OGURA EXHIBITS AT THE 2015 TOKYO AUTO SALON

Tokyo, Japan

In January, Ogura exhibited at the Tokyo Auto Salon showing its wide variety of racing related products. This year, the primary focus was on the Toyota 86/Subaru BRZ. Ogura showed its mechanical clutches going into these high powered vehicles. Ogura also showcased its engineering capabilities by displaying its new 5.5 inch metal clutch that had already been released but is performing very well in the racing circuit. The vehicle displayed in the booth was the same one as last year, the Inter Proto series, “Kuruma”, but the car had a modified cowl. Along with the car, a video was continually looped called the, “TDR Rally Challenge”.

This video showed racing action, which kept visitors at the booth entertained.

On each day of the show, Ogura hosted a talk show with Mr. Sekine Masanori, who is one of the manufacturers of the Inter Proto series cars, as well as Mr. Nakayama Yuichi, one of the key drivers of this series. On the second day, even though it had not been planned, three other popular drivers, Mr. Kataoka Tatsuya, Mr. Tanaka Tetsuya and Mr. Hirakawa Ryo stopped by the booth and had quite a lively discussion, much to the delight of the crowd.

ISO 14001 AUDIT COMPLETED

Xangxing, China

Last quarter, Lloyd’s Quality Assurance audited four locations of Ogura in Japan. No significant non-compliance were found in any location and Ogura passed the audit. However, suggestions were made regarding “environmental compliance regulations”, “operation management”, and “purpose and target”. It suggested that Ogura improve these areas to prevent any future problems.
Hi, my name is Dante Vaccaro and I cover Erie and Northern Pittsburgh, PA for Ogura Industrial. I am a 2010 Graduate of Point Park University where I majored in Electrical Engineering Technology and also played baseball. I joined Keller Industrial In June of 2014 where I have made my transition from my previous position as an inside sales engineer at Auma Actuators. I am excited to join this team and I have grown fond of the industry. I enjoy sports, working out, and meeting new people.

My team, the Steelcity Blacksox, has made 2 NABF World Series appearances finishing as national runner up in 2011 and national semifinalist in 2014.

I look forward to the challenges ahead and hope to grow the Ogura product line.

In December, at Ogura’s Akabori manufacturing facility, Ogura held its fourth quality control seminar. 46 people from 39 companies attended the seminar. The goal of the seminar is not just to improve the quality of the supplier providing parts to the Akabori facility but also for the supplier to understand the overall quality control standards that Ogura is being held to, by its customers.

The main theme of the seminar this year was “root analysis of cause” which was actually based upon the feedback from last year’s seminar. Both the suppliers and Ogura quality management felt that the time was well spent and Ogura appreciated the input the suppliers

Keidanren is a Japanese business federation comprised of 1,309 companies in Japan. Its mission is to promote comprehensive economic development and improvement in the quality of life to its members. Keidanren believes that corporations bear responsibilities to be useful entities in society by adding value through fair competition and that companies must also contribute to economic development by creating new jobs. This means that corporations must carry out their social responsibilities with highest sense of ethics and respect for human rights whether in Japan or overseas.

Keidanren also has many ties to related organizations such as the Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs and the Japan US Business Council.
Whether it’s on the baseball diamond, the 18th hole, the polo field or your own back yard, a green healthy lawn or turf is important in so many ways. Fertilizer and insecticides are not enough to ensure a vigorous and plush playing surface. Proper aeration and drainage are essential to allow top dressings to do their job. First Products of Tifton, Georgia produces the equipment that lays the groundwork for the green playing surfaces that you see in stadiums, on the links and for the sod that puts the finishing touch on a new home.

Since their inception in 1980, First Products has manufactured innovative, quality turf equipment for a variety of industries. From better ways to aerate and remove thatch to more efficient seeding and fertilizing, First Products solutions get the job done. At the heart of the product line is the “Universal Shaft System”, which is used on a First Products’ line of tow behind turf equipment. The USS is comprised of five different and unique shafts that each performs diverse functions to ensure the best turf possible. These interchangeable shafts allow the operator to aerate, core, spike, slice or seed all with the same piece of machinery. The latest in a diverse line of equipment is the Aera-Vator UA-60T.

The UA-60T is self-contained and is powered by a 21 horsepower Honda engine so no tractor is required. It can be towed by any mid-size utility vehicle and is designed to maintain school grounds, municipalities, sports complexes and landscaping needs, and is ideal for ball field and golf construction, renovation and infield grooming. The engine, via a gearbox and belts, powers the shaft which incorporates tines (some vibrating), blades or brushes which perform the aforementioned functions. During design and testing, engineers found it desirable to be able to engage or disengage the shaft. Without a clutch, as the shaft was rotating and lowered into the turf, the tines could potentially mar the surface upon contact. Initially, a centrifugal clutch was tested but these products inherently do not work at lower engine speeds.

Already familiar with their expertise in power transmission, First Products engineers contacted Ogura for assistance in selecting an electric clutch for the application. Since this equipment operates in a variety of weather conditions, reliability was of the utmost importance. After evaluating the operating parameters, the GT3.5-HU01D was selected to control the rotating shaft. The GT3.5-HU01D is mounted directly to the engine shaft and the output pulley is belted to a right angle gearbox. Also mounted beyond the clutch to the engine crankshaft is a second pulley which controls the hydraulic pump. This pulley is not connected to the clutch but rotates along with the engine shaft. Once the tines or blades of the Universal Shaft System contact the turf, 12V is applied, which engages the armature to the rotor and transfers motion to the output pulley. The belts transfer motion to the gearbox, which then rotate the aerating tines. Known for its rugged construction and quality materials, the clutch/brake allows the operator to engage or disengage the shaft at any speed from a remote switch. Ogura is proud to be a part of First Products’ equipment and enhance the enjoyment of athletes, spectators, families and weekend warriors alike. For more information, visit http://www.1stproducts.com/
OGURA CLUTCHES USED ON HEAT GENERATORS

In November, Ogura was featured in a Design News Trend Watch issue showing how electromagnetic clutches help heat generators to function more efficiently.

There are particular applications where systems require heat, but it is critical that the heat being generated does not come from an open flame. The Island City dynamic heat generators along with Ogura clutches, are able to provide customers a heat source from 25,000 to 3,500,000 BTU’s which is enough to keep a school bus or an entire building warm.

Design News Article

SALES REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING

Last quarter, many of the Ogura sales representatives made the long trip to Japan to receive direct product training on the wide variety of electromagnetic clutches and brakes Ogura manufactures. Representatives received target product training by product line, but more importantly, they were able to visit the manufacturing plants where the clutches and brakes were made to get a deeper understanding of Ogura’s quality control procedures.

The reps also had an opportunity to do some brief sightseeing and get a better feel for Japanese culture and the Japanese people.

OGURA RECEIVES LABOR AWARD

On January 16th, at the Gunma event hall, Ogura was awarded a certificate for their continued contribution to the government bureau of labor statistics. The bureau tracks a number of statistics as it relates to employment and compensation. This information is reported on a regional level and then transferred to the Japanese government to track trends in employment throughout Japan. Ogura has been a participating member of the government census for many years. The award was presented by the minister of health, labor and welfare for the Gunma Prefecture.

Labor Statistics Award