



ON THE BLEACH

PUMPS • HYDROGEN PEROXIDE PLACES PARTICULAR DEMANDS ON TRANSFER EQUIPMENT. KEES IN'T VEEN HAS PUT HIS FAITH IN BLACKMER'S SLIDING VANE PUMPS

IN 1992, KEMIRA Oyj, one of the world's largest producers of hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), was building a new production plant in Rotterdam's Europoort area. Searching around for a company to handle over-the-road transport, Kemira Peroxides Europoort found a willing partner in the small trucking firm owned by Kees in't Veen, which then had only two trucks and was based in the small Dutch town of Berkel en Rodenrijs, some 40 km north-east of Europoort Rotterdam.

That contract win proved to be a turning point for in't Veen and his company ITT Transport Service Centre. Continuing growth led to the need for a bigger base closer to its customers and in 2006 it took up residence on a 20,000-m² plot in the Europoort area. Since then it has expanded considerably, with a 130,000-m² site that is home to five companies owned by Kees in't Veen, all dedicated to meeting the delivery,

storage, inspection, cleaning, purging and maintenance needs of operators in the tank transport industry.

"It's a one-stop shop for the tank-truck industry," in't Veen says. "We do everything around tank containers and tank trailers, everything you can think of. We are hands-on, that is our mission, our vision, and that is very important."

What is also important is that in't Veen is still moving H_2O_2 – indeed, Kees in't Veen Tanktransporten – one of the five ITT Transport Service Centre businesses – has become the largest over-the-road hydrogen peroxide haulier in northern Europe. "We started driving two trucks for Kemira and now we have 25 special dedicated transports for hydrogen peroxide," explains in't Veen. "There's only a few hauliers in the Netherlands that are dedicated to hauling peroxide and we are one of them."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Hydrogen peroxide has to be treated carefully during storage, transfer and transport; it is corrosive and can emit irritating or even dangerous vapours if not handled properly. A fundamental aspect of ensuring its safe handling is choosing the right pumps, and this is where in't Veen used his experience in using Blackmer pumps to his benefit.

Blackmer's STX Series sliding vane pumps, specifically the 80-mm version, proved ideal for peroxide applications.

"We have special dedicated transports for hydrogen peroxide, and it is a very difficult product to pump, but the Blackmer STX pumps are resistant to peroxide," says in't Veen. "Since they were installed, we have been using the STX pumps for 10 to 15 years and we are very satisfied with them because it is a pump that we only have to do routine maintenance on two times a year."

The STX Series pumps excel in H_2O_2 applications because they have been designed with a body and internal components made of 316-grade stainless steel, and also feature external ball-bearing construction, chemical-resistant seals, bearings and O-rings, and non-metallic vanes, which result in longer life when handling corrosive products. They have excellent self-priming and dry-run capabilities

with minimal product shear or agitation. The sliding-vane design enables the pump to maintain desired flow rates, even as the vanes wear. When the vanes do wear out, they are easily replaced with no need to remove the pump from service.

Assisting in't Veen has been Wiegel Transport Equipment, which has been supplying his preferred pumps and compressors since 2011. Moerdijk-based Wiegel is a distributor of pumps and compressors that are used in the transport of dry and liquid bulk products, with additional operations in Belgium, Germany and throughout most of Central Europe.

"For heavy chemicals, the STX is the best transport-related pump on the market," says Rutger Opschoor, sales engineer for Wiegel. "With Blackmer, the quality is good and what they do, they do very well; that's what I like about Blackmer pumps. Not every manufacturer can say that."

GOOD FOR GASES

The capabilities and trustworthiness of the Blackmer products that in't Veen has deployed at his businesses have created a level of loyalty to the brand that is virtually unshakeable. For example, after seeing first-hand the performance and reliability of the STX pumps in handling H_2O_2 , in't Veen had one installed at his Tank Cleaning Europoort facility at the ITT Transport Service Centre to perform transloading applications during product evacuation activities for transports and containers that need to be cleaned.

Kees in't Veen Tanktransporten also has a fleet of trucks that transport refrigerant gases. Those vehicles are equipped with 50-mm Blackmer LGL Series sliding vane pumps. The ductile-iron LGL pumps are UL-listed and feature a cavitation suppression liner that reduces noise, vibration and wear during operation. They also have replaceable casing liners and end discs for easy rebuilding of the pump to like-new condition.

"We have gas trailers that are dedicated for gas transport and all are outfitted with Blackmer LGL pumps," says in't Veen.

"These trailers need to be unloaded below 100 kg to be considered empty and the LGL pumps do a great job. That is fantastic

equipment. They save our clients a lot of money and time by emptying the trailers to acceptable levels."

Another ITT Transport Service Centre business is Container Terminal Europoort, where up to 800 laden or empty liquid and gas tank containers can be stored before moving along to their next destination in the global supply chain. Again, the gas tank containers – which have capacities ranging from 700 to 1,400 kg – must have no more than 100 kg inside of them to be considered 'empty'. For this evacuation job, in't Veen employs a Blackmer HDL362C Series reciprocating gas compressor, which is capable of handling hazardous, toxic and flammable gases.

The oil-free design of the HDL362C adds no additional contamination to the gas being handled, while its full distance piece and piston-rod seals create a compartment between the gas and the lubricated crankcase, which minimises any leakage to the crankcase or the atmosphere. High-efficiency polyetheretherketone (PEEK) valves provide superior sealing characteristics, high efficiency and durability, and the heavy-duty, precision-ground crankshaft features roller bearings and integral counterweights to ensure smooth, quiet operation.

RELATIONSHIPS MATTER

"He's been using Blackmer for a long time, since the beginning of the company 30 years ago," says Opschoor. "The Blackmer products are very reliable, that's why he's loyal to us and we're very loyal to him. Blackmer is a name that sells itself and the after-sales support is just as reliable as the pump itself."

It also looks like there will be more pump business coming for Wiegel: in't Veen is in the process of opening a satellite service facility in nearby Moerdijk and also owns another 10,000 m² of land with railroad access at Europoort Rotterdam, which will allow him to begin servicing railcars when it is eventually built out.

"In 2005, we developed the company motto of 'Visible Quality,' which is not only a clean truck or a nice tank, but that you have the right equipment and the right people who can help you, support you when there is a problem," says in't Veen. "We have a long-term relationship with Blackmer, and it's important to have good relationships. That may be old-fashioned, but we depend on good relationships and Blackmer has been good for us, which is how we separate ourselves from the other transport companies." HCB

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