

Review

Feed Tech - Victam 2004 DSL Systems and Wijnveen

A handheld minicomputer and a vibrating pellet screen were the winners of the Victam Innovation Award at the Victam 2004 held in the Jaarbeurs Exhibition Centre in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

By Dick Ziggers



Jaarbeurs Trade Halls, in Utrecht, the Netherlands opened its doors on Tuesday 11 May for the first day of the Victam 2004 exhibition. The tri-annual event, which attracts key players from the feed industry worldwide, ended its first day in style with the presentation of the Victam International 2004 Feed Tech awards. Being the chairman of the jury I had the honour of presenting the awards. The other members of the jury were Hans van Vliet and Henk van Laarhoven, independent consultants to the feed industry from the Netherlands, and Dr Alexander Feil from the German Institute for Futtermitteltechnik.

Around 30 products were presented to the jury, the same number as at the previous Victam show in 2001 - when the competition was organised for the first time by Victam International and Feed Tech. This year Feed Tech and Victam International created two categories for the innovation awards, Information

Technology and Feed Production Technology, in accordance with the items submitted.

Information Technology

In the category Information Technology three products were nominated:

- The Unitest combined level/temperature monitor to be used in storage silos from Cimbria (Denmark)
- The handheld feed mill controller from DSL Systems (UK)
- The Chainfeed production and logistics integration programme from Radar Automation (Belgium)

The jury granted the award to **DSL Systems** for their handheld PDA. DSL was chosen because the pocket computer is new, practical, simple to operate and can be used from every point in the feed mill. With fewer people managing the feedmill an operator or techni-

The Handheld DPA computer from DSL Systems was the winner of the Information Technology Feed Tech – Victam Award.



Paul Girdham, director of DSL Systems (L) and jury chairman Dick Ziggers.

Innovation Award winners International



Hans Huistra, managing director of Wijnveen (left) and Hans van der Lugt, the engineer who developed the Wijnveen pellet screen.



The vibrating pellet screen with adjustable bars was the only genuinely new product at Victam and was rewarded for its innovative technology.

can monitor the milling process while moving around and without having to communicate with the operations room to make adjustments – it can be done on the spot. The handheld PDA saves time and the fact that it can operate the feed compounding process from any location in the plant makes it unique among its kind. DSL director Paul Girdham was very pleased with the award and said that a new extended application for the handheld is on its way. The system was just recently installed in the bulk trucks of a feedmiller to optimise the logistic process. The PDA enables the driver to see where he has to load his truck and on which farm which product and which silo he has to unload.

Feed Production Technology

In the hardware section, which takes up the majority of the available space at Victam, four products were nominated for an award:

- The extruder back pressure valve from Wenger (USA)
- The ECOTwin extrusion system with SME-control-module from Bühler (Switzerland)
- The Vibrating pellet screen with adjustable fraction separation from Wijnveen International (The Netherlands)
- The extruder Flextex system from Sprout-Matador (Denmark)

The winner was **Wijnveen International** with their vibrating pellet screen. The jury chose Wijnveen because their innovation was truly new. The system



Feed Tech and Feed Mix were presented in a new, more modern stand.

improves flexibility, saves time and there is no need to stop the machine to change the screens. The sieve is built up of a screen with fixed bars and an underlying screen with adjustable bars. The distance between the fixed and adjustable bars can be changed from 1 to 12 mm without changing the screen. This unique screen was the only genuinely new, non-modified product at the Victam show. Wijnveen's managing director Hans Huistra mentioned Hans van der Lugt as inventor and developer of the screen. Van der Lugt, a free-lance technician and developer, has been with Wijnveen on a contract basis for many years.

A perfect show

All the exhibitors combined made a perfect show possible in halls seven and eight of the Jaarbeurs complex in Utrecht.

Review



Kahl borrowed rice whitening techniques from sister company Schule to clean grain kernels of mycotoxins



The hydraulic roll adjustment from Sprout Matador is placed outside the press chamber.



Tebodin presented an animated study on on-farm mixing of medicines in feed.

Bühler presented its HySys feed hygienising system in a huge mysterious looking box, which, of course, tempted many people to have a peek inside.

HySys is a modular concept that can be extended from a conventional pelleting mill through a quality mill with extra conditioner to a hygienic system with thermal treatment of the mash. In the hygienic version the HySys consists of a mixer, conditioner, hygieniser, pellet press and control unit. It is applied to meet maximum requirements in terms of microbiological product quality. The hygienising temperature and dwell time can be selected with high precision (varying from 60 to 240 seconds), enabling efficient control of pathogenic microbes. Hot air can be applied to act upon critical control points of the process line. This is, in conjunction with the possibility of flushing and drying the system after production with hot air, reduces the risk of recontamination considerably. Start-up times are reduced thanks to manual or automatic steam volume control. In the same hall but at the other end **CPM** attracted attention with a polished stainless steel version of their hot-start-mixer. Hot start means that the first product that evacuates the mixer is already

heated to the required temperature. This can now be achieved without using any by-pass valves, slides or rotary product locks. Mounted on a pellet press the feed mix in the modified hygieniser is kept at a temperature of 85°C for four minutes before it is fed to the pellet mill.

Opposite CPM, **Ottevanger** had built a complete container feedmill with a capacity of 20 tph. On the top level of this three-story construction visitors had an excellent view of the exhibition hall. From here it could also be seen that the first two days were very busy. People were packed around the stands, but also in the aisles.

Since most innovations were discussed in the previous issue of Feed Tech (Victam View) I would be repeating myself to describe these again. But an item not mentioned in that issue was, for example, the **Kahl** Verticone Whitening machine. This machine is a 'cross-over' from Kahl's rice milling division Schule. For raw materials for animal feed, Kahl experimented with this machine to gently polish (whiten) the outer surface a grain kernel with the aim of removing mycotoxins with encouraging success.

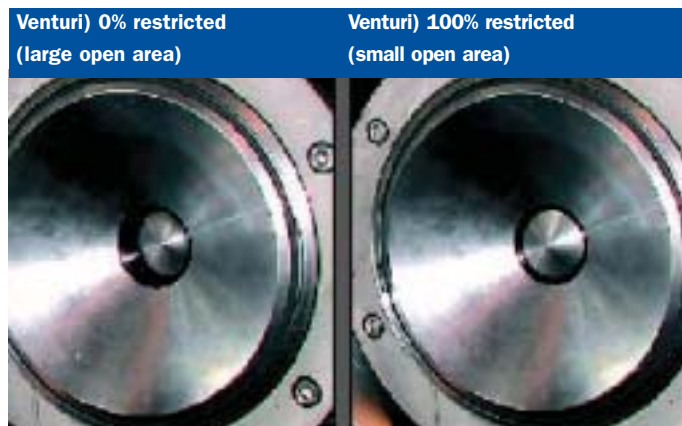
The Brazilian company **Inbramaq** had some difficulty remaining a 'quiet' exhibitor. They had installed a full extrusion line in operation, which was – because of the noise – not fully appreciated by their neighbours. In Brazil and the rest of Latin America Inbramaq is considered a pioneer in developing extrusion technologies for cereal extrusion for animal as well as for human consumption.



The complete build-up of the Bühler HySys feed hygienising system.



Brazilian Inbramaq actually manufactured extruded pellets at the show.



The Flextex system from Sprout Matador.

SME control

Quite a few companies showed equipment that better controls the input of energy in an extruder. A last minute entry for the Victam Award was the Flextex system from **Sprout-Matador**. This system is based on being able to continuously control the specific mechanical energy (SME) applied in the extruder during operation without changing the extruder configuration or other parameters. It adjusts the opening area in the venturi die plate, which is placed between the last screw and the die plate in the extruder. Sprout-Matador also presented an automatic pellet mill roller adjustment. With this new roll adjustment system the rollers are adjusted by means of a central shaft moving axially and creating roller adjustment by means of an eccentric movement in the roller shaft. Unlike other systems that use hydraulic cylinders placed inside the press chamber, the new design places all sensitive parts (electronic and hydraulic parts) outside the press chamber.

On-farm medicated feed

The engineers of **Tebodin** displayed a computer animation of a containerised mixing unit that can be used on the farm to mix medicines or other delicate ingredients with the compound feed.

Production of medicated feed is a critical process with high administrative costs. In Germany, for example, the idea *has covered ground* that medicines in feed have to be added with the actual presence of a veterinarian. Tebodin provided a study that will be a link between the regulations set by law and the flexible market demand for processing medicated feedstuffs.

The system they presented is a cost effective way



Feed hygiene was a 'hot' topic at Victam. Here the hygienising system from Van Aarsen.

to produce medicated feed and follows the requirements for tracking and tracing. All process conditions are monitored and recorded with the help of an on-site computer.

The next event

The opinions about Victam 2004 among exhibitors and visitors were positive. Exhibitors also had a 'gut feeling' that the market is picking up again. For the time being they will be busy following up on the contacts made at Victam. The next Victam exhibition will be in 2007, but for those who cannot wait that long there is a chance to visit the Asian version of the show in Bangkok, Thailand from November 30 to December 2, 2005. This is South East Asia's only specialist event for animal & aqua feed additives & production and flour milling & grain processing. Senior executives from throughout South East & Central Asia, Australasia and elsewhere visit this well-known and highly respected event. ●