

OGURA

on the move

Volume 6

First Quarter • 2001

South American Production Plant Opened



Ogura's new manufacturing facility in Brazil

Brazil – Ogura's eighth worldwide production facility officially opened in November 2000. The opening ceremony was attended by approximately 120 people, comprised of local government, Ogura employees and Ogura customers.

To preside over the proceedings, Ogura's new executive vice president, Yasuhiro Ogura, flew in from Japan to officially open the facility.

With production machinery already in place and local personnel hired, the facility has already started producing clutch components. Over the next year, additional machinery and production personnel will be added to increase productivity and to add more local content.



Yasuhiro Ogura cuts the ribbon while the new president of Ogura Brazil and local government officials look on

Speed is Key



As many of OIC's customers are aware, Ogura manufacturing plants switched over to a new production software system in the year 2000. Although there were some minor growing pains with the new software, the end result for 2001 and beyond will be increased speed of production.

Extending this concept to other departments also means looking for ways to speed up response times from engineering to accounting.

To remind employees that Ogura's desire in 2001 is to look towards speeding up all aspects of business at Ogura, badges have been made up identical to the above picture. These are worn by all production personnel every day to remind them to think of ways to be more productive.

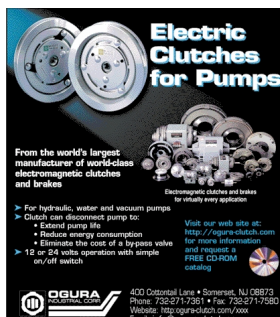
OIC Develops New Mobile Ads

To help make mobile customers aware of the advances Ogura is making in electric clutches, three new ads have been developed. These ads will be running in Machine Design, Design News, Outdoor Power Equipment and Pneumatics and Hydraulics magazines.



PTO clutch/brakes

The PTO clutch/brake ad highlights the advantages Ogura can offer for lawn and garden tractors and commercial equipment users.



Pump clutches

The new ad shows that by putting electric clutches on pumps, end users can save energy costs and increase component life.



Clutches for small engines

The new ad highlights the convenience and increased components life from using electric clutches.

This is COOL



Machine oil cutting cooler

Ogura currently has over 500 machine tools operating in plants worldwide. Many of these machining operations have to hold extremely high tolerances. Ogura production engineering realized that some tolerances could drift as the temperature and speed of the machine increased. Depending upon the tolerance and the temperature, some of this drifting could occur in around two hours. Since the existing machine cutting oil cooler could not supply the cooling needed to stabilize the tolerance drift, Ogura production engineering developed an add on rapid cooler, the "Ogura Jet Cooler".

These new jet coolers can double the time between recalibration due to temperature rise. A machine that previously required recalibration or cutting bit replacement in three hours could now run six hours. The jet action also pushes coiling cut steel away from the work making the operation more efficient.

Many Ogura customers in Japan became aware of the potential productivity improvements of these coolers and wanted to buy them from Ogura. In 1997, these became available in Japan. These units are now available in the US and can be purchased back through the machine tool manufacturer. If your machine tool manufacturer cannot provide these to you, please let us know.

Ogura Mobile Clutch Helps Put The Brake On Electric Bus

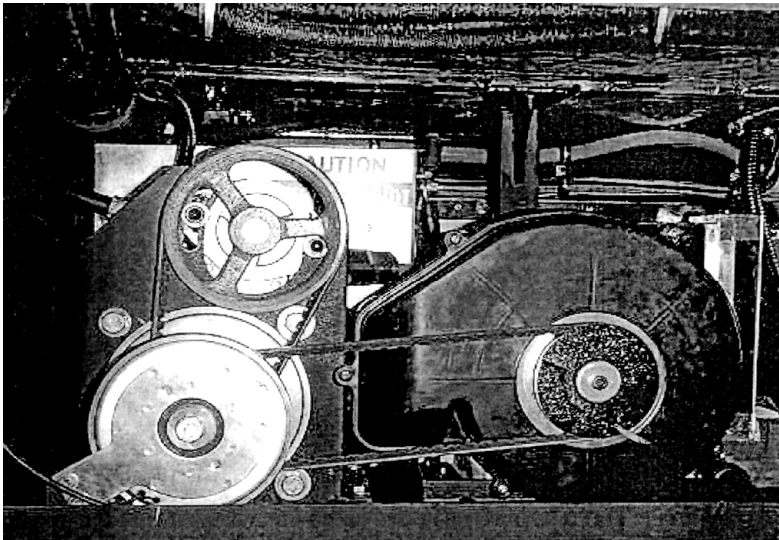
The pollution caused by diesel driven buses and garbage trucks used in urban areas with poor air quality pose health and environmental concerns. The elimination of the diesel exhaust along the roadways and in heavily populated and urban areas is a goal many communities are trying to attain.

Ogura is currently working with one company, which is outfitting new and retrofitting existing vehicles with a “Hybrid Electric” conversion. The standard diesel engine is replaced by a propane powered microturbine engine which has been certified by the California Air Resources Board as having emissions that are as much as 250 to 500 times lower than propane powered reciprocating engines. Although the engine is smaller in horsepower than the standard diesel engine, it runs continuously at its most efficient speed, driving a generator. Electric motors that are regulated by a Variable Frequency Drive are used to drive the wheels. When the generator is producing more power than the vehicle needs to run on at the desired speed, the excess power is used to charge a series of batteries. The hybrid-electric vehicles overcome two main disadvantages of dedicated electric vehicles. The first is a limited range between recharges and the second is the extended time needed to recharge the battery packs. With the micro-turbine keeping the batteries charged, there is no need for daily vehicle down time.



Bus with microturbine hybrid-electric drive system

Ogura Industrial is supplying a mobile general purpose clutch for a unique application on this vehicle system. Since power consumption is kept at a minimum, the clutch is used to drive an air compressor which provides compressed air for the vehicle's air brakes only when needed. (This is where a zero defect goal really means something, and good liability insurance does not hurt either.) The clutch turns on to drive the compressor when the air pressure in the holding tank drops below a set pressure level. When pressure is not required, a relay opens a circuit stopping the 12 volts going to the coil in the clutch, disengaging it so no power is consumed.



Clutch mounted field outboard on compressor

The clutch used in the application is Ogura's P/N 515294. This clutch is designed for mobile applications, it has a 1" bore and a two groove sheave. Its bearing mounted design makes it easier to mount when compared to a fixed field design clutch.

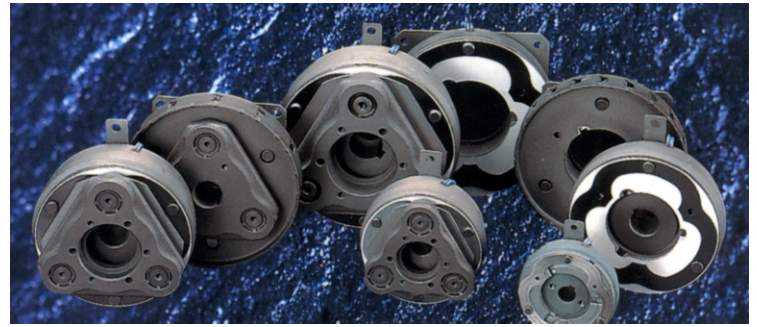
This company is also working with GM and Allison in developing a diesel fueled microturbine hybrid-electric bus design. Although these vehicles are in the early stages of production and development, future potential for this type of application offers great potential.

New Product Release

NEW ELECTRIC CLUTCH AND BRAKE WITH NOISE DAMPENED ARMATURE

Somerset, NJ —

Ogura Industrial Corporation introduces their new V-Series clutch/brake for medical application. The new V-Series incorporates a “silent” armature. This armature is specially constructed to dampen the noise that occurs during clutch engagement. The new design is approximately three times quieter than current armature designs. The V-Series can be incorporated into X-Ray and traction machinery as well as a CAT scan or lab processing equipment.



V Series Clutch & Brake

Ogura In The News

INERTIA CALCULATOR DISTINGUISHED BY DESIGN NEWS



Design News article about inertia calculator

In the March issue of Design News, associate editor, Louise Elliott, picked the inertia calculator of OIC as one of the useful engineering tools on the web.

The inertia calculator allows users to input dimensions and materials and calculate both the inertia and the required torque to accelerate or decelerate that inertia over time.

The inertia calculator and the conversion calculator in the Technical Section of the Ogura web site, (www.ogura-clutch.com) were designed to be used by anyone, regardless of their interest in clutches and brakes. If you would like to see how the inertia calculator and the other information contained in the Technical Section can save you time, please visit the Ogura web site.

OGURA EXHIBITS AT AMEXPO AUTOMATION SHOW



Ogura's booth at AMExpo Automation Show

In October 2000, one of the Ogura sales representatives, New England Power Transmission Company, exhibited at the AMExpo Automation Show. The show was held in Springfield MA and attracted potential customers throughout the northeast.

To help promote the Ogura product line, Ogura's industrial product manager, Fred Cacace, attended the show.

Samples of Ogura's high cycle clutch/brakes and new spring holding brakes were available for potential customers to review.

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