The second plant of Ogura Clutch (Changxing) Ltd. (OCC) was completed and production has started. The plant specializes in producing clutches for car air conditioning.

The new plant consists of three sections: machining, assembly/inspection and warehouse. All sections, except the warehouse, are air-conditioned providing a pleasant working environment. Having new focused skylights in the ceiling of the machining and warehouse areas reduces the amount of overhead lighting required in the daytime.

The office is a three-storied building. The first floor is occupied by the Quality Control Division and Production Control Division. These is also a laboratory, a meeting room, and a cafeteria where 300 employees can eat at the same time. Large windows help to create an open atmosphere.

Moreover, there are plans to use open space in the plant for indoor exercise equipment and ping pong tables. The idea is to make a welfare facility which will promote a healthy lifestyle of the employees and expatriates, allowing employees to deepen the interaction with each other and nurture teamwork.

The new production system is designed for an optimal allocation of people and machines moving to both semi or full-automated stations. New image detection device with CCD cameras can use high speed checking to detect any paint scratches or foreign matter after the electro deposition painting. This helps to reduce the inspection time and the number of inspectors. It also eliminates relying on human judgment to detect defects. Time spent measuring will also be reduced by installing laser displacement meters which will measure the inner and outer rotor surfaces simultaneously. The production line is also going to be rearranged in order to make an integrated process of armature polishing, caulking and inspection into one line. This will help reach the goal of an inline, continuous product flow, which will reduce the number of operators and work in process.
Covering Mexico for Ogura, Mexico Representation joined the Ogura sales force in 2018.

Ricardo Malacara has an International Trade undergraduate degree from ITESM with an MBA from Central Michigan University. He has worked for over 15 years in the electronic and mechanical manufacturing areas in Guadalajara. Over these years, his areas of experience have been in operations, sales and materials management. This combination helps him better understand customers’ needs. He has worked for Fortune 500 companies as well as startup companies so he understands what it takes to grow and keep a customer.

José Luis Lopez received his Bachelor in Industrial Engineering from U.A.N.L de Monterrey. He brings multiple years of experience in Procurement and Supply Chain Management. He also has a strong background on appliance, electronic and electro-mechanical components and products from the new product introduction stage to material cost and inventory management.

When not working, Jose enjoys spending time with family and friends, jeeping outdoors and soccer. His favorite place to visit is Matacanes Canyon in Monterrey N.I. Mexico.

Last quarter, a kickoff meeting was held in Kiryu City with the Ogura sponsored drivers for the “All Japan Road Championship” (Class J-GP 2) for 2019. Mr. Tetsuro Iwasaki serves as the coach but is also a rider on the team. After 2019, the J-GP 2 class will be merged into a new class. This will be the last chance that the Ogura sponsored team has to win the championship.

This is the fourth year for the Ogura Clutch team to participate as a private team. In his opening greeting, Mr. Iwasaki thanked all the fans and everyone related to the team for their continued support and expressed the strong desire to win the championship this year.

As in the previous years, Ogura is supplying the racing clutches for the motorcycles. Ogura gathers data and then analyzes the clutches to help improve future designs.

Although this will be the last year for the J-GP 2 class, Ogura has committed to continue its sponsorship of motorcycle racing. More information on this will be available after the end of the season.

The Ogura booth at the expo

Ogura took part in the 23rd Mechanical Components and Materials Technology Expo which was held from February 6th to February 8th at the Tokyo Big Sight.

General electromagnetic clutches and brakes were shown along with new products and active demonstration equipment. Among them, the industry’s smallest power-off brake series and thin power-off brake series (which are light weight and meet the needs of miniaturization) as well as a prototype of a large magnetic particle clutch were exhibited for the first time. This will help to reinforce Ogura’s product line of tension controllers.
The SCAG Windstorm is an ultra-compact, agile, comfortable, and stable stand-on commercial blower. SCAG’s exclusive “Nozzle Direction System” (NDS) provides focused control of the air discharge’s tilt and rotation, allowing the user to direct the powerful airflow exactly where and when it is needed. Unlike other blowers that continuously run when the engine is on, the Windstorm features an Ogura PTO Clutch that allows the user to turn the blower on/off as needed with the ease of a PTO switch. All of this is driven by a 37 horsepower Briggs and Stratton Vanguard Big Block EFI engine, delivering huge power, along with exceptional efficiency and dependable performance.

With its excellent handling, stability, and quality, the SCAG Windstorm truly is the ultimate stand-on blower. The user is able to adjust the horizontal rotation up to 180° and the vertical tilt to 16°. The Windstorm also provides massive air output up to 6000 effective CFM (cubic feet per minute). This massive and targeted airflow provides incredible ground clearing force on a variety of surfaces and terrains. Even the best backpack blowers or smaller wheeled blower can produce only about 2500 CFM. Based on this number, the SCAG Windstorm provides at least double the power of it’s smaller cousins. The Windstorm can travel up to 10.5 miles per hour in forward speeds and up to 5 miles per hour in reverse to maintain a safe and productive work schedule. There is also a spacious operator platform with coil suspension that delivers a smooth ride and reduces operator fatigue.

Windstorm uses the Ogura GT 3.5 (250 foot pound) PTO clutch. The Ogura clutch effectively engages and stops the Windstorm impeller smoothly and safely in any condition or operation. The Windstorm can be started/stopped inside trailers, in residential areas, during transport, etc. - wherever needed without having to engage the blower until it’s required. Ogura’s adjustable “air-gap” on the Windstorm clutch also ensures long component life, serviceability, and accurate operation. Ogura’s SoftStart accurately senses the exact point at which the friction surfaces of the clutch make contact, automatically reducing the electrical current to allow the clutch to safely “slip” repeatedly, but not fully release. With this “feathering” of Windstorm’s clutch, the following key benefits are achieved:
(1) SoftStart eliminates any “engagement jolt” previously felt by machine and operator, (2) lessens the harshness and force on mechanical parts, (3) reduces potential wear and breakage of belts, and (4) eliminates engine stall and RPM droop.

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**Application Story**

**HARNESSING THE WIND WITH SCAG WINDSTORM**

Ogura Soft Start Module

Ogura PTO Clutch/Brake

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NEW ANIMATION CREATED BY OGURA

Somerset, NJ

Ogura has created a new animation showing how permanent magnet hysteresis brakes and clutches work. The animation covers both styles of hysteresis units, the first one being the low cost, OP series which uses a combination of permanent magnets and magnetic particle powder to create a specific drag torque. These units are primarily used as paper feed separators in copy machines and printers. They are also used in ATM’s and other low torque limiting requirements.

The animation also shows the PHT series which uses opposing permanent magnets to create drag torque. It explains how by rotating the position of the magnets, flux either increases or decreases the magnetic drag on the hysteresis disc rotating between the magnetic fields. This adjustable torque setting makes them ideal for bottle capping (torque limiting) and wire and film tensioning (drag torque) applications.

LAWNMOWER RACING UPDATE

Alpharetta, GA

Ogura sponsored racers, Chuck Miller and Bobby Cleveland raced in Alpharetta, GA, Wills Equestian Park June 1-2. They both had a great weekend and were also joined by former Ogura sponsored racer, Shane Shellnut. Bobby finished in 4th place on Friday, but had something break on his mower on Saturday. Chuck finished in 2nd place on both days. Both racers are looking forward to a full season of racing and Ogura is proud to sponsor them.

Look for both Bobby and Chuck in these upcoming races: July 19-20th in Great Falls, SC; August 10-11th in New Lexington, OH; August 31st in Carlisle IA and September 1st in Carlisle, IA.