



FRANCE'S OLVEA GROUP SAYS THAT MOUVEX PUMPS HAVE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ITS GROWTH AS A COMPANY. PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ARE FRANCOIS DAUDRUY, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, OLVEA GROUP; PASCAL GEHANT, COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR, SORETEC PUMPS; AND VINCENT LEJEAU, REGIONAL SALES MANAGER, FRANCE NORTHWEST, OF MOUVEX AND PSG

When Francois Daudruy took over his family's fish, lard and vegetable oil business, his first challenge was to find a replacement for the inefficient and fault-prone pumps that were causing loss of product and risking cross-contamination in storage. Luckily an answer could be found and a new kind of a pump has helped the company solve its problems. Vincent Lejeau writes.

The day in 1990 that Francois Daudruy joined what is now known as the Olvea Group as its technical director was a proud one for him. He became part of the third generation of Daudruys to operate the company that had been founded by his grandfather, Charles Daudruy, in 1929 in the small town of Fecamp, close to the English Channel in the northwest of France, as a supplier of cod liver oil for human and animal consumption.

Soon, it was time to go to work and Francois Daudruy knew that the only way his grandfather's company could continue to grow and prosper was if some noteworthy changes were made in the way the fish, lard and vegetable oils that had become the company's bread and butter were handled, stored and packaged.

"When I arrived in 1990, we were using centrifugal pumps, but they were not very efficient," Daudruy recalls. "When air got into the pump, they would not work any more and we had problems emptying the lines."

This was problematic because the oils that were arriving at the Fecamp plant for processing were to be used for specific end products. This included the manufacture of cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, human food and animal feed, as well as various technical uses, such as the building of lasers and as lubricants for leather and metal work.

These processes require strict purity for the oils as they move from transport truck to storage tank

to intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) and drums, meaning that no cross-contamination could be tolerated. Additionally, because of the high value of the oils, any products that were left in the transport truck, storage tank or hoses after the transfer process was completed would essentially be lost during the necessary cleaning process.

A suitable replacement

At the time of Daudruy's arrival, the company had begun experimenting with another type of pumping technology – eccentric disc pumps from Mouvex, headquartered in Auxerre, France, and a product brand of USA-based firm PSG. Specifically, Olvea was testing the A Series model for the transfer of the oils from storage tanks to shipping containers, and P Series vane pumps for the unloading of transport trucks.

"When I arrived at the company in 1990, we had started to purchase Mouvex pumps," says Daudruy. "The products we pump are sometimes very solid and the Mouvex pump will move the product without problems."

Mouvex A Series pumps operate via the 'eccentric movement principle' that was further developed by company founder Andre Petit in 1906. Eccentric disc pumps are driven by an eccentric bearing that is installed on the pump shaft. This creates four distinct pumping chambers that increase and decrease in volume as the disc is rotated by

the eccentric bearing, producing both suction and discharge pressures as the chambers move in pairs that are 180° apart. This method of operation ensures that the fluid passes through the pump at a constant and regular flow rate.

The A Series pumps, which are Mouvéx's landmark model, feature high self-priming capabilities that enable dry running and pipe-clearing operation. An automatic clearance makeup system maintains initial performance levels over time without the need for adjustment. Constant output is also maintained even as product viscosities and delivery pressures vary, which allows the pumps to reliably handle viscous, non-lubricating, volatile or delicate liquids with no shear.

"It's very important for us to avoid cross-contamination between the different products," says Daudruy. "This pump has very good suction and it cleans the lines. It is very, very efficient."

Mouvéx's P Series vane pumps use the rotation of the pump rotor and vanes to transfer liquids from the suction to the discharge side of the pump body in a continuous movement. This method of operation allows P Series pumps to be used in a large range of applications that involve the transfer of very thin to very viscous fluids, whether they are non-lubricating, abrasive or corrosive.

The vane-style design also allows the pumps to deliver exceptional volumetric performance and reliability, leading to reduced energy consumption. Maintenance is also easy since P Series pumps can be dismantled in place without the need to disconnect the suction and discharge lines.

"When we unload trucks and air makes its way into the pump, the Mouvéx continues pumping and empties the lines, which is important for us," Daudruy says. "Even when the truck is empty, the pump pushes the air in the tank and we can empty the pipes."

Contributing to success

It is not hyperbole to say that the Mouvéx A Series

"It's important to empty the lines to avoid product cross-contamination"

and P Series pumps have played a significant role in the growth of the Olvea Group. The company that Charles Daudruy founded nearly 90 years ago as the Societe d'Importation et de Raffinage d'Hulles (Oil Import and Refining Company) has been transformed through the dogged efforts of three generations of Daudruys (Francois' cousin, Arnaud Daudruy, is currently president of the Olvea Group) into a behemoth in the fish, lard and vegetable oil industries and is now recognised as the largest producer of lard oil in Europe.

Today, the Olvea Group – which became the company's official name in 2013 after the completion of a series of internal reorganisations – annually handles 40.8M tonnes of oils with exports to 90 countries and annual sales of €80M (US\$94.5M).

Olvea Group operates a total of 12 business units in Burkina Faso, France, Ghana, Mauritania, Morocco, the Netherlands and the USA, with more than 300 storage tanks with a total capacity of approximately 34,500 tonnes. All of the facilities feature Mouvéx pumps.

Closer to home, the Fecamp facility is outfitted with a total of 13 Mouvéx pumps, which are mounted on skids so they can be easily moved where needed during the course of the day. Each pump is dedicated to a different type of oil, with

hoses of differing colours (such as red, green, blue, orange and silver) snaking around the grounds to indicate which product they are to be used for.

In 2010, however, the company began to outgrow its long-time facility near the harbour in Fecamp and moved its office headquarters 2.5km south to an old valve factory in the town of Saint Leonard. On an adjacent plot of land, the finishing touches are being put on a new processing facility that will feature dedicated lines for fish, lard and vegetable oils. The new plant is expected to be operational in early 2018.

"We are outfitting our new factory with 18 Mouvéx pumps," says Daudruy. "We will be able to handle about 60 different kinds of vegetable oils and with that many, it's important to empty the lines to avoid product cross-contamination. With the Mouvéx pumps, I am totally confident that our new factory will run efficiently."

Breaking the cliché

The French, in a textbook example of their famous Gallic sense of gallows humour, have a saying regarding family-run businesses – "The first generation builds it, the second generation improves it and the third generation destroys it."

While there is an unfortunate ring of truth to that adage, it definitely does not apply when speaking of the Daudruys and Olvea Group. Through the determination and passion of three generations, Olvea has become a leader in its field – with no sign of slowing down – and Mouvéx A Series and P Series pumps have played a significant role in the company's success.

"I arrived at the company in 1990 and now we have Mouvéx pumps everywhere because they are very efficient," says Daudruy. "We have total confidence in them and there is great loyalty between our company and Mouvéx."

Vincent Lejeau is the regional sales manager for France Northwest at Mouvéx and PSG



OLVEA'S CURRENT HEADQUARTERS FACILITY IN FECAMP, FRANCE IS OUTFITTED WITH 13 MOUVÉX PUMPS