OGURA SPONSORS EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS FOR SUPPLIERS AND MANAGEMENT

Kiryu, Japan

QUALITY SEMINAR

Last quarter, Ogura invited Mr. Noguchi, Assistant General Manager of Valeo Japan, Co. to hold a quality seminar at Kiryu Prior Palace (hotel) for Ogura suppliers. The theme was "What should be done in the current fast changing business environment?" There were 62 people from 42 Ogura suppliers in the audience.

He promoted traditional topics, such as investment in people, quality improvement and establishing profit, but questioned the validity of some of the current approaches that stem from these classic ideas. In addition to the 3 principles of managing manufacturing (location, plant status and products), he proposed 3 more principles, mechanism of process, fundamental structure, and origin of intent, to determine the best course of action. He also advocated a more hierarchical approach to investment in people and that this higher goal is essential to develop personal growth through work experience. This validated Ogura’s ultimate goal for their suppliers, "The continued steps toward zero quality defects".

INFORMATION SECURITY SEMINAR

In a separate seminar, Ogura invited Mr. Kawata, Manager of Ricoh Japan (consultant services to suppliers) to speak at Ogura. The theme was “The importance of corporate information security”. It was attended by Ogura directors, managers and suppliers (total 96 attendees). Mr. Sugita, Ogura director and the head of information systems, also talked about importance of information security.

The seminar started out by surveying the attendees on how they are conducting information security in their day-to-day work. Everyone turned out to be approaching this differently, but realizing that there was different approaches to the same issue was very enlightening for everyone. (Continued on next page.)
Regarding information that is available to the general public, the environment is constantly evolving, but one thing is clear, the availability of information is getting faster all the time. From the perspective of the general public, unintended information, no matter how small or insignificant to the company, could be viewed as a scandal, which could lead to a loss of credibility. This can affect the bottom line in many ways.

Participants listened eagerly to the explanations about prevention methods with both people and the way information is distributed within a company. The seminar covered 5 different sections: corporate social responsibilities, the state of information security in modern organizations, information security countermeasures, how to prevent unintended information disclosure and information case studies.

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OGURA RECERTIFIED FOR ISO14001

Last quarter, Mr. Tamachi of Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance (LRQA) audited Ogura’s four locations (in Japan) for ISO14001 certification. No significant noncompliance was found and Ogura was certified with ISO14001 for the next term. However, Ogura was given a lot of homework: 5 comments regarding environmental regulations related issues, 7 comments regarding environmental aspect related issues and others. In total, 13 comments (suggestions for improvement) were made by Mr. Tamachi.

Mr. Tamachi said, Ogura needs to re-visit the alignment of ISO14001 and Ogura’s Management System. There is also a weakness in the area of awareness of laws and regulations. Ogura needs to take a second look at how it stays up to date so that the company can continue to be compliant with the latest laws and regulations, and Ogura needs to clearly understand the legal requirements and its operations from an environmental aspect.
Interstate highways and surface streets, taxiways at airports, parking lots, bike paths and pedestrian walkways all have one thing in common. What is it? The colored lines and stripes meticulously laid out that define the lanes we drive in, where it’s safe to pass, where we can park and set the boundaries for sports of all kinds. They tell pedestrians where it’s safe to cross, give aircraft pilots a target area for touchdown and without them, travel would be utter chaos.

What’s this got to do with Ogura clutches and brakes you ask?

Graco Incorporated in Minneapolis, MN is a worldwide leader in paint spraying equipment. While most would recognize them for handheld sprayers that paint our homes, they produce a wide variety of high quality, airless line striping systems for municipalities and commercial contractors on all surfaces, from asphalt to AstroTurf.

Graco recently introduced their LineLazer IV 250sps striping system, the industry’s first stand-on, self-propelled striping unit.

These new designs provide greater visibility for the operator, and improvements in ergonomics to reduce operator fatigue and increase productivity.

One important improvement is the electric clutch system. Cold weather starting is always a problem where hydraulic systems become sluggish due to low temperature. Graco engineers wanted to provide a means of engine start up with no loads in cold conditions. They concluded that a way was needed to uncouple the engine from the sprayer and the hydraulic ground drive.

Because of expertise in outdoor power equipment applications such as PTO clutches used in commercial turf care machinery and broad range of mobile clutch products, Graco contacted Ogura Industrial to ask for suggestions on an electric clutch to meet their design objectives.

Ogura engineer’s considered the combined loads of the spray system and the hydraulic pump and recommended an Ogura General Purpose clutch (model 7FS) that would mount directly on the Honda engine’s output shaft. A model with an output flange was chosen to allow the convenience of mounting a pulley with two pitch diameters to run the hydraulic pump and the spray system at their most efficient speeds. For engine start, the clutch is disengaged. When operating temperature is reached, the clutch is engaged, delivering power to both sprayer and hydraulic pump.

Ogura Industrial is pleased to be a part of Graco’s new LineLazer IV and the FieldLazer and also pleased that Graco, a company who is respected for, quality and reliability, recognizes the same in Ogura.

Now, the next time you are coming in for a landing or watching sports on television, you might just think about the products that make your trip safer and help keep your team “in line.”
OGURA SUPERCHARGED LAWNMOWER AT BARRETT JACKSON

Scottsdale, Arizona

At the recent Barrett Jackson auction, Bobby Cleveland had the Ogura supercharged mower on display. Anytime he started it, it drew a crowd. A lot of people wanted to have their picture taken sitting on the mower. The visitors to Bobby’s booth were amazed that you could actually supercharge a small engine. Most people are only familiar with large superchargers for automotive engines. The show set records for attendance and sales, the biggest one being the sale of the original Bat Mobile for $4.2 million.

POWER TRANSMISSION ENGINEERING HIGHLIGHTS NEW OGURA CLUTCH

Power Transmission Engineering

Last quarter, Power Transmission Engineering showed Ogura’s new MIC-T micro clutch. This new clutch has been designed to transport paper in business machine applications, like printers and copy machines. The new clutch has a thinner profile, but higher torque than previous models. Besides the torque improvement and the size savings, there are also cost and weight savings. Clutches can be produced with a “dog” clutch output or come complete with a customer specified gear. Samples are available at no cost and arrangements for samples can be made through local Ogura sales representatives.

OGURA EXHIBITS AT TOKYO AUTO SALON 2013

Tokyo, Japan

In January, Ogura exhibited its ORC racing products at the Tokyo Auto Salon. Ogura showcased new products and actual vehicles with the Ogura racing clutches installed. One of the newest products released for 2013 is the clutch for the Toyota 86/Subaru BRZ cars. This is a single disc metal clutch for L type engines. Another new product, for cars imported to Japan, is the new “400 Light” clutch for BMW’s 318i. This new product helped highlight the development capability of Ogura.

Overall traffic at Ogura’s booth was up from last year and overall, both the attendees and exhibitors had positive feeling for 2013 business.