the venue. Each of the four cables meet at the center of the venue, which holds the camera in place and directs it within the confined area.

To hold the reel motors in place when they are not running the system uses an Ogura RNB-20G spring applied brake rated at 144 ft. lbs. The brake is located on the center shaft of each of the four reels. Besides normal operation, any time the system senses a malfunction or if there was a loss of power the brakes would come on immediately to hold the reels in place. The easy installation and complete package design of this brake make it a perfect fit for the ActionCam cable reels.

There are a number of features that set this system apart from other stadium cameras: ActionCam is capable of speeds up to 60 mph (Randy Moss and Devin Hester aren’t even that fast), twice that of the competition. It can cover over 1 million sq. ft. at V squared velocity with accuracy of less than one inch. In addition to the four corner reels, there is an additional “Safety Reel”. This reel provides for assured safety for the players and spectators. This reel works by running a fifth cable across the field and connecting the center to the camera. If the system detects any malfunctions or if any of the four corner reels lose power, the safety reel will pull the camera up and away from any players or viewers.

In the not-too-distant future, most American homes will have HD television. So whether it’s a first-run movie, the Super Bowl or the Olympics, ActionCam and Ogura will be behind the scenes bringing you a new viewing experience.
New Products

Air Pumps

The Ogura series of air pumps have traditionally been used as Superchargers on engine applications to increase performance and horsepower. But, did you know that air pumps have also been used in a number of industrial applications. Ogura air pumps have been used in the electronics industry to supply air flow for circuit board cooling. They’ve also been used, in reverse, to create vacuum systems for mobile carpet cleaning. In the transportation industry they’ve been used to create the lift for hover trams.

Because the rotors in the Ogura air pump have a large contact area the units operate at a greater efficiency versus other types of air pumps. The rotors are very light weight, which means they can be accelerated very quickly. Ogura air pumps have the option of having an integral electric clutch, a simple flip of a switch accelerates the pump to provide boost when needed. This also gives the customer the advantage of not turning the pump when not needed, therefore increasing life and decreasing energy consumption.

Another key advantage with the air pump rotors is that they utilize a special coating that has the ability to absorb particulates. This prevents the particulates from getting trapped against the housing and the rotor, reducing the chance for damage and helping to maintain efficiency.

Recent applications for the air pumps have been in helping to control emissions in gas and diesel engines and for pumping air within fuel cells, where efficiency is extremely important.

Sizes range from 200cc to 2,060cc per revolution. More information on the Ogura air pumps can be found on the Ogura website www.ogura-clutch.com or by contacting your local sales representative.

In The News

Ogura Exhibits at the Mechanical Elements Technology Show

Tokyo Big Site

At the end of June Ogura exhibited products at the 12th annual Mechanical Element Technology Show. The complete line of Ogura electromagnetic clutches and brakes were on display, tension control systems were featured and in separate areas of the booth the Ogura air pumps were shown as well as the jet coolant system for machine tools and the oil mist separator for machine shops.

The show was very well attended and at times the Ogura booth was crowded. To attract attention to the booth Ogura used a tension control system to tighten or loosen a violin string. The bow was controlled by an Ogura clutch turning a cam, so when the bow was oscillated across the string, the string played a different melody depending upon the programmed tension being applied.