

Review

Geelen Counterflow wins Feed Tech Innovation Award at Victam

An energy efficiency indicator for dryer/cooler systems was the winner of the Feed Tech 2007 Innovation Gold Award at Victam held in the Jaarbeurs Exhibition Centre in Utrecht, the Netherlands from 8-10 May.

By Dick Ziggers

Jaarbeurs Trade Halls opened its doors on Tuesday, 8 May, for the first day of the Victam 2007 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 International 2007 Innovation Awards, organised by Feed Tech for the third consecutive time.

About 25 items were presented to the jury. The innovations were of such a diverse origin that the jury* decided to judge them as a whole and give out one Gold, one Silver and one Bronze award.

Main criteria for judgement were newness, originality, fundamental principles, importance to the sector, and complexity. From the selection process the jury selected five nominations and finally three winners.

Gold Award

The Victam International 2007 Gold Award was won by Geelen Counterflow for their Energy Efficiency Indicator (EEI). The EEI gives the operators a visual and numerical indication of the efficiency of the current drying process. The operator is able to check on the control display how many kJ of energy are currently being consumed by the dryer for every kg of water that is evaporated. This unit of measure (kJ/kg evaporation) is the critical indicator of efficiency for every dryer.

The jury unanimously placed the EEI at the top of their list. "The system measures energy and moisture, which are very important items in today's modern feed production, not only from a cost perspective, but also from a quality perspective," said the jury, motivating its choice. "The EEI measures all the drying variables in real time, which gives the operator



Jury chairman Dick Ziggers hands over the Gold Award to Eric Wismans, technical director at Geelen Counterflow for the best innovation at Victam 2007. (Photo: Emmy Koeleman)

the possibility to immediately adjust the drying process with the quality standards needed. Even in an already efficient counterflow cooler, a 10% extra energy efficiency can be obtained."

Silver Award

Imtech Projects, as the exhibitor for the Magicon flexible feed production system, won the Silver Award. Magicon is a flexible feed production line consisting of a limited set of state-of-the-art equipment in such a new combination that it is able to produce the widest variety of feed products, supporting and enhancing the design of any completely new feed product.

"When you look at it from a practical point of view a new test feed mill for the Netherlands has been created. It is not so much that the equipment is



Jan Jansen thanks the jury for winning the Silver Innovation Award for the Magicon flexible feed manufacturing system. Jansen is general director of SaWeCo, the feed mill where the system is installed. (Photo: Emmy Koeleman)



Dirk Baillière of Roca Systems was emotionally touched when he received the Bronze Award for their RS-safemix fine dosing system. (Photo: Emmy Koeleman)

new or innovative, but the concept of flexibility in manufacturing all sorts of feeds is the real innovation," says the jury report. "Furthermore it is quite an achievement to have three competing companies work together in this project."

Bronze Award

Roca Systems received a Bronze Award for their fine dosing system for mixing outside the feed plant, RS-Safemix. This system allows a feed miller to register and track where a by-product was added, with what dosing system, and by whom it was filled and delivered. The system is unique because of its legal homologation capabilities. Until now only manual systems that are difficult to control have existed, which cannot comply with official legislation.

The full control and traceability of the added by-product (medicines) impressed the jury. "If a feed compounder has to add medicines to the feed it is logical to do so at the far end of the production line and preferably not in the manufacturing plant. With RS-Safemix the medicines do not even have to be added in the bulk truck, but at the end during unloading into the silo, which avoids cross-contamination. It can even be imagined that a large pig farm installs the system in the feed loading area to add delicate ingredients to the feed at the farm," concluded the jury.

Well attended

The first two days of Victam were well attended, but the third day was less quiet, giving the exhibitors the opportunity to visit other booths. According to preliminary data from Victam, the 2007 show attracted more (+5%) visitors from more (106) countries, compared to the 2004 event.

Victam general manager Henk van de Bunt commented: "Eastern Europe is the winner at this edition and there were also more visitors from Middle Eastern countries. This is in line with what we have predicted and where we have put our focus. Asia was down, but that gives us the affirmation that Victam



There was a constant buzz at the AllAboutFeed.net Internet café.

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The new Kahl hydrothermal cooking plant is an alternative for a hygieniser, and is also capable of inactivating unwanted substances in raw materials.

Asia in Bangkok is gaining solid ground.” Apart from Asia (down) and Oceania (remained the same), all areas in the world were present in higher numbers.

According to Bunt, the exhibitors were also very satisfied. The quality of visits to their stands was higher and many deals have been finalised. From the preliminary data it could also be concluded that the further away the visitors came from, the higher their position within a company, which may

explain that more decision makers came to Victam. A larger number of nutritionists came to the show too, probably instigated by three nutritional seminars that were held simultaneously with the show.

On our website www.AllAboutFeed.net, we asked in a poll whether the current Victam International reflects the demands of the visitors. From the website, of the visitors that voted, 25% said that Victam should



Andritz-Sprout showed impressive machinery.



A quiet moment at the PTN stand on the last day of the show. Most of the time the stand was packed.



Bühler experimented at Victam with image exposure. No actual equipment was present.



Live extrusion at Amandus Kahl. One could smell the chocolate products, in particular, from a distance.

remain as it is. A majority of 67% thought that Victam could become even more successful if feed ingredients were also be present. Only 8% thought that biomass products are not really fitted for an animal feed equipment show.

Prior to the start of Victam International, Feed Tech also gave website users the opportunity to vote for what they believed was the best option. This vote was won by the Silver Award winner Imtech Projects for its Magicon flexible feed production system. Imtech Projects thus also went home with the People's Choice Award sponsored by www.AllAboutFeed.net.

Innovations

Although most innovations were already presented to Feed Tech for the Innovation Award, a few were not. One company that gained much attention was PTW Technologies from Germany with their energy-efficient MultiCracker grinding system (read the article in Feed Tech Vol. 10, issue 9).

Furthermore, Amandus Kahl had some interesting improvements and new products. The Germany-based company Reinbek has improved their expander,

which can now be used without a steam conditioner or a continuous mixer to produce the so-called Expandat. The barrel of the expander is divided into three zones, all of which differ in flight configuration. Right after the inlet, a mixing and conditioning zone is created where steam can be added. The middle part of the expander is the friction and hygiene zone, also with a steam addition option. The last part after the main compression zone is the area where steam flash takes place and thermo-sensitive additives can be added. Here product structuring also takes place.

Kahl's vertical hammermill was introduced into the market in 1988 and has since been considerably improved. At Victam, the Akana VT 1120 turbo was featured, which uses static hammers and a simple screen change system.

Pressure cooker

The latest development at Kahl is the hydrothermal cooking plant, which is basically an up-scaled version of a pressure cooker. The well-known pressure cooker has been, and still is, in use in many household kitchens. A disadvantage is that once you lift the



Grain bin manufacture Chief received their visitors in a booth built-up from real silo parts.



OA International, the products group of KSE, had frequent live presentations of their new flexible weighing and dosing unit.



With typical Dutch cosiness, steam specialist IVS Dielissen constantly attracted visitors to its stand.



The exhibition team of German company PTW Technologies had to answer a lot of questions about their new multicracker grinding system.

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lid, the pressure is gone. Kahl designed a tube-shaped cooker with one or more belts that move products through the cooker. Special airlocks prevent loss of pressure.

Products requiring temperatures above 100°C can be treated with this hydrothermal plant. A maximum temperature of approximately 150°C can be reached by the introduction of steam. Higher temperatures mean higher starch gelatinisation. The greatest possible cooking time is about 25-30 minutes. Products are treated gently because there is no mechanical pressure, as is the case in extruders and expanders. Instead of pressurising the cooker it can also be used as a vacuum system to add delicate ingredients, for example, to pellets.

Well designed booths

Apart from the quality of the visitors it was impressive to see how much effort companies had put into the design of their exhibition space. Several

companies, such as PTN, Andritz-Sprout, Amandus Kahl, CPM, Ottevanger, Wijnveen and many others, showed their large machinery. Remarkably, Bühler had a large exhibition space, but no machines. Their booth was set-up like a meeting place with some screen presentations. The pictures with this article give an impression of Victam International 2007. ●

** The jury consisted of Erik Eggelen, Dr Ir Menno Thomas, Leo Slütter and Dr Alexander Feil. Erik Eggelen is an independent "hands-on" consultant to the feed industry. He is from the Netherlands, but works most of his time in the southern hemisphere. Also from the Netherlands is Dr Ir Menno Thomas. He recently started Zetadec, a consultancy and contract R&D organisation for the feed, food and biomass industry. Leo Slütter is head of the technical department of ForFarmers, one of the largest feed manufacturing cooperatives in the Netherlands. Dr Alexander Feil is head of the German Institute for Futtermitteltechnik IFF in Braunschweig, Germany. The jury was chaired by Dick Ziggers.*



Refurbisher of feedmill equipment Presinternational drew attention with a Gumpert Apollo sports car (4.2 V8 Audi engine with double turbo, 650 hp, 0-100 km/h in 3 sec).



Technex from Yekaterinburg was one of the few Russian feed equipment manufacturers present at Victam.



Feed needs to be transported to the farms. Welgro showed a few trailers that are widely used in the Netherlands.



A big machine in a small booth. Ship unloading specialist Vigan made optimum use of their exhibition space.