The Philippines

Ogura Clutch Philippines, Inc. became a member of the Ogura Clutch group in July 2018. It is located in the Light Industry & Science Park, the industrial zone in Calamba city, 27 miles south of Manila. As of the end of last quarter, there are now over 150 employees.

Coil supply to the Ogura Group started in 1998 for automobile air conditioning clutches. This has provided a stable production base since that time. Since the purchase, Ogura has continued to put money and personnel in to the plant and the new business coming in is expanding the plant at a rapid pace.

Current production machinery consists of 35 winding machines, seven terminal machines, three resin molding machines, two lead-wire cutting machines, one vacuum furnace and eight drying ovens. These feed components into eight different assembly lines. As of this printing, two additional winding machines, five terminal machines, two hydraulic presses, two coil finishing lines, two vacuum ovens, four drying ovens and one additional assembly line are being added.

To keep employees informed, ISO performance meetings are held every month. This provides an opportunity to report achievements as well as to discuss any issues. In February, an ISO9001:2015 periodic inspection was conducted and only two comments were made at the end. The next task is to receive IATF certification for new business opportunities.

YAGIBUSHI FESTIVAL

Kiryu, Japan

Last quarter, as in years past, Ogura took part in the 56th Kiryu Yagibushi Festival. This year, again, Ogura set up a high wooden stage. The company’s Komatsu-kai dancing team along with other groups performed the traditional Yagibushi dance, and employees and local people enjoyed the dancing.

The Amateur Singing Contest was successful despite the abnormally hot weather.

The motorcycle team “Ogura Clutch with Ride In” and the rider Tet-suro Iwasaki displayed racing motorcycles which fascinated visitors, especially children.
Hi, my name is Ko Katsunuma. I have recently joined Ogura Industrial as an application engineer in July.

I was born in Japan, raised in Gunma prefecture where Ogura Clutch Japan is located, and I have lived there almost all of my life.

I received my degree in mechanical engineering from Gunma University.

After graduation, I joined Ogura Clutch Japan and have worked there for 15 years. I was in the R&D department and I designed motor gear units, robot arms, spring applied brakes, small clutches and so on. My wife and two-year-old daughter are still living in Japan. Although I talk to them via Skype every day, I miss them very much. I hope that I can bring them here in the near future.

In my spare time, I like driving, shopping, watching car racing and also simply doing nothing. I have a passion for fried chicken, and every time I go places, I look for good fried chicken.

Everything in America is fresh and exciting! I am very excited to be in the U.S. and I look forward to being exposed to American culture.

SUPPLIER MEETING

Last quarter, the annual supplier meeting was held at the Akabori facility. It was attended by a record number of 266 people from 195 suppliers.

At the beginning of the briefing, it was announced to the suppliers that Ogura received an award from the local township for its overall contribution to the city and its surrounding area. Ogura management then went on to explain the current purchasing policies and quality control requirements needed from the suppliers as well as providing updates from the recent ISO and IATF16949 requirements. Towards the end of the briefing, suppliers were given some insight into some of the changing product mix within Ogura as the electrification of vehicles continues to accelerate.

ISO9001/IATF16949 PERIODIC AUDIT

Last quarter, a team of inspectors from LRQA conducted a periodic audit for ISO9001 (quality management system) and IATF16949 (automotive sector quality management system) at four manufacturing facilities in Japan, (the Head Office/Plant No. 1, Plant No. 3, Akabori Plant and Kobayashi Plant.)

This audit is the first one since ISO9001 changed to the 2015 version and IATF16949 changed to the 2016 version.

The inspectors pointed out some minor non-conformities to ISO9001 and to IATF16949, but the plants were also recognized for continual improvements and were rated highly for achieving the goals of “appropriately implementing management review, internal audit and development monitoring, and improvements for each department.”

AEROSPACE INSPECTION

Last quarter, the JIS Q9100 inspection took place for Aerospace and defense related components. The inspection focused on Ogura’s production parts for Rolls Royce, Air Bus and Bombardier.

The inspection and review focused on all aspects from when an order was received through outgoing inspection. In total, 25 processes at 11 different departments were inspected and reviewed. In the conclusion, once key positive note from the inspectors was that there were “no complaints or requests for correction from the customers.” The JIS Q9100 certification was finalized and received in August.
Arva Industries, based in Ontario, Canada, designs and manufacturers made-to-order heavy equipment for mining, rail, military and marine industries. They have a solid reputation for solutions-based engineering design, high reliability, maintenance efficiency, and machines for reduced downtime.

Naturally, given Arva Industries’ reputation & focus, an Ogura clutch found its way into one of their designs. It was no ordinary design to say the least. It was a 60’ long vacuum excavator for a rail customer, weighing close to 140,000 lbs. The vacuum ballast excavator is used for rail maintenance. It vacuums up granite ballast so that maintenance can be performed on the track. The Ogura clutch starts and stops the vacuum pump/blower with the flick of a switch in the operator’s cab.

The 513HP Cummins 12l engine delivers power to the vacuum pump, while it also drives hydrostatic propulsion for the railcar. The direct drive pump is driven through a Spicer 1610 driveshaft. The input for the Ogura MMC Series clutch is a hub that is connected to the clutch armature, with bolt holes to match up with the standard driveshaft coupling. It makes for easy mounting. In this application, Ogura model MMC-200G clutch was chosen for the high torque requirement. The clutch provides easy start/stop operation of the pump.

The Hibon vacuum pump model SI-AV8702 runs at 1900 rpm full speed, but engages at slower rpm. This helps with the high inertia startups. It provides roughly 5,000 CFM flow and pulls 28” Hg at 0 flow through an 8” hose. The system employs massive silencers to keep the noise down.

The electromagnetic clutch consists of three basic components: the field/rotor assembly, the hub, and the armature. The field assembly fits up to a shaft shoulder on the pump. The hub is fixed to the shaft with the floating armature on top. Without any power applied, it is assembled such that an airgap exists between the armature and field/rotor assembly. A bearing-supported flange mounts to the armature so that the driveshaft coupling can be bolted to it.

When the vacuum pump is needed to run, power is applied to the field coil. Magnetic flux is transferred across the small airgap between the field and rotor. The rotor portion becomes magnetized which attracts the armature against the rotor, creating full contact and full torque transfer.

While pneumatic clutches are sometimes used in these applications, the electromagnetic clutch offers distinct advantages. First, it is reliable. With proper power applied, the electromagnetic clutch will transfer torque as required. Secondly, it is maintenance free. There are no worries about pressure loss fluctuations, leaks, or contaminants in the lines. The Ogura MMC Series clutch hits every check box for Arva’s focus on solutions-based design, high reliability, maintenance efficiency, and reduced downtime.
TOUGH YEAR FOR LAWNMOWER RACING

Carlisle, Iowa

It has been a difficult year for both Chuck Miller and Bobby Cleveland on the lawnmower racing circuit in 2019. Both Bobby and Chuck have had crashes and mechanical problems that prevented them from finishing races and gaining points on the circuit.

Last month’s Stabil Finals in Carlisle, Iowa was no different. Going into the finals race, Chuck was in 2nd position and Bobby was in 6th for the BP racing class. In the finals, Chuck started in the front row and Bobby started in the third row. During the race, Chuck maintained an excellent position in 2nd place until about half way through the race, when his crankshaft broke. Chuck was eliminated from the race. Bobby continued to have a great race and finished 3rd. That put Chuck in 4th place and Bobby in 5th place for the points series for 2019.

Now, off to plan for 2020! ●

BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL AUTO SALON 2019

Bangkok, Thailand

From July 3rd to July 7th the Bangkok International Auto Salon 2019, (custom car event), was held at the Impact Challenger Hall in Bangkok. Ogura exhibited two products, racing clutch ORC and carbon fiber reinforced Arugos clutch for imported cars.

This year again, pamphlets and exhibition panels were translated into the Thai language, which allowed for a clearer explanation of the features of the products to the visitors. Also, by displaying the features of each product on a panel along with a physical clutch sample, it helped to explain the features in an easy-to-understand manner.

Also, there were installed monitors on the front and back of the booth where videos explained the description of the clutches and Ogura’s participation in motor sports. ●

KELLER ON TOP OF THEIR GAME

Clarence, New York

Keller Industrial has been representing Ogura products for 38 years. In the June article of MANA Agency Sales magazine, they share the steps they take to maintain their top notch approach to supporting their customers and suppliers. ●