

In This Issue

Still Another first for The Hendrik Group and the HoverGlide™, Air Supported Belt Conveyor! An air supported impact section for 8" - 12" lumps of bauxite!

Steel prices rocket,
while China sings!
More money out of pocket
and the sound of Cha-chings!
(Ugh! Industrial Poetry!)

More HoverGlide™ Q & A...a
section to answer the most
asked questions about
air supported belt technology.

Hover Glide

Air Supported Belt Conveyors

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The Hendrik Herald



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Bauxed In!

Alcan, Inc.
(Alumina Corp. of Canada)
Jonquiere, Quebec:

The Problem - A tight space, a long drop, large lump size (8"-12" bauxite) and the need for two opposing discharges.

The Solution - A reversible HoverGlide', Air Supported Belt Conveyor with a special air supported impact section and patented hydraulic take-up system!

With limited space and an overabundance of dust, Alcan gives the Hendrik Group the OK to design and supply cutting edge solutions for the bauxite industry. A 36" wide by 43' long, reversible air supported HoverGlide' conveyor was installed, complete with an air supported carrying side and an idler return side. The conveyor handles 1000 MTPH of mostly minus 4" product at 93 lbs. per cubic foot, with occasional lumps from 8"-12", dropping 7'-8' (2-2.5 M).

To absorb the impact and shock load of lumps that size,

The Hendrik Group designed an air supported, urethane impact section and belt loader combination, that not only contains the dust generations, but also is energy absorbent without sacrificing the flotation of the troughing belt in the impact section. It has no moving parts and does not interrupt the flow of air in the conveyor.

Another unique feature of the conveyor is a take-up storage area. The 12" stroke take-up is controlled with The Hendrik Group's self centering Synchro Hydraulic Take-up System, which keeps the belt centered on the pulleys at all times. In addition, there is an additional 2' of take-up storage behind the take-up, used only in case the belt needs replacement.

Another air supported belt conveyor first for The Hendrik Group! This is the only time a non-mechanical impact section has been used on an air supported belt conveyor.

Stay tuned for more.

HoverGlide

Q&A

The Hendrik Group fronts many questions about the air supported belt conveyor on a daily basis. We hope it is because people are as excited about this technology as we are. We will try to address your issues in this section, but of course, feel free to call us for additional information.

Q: Will the conveyor operate in extreme temperatures?

A: Yes. We have furnished several conveyors where we designed to a low temperature of minus 40° C. At one installation we incorporated duct heaters to keep the belt flexible. However, these heaters are not really used. When the temperature reaches minus 10° C, the blower and creep drive are activated with a preset thermostat.

Q: Can the HoverGlide' be reversing?

A: Yes. Several reversing conveyors are in operation. Special attention has to be given to the take-up area in reverse mode.

Q: Are there any belt training problems?

A: On most conveyors, the shortest ones are harder to train. Our HoverGlide' conveyors incorporate crowned head and tail pulleys to help in belt training. Even on conveyors as short a 60' (20M), we have not experienced belt training problems. One of the most important aspects of our design is to centrally load the conveyor. We design the load point & belt loader based on conditions provided by the client.

More in the next issue.

Steely Outlook for Global Market

With global economic conditions improving and especially China's growth continuing, steel demand may be exceeding supply. Recent months have seen a dramatic increase in steel prices...up to 60% in 2-3 months! Stainless steel prices, and especially 316 SS, have risen so rapidly, it is hard to keep up. Steel manufacturers are instituting a surcharge on most deliveries. Integrated mills report a shortage of coke and iron ore. As a result, both segments in the steel industry, mini mills and integrated mills, are seeing increased demand and increased prices for raw materials. When will prices stabilize? It is hard to say. There is no immediate relief.

The Hendrik Group, Inc. has been notified by most of it's suppliers, that they are no longer

honoring their previous pricing contract/tenders. These include suppliers of fans, motors, pulleys, etc. About 60% of our HoverGlide' air supported belt conveyors are fabricated. Since continued fluctuations in material prices are expected, rather than

increasing our pricing, we will apply a surcharge on the steel portion of our quotes, effective April 01, 2004.

Unfortunately, delivery times may also be affected. The Hendrik Group, Inc. therefore reserves the right to review pricing and delivery at the time a order is placed.

We would love to hear from you in the near future. Email us or give us a call.



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Thought for the day: Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue.