



Ocrim completes mill retrofit for Bogasari

CREMONA, ITALY — Ocrim has completed a retrofit for PT IM Bogasari Flour Mills facility in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Testing of the last milling lines — H, I and J — was completed. Composed of 15 lines, from letter A to O, the Bogasari mill now has daily capacity of 11,650 tonnes and a production capacity of over 4 million tonnes.

Each line is equipped with Ocrim machines. Ocrim is a major supplier of the Indonesian company and has a partnership with it since 1971. The complete retrofitting, as requested by the customer, was carried out on one line at a time, to avoid compromising production. This made it possible for production to continue uninterrupted on two lines for the three years required to complete all three lines.

This required Ocrim to study specific design and installation strategies, working first on the cleaning lines and then proceeding to the grinding lines, increasing the production capacity to 1,200 tpd from 800 tpd on each line.

Many new solutions were implemented in terms of food safety, maintenance, automation and energy savings; stainless steel machines to guarantee the wholesomeness of the finished products; Modular Technology Concept to be able to stop only parts of the mill without compromising overall production during maintenance operations; software @rollermills for the remote control of roller mills from tablets; and automatic adjustment of the pneumatic system through inverter to optimize consumption.

■ Vortex produces face shields, masks to help in pandemic

SALINA, KANSAS, US — Vortex has designed and produced cleanable and reusable face shields for a local hospital to help during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Initially, the visor frames were 3D printed using a shared design. Vortex engineers and programmers enhanced the design for its router and waterjet programs and produced frames that could support a more robust and reusable protective shield.

After an initial donation of 100 disposable shields to the Salina Regional Health Center, it became clear that a reusable shield design was necessary to prevent shortages in the Salina-area medical community. In working with the hospital and its clinics, Vortex delivered approximately 200 reusable face shields in late April.

“Many of our Vortex team members stepped up and put in a lot of extra effort to deliver face shields to our regional medical center,” said Travis Young, chief executive officer of Vortex. “Salina is a very tight-knit community, and it is great to see how we take care of each other in difficult times. Vortex couldn’t have a better place to call home.”

In addition to the production of face shields, Vortex temporarily shifted from producing the Vortex Iris Valve to creating face masks for its essential employees. Sewing machines typically used to create Iris Valve sleeves were used to sew the masks.

As a company that manufactures and distributes critical process equipment utilized in the production of food, medicine, cleaning agents, emergency utility vehicles, medical equipment, toilet paper, tissues, petroleum, batteries, etc., Vortex remains fully operational at each of its worldwide locations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In accordance with US Homeland Security’s Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response, and by decree of the state of Kansas, Vortex’s business operations are considered “Essential Business” and its employees are considered an “Essential Infrastructure Workforce.” Vortex will remain operational as long as this guidance remains in place.

■ Omas reopens production plant on April 14

PADOVA, ITALY — Omas Industries reopened its production plant in Italy on April 14.

The company had announced in mid-March a partial, temporary closing of the facility due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Italian government has authorized the operation of companies whose business activities are considered essential, including the food industry. Omas said it is implementing the most strict safety precautions to protect employees.

“The company will do its best to ensure normal operation to supply machines, plants and spare parts during this period of restrictions,” the company said.

