

■ Weighing up the benefits

by **Mike Karas,**
Schenck Process, USA

A leading worldwide cement, concrete, and aggregate corporation that generates over €2bn in revenue annually continually looks to partner with suppliers that maintain the highest quality levels. One of its cement plants located in North America follows that philosophy when sourcing weighing equipment. With the ability to reach production capacities of 1Mta, consistency and accuracy are critical in reaching the essential product quality requirements. For years, the company has relied on Schenck Process for supplying weighing and feeding equipment to meet the necessary demands of handling raw materials in its cement operation.



The DMO Weighfeeder is designed to feed silica, limestone, iron, fluff, TDF, and numerous others

As part of a year 2004 initiative for increasing the live storage space of three existing flat bottom silos containing silica, iron and limestone, the company had to evaluate how its weighfeeders operating under each of the silos would be impacted. It was determined that meeting the increased storage capacity required the weighfeeders to be retro-fitted to a longer length or replace them with new equipment. After thorough analysis retro-fitting was not a cost-effective solution.

Therefore, a decision was made to place an order for new equipment. After listening to offers from a number of equipment suppliers, Schenck Process was

chosen to provide the new weighfeeders and controls based on the overall value package that was offered. With the ability to feed up to 500tph at accuracies $\pm 1/2$ per cent over a 10-1 range in a cost savings package helped finalise the company's decision to purchase three DMO Weighfeeders and INTECONT® Controls from Schenck Process. Each weighfeeder was placed under a flat bottom silo for the accurate and reliable weighing and feeding of silica, iron and limestone at 30tph on to a conveyor as part of the

raw meal production process. All three weighfeeders were equipped and mounted in the field with an INTECONT Control to provide precise accuracies.

DLM Solids Flow Meters

At the same time the cement plant made the DMO Weighfeeder purchase they also placed an order for two DLM Solids Flow Meters. The completely dust tight DLM is designed with a curved

measuring chute that receives a material stream free of impact and compensates for material friction. Handling flow rates from 30 to 600tph and material temperatures up to 500°F (260°C) made the DLM Solids Flow Meter the logical choice for metering raw meal from one air slide going to another air slide.

From there, the materials are conveyed to the preheater tower and then to the kiln. Each DLM was installed with a modular DISOCONT® electronic system controller. System operators from the company commented they liked using both the INTECONT and DISOCONT control

DLM Solids Flow Meter with a curved measuring chute receives material free of impact





Intecont Control for maintaining system accuracy and fieldbus communication

platforms as they are easy to program and calibrate and can be used on any of the Schenck equipment.

Adding a DMO weighfeeder for TDF & fluff

In 2007, the cement company needed a customised weighfeeder to handle the very difficult to feed tyre-derived fuel chips (TDF) and fluff as part of its process to meter fuel to the burner. They came to Schenck Process to design a weighfeeder for meeting the specific needs of feeding these difficult materials. The solution was utilising a 36" (914mm) wide belt with special v-shaped cleats that facilitated the movement of the stringy "cotton candy-like" material across the weighfeeder. Operating at 12tph, the DMO Weighfeeder accurately meters the TDF and fluff on to a conveyor and from there the fuel makes its way to the burner. The DMO Weighfeeder operates using an INTECONT Control with DeviceNet fieldbus communication.

DMO Weighfeeders for finish mills

Shortly after the installation of the TDF and fluff DMO Weighfeeder, the cement plant needed two more weighfeeders for its finish mill. Purchased were two 610mm (24") wide DMO Weighfeeders for metering limestone and gypsum. Both additives are fed at a rate of 30tph on to a conveyor prior to the finishing mill. The limestone is quarried by the company with the gypsum purchased from an outside source. Each DMO Weighfeeder utilises an INTECONT Control with a local control panel and a variable frequency drive that is part of a motor control center (MCC). Fieldbus communication is handled through DeviceNet.

Summary

The company utilises Schenck Process weighing equipment for raw meal production, fuel processing, and cement finishing. Machine operators mentioned they trust having the Schenck equipment in multiple areas throughout the plant due to the high level of accuracy received from each system.

Additionally, there has been less wear and tear with the Schenck DMO Weighfeeders compared to other weighing equipment the company has used in the past. This has resulted in fewer part replacements and maintenance-related requirements.