OGURA CLUTCH THAILAND INCREASES PRODUCTION

Rayong Prefecture, Thailand

Beside China, requirements for automotive air conditioning clutches are increasing throughout Asia. Car air conditioning is no longer considered a luxury, but a necessity. Because of the increased demand, production capacity at Ogura’s Thailand plant is being increased. The current plant production area measures around 108,000 square feet. The new expansion will add an additional 33,000 square feet. This area will include a new high volume stamping line that will greatly increase the plant’s output. Even though the plant area is only being increased by around 30%, production capacity will increase by 60% over the current 2012 level. By the end of next year, the plant will be able to build around 3.5 million clutches per year. Even though the sales of air conditioning clutches looks solid throughout Southeast Asia, the plant is also looking at producing other high-volume non-air conditioning clutches that are used in industrial and other mobile applications.

ISO9001 AND ISO/TS16949 RECERTIFIED

Kiryu, Japan

Last quarter, recertification audits for ISO9001 and ISO/TS16949 were conducted by three auditors from the Lloyd’s Registry of Quality Assurance. All departments were audited and the audit was conducted according to the 2007 standard versus the previous 2002 standard. Ogura passed all areas of the audit with no issues. Mr. Tawara (Ogura group leader in charge of quality audits) said that “these types of audits renew our awareness and heighten our understanding of the rules and reminds us to practice the PDCA (plan-do-check-act) cycle towards achieving our goals to target and maximize continuous improvements.”

EMAIL NEWSLETTERS? Would you like to have the option of receiving the Ogura newsletter via email? Please send an email to Robyn@ogura-clutch.com with subject line, “newsletter email.” To receive both the hardcopy and email version, please type “newsletter – both.” If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please type “newsletter – neither.” Please remember to include your name. No action is required if you would like to continue receiving the hardcopy newsletter only.
Hi! My name is Mellisa Murawski and I recently joined the team at Ogura Industrial as an Accounting Assistant. I was born in Tennessee and traveled a lot as a child due to my father being in the military. I moved to New Jersey in the summer of 2002 where I started my career in accounting as an accounts receivable clerk. Over the years, I have worked in various business industries and have continued to grow and learn many areas of accounting. I am currently attending Raritan Valley Community College to earn my Associates in Liberal Arts with hopes of gaining my Bachelor’s in Accounting from Rutgers.

When I am not working and attending classes, I spend my time with my three children, Madyson, Jacob and Stefan who are 10, 8 and 8 months. I also enjoy volleyball, dancing and all kinds of music. However, my passion would be to travel.

I am very excited to have this opportunity at Ogura Industrial and am looking forward to our future endeavors.

Ogura Industrial’s listing On ThomasNet.com has recently been changed to include more detailed information on Ogura. The mini-page acts like a separate website so that all important information about Ogura is located on one single page of Thomas’ site. Videos about Ogura and the products have also been added. Quick links have been posted on the site that will allow potential customers direct access to Ogura technical information with one click.

Last quarter, OCD exhibited in the 9th annual Guangzhou International Automotive Air Conditioning and Coal Chain Technology Exposition. The show is held over three days and this year expanded from 342 to 416 exhibitors. The show attracts not only Chinese companies and visitors but many companies and visitors from outside of China. At the show, Ogura showed its company video in the Chinese language for the first time. This is the third year Ogura has exhibited at the show and as a key supplier in the China automotive air conditioning market, Ogura continues to draw new business opportunities from these types of exhibitions.
Holland, which is known as the “mills country”, has over 1,100 old mills. Some of these are water-powered, but most of these are wind-powered. All of the old mills were overdesigned for their function of either grinding grain, cutting wood or belt driving older machinery. Because of this excess mechanical capacity, it was thought that a power generating system could be added to provide electrical power for the mill and its immediate surrounding area.

In November of 2011, the first mill was chosen to receive this add-on power package. It was built in 1851 and although some of the internal workings have been replaced over the years, they still are made to the original wooden gear specifications.

The challenge was to create a generating system that could mesh with the main wooden gear. To do this, a special gear of rollers (similar to the concept of a roller chain) was created. To save space, the plastic rollers drive a right angle gearbox into the clutch and a pancake generator. This allowed the entire package to fit on one side of the wooden gear with no changes to the windmill’s exterior.

The Ogura MMC 70 is used to electrically engage and disengage the generator.

The mill blades turn between 4 and 240 rpm. There is a 10:1 speed up ratio between the wooden gear and the customer plastic roller gear. So, the generator turns between 40 and 240 rpm. If wind speed causes the wheel to turn faster than 240 rpm, the clutch is automatically disengaged to protect the generator. Also, if the miller wants to grind grain and not utilize the generator, the clutch is not engaged increasing the overall life of the generator.

Most of the electricity produced by the generator is consumed by the mill and the attached restaurant. However, any excess capacity can also be fed back into the national grid. Total cost of integrating this type of system into these old mills will vary between €45,000-€55,000, but the biggest advantages are fewer red tape problems during installation and no detract from the historic nature of the landscape.

The Dutch company that put this system together (Dochteren Ind. Automation) is pleased with the performance and the operation of the current system and hopes that after additional testing, new installations will be added this year.

Ogura is very pleased to be involved with this interesting green application.
In The News

OGURA CLUTCH KEEPS OLD CLOCK TICKING

Machine Design

In the April issue of Machine Design, Ogura was featured showing how the clutch was used to help modernize a 100-year-old church clock. This was the same application featured in last quarter’s newsletter application story, but Machine Design rewrote the article titled, “Clutch Helps Keep Century Old Clock Ticking.” Machine Design interviewed the president of Balzer Family Clockworks to get additional detail on the application and why Ogura’s clutch was used to replace the previous clutch in the application.

CLUTCH INCREASES EFFICIENCY

Design News

In the May issue of the Design News Medical Trend Watch, an article by Ogura showed how optometrists were using a spring-applied clutch to achieve finer control of a vision testing table. The article explained how the MCSC spring-applied clutch allowed optometrists to adjust the equipment to a patient’s height quickly giving a more accurate position and decreasing the time patients need to spend with the doctor. For the full story, please visit the editorial section of Ogura Industrial’s website.

LAWNMOWER RACING KICKS OFF THE 2012 SEASON ON TV

Atlanta, GA

Fox 5 News in Atlanta, Georgia interviewed Bobby Cleveland prior to his race in April at the Southern Shootout. For the TV spot, one of the show’s co-anchors, Buck Lanford and reporter, Paul Milliken faced off for a mini-race on two of Bobby’s racing mowers. Buck was on the Ogura machine and Paul on the other. Buck, on the Ogura machine, won the race. (Fixed?) To see the whole three minute interview and mini-race, please go to http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/story/17791992/lawnmower-racing-comes-to-georgia and click on the “more lawnmower racing video”.

In racing news, Ogura is proud to be sponsoring Bobby Cleveland, once again, riding the Ogura Clutch machine for the 2012 season. He has already picked up a 1st and a 3rd place finish in the BP class in the first few races this year and is well on his way to having another successful racing season.