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BEUMER Group celebrates 90 years

BEUMER Group has celebrated its 90th anniversary, reflecting on another record-breaking year. With an order intake of €1.39 billion and 5,700 employees worldwide, the intralogistics specialist achieved its best ever results in 2024. This achievement is the culmination of the company's long-term independent strategy, which, as a family business, priorities foresight over short term market trends.

"Reliable", "down-to-earth", "ambitious" and "collaborative" – these four values shape the company culture and form the foundation for stable customer relationships and high employee retention. This ethos is evident in the company's business performance: in addition to a record order intake of €1.39 billion, global revenue increased to €1.23 billion in 2024 (compared to €1.15 billion the previous year). The BEUMER Group expects a further significant increase in order intake for the 2025 financial year.

Innovation is a key driver of BEUMER Group's success. The company strategically invests in new technologies, digital business models, and the continuous development of its portfolio. A recent example of this is the integration of the companies Codept and Elara. Both emerged from BEUMER's company builder, BEAM, and today strengthen the group's digital offerings.

"Nine decades of BEUMER Group demonstrate a willingness to repeatedly break new ground and seize opportunities courageously," says Dr. Christoph Beumer, BEUMER Group's Chairman of the Advisory Board. "As a family business, we think in generations, not quarters. This mindset shapes our actions and our ambition to remain an industry leader in the future."



AD Ports to invest in Cameroon dry bulk terminal

AD Ports Group, a leading global enabler of trade, logistics, and industry solutions, has joined Africa Ports Development's (APD) 30-year concession to design, build and operate a new dry bulk terminal at the Port of Douala in the Republic of Cameroon.

The agreement establishes an investment structure, in which AD Ports Group together with two other UAE investors own 60% of the operating company alongside Africa Ports Development LTD's 40% ownership, implying an effective economic interest of 51% for AD Ports Group.

Based on the ownership of this investment structure AD Ports Group's share of investment is expected to be around AED 320 million (€73.4 million), for the development of phase 1 of the dry bulk terminal, which comprises 2 berths and approximately 450 metres of quay wall, with an annual handling capacity of around 4 million tonnes of dry bulk cargo, such as clinker, gypsum, fertiliser, and grain.

Construction is expected to take place between 2026 and 2028, in close collaboration with the Port Authority of Douala, to address strong and sustained demand at Cameroon's principal maritime gateway.

Mohamed Eidha Al Menhali, Regional CEO – AD Ports Group, said: "This agreement represents a strategically important expansion of AD Ports Group's presence in Africa and reinforces our commitment to developing high-impact maritime infrastructure in high-growth markets, in line with the vision of our wise leadership. The Douala dry bulk terminal will enhance trade resilience, support industrial development, and strengthen Cameroon's role as a gateway to Central Africa."

Al Menhali added: "Through our partnership with Africa Ports Development, we are combining local market expertise with AD Ports Group's global capabilities in port development and operations to support the Port Authority of Douala's plans to modernise and enhance Douala Port, enabling regional trade and long-term economic growth. We commend the Port Authority for the significant progress achieved in recent years, which has driven strong growth in Cameroon's maritime sector, and we look forward to contributing further to its long-term development ambitions."



Extract Technology fully integrates into Dec Group

Extract Technology has now completed its full integration into Dec Group, a global leader in integrated process solutions serving the pharmaceutical, biopharma, nuclear, chemical, and other highly regulated industries.

This development marks the next step in a successful partnership that began with Dec Group's acquisition of Extract Technology in 2021. Since joining the group, Extract Technology has benefited from significant investment and strategic support, including the expansion of its ISO 9001 certified manufacturing facility in Huddersfield, UK. In 2022, the company added a new building to increase production capacity and meet the rising global demand for advanced containment and aseptic solutions.

As part of this evolution, Extract Technology will now operate under a new name: Dec Group UK. This change reflects the entity's seamless integration into the wider Dec organisation and reinforces their shared commitment to innovation, quality, and customer focused engineering.

Darren Hughes, Managing Director at Dec Group UK, commented: "This name change is more than a rebrand; it represents our unified vision and strengthened capabilities. As a fully integrated part of Dec Group, we are better positioned than ever to deliver cutting edge technologies and exceptional service to our clients worldwide."

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KettenWulf to open manufacturing plant in Alabama

Germany's KettenWulf plans to invest \$34 million (€28 million) in an advanced manufacturing operation in Auburn, Alabama, that will create 70 jobs and serve as the foundation for the company's future growth in the USA. Founded in 1925, KettenWulf is a family-owned business that recently marked a century of growth. The company specialises in high-performance engineered conveyor chains, drive chains and sprockets for a wide range of industrial applications and customers around the world.

"KettenWulf's decision to invest in Auburn speaks to Alabama's ability to compete and win on the global stage," said Governor Kay Ivey. "With a highly-skilled workforce and a deep manufacturing heritage, Alabama's business climate continues to attract innovative manufacturing companies from around the world."

The new Auburn operation represents a significant milestone in the company's commitment to growing in the US market. "On behalf of the Wulf family, that includes my siblings, Julia and Tobias, and our father, we appreciate the valuable support we have received from the city of Auburn and the state of Alabama that made this possible," said Ansgar Wulf, CEO of KettenWulf Inc. "We are proud to have found our new home in Auburn to serve our customers across the Americas."

"We welcome KettenWulf to East Alabama, and we look forward to a long and prosperous relationship," said Alabama Department of Commerce Secretary Ellen McNair. "The company's decision to develop future innovations in Auburn speaks to the talent and experience of the local workforce and the strong community support that is already in place."

Auburn Mayor Ron Anders Jr. thanked the Wulf family for selecting Auburn and bringing their great company to the city. "KettenWulf further strengthens our technology-based manufacturing sector," the mayor said. "We are excited about the economic impact that the investment represents and are grateful for the good jobs offering opportunities for our citizens."

The Commerce Department and Economic Development Department of the city of Auburn worked closely together to bring KettenWulf to Alabama. Brian Ludvigsen, general manager of KettenWulf Inc., said the company plans a long-term partnership with the local community. "Auburn proved to be the right fit for our operational needs, offering a unique environment for our business while strengthening our presence in the United States market," he said.



Kraft Heinz appoints Nicolas Amaya as North America President



Nicolas Amaya

The Kraft Heinz Company has appointed Nicolas Amaya as President, North America, effective February 23, 2026. In this role, Amaya will lead the company's North America business, overseeing strategy, operations, and performance across Kraft Heinz's largest market.

Pedro Navio, current President, North America, will step down on February 22 to pursue other opportunities. Over his

eight years with the company, Pedro played a meaningful role in leading multiple businesses and helping position the company for the future. To ensure a smooth transition, he will serve as an advisor to the company through March 6.

"Kraft Heinz has an iconic portfolio of brands, a strong foundation for growth and a talented team in North America," said Amaya. "The opportunity ahead to modernise these brands for today's consumer is huge, and we're making the right investments to do so. I'm excited to join the team and deliver."

Amaya brings extensive global and North American leadership experience across the CPG industry, with a track record of driving profitable growth by strengthening brand portfolios and building strong relationships with key customers and partners. Most recently, he served in senior executive roles at Kellanova, where he played a key role in advancing the company's commercial strategy, operational performance, and organisational transformation. He is recognised for his customer-centric approach, disciplined execution, and ability to build high-performing teams.

ABB introduces Automation Extended

ABB has introduced its Automation Extended program, a strategic evolution of its distributed control systems (DCS), designed to help industries modernise without disruption. Building on ABB's long-standing leadership with the world's largest DCS installed base and vision in process automation, Automation Extended outlines how future automation capabilities can be introduced progressively – preserving system integrity while enabling the flexibility, scalability and efficiency needed for the next era of industrial operations.

Industrial operations today face volatile markets, cyber security challenges, regulatory pressures

and a rapidly changing workforce. ABB's Automation Extended addresses these realities by enabling innovation with agility and pace without disruption to production, supporting advanced analytics and IoT integration, and simplifying operations for diverse skill levels.

Operators can continue to rely on trusted ABB systems such as ABB Ability™ System 800xA®, ABB Ability™ Symphony® Plus and ABB Freelance, while introducing new technologies progressively and without operational interruption. This approach provides a structured, low risk path to modernisation, preserving continuity while enabling innovation.

"In industries we serve – many operating large and complex infrastructures that deliver essential resources – our customers rely on modernisation without disruption," said Peter Terwiesch, President, ABB's Automation business area. "Automation Extended delivers exactly that: bringing future-ready capabilities into the systems they know and trust, with security and interoperability at the core."

The Automation Extended program is implemented through a modern, open and modular environment designed for interoperability, scalability and seamless integration across industrial domains. Based on separation of concerns principles, the automation ecosystem includes two distinct yet securely interconnected environments:

- The control environment, a software defined domain that ensures robust, reliable and deterministic control for critical processes.
- The digital environment, securely connected to the control layer, enabling advanced applications, edge intelligence and real time analytics. This space leverages artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning for decision support without disturbing proven control structures.



Bagging taken to the next level

Precision bagging experts SSB Wägetechnik share their methods of futureproofing and process optimisation

SSB Wägetechnik and TMI Bagging and Palletizing have come together to implement an integrated, hygienically automated bagging and palletising system to simplify the bagging process for an animal feed additive manufacturer. The system combines all process steps within one compact line. The aim was to create a cost-effective overall solution capable of handling

sensitive, dust-intensive powders safely while increasing both product quality and throughput.

The manufacturer originally had a manual filling process with high labour input, limited capacity and an increased risk of dust emissions, product loss and contamination. This meant the process was slow and potentially wasteful. So, they looked for a solution that could solve the issues and increase process efficiency. Based on detailed laboratory analyses of particle size, bulk density and flow characteristics, SSB Wägetechnik and TMI Bagging and Palletizing

were able to design an appropriate dosing system to ensure low-dust, highly accurate filling.

The new line integrates automatic filling of open-mouth bags, air extraction and degassing, sealing, weight control, rejection of faulty bags, and fully automated palletising including stretch wrapping and pallet protection. Thanks to its hygienic design – featuring an airtight filling spout, smooth surfaces and easy accessibility – cleaning and maintenance requirements are kept to a minimum. Despite its broad range of

functions, the system requires only around 75m² of floorspace and enables short distances and a continuous, efficient material flow.

The result is a significantly higher level of automation with reduced staffing requirements, lower dust and emissions, and stable, tightly sealed bags with extended shelf life. The case study demonstrates how the coordinated interaction of weighing technology, bagging and palletising can deliver a futureproof and economically viable packaging solution for powdered animal feed and grain products.



Image courtesy of TMI



Image courtesy of TMI



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EMSTEEL signs 5-year freight agreement with Oldendorff Carriers

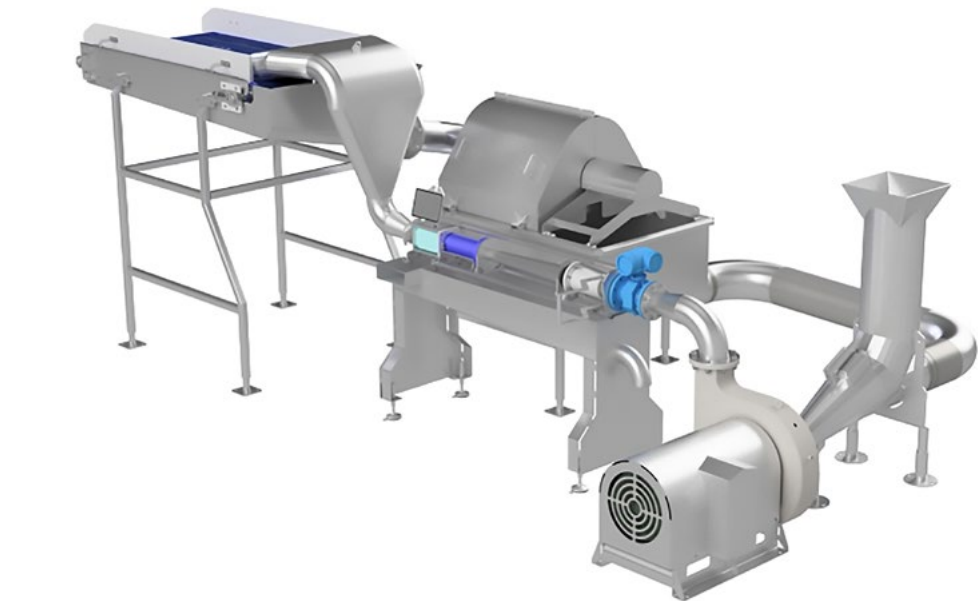
EMSTEEL Group, one of the UAE's largest publicly traded integrated steel and building materials manufacturers, and Oldendorff Carriers have signed a new long-term freight agreement covering the import of EMSTEEL's key raw materials to the UAE.

Under the renewed agreement, Oldendorff Carriers will continue to provide dedicated and efficient bulk-shipping services for EMSTEEL's raw material imports, ensuring safe, reliable and responsible maritime logistics.

The agreement builds on more than 20 years of close collaboration between EMSTEEL and Oldendorff Carriers, reinforcing a partnership that has played a key role in supporting EMSTEEL's industrial growth and supply chain reliability. Structured as a five-year agreement with a total indicative value of approximately AED 600 million (€139 million) over the contract term, the agreement reflects the scale and strategic importance of the partnership.

Under the agreement, Oldendorff Carriers supports the transportation of approximately 5.2 million tonnes annually of iron ore pellets (IOP) from multiple sources, serving as a critical logistical link between EMSTEEL and its IOP suppliers, and enabling seamless coordination, reliable deliveries, and strong collaboration across the supply chain.

Eng. Saeed Ghumran Al Remeithi, Group CEO of EMSTEEL, said: "This long-term agreement with Oldendorff Carriers reaffirms our commitment to working with trusted partners who share our values of reliability and performance. The agreement ensures the steady and efficient flow of our raw materials, supporting our ability to produce the steel that underpins the region's infrastructure, industrial development, and sustainable growth."



FPS Food Process Solutions acquires Southern Fabrication Works

FPS Food Process Solutions, a global leader in turnkey food processing solutions, announces the addition of Southern Fabrication Works (SFW) to further strengthen and expand its rapidly growing portfolio.

SFW is widely recognised for its expertise in designing and manufacturing custom industrial food processing equipment. Well established in the potato processing industry, the company has built a strong reputation for delivering integrated, high precision systems supported by meticulous engineering and seamless project execution.

By joining the FPS global family, SFW enhances FPS's capabilities with advanced hydro-cutting systems, cutting edge water knife technology, innovative water recycling and waste handling solutions, and comprehensive plant engineering expertise. These additions further strengthen FPS's ability to offer robust, end to end processing solutions to customers worldwide.

"The SFW family is super excited to partner with a progressive company such as FPS, who shares similar ideology. The FPS team has been extremely welcoming and respectful. We appreciate the value they place in all their partnerships and look forward to contributing to their global initiatives," said Neil Justesen, President and Owner of Southern Fabrication Works.

"FPS has always aimed to provide full end to end solutions for our customers," said Jeffrey Chang, President, FPS Food Process Solutions Corp. "The timing was right to join forces. We're pleased to welcome a trusted and respected name into our group."

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Tuf-Lok ring grip pipe and tube couplings are rugged, heavy duty, self-aligning and self-grounded couplings with a high end pull. They can be used for almost any application where pipe or tube ends need to be connected. The Tuf-Lok self-aligning couplings install quickly and easily with little effort.

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The Port of Liverpool welcomes record ADM shipment from USA

The Port of Liverpool has received its largest ever shipment from ADM, marking another major milestone for the port's bulk handling capability and its role in supporting the UK's food and feed supply chains. The vessel, arriving from New Orleans, USA, measured 229 metres in length and carried over 67,000 tonnes of product, making it the largest ADM consignment ever handled at the port.

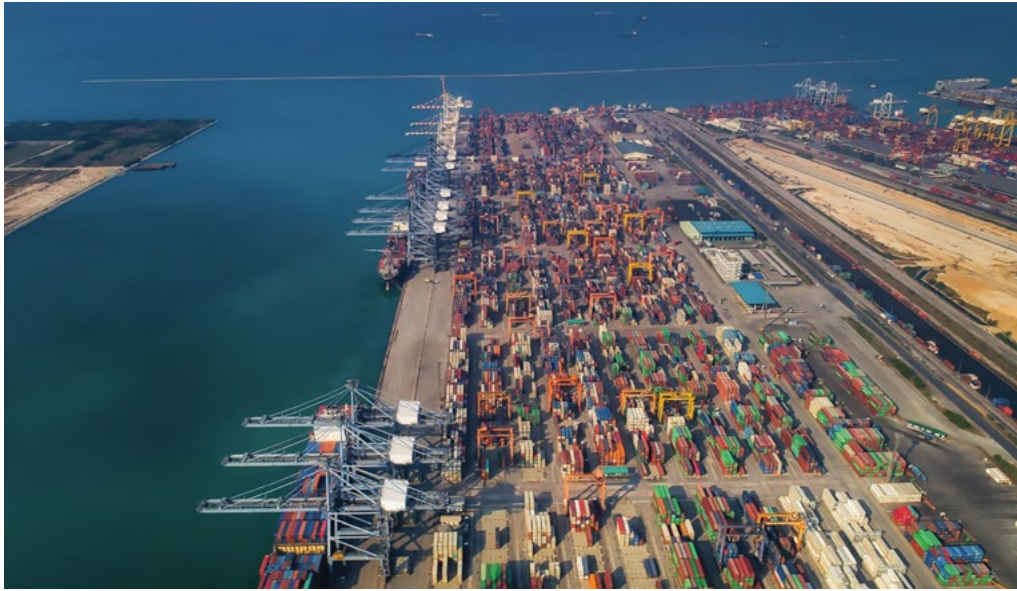
The shipment included a diverse range of commodities, reflecting the Port of Liverpool's flexibility in managing complex bulk cargoes. The shipment comprised a mixed agribulk cargo, including maize, high protein soya, soya hull pellets and corn gluten, reflecting the scale and complexity of modern feed and food supply chains.

Together, these commodities play a vital role in supporting the UK's agricultural and animal feed sectors. Handling multiple product types within a single consignment demonstrates the Port of Liverpool's capability to manage high-volume, varied bulk cargoes efficiently, while maintaining the segregation, quality control and turnaround times required by customers.

Jonathan Lane, Managing Director, ADM Agriculture Ltd and ADM UK Country Manager, said: "This shipment represents an important milestone for ADM and underscores the strength of our global supply chains. Our partnership with Peel Ports and the Port of Liverpool is integral to our operations and central to our commitment as a dependable supplier of high-quality feedstuffs to the UK Animal Feed Industry."

With deep-water access, modern discharge infrastructure and strong onward connectivity, the Port of Liverpool continues to support customers in moving high-volume, essential commodities efficiently from ship to market.

Tom Harrison, Group Strategic Accounts Director at Peel Ports Group, said: "Welcoming ADM's largest ever shipment to the Port of Liverpool underlines the capability of the port and our teams to handle increasingly large and complex bulk cargoes. Our deep-water access, modern infrastructure and strong onward connectivity enable customers like ADM to move essential goods through the UK supply chain with confidence."



Busch Vacuum Solutions introduces the Intelligent MINK MV 0360 A ECOTORQUE

Busch Vacuum Solutions – a member of the Global Busch Group – has launched the new MINK MV 0360 A ECOTORQUE, an intelligent and energy-efficient addition to the proven MINK family of claw vacuum pumps. With integrated ECOTORQUE technology and an IE5 permanent magnet synchronous motor, the MINK MV 0360 A ECOTORQUE sets new standards for energy efficiency, reliability, and ease of operation in industrial vacuum applications.

The MINK MV 0360 A ECOTORQUE is the first claw vacuum pump worldwide equipped with an IE5 integrated permanent magnet motor, achieving up to 10% energy savings compared to conventional IE3 asynchronous motors. The integrated variable speed drive ECOTORQUE automatically adapts performance to process demands, further reducing energy consumption and operating costs by an additional 50% across the entire vacuum range.

With a pumping speed of up to 360 m³/h and an ultimate pressure of 100 hPa (mbar), the new model delivers superior performance for customer processes. A speed-independent cooling fan ensures reliable temperature control even at low operating speeds. A pressure sensor replaces the mechanical vacuum relief valve, providing precise control and extending the operating range.

The plug&pump design ensures the easy installation of the vacuum pump. The Harting connector and easily accessible interfaces further simplify setup and integration. Using the Busch Vacuum Manager software,

operators can monitor parameters such as power consumption and pressure, switch between control modes, and activate eco mode for additional energy savings.

Thanks to its reduced footprint compared to other vacuum pumps of its class, the MINK MV 0360 A ECOTORQUE requires minimal installation space. Its high efficiency and energy-saving options result in a rapid return on investment. Furthermore, the plug&pump design and intelligent control software ensure simple installation and use, while the pump delivers high performance with precise pressure control for reliable operation. Its compact, efficient, and low maintenance construction makes the MINK MV 0360 A ECOTORQUE ideal for energy-conscious users in woodworking, pneumatic conveying, vacuum lifting, and pick-and-place applications.



HAVER & BOECKER expands QUAT2RO AI systems

HAVER & BOECKER has expanded its QUAT2RO® AI product suite – including QUAT2RO® MATEXcheck and QUAT2RO® VALVEcheck – with the addition of QUAT2RO® BAGcheck and QUAT2RO® SEALcheck for industrial packing and filling in the cement, building materials, food and chemical industries. The new AI-powered QUAT2RO® BAGcheck prevents the use of incorrect bags by monitoring the bag placed in the bag magazine on the packing machine. The QUAT2RO® SEALcheck system supports full-line automation by detecting product on the conveyor and removing unsealed bags before palletizing. Combined with QUAT2RO® MATEXcheck and QUAT2RO® VALVEcheck, these options make up the full array of the QUAT2RO® AI product suite.

"The success of our first AI product, QUAT2RO® MATEXcheck, prompted us to explore other unique AI solutions to address the unique needs of our customers and expand into other detection options," said Dirk Bergmann, Head of AI at HAVER & BOECKER. "QUAT2RO® AI isn't just the next digital product. It's the last digital product our customers will need to buy. The AI systems integrated into these machines continuously learn and update, meaning you're preparing your packing line for the future."

QUAT2RO® BAGcheck uses image recognition to verify that the correct bags are placed into closed, automated packing machines like the INTEGRA® IV. The system uses a camera to identify the bag before filling begins. If the system flags a bag as the incorrect type, the packing line stops to allow operators to replace it. QUAT2RO® BAGcheck provides a safeguard against product being filled into the wrong bag and potentially not being caught until palletizing or, at worst, when it reaches the customer. Like QUAT2RO®

MATEXcheck, it identifies and prevents issues before they become critical.

QUAT2RO® SEALcheck ends the packing line. A camera monitors bags leaving the packing line checks the sealed valves for loose product on the conveyor. When an issue with the seal is detected, the bag is diverted off the line to a separate area.

As QUAT2RO® BAGcheck and QUAT2RO® SEALcheck serve as bookends to the packing line and AI products, QUAT2RO® VALVEcheck and QUAT2RO® MATEXcheck are all about what goes on during filling. QUAT2RO® VALVEcheck, one of the first QUAT2RO® AI products, decreases downtime and increases product usage by ensuring that each valve bag is fitted to the filling spout properly. The system identifies improperly opened bags and drops them to the machine floor for manual rework. Operators can then pick up the bags, open them by hand and place them back on the packing line – saving some operations as much as €50 per day. Packing lines that implement QUAT2RO® VALVEcheck have seen a rapid decrease in incorrect bag applications.



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Schütz Australia acquires Containersave & Drumsavers

SCHÜTZ is strengthening its packaging collection and reconditioning activities in Australia with the acquisition of ContainerSave and DrumSavers. This move expands the company's production and service network by adding key capacities in the Australian state of Victoria.

SCHÜTZ Australia is the market leader in the production of 1,000-litre IBCs and PE drums. With a clear commitment to local manufacturing, the company started more than 30 years ago under the name Drum Services (DSL) before joining the SCHÜTZ

Group 15 years ago. Today, the company's three locations in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth supply customers across the vast Australian market.

With the integration of ContainerSave and Drum Savers, SCHÜTZ has gained two established experts with a strong market position. The business has specialised in cleaning and reconditioning IBCs, plastic drums and jerrycans for over 35 years.

Alan Barham, General Manager of SCHÜTZ Australia, explains this latest step: "The acquisition strengthens our sustainability

expertise significantly and expands our range of circular packaging solutions. With our own washing and reconditioning capacities now on both the east and west coast of Australia, we are in a position to offer our customers an even more comprehensive service."

ContainerSave and DrumSavers will continue to operate as independent brands, but with SCHÜTZ Australia's overall support. The aim is to offer even more comprehensive support in the implementation of reduce, reuse and recycle concepts for industrial packaging.



ystral expands presence in India with Bangalore site

ystral, the German specialist in mixing, dispersing and powder-wetting technologies, is significantly strengthening its operations in India with the opening of a new facility in Bangalore. The expansion, which includes a larger technical and service team as well as increased local procurement, underscores the company's long-term commitment to the Indian and Southeast Asian markets.

The relocation to the new Bangalore site will enable the Indian team to expand from nine to 15 specialists across process engineering, electrical engineering, software development, sales, and service.

"This move reflects our continued commitment to enhancing operational efficiency and delivering world-class service to our customers," said Srirangarajan Santhanam, Director of ystral india. "Our new premises are equipped with advanced infrastructure and tools that meet the standards of our German headquarters, ensuring we continue to provide innovative, reliable and technically sophisticated solutions."

As part of its strategic growth plan, ystral will further increase the degree of component manufacturing undertaken within India while continuing to produce key high-precision components in Germany.

"Through increased localisation, we are confident that we will remain highly competitive in the dynamic Indian market. Local sourcing enables us to reduce lead times, offer delivery in INR, and accelerate project execution – speed being a decisive success factor in India," said Dominik Seeger, Senior Vice President Sales at ystral.

India is currently ystral's fastest-growing market worldwide. The new Bangalore facility is expected to evolve into a regional service hub supporting neighbouring Asian markets, and to complement operations in China and Singapore by taking on additional service responsibilities. In addition, ystral India is expected to contribute software development services to the company's global headquarters in Germany. With this expansion, ystral reinforces its strategic commitment to India as a core market and positions itself to meet the increasing demand for advanced mixing and process technologies across Asia.



Akira ransomware strikes Bulk Handling Systems Companies

According to experts at Dexpose, Bulk Handling Systems Companies has been victim of a cyberattack by notorious ransomware group Akira. The group has threatened to release 24GB of sensitive data, including detailed employee and client information, unless demands are met.

Akira's statement said: "BHS serves a diverse clientele, including waste management companies, recyclers, and municipalities, helping them navigate changing material streams and energy

recovery challenges. NRT is a leader in plastic bottle and flake sorting technology, boasting the largest installed capacity in PET plastic reclamation plants worldwide. We will upload 24gb of corporate data soon. Detailed employee personal information (addresses, phones, emails, scans of personal documents and so on), projects, client information, lots of internal confidential files, financials, credit cards, NDAs and so on."

The attack was first reported on January 13th 2026.

Baumer unveils new ultrasonic sensor

Baumer has unveiled the latest addition to its extensive, award-winning range sensors: the NexSonic UF300. This is an ultra-compact 18mm flat ultrasonic sensor with a 3-metre sensing range and ideally suited to intralogistics applications.



In addition to a sensing range of three metres, other key features include the shortest blind range of just 50mm and an unrivalled short response time up to 56ms. The design has a minimal installation depth requirement of just 18mm, enabling design freedom and easier use in sensing applications where space is restricted.

The NexSonic technology is designed to maximise ultrasonic sensor performance and is based on an ultrasonic processor (ASIC) developed and patented by Baumer. In NexSonic ultrasonic sensors the piezo electric element with ASIC connects directly to the sensor membrane. The result is a shorter signal path and improved electromagnetic compatibility, while the compact evaluation electronics boost signal processing time and reliability. Additional benefits of NexSonic technology are the adaptive sonic cone which is ideally suited to detecting objects through narrow openings along with smart filter functions, which can suppress interfering objects.

UF300 with NexSonic technology is available in both measuring and switching options and should prove to be extremely versatile as a sensor which reduces the number of product variants typically required in production and warehousing applications.

Thanks to its unique features, the new UF300 sensor is ideally suited to sensing applications including pallet detection, particularly on long fork arms, for monitoring pallet stacks and gates in cold storage facilities, as well other sensing applications in the packaging and electronics industries.

Brenntag to acquire Airedale Group

Brenntag, the global market leader in chemicals and ingredients distribution, has signed an agreement to acquire the Airedale Group based in Keighley, North Yorkshire, UK.

The planned acquisition brings valuable expertise as well as significant blending and formulation capabilities to Brenntag's network in the UK. It also enhances the breadth of products, services and capabilities available to customers, supported by a regional supply chain infrastructure and global reach. Combined customers, across industries, will benefit from an even more comprehensive and reliable experience as well as a broader product portfolio.

Russel Argo, President Brenntag Essentials EMEA, commented: "The team at Airedale has built an exceptional business and we are pleased to welcome them to Brenntag. Together, following completion, we will build on their strong customer and supply partner relationships, and expand the value-added services that set them apart."

Founded in 1973, Airedale has grown from a small dye trader into a diversified chemical distributor through steady expansion and product diversification. The company has invested in new technologies and capabilities as well as expanding operations through strategic acquisitions

across sectors including food and beverage and metal surface treatment. The Airedale Group had an annual revenue in 2024 of 81 million GBP.

Chris Chadwick, Executive Chairman of the Airedale Group, commented: "Our plans for expansion and diversification have always been ambitious, and, through several generations, we have built a strong supplier and customer base. With this step we will be joining a truly global player in chemical distribution, unlocking synergies for growth we can now capitalise on. I am very excited to join Brenntag in what will be a new chapter for our team, customers, and supply partners."



The dawn of agentic autonomy: Defining the 2026 bulk solids facility

Dijam Panigrahi, COO of GridRaster, explores the challenges in this technological evolution



Dijam Panigrahi, COO of GridRaster

The global manufacturing landscape has entered a new era as we move into 2026. For the bulk solids industry – handling everything from fine powders to industrial pellets – the shift is particularly profound. If 2025 was defined by the cautious exploration of experimental pilots and the collection of vast data lakes from silos, load cells, and conveyors, 2026 marks the year that data finally gains a “mind” of its own.

We are witnessing a transition from passive automation to integrated, agentic autonomy – a shift that moves beyond simple programmed responses toward systems capable of independent reasoning and real-time optimisation of material flow and processing.

This evolution is a fundamental restructuring of how industrial value is created, de-risked, and scaled in an increasingly volatile global economy.

For firms specialising in powders and granules, this means moving toward a software-defined facility that can breathe and adapt with the speed of code.

From linear automation to agentic reasoning

For decades, factory automation in the bulk sector was a linear affair: machines followed pre-set instructions to perform repetitive tasks like bagging or pneumatic conveying. Even early AI integrations were largely diagnostic, functioning as sophisticated check engine lights that alerted human operators to anomalies like bridge formation in a silo or a belt misalignment without having the agency to fix them.

In 2026, the arrival of Agentic AI rewrites this script. These systems function as intelligent agents that don't just flag a delay in the supply chain or a spike in moisture levels in a powder batch; they independently reason through the implications,

plan corrective actions, and re-optimize production schedules on the fly. In a bulk processing context, an agentic system might detect a change in the flowability of a raw powder and automatically adjust the vibration frequency of a feeder or the air pressure in a conveying line to maintain throughput without requiring human intervention.

By shifting from “human-in-the-loop” to “human-on-the-loop,” manufacturers are achieving a level of operational fluidity that was previously impossible. The factory floor is no longer a rigid set of pipes and vessels; it is a dynamic environment that reacts to the physical nuances of the materials it processes.

The industrial metaverse as a processing operating system

This move toward autonomy is anchored by the maturation of the Industrial Metaverse. No longer a buzzword for virtual reality headsets, the metaverse has become the functional operating system of the modern bulk handling facility. High-fidelity digital twins now serve as the primary environment for strategic decision-making.

These are not static 3D models. They are living, breathing digital replicas that mirror every physical asset and energy load in real-time. For a facility processing pellets, this means a digital twin can simulate the exact friction, heat, and degradation of the product as it moves through the system. By utilising these twins, engineers can stress-test radical production changes, such as introducing a new, highly abrasive material, or simulate complex energy-intensive drying cycles in a virtual space before a single physical machine is engaged.

This sim-to-real workflow effectively de-risks massive capital investments. It ensures that when a physical change is finally implemented, it has already been perfected a thousand times in the digital realm, preventing costly downtime or material waste in the physical plant.

Reshoring through Strategic Job Redesign

The rise of the agentic factory has paradoxically sparked a renaissance in domestic labor within the bulk solids sector. As production becomes more software-defined, the old narrative of machines replacing humans is being replaced by Strategic Job Redesign.

Manufacturers are decomposing traditional roles into granular tasks, strategically delegating high-precision or high-risk actions, such as clearing dust-heavy environments or handling hazardous chemicals, to collaborative robots (cobots). Simultaneously, human workers are being elevated into tech-enabled roles. We are seeing a massive re-skilling effort where the manual laborer of yesterday is becoming the robotics coordinator or data interpreter of today.

This evolution ensures that domestic production

remains competitive not by matching the low wages of the past, but by maximising the unique cognitive strengths of a highly skilled, tech-fluent workforce. In Europe and North America, this allows bulk processors to keep muscle close to home while leveraging high-level technical expertise.

The evolution of digital offshoring

As domestic facilities become more automated, the nature of global trade is also transforming. The traditional model of offshoring – the hunt for the lowest manual labour costs – is being phased out in favor of digital offshoring.

In this new paradigm, global centers of excellence manage the software architectures, AI model training, and cloud-based infrastructure that power domestic, highly automated facilities. This shift allows bulk handling companies to tap into global specialised talent to maintain the digital brain of the factory while keeping the physical production of powders and pellets local. This model provides a vital hedge against volatile trade policies and shipping disruptions, creating a decentralised yet deeply interconnected manufacturing network.

Efficiency, sustainability, & the double win

One of the most profound benefits of this shift is the emergence of the double win: the simultaneous optimisation of operational speed and environmental sustainability.

By migrating the heavy computational burdens of AI and augmented reality to the cloud, manufacturers are reducing the physical footprint and heat output of on-site hardware.

Furthermore, agentic systems are now capable of predictive, AI-timed power consumption. In energy-intensive industries like pelletising or large-

scale milling, this is revolutionary. By analysing grid demands and production requirements, these systems can shift energy-heavy processes to off-peak hours, stabilising the local energy grid while lowering costs.

This level of granular control turns the bulk processing factory from a passive energy consumer into a proactive participant in the regional energy ecosystem.

Building a resilient, software-defined future

Ultimately, the transition we observe in 2026 represents the birth of a more resilient, software-defined industrial base for the bulk solids community. The competitive advantage of a firm is no longer determined by raw labor costs, but by the sophistication of its human-machine collaboration.

By embracing agentic autonomy and the Industrial Metaverse, bulk processors are creating a de-risked environment that can withstand labor shortages and global supply shocks. The smart factory of today is not just a place where powders are mixed or pellets are moved; it is a dynamic, learning organism that integrates human ingenuity with machine precision to build a more stable and prosperous future.

About the author:

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Volkmann upgrades PowTReX metal powder conveying system

Powder handling equipment manufacturer, Volkmann, has introduced its next-generation of PowTReX metal powder conveying system.

First introduced in 2018, the latest iteration of PowTReX is designed to support metal additive manufacturers produce large volumes of high-quality parts using multiple 3D printers at scale.

The PowTReX system automatically transfers 3D printing powders from a container or supply hopper, extracts and sieves used powder after a completed build to remove oversized particles, and returns the sieved powder for reuse. Its proprietary material handling technology that been proven in more than 100 additive manufacturing installations worldwide.

The latest PowTReX works by drawing metal powder from storage via vacuum conveying into a powder buffer. It then feeds the powder to an ultrasonic screener, and collects any agglomerates, and allows the on-spec material to be transferred to the printers. The enclosed, explosion-proof system has been designed to prevent contamination and protect workers from contact with the powder, eliminating the need for manual handling.

The portable PowTReX is said to be compatible with machines from all printer manufacturers and is suitable for metallic powders including tungsten, cobalt, silver powder, iron, stainless steel, alumina, nickel chrome, copper, titanium, carbide dust, corundum, and others. Volkmann also offers an optional inert gas model.

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Getting goods from A to B

The team at *EuroBulkSystems* investigate the merits and drawbacks of transporting goods via flexible bulk containers or dry bulk liners

Bulk handling operations depend heavily on packaging and containment systems that preserve product integrity, optimise logistics efficiency, and ensure regulatory compliance. Among the many solutions available, intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) and flexitank containers represent two widely deployed systems for transporting bulk materials – particularly liquids, slurries, and some free-flowing solids.

For professionals involved in industrial processing, materials handling, or supply chain engineering – especially in chemicals, food ingredients, agricultural inputs, and mineral processing – the choice between IBCs and flexitanks has measurable operational and financial implications. So how do you choose the right kind of container to transport your bulk solid goods?

While these technologies sometimes overlap in application, they differ significantly in capacity, packaging lifecycle, product yield and even regulatory compliance. Ultimately, it all comes down to what kind of product you're looking to transport.

Understanding intermediate bulk containers
An IBC is an industrial-grade container designed for the storage and transport of liquids, semi-solids, and free-flowing solids such as powders or granulates. IBCs occupy the space between small drums and large tank containers, offering modularity and manageable batch sizes. They can be rigid or flexible, with a capacity between 450 to 3,000 litres.

Usually built to last, IBCs are constructed from materials such as high-density polyethylene, stainless steel or composite. They are stackable and reusable making them an attractive option for economies of scale. This rigid design also



gives IBCs regulatory certification for hazardous materials transport – particularly helpful if you're transporting liquids or slurries. Readers looking to transport powders or granular solids might do better to consider flexible IBCs (also known as bulk bags) which are usually made of a woven polymer.

In reality, there's not much that an IBC can't do. You can scale your batch handling through the stackable nature of these units, allowing operators to segregate batches, control quality, and stage inventory. IBCs are also easy to handle with forklifts, pallet systems and automated filling lines, so they slot in nicely with existing processes.

While an IBC set-up does usually represent a higher initial cost, the reusability of these containers means that you get an excellent ROI. Companies can boast better sustainability credentials, too, with a reusable transport method resulting in lower waste generation.

However, it's important to note that this does mean each container needs to be cleaned thoroughly if it's needed for different products – this will have an impact on things like quality control and contamination risk, especially in food processing environments. Repeated use can also eventually impact the integrity of an IBC, leading to spill risks and product loss – but that should be avoidable with a proper maintenance plan.

When could a flexitank be more useful?
Traditionally used for liquids, flexitanks in the solids sector are more commonly referred to as dry bulk liners. These specialised dry liners are designed to handle non-hazardous, free-flowing solid products, including powders, granules, and pellets in standard 20ft or 40ft shipping containers.

These types of liners can be ideal for transporting food-grade products and grains as

the airtight design and watertight barrier prevents contamination and moisture entry, keeping quality high. They are also typically a one-use liner, providing product-dedicated containment with no cross-contamination risk between loads.

However, dry bulk liners are not regulated to handle hazardous materials. While this not make a difference to operators looking to transport foodstuffs and grain, it will make a material difference to those transporting chemical goods – and in fact, the choice is made for you.

Choosing the right solution
Intermediate bulk containers and flexitank liners represent fundamentally different philosophies in bulk materials logistics. IBCs emphasise modularity, reusability and regulatory compliance, while dry bulk liners prioritise transport efficiency, product dedication and lower handling costs.
For professionals handling bulk solid products, IBC systems remain central due to their adaptability and compatibility with powder and granular materials. However, for large-scale food- and pharma-grade goods transport – particularly in international supply chains – flexitanks and dry bulk liners can provide compelling economic advantages.



Factor	IBC	Flexitank
Initial cost	Higher per unit	Low per shipment
Lifecycle cost	Lower if reused	Higher due to single use
Payload efficiency	Moderate	High
Return logistics	Required	Not required
Labour requirements	Moderate	Lower

Comparative economic considerations

Signal Ocean acquires AXSMarine

Signal Ocean has aannounced the acquisition of French-based SaaS specialist AXSMarine. AXSMarine has built a strong following with platforms such as AXSDry and Alphaliner, which are widely used across dry bulk, liner and commodities markets. Signal Ocean, the technology arm of The Signal Group, said it sees the acquisition as a natural fit, combining complementary data sets and tools rather than overlapping ones.
Signal Ocean chief executive Ioannis Martinos said the transaction is built on a shared view of where shipping technology is heading, with users demanding better data, faster updates and tighter links between pre-fixture, post-fixture and commodities analytics.
The combined portfolio now also brings together AXSMarine affiliate Next Voyage Maritime and Signal Ocean-linked Shiplex, both active in voyage and ship management ERP systems. Together, the wider group serves more than 1,500 clients across shipping, trading and broking.
Signal Ocean stressed that existing partnerships remain in place, including its long-

standing relationship with shipbroking group BRS, which is also a major user of both Signal Ocean and AXSMarine products. BRS confirmed it will continue working closely with the enlarged group and has taken an equity stake in Signal Ocean, with a seat on the board.
AXSMarine's management team will remain involved as the businesses are integrated. The focus, both sides said, will be on keeping product roadmaps moving while gradually rolling out shared data and new features.
With data and analytics playing an ever bigger role in freight markets, the deal marks another step in the consolidation of shipping tech, as platform providers look to scale up and offer more complete, end-to-end solutions.
Manish Singh, who heads up maritime digitalisation investment company Maris Investments, said the combination of AXSMarine with Signal reflects ongoing consolidation in maritime workbench and data, with scale players looking to deepen domain expertise and embed analytics more firmly into customer workflows.



Improving trade flows, mounting capacity pressure

EuroBulkSystems shares an update from Drewry's latest webinar, hosted by Antonia Miana, Senior Manager Marketing and Business Development, with comment from Rahul Sharan, Director in the bulk research team, and other experts from the company

Good news for the dry bulk shipping sector – and perhaps bulk solids processing by association. Drewry's base case (ie most likely scenario) forecasts a positive outlook for 2026. This is driven by several factors, including the growth of the bauxite market, which is expected to continue in 2026, as well as the expansion of soybean exports from South American countries, and India's growing steel production industries.

However, there are also downside risks that could lead to a low case scenario, including a wave of deliveries scheduled for 2026, with almost 600 vessels scheduled to be delivered, which could increase supply more than demand and lead to lower rates. So, bulk solid processors and importers might benefit from reduced shipping costs for a short time.

Other factors that could impact the market in the long term, but may not have a significant impact in 2026, include India's increasing imports of iron ore and Guinea's operational exports of the same, which are expected to have a more significant impact in 2030. Plus, a ceasefire in the Red Sea could lead to reduced voyage distances – ideal for producers and exporters of dry bulk goods, but a downside for the shipping markets.

Charter rate dynamics and supply-demand balance

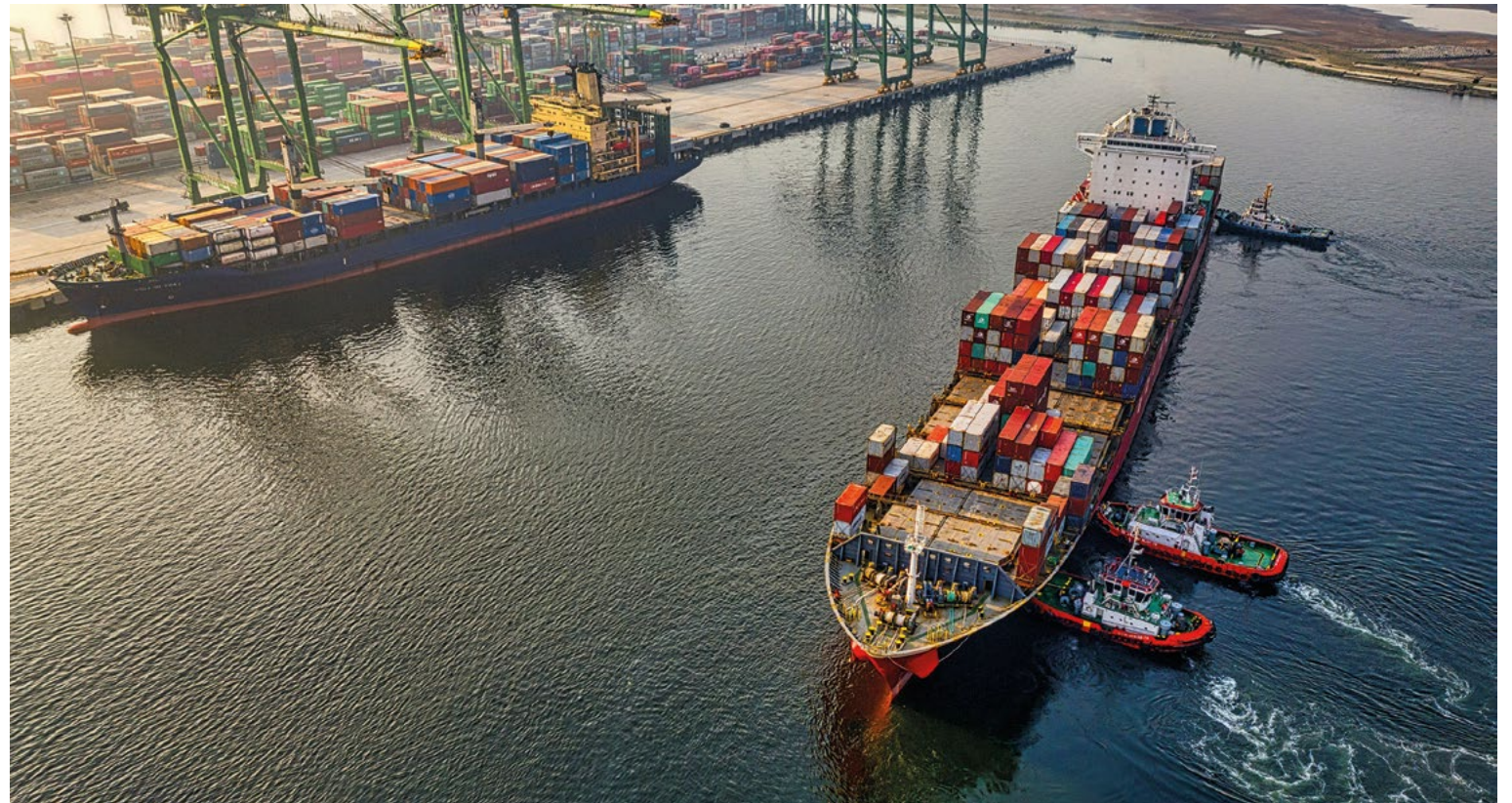
As well as the opening up of the Suez Canal, deliveries of new ships are expected to be a key factor affecting charter rates in 2026 – Drewry projects these factors to incur a downturn.

On the demand side for the dry bulk shipping market, it is a very positive outlook, with increasing charter market demand expected to drive up utilisation rates and charter rates in 2026. While demolitions are scheduled, the fleet is expected to grow in 2026, but the growth in demand is expected to outpace the growth in supply, leading to better charter rates compared to 2025. So handlers and importers of bulk solids should factor this in to financial planning.

Renewable energy impact

The coal trade between Russia and China has undergone a structural shift. The share of larger vessels, such as Panamax, has increased, while the share of handysize vessels has remained stagnant. This suggests that while the total volume of coal imports from Russia to China is increasing, it is mostly moving into Panamax and Supermax vessels.

The push to renewable energy doesn't yet appear to have a significant impact on the global thermal coal trade, but as more countries embrace renewable electricity, this may lead to a long term decline. However, this is not expected to be a loss for dry bulk shipping, as other commodities, such as lithium, are gaining traction. In particular, lithium has increased significantly,



crossing 6 million tonnes in 2025 and expected to sustain its growth rate. A significant share of this is moving in Panamax vessels, which could impact supply for other dry bulk commodities.

Fleet modernisation

There has been a structural change in the way cargo is moved, with the share of iron ore moving in capesizes increasing from 3% in 2019 to 8%. As a result, vessels are moving more towards Guinea and China, and less towards other destinations, with the Vietnamese coal trade shifting to Panamax vessels, adding to the demand for these vessels.

Vale, a major player in the dry bulk shipping market, has ordered new vessels, including 20 Newcastlemaxes and 10 very large ore carriers (VLOCs), with a deadweight of 325,000 tons. Vale currently owns more than 67 VLOCs, mostly in partnership with Chinese companies, and this new order will be owned outright, providing more flexibility and better structural investment. The delivery of these new triple-fuelled vessels is expected to lead to an increase in demolitions of older and less efficient vessels, acting as a replacement plan – a strategic decision for Vale.

Regulatory developments

Despite the postponement of the IMO net zero

framework, other environmental regulations have come into force in recent months that will have an impact on both the production of bulk solids, and their transportation. The European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) is planning to include greenhouse gases, in addition to CO2 emissions, and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has released its IMO Data Collection System (IMO DCS) data, which provides information on vessels that report to it.

The data shows that approximately 40% of vessels fall under category D and E, and the speed of vessels has been declining over the years, which may continue to decrease due to increasingly stringent regulations. The adoption of alternatively-fuelled vessels is slowly increasing, with around 1% of the current fleet using alternative fuels, while over 7% of vessels on order are alternative-fuelled, with a focus on ammonia and methanol.

It remains to be seen if these measures will increase shipping costs – though it does seem likely in the short term.

Geopolitical risks

What could be considered a supply chain risk in most industries can often lead to a positive outlook in transportation. Geopolitical instability is usually good business in shipping. In the dry bulk

market, recent events in Venezuela and Colombia could have a significant impact on the coal trade in particular. Any disruptions to Colombian coal exports could harm the Panamax and supermax demand, and this is a concern given the already impacted state of the trade.

For more information:

Drewry is a leading provider of maritime research and consultancy services, established in 1970, with offices in London, Singapore, Shanghai, and Delhi, and offers a range of services, including research publications and advisory services, such as due diligence, market forecasting, and competitive analysis.

The company has recently upgraded its online services, known as Drewry on Demand, which provides users with real-time access to core data, market analysis, and opinions from lead analysts, allowing for a detailed understanding of the current market and its future development.

Watch the webinar: vimeo.com/1165800268
www.drewry.co.uk



Eriez builds largest X8 metal detector in company history

Eriez has manufactured the largest X8 metal detector in the company's history, marking a major milestone for the X8 platform worldwide.

The detector, produced at the Eriez facility in Caerphilly, Wales, is one of a pair and features a 1,200 x 1,200 mm (47 x 47 inches) aperture. This landmark build expands the capabilities of the X8 line while maintaining the precision, sensitivity, and reliability that define Eriez inspection technology.

Tom Pickwick, Product Specialist at Eriez-Europe, explained: "Whether a customer needs a standard compact unit or a large custom build, the X8 delivers the same uncompromising accuracy across the product range. Our global team is fully equipped to support every system in our comprehensive inspection portfolio."

Engineered for leading-edge sensitivity, intuitive operation, and broad application versatility, the X8 metal detector series is designed to perform in food, packaging, plastics, recycling, and other processing environments. All X8 systems are built to the same rigorous performance standards, ensuring superb detection capability regardless of product size or industry application.

Take care in the cosmetics supply chain

Omnibus Regulation VIII (EU) 2026/78 comes into force from 1 May 2026 – and there’s no excuse for non-compliance

The European Union has recently approved Regulation (EU) 2026/78, also known as Omnibus Regulation VIII. This Regulation amends the current Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009, introducing updates regarding the use of certain substances classified as CMR (carcinogenic, mutagenic, or toxic to reproduction). From 1 May 2026, no cosmetic products may enter the EU market if they do not comply with restrictions or if they contain substances newly included in Annex II (prohibited substances).

Who will it impact?
Bulk powder processing companies that are part of the cosmetics supply chain will need to

ensure compliance with the new regulations if your clients wish to stay in the EU market. This could mean reformulation requirements, specification changes and a need to produce documentation for your supply chain. Even if indirectly involved, your customers may ask for proof of compliance, so it’s worth adhering to the regulations if you produce or process pigments, metallic powders, nanomaterials or specialty chemicals.

Are there exemptions?
At this time, no distinction has been made between newly launched products and products already on the market. There are no exemptions for long-standing formulations.



What are the main changes?

> ANNEX II: Prohibited Substances	
Not permitted in cosmetic products from 1 May 2026	
Substance / Group	Key comment
Perboric acid and its salts (incl. perborates)	Reorganisation and unification of existing entries
Silver - Solid silver (particle diameter ≥ 1 mm)	Explicitly prohibited
Silver - Silver in the form of nanoparticles (1 nm < particle diameter ≤ 100 nm)	Clear prohibition as a nanomaterial
Carbon nanotubes (various specific types)	CMR Classified and forbidden
Acetone Oxime	New inclusion by CMR classification
N,N'-methylenediacrylamide	New CMR substance
Trimethyl Borate	New CMR substance
Other CMR substances listed in the Regulation	Compounds with chemical names, rarely used in cosmetics. Please refer to the full regulatory table.

> ANNEX III: Restricted Substances	
Permitted only under the following specific conditions	
Substance	Main Restrictions
Silver (powder form) [100 nm < particle diameter ≤ 1 mm]	Toothpaste and Mouthwash – 0.05% max concentration in the final cosmetic product.
Hexyl Salicylate	a) Hydroalcoholic-based fragrances (except those intended for children <3) – 2% max b) Rinse-off products (except shower gel/bath, hand wash, hair conditioner and shampoo intended for children <3) – 0.5% max c) Leave-on products (except hair conditioner, body lotion, face cream, hand cream, lipstick/lip balm and fragrance products intended for children <3) – 0.3% max d) Toothpaste – 0.001% max e) Mouthwash – 0.001% max f) Shower gel/bath products, hand wash, shampoo, hair conditioner, body/face/hand (skin) care, lipstick/lip balm and fragrance products intended for children <3 – 0.1% max Note: Not to be used in preparations for children under 3 years of age, with the exception of (d) “Toothpaste” and (f).

> ANNEX IV: Allowed Colorants	
Permitted only under the uses indicated below	
Substance	Main Restrictions
CI 77820 – Silver (powder form) [100 nm < particle diameter ≤ 1 mm]	Lip products and eye shadow – 0.2% max concentration in the final cosmetic product.

> ANNEX V: Allowed Preservatives	
Permitted only under the uses indicated below	
Substance	Main Restrictions
o-Phenylphenol / Sodium o-phenylphenate	a) Rinse-off products – 0.2% max (as phenol) b) Leave-on products – 0.15% max (as phenol) When used together, the combined concentration (as phenol) shall not exceed 0.2% in rinse-off and 0.15% in leave-on. Not to be used in applications that may lead to exposure of the end-user’s lungs by inhalation. Not to be used in oral products. Label warning required: Avoid contact with eyes

Less trimming, more thinking

What amendments to the 2026 grain code means for bulk handlers

The 2026 amendments to the International Maritime Organization International Code for the Safe Carriage of Grain in Bulk (International Grain Code) introduce a new class of loading condition for specially suitable compartments and revise both operational and stability calculation requirements. These amendments entered into force internationally (and in the UK via ambulatory reference provisions) on 1 January 2026. By allowing reduced trimming in certain ship holds while tightening stability assumptions, the updated Grain Code promises faster loading and greater efficiency – but also demands closer coordination, accurate loading practices, and sharper operational control from bulk handling and processing plants. For stakeholders handling grain cargoes, the amendments mainly impact cargo loading strategies, stability calculations and documentation, hold preparation and trimming practice, survey and inspection requirements and operational flexibility in certain hold designs. The central regulatory objective remains unchanged: prevent dangerous grain shift and loss of stability during bulk carriage. However, the amendments introduce more flexibility where ship design allows.

Specially suitable compartment
The term “specially suitable compartment, partly filled in way of the hatch opening, with ends untrimmed” refers to a specially suitable compartment which is not filled to the maximum



extent possible in way of the hatch opening, but is filled to a level equal with or above the bottom edge of the hatch end beams and has not been trimmed outside the periphery of the hatch opening by the provisions of A 10.4.

A 10.4 states: “In any “specially suitable compartment, partly filled in way of the hatch opening, with ends untrimmed”, the bulk grain shall be filled to a level equal with or above the bottom edge of the hatch end beams but may

be at its natural angle of repose outside the periphery of the hatch opening. A compartment may qualify for this classification if it is “specially suitable” as defined in A 2.7, in which case dispensation may be granted from trimming the ends of that compartment.” In practice, this means grain is level in the hatch region, grain at the ends of the compartment may remain at natural slope and full trimming to eliminate voids at compartment ends is not required. This formalises a loading configuration previously treated conservatively or avoided. For grain terminal and loading personnel, this new definition allows reduced trimming, provides a regulated framework for partial filling and enables improved loading efficiency. This also results in more operational flexibility, reduced loading times and therefore quicker vessel turnarounds.

What should grain handling professionals do now?
It’s time to get your house in order. These new rules came into force at the start of 2026 – so you should already be practicing them. But if not, now’s the time to review your operational procedures and update training and loading instructions. Coordinate with your vessel operators to confirm which holds qualify and set new trimming guidelines. As always, review your contracts and responsibilities, ensuring your compliance obligations are clear.

Smarter flow, better throughput

Flexicon look at material flow promotion accessories for bulk solids handling systems

The successful discharge of bulk materials from silos, railcars, or bulk bags into processing equipment usually requires more than vessel geometry, air pressure, or gravity. Much like the weather, changes in material flow can be anticipated, but never predicted with complete accuracy. Many materials exhibit behavior that can result in unexpected flow obstructions, erratic discharge rates, or non-uniform feeding that require additional consideration.

Material characteristics such as shape, moisture content, bulk density, the length of time the materials have remained inert, along with ambient conditions such as temperature and humidity, add additional layers of complexity. Additionally, the same material sourced from various origins or at different times may display subtle (or substantial) differences in characteristics, including density, shape, or moisture content.

There is a wide array of options designed to promote better bulk material flow. The successful selection begins with an understanding that flow problems rarely stem from a single factor. With over 50 years of experience designing and building bulk solids material handling systems, Flexicon can evaluate these variables and design a solution that addresses the root cause of flow issues.

Here are four common causes behind material flow issues:

- **Bridging:** Materials such as fine powders, those with irregular particle shapes, or with high moisture content, are prone to compaction. These materials form an obstruction, known as a 'bridge,' that completely stalls material flow.
- **Ratholing:** Commonly experienced in funnel-flow hoppers and with materials that compact or segregate during storage. Unlike bridging, the material continues to flow, however slowly down a narrow channel in the vessel, leaving most of the material in the hopper.
- **Agglomeration:** Individual particles adhere to one another and form large masses. Agglomeration is commonly caused by moisture absorption, temperature changes, or the presence of fats, sugars, or binders within the material. Extended storage times and compaction can further exacerbate the problem.
- **Segregation:** Separation, or segregation occurs when a previously blended mixture begins to separate during storage or handling. Differences in particle size, density, or shape cause fine or light particles to sift downward or heavy particles to migrate differently, resulting in inconsistent product composition and compromised quality.

Achieving reliable flow

Because no two bulk materials behave the same, effective flow promotion begins with a clear understanding of a material's flow properties under actual operating conditions. Material testing, combined with real-world application experience, helps ensure that the selected solution addresses the root cause of flow problems, rather than simply treating the symptoms. For this reason, system providers such as Flexicon, with full-scale testing laboratories and documented performance results are valuable partners in developing dependable, long-term solutions.

Several reliable solutions to better material flow are readily available. Depending on the material(s) being handled an equipment manufacturer/designer will incorporate one or more of the following solutions.



Complete discharge of material from bulk bags is achieved through the dual action of steel plates that press against the bottom seam while raising the bag (left), combined with a telescoping tube and clamp lock that pull the bag spout downward (right)



Bulk Bag activation

Bulk Bags are highly valued for their ability to cost-effectively store and discharge large amounts of materials. A disadvantage is the smaller diameter of the bag spout compared to the circumference of the bag itself. Bridging, ratholing, and agglomeration issues can impede, if not halt, material discharge from the bag.

If the material in the bag is completely solidified, a pre-conditioning procedure to loosen the material is necessary. Hydraulically actuated steel plates or rollers that press against the sides of the bag with the necessary force will loosen the material, allowing discharge through the bag spout.

In applications where the material is not fully solidified but still resists uniform flow, less aggressive flow promotion methods are sufficient. Pneumatically-actuated paddles and bag elongation devices are effective in ensuring consistent discharge of more free-flowing, but still problematic, materials from bags positioned in a frame above a conveyor. These paddles press and lift the bag upward, while the bag elongation devices create downward tension on the bag spout. Their actions create a 'V' shape at the bottom of the bag, removing dead spots and directing material flow to the spout.

Effective discharge from steel vessels

When gravity and vessel geometry are insufficient, steel vessel activation devices can initiate and sustain material flow. These devices function by reducing wall friction, breaking material adhesion, or inducing controlled movement within the vessel. As with flow-promotion accessories in general, activation methods should address the root cause of poor flow behavior rather than compensate for a fundamentally mismatched hopper design.

Common steel vessel activation methods include:

- Mechanical or pneumatic external vibrators, which transmit energy through the vessel wall to reduce friction and collapse stable arches or ratholes
- Live-bottom or mechanically actuated discharge aids, such as agitators or de-lumpers, which physically move material toward the outlet.



Flexicon's full scale test labs are equipped to simulate every aspect of a bulk material handling application

Preventing material segregation

Ideally, blended bulk materials should not remain stationary for extended periods. Otherwise, gravity will take over, and heavier materials will sink to the bottom of the receptacle that the material is stored in. However, blends will also separate when put in motion.

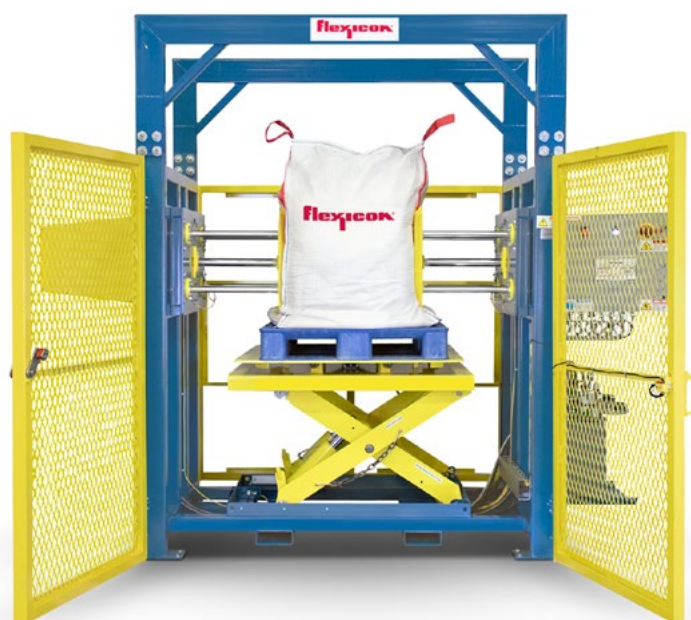
Flexible screw conveyors are well suited for conveying pre-blended or density-varied materials. These conveyors help prevent separation of blended materials by maintaining a consistent, controlled flow from inlet to discharge. Because material is conveyed in a continuous column and mixed repeatedly as it moves through the rotating screw, fines and coarse particles remain evenly distributed rather than stratifying.

Performance benefits in the field

Morgan Advanced Materials & Technology of Wales needed a safer, faster way to loosen solidified pitch in bulk bags. A Flexicon Bulk Bag Conditioner, using hydraulically actuated steel plates to apply pressure to the bag sides, replaced a time-consuming and potentially hazardous manual process. According to Production Manager Jeff Lloyd, the system reduced pitch conditioning time by 90%.

Enterprise CP of Minnesota, US, faced similar challenges handling sticky seasoning blends for pasta dinners. Material frequently resisted discharge from bulk bags and bridged in the conveyor receiving hopper. A Flexicon bulk bag discharger with bag activation devices resolved both issues, enabling consistent material flow, according to CEO Nolan Wolkow.

Alan Turanski, of Glory Bee Natural Foods in Oregon, US, states that he selected a Flexicon flexible screw conveyor because of their proven ability to convey blended products with no separation of ingredients, regardless of the size or shape of the particles or the bulk density of the material.



The steel plates of this bulk bag conditioner are hydraulically pressed against the side of the bulk bag, loosening material that has solidified inside, and enabling discharge through the bag spout



Reliable and rugged, flexible screw conveyors economically transport blended materials from hopper to discharge point without separation or risk of contamination

For more information:
Visit www.flexicon.com

Deagglomeration and calibration of bulk material

Many bulk material processes ask for defined and reproducible particle sizes – could Gericke's GNB 250 Nibbler be the solution?

From power generation and chemicals to food, pharmaceuticals, and agrochemicals, modern industry relies heavily on bulk solids. Powders, granules, flakes and other odd shapes of particles appear at almost every stage of production; raw materials through intermediates to finished products. It has been estimated that well over half of all industrial products are manufactured or processed in particulate form. Yet despite their prevalence, bulk solids remain one of the most troublesome materials to handle reliably.

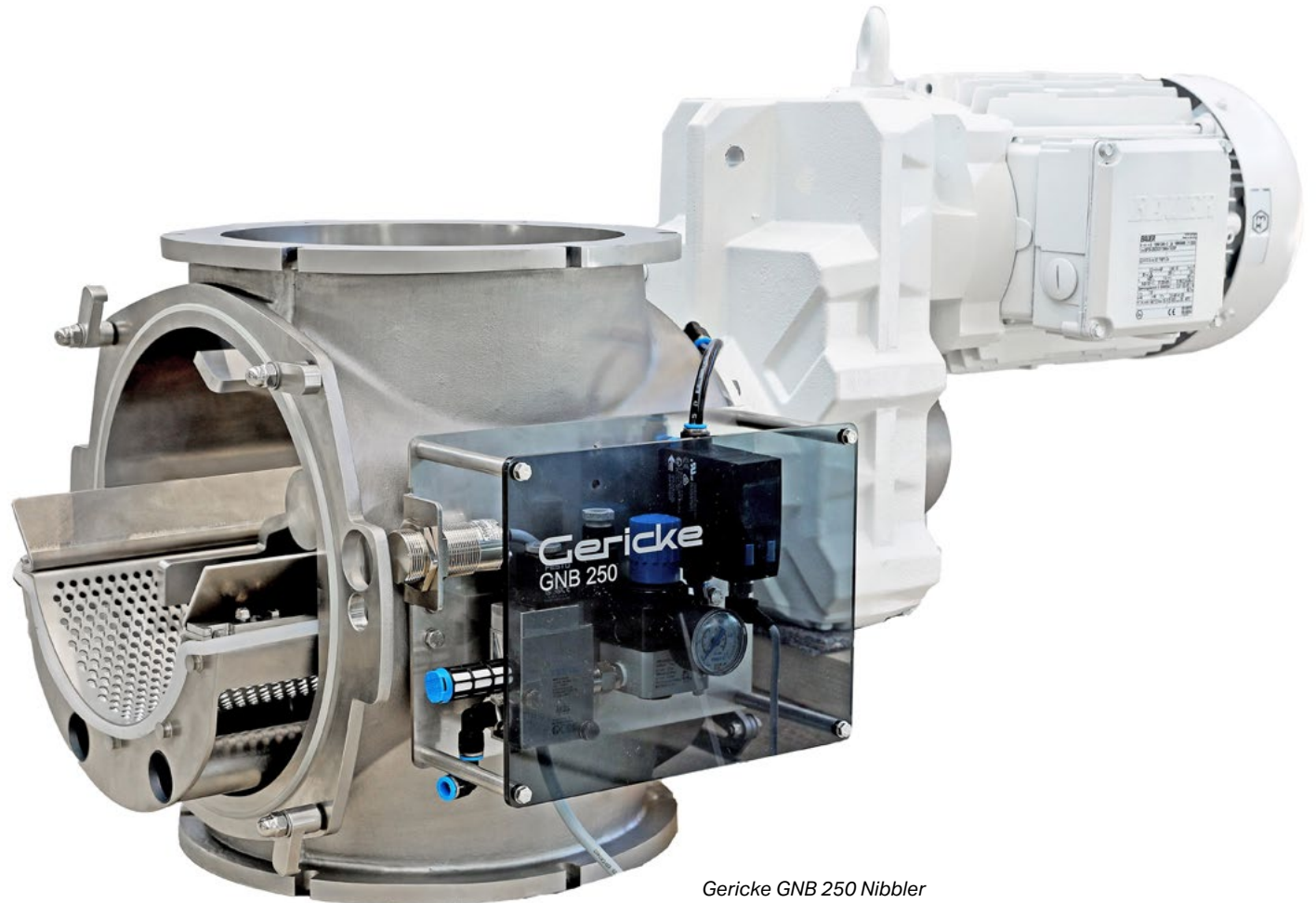
Gericke's established GNB series has a new, compact machine for smaller throughputs – the GNB 250 Nibbler.

With the older GNB 530 Nibbler, Gericke introduced the option of easily adjusting the distance between the shaft and the screen. This means the Nibbler can quickly and flexibly adapt to changing process requirements. In addition to adapting to different screen sizes, process efficiency can also be increased by changing the clearance. The GNB 250 has also made it easier to replace the screen, the large door in the housing, and the sealing concept from its big brother.

Thanks to its compact size, the GNB 250 can be installed into existing processes, helping to save space – and it doesn't compromise on high throughput rates. This makes it the perfect successor to the older Gericke Nibbler series NBS 200/200 and NB 300/350.

The design makes it easy to clean the interior of the machine; all areas are visible, accessible or removable. The cantilevered shaft eliminates the need for additional seals, which makes cleaning even easier and reduces the number of wear parts.

The optional metal to metal contact detection is also available for the GNB 250. It enhances process reliability by preventing misuse, machine faults, issues related to ATEX compliance for complete systems, and foreign objects in the product. Explosion protection in accordance with ATEX requirements and overall safety were key elements of the development process. This means the GNB 250 can be used in potentially explosive atmospheres and is suitable for applications in gas and dust zones.



Gericke GNB 250 Nibbler

New ideas, consistently implemented

The GNB 250 has a round process connection. This allows the machine to be installed in pipelines without the need for complex adapters. The flange connection can also be equipped with the innovative Gericke sealing concept. This makes it possible to meet increased hygiene requirements and makes the GNB 250 WIP/CIP-capable.

A new manufacturing process for the housing

optimises material flow in the Nibbler. The product can flow out easily and be fed into the next process. In addition, the manufacturing process used for the housing allows the Nibbler to be used in pressure applications.

Gericke sets new standards with the GNB 250, in terms of cleanability, process integration and throughput optimisation. Thanks to its high flexibility, it is suitable for use in the food,

pharmaceutical, chemical and building materials industries.

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SANY Marine & CEA forge strategic partnership in Australia

SANY Marine, the port machinery BU of SANY Group, announced at its Global Customer Summit & Smart E-Product Launch a strategic partnership with Construction Equipment Australia (CEA), part of the CFC Group.

This collaboration will bring SANY's range of telehandlers and material handlers to the growing Australian Material Handling sector, offering a powerful combination of rugged durability and innovation, tailored to meet the demands of the Australian market.

Under the terms of the agreement, CEA will leverage its extensive national distribution network to bring SANY's cutting-edge telehandlers and material handlers to key sectors across Australia, including mining, rental, construction, agriculture, and bulk handling.

Known for its durability, energy efficiency and smart technology integration, SANY's equipment strongly aligns with Australia's increasing demand for sustainable, high-performance material handling solutions.

"Partnering with CEA represents a strategic milestone for SANY Marine's global expansion," said Jeff Fu, Director of SANY Group.

"CEA prides itself on partnering with brands that understand our local customer needs, can deliver cutting-edge quality products, and prioritise future industry requirements," added Philip Cardaci, CFC Group Executive Chairman. "SANY's global manufacturing expertise with R&D centres and plants across China, the USA, Germany,

and Brazil and their focus on electric and intelligent technology perfectly complement our existing and growing portfolio."

With extensive experience and a well-established sales network in Australia, CEA will serve as a key strategic partner for SANY. Leveraging its deep local insights and market expertise, CEA is expected to play a critical role in supporting the long-term growth of SANY's telehandler and material handler portfolio across the Australian market.

"We're pleased to be bringing the SANY range of telehandlers and material handlers to the Australian market," said CEA CEO Hylton Taylor. "These are product segments CEA understands well, and we are looking forward to showcasing SANY's market-

leading capabilities, and the brand's focus on future customer needs," added Hylton. The partnership takes effect immediately, with SANY's telehandlers arriving at CEA's national branches from April 2026, and material handlers launching later in the year.

As SANY continues to deepen its globalisation strategy, this partnership underscores the Group's long-term commitment to delivering reliable, sustainable and intelligent equipment solutions worldwide. By working closely with trusted local partners, SANY aims to deliver products and solutions that are not only globally competitive, but also deeply aligned with local operating conditions, customer expectations, and future sustainability goals.



Coperion & Golden Waves Grain partner on grain milling project

Coperion Food, Health & Nutrition Division, a global engineering leader in technologies, systems, and services for food production, is proud to partner with Golden Waves Grain on its transformative \$200 million (€170 million) grain milling and bakery project in Goodland, Kansas, USA. As a key supplier, Coperion will provide advanced bakery lines, integrated process controls, and equipment designed to enhance efficiency, ensure consistency, and uphold the highest quality standards in this state-of-the-art facility.

The Golden Waves Grain project, supported by a significant investment from the Foote Family, aims to create approximately 141 full-time jobs and serve as a vital economic anchor for northwest Kansas. The facility will feature a cutting-edge grain milling operation and a large-scale commercial bakery, designed to add value to regional grain production and strengthen domestic food supply chains. It is expected to position northwest Kansas as a regional hub for grain processing and commercial baking, with benefits extending well beyond the local community.

Coperion's extensive knowledge in bakery and baked goods processes, combined with its advanced systems and technologies will play a crucial role in ensuring the bakery's operations meet the highest standards of optimised production, quality and efficiency. The equipment supplied by Coperion will enable the facility to produce a wide range of bakery products with precision, supporting regional farmers and contributing to the community's long-term economic growth. The bakery lines include Coperion technology brands Shick Esteve ingredient handling systems and Peerless mixing technologies.

Why bulk solids behave badly

Ajax Equipment's Managing Director, Eddie McGee, explains how understanding characterisation helps ensure reliable powder flow

From power generation and chemicals to food, pharmaceuticals, and agrochemicals, modern industry relies heavily on bulk solids. Powders, granules, flakes and other odd shapes of particles appear at almost every stage of production; raw materials through intermediates to finished products. It has been estimated that well over half of all industrial products are manufactured or processed in particulate form. Yet despite their prevalence, bulk solids remain one of the most troublesome materials to handle reliably.

Plants that handle powders routinely underperform when compared with those processing liquids or gases (References: Merrow, Neale). The reasons are not necessarily found in complex chemistry or advanced process control. Instead, they are rooted in a basic but often underestimated problem: bulk solids do not flow in a predictable way. They block outlets, form stable arches, stick to walls, segregate, flush uncontrollably, and frequently end up somewhere they should not be. Figure 1 shows the consequences of the powder being stored not being matched by the hopper design with unconventional and, despite the high-vis vest, not safe practice to encourage discharge.

The consequences of not carrying out proper characterisation of the bulk solid and designing equipment to suit the particles to be handled are lost production, compromised product quality, and unsafe manual intervention.

Why powders are different

Unlike liquids and gases, powders can sustain stress. A bulk solid may behave as a loose, free-flowing material when aerated, yet become rigid and resistant to movement once compacted or de-aerated. Moisture, particle shape, size distribution, surface chemistry, and stress history all influence behaviour. Flow, when it occurs, is often irregular and non-uniform.

Descriptive labels such as “free flowing” or “poor flowing” can be misleading. A powder that pours easily into a container may refuse to discharge once it has settled. Similarly, a dry crystalline material may flow well until slight moisture creates inter-particle bonds that dramatically increase strength.

Over the years, many attempts have been made to reduce powder flow to a single number: angle of repose, Carr Index, Hausner ratio, or dynamic flow tests. While useful as screening tools, none can reliably predict how a material will behave in real equipment. Powder flow is not defined by one property, but by the interaction of several material characteristics dependent on how the many particles and their individual features interact with equipment form and geometry.

The characterisation properties that matter most
Among the many variables, three properties dominate bulk flow behaviour in industrial systems.

- **Wall friction** describes how easily a powder slides against a surface such as a hopper wall, chute, or screw feeder. High wall friction promotes material build-up and stagnant zones, while low friction encourages movement. Wall friction depends not only on the powder but also on surface finish, material of construction, and stress level.

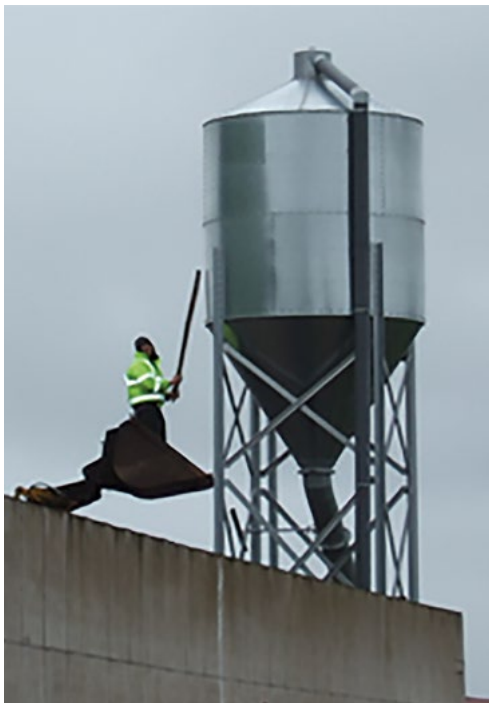


Figure 1: Promoting flow by brute force



Figure 2a: Ajax wall friction tester

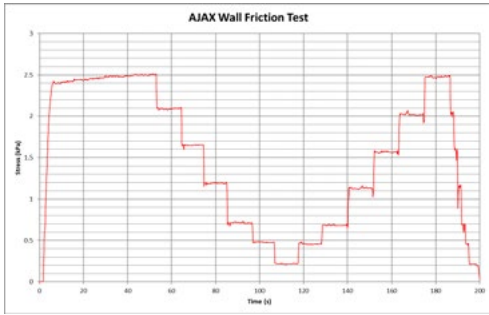


Figure 2b: Example results for wall friction characterisation

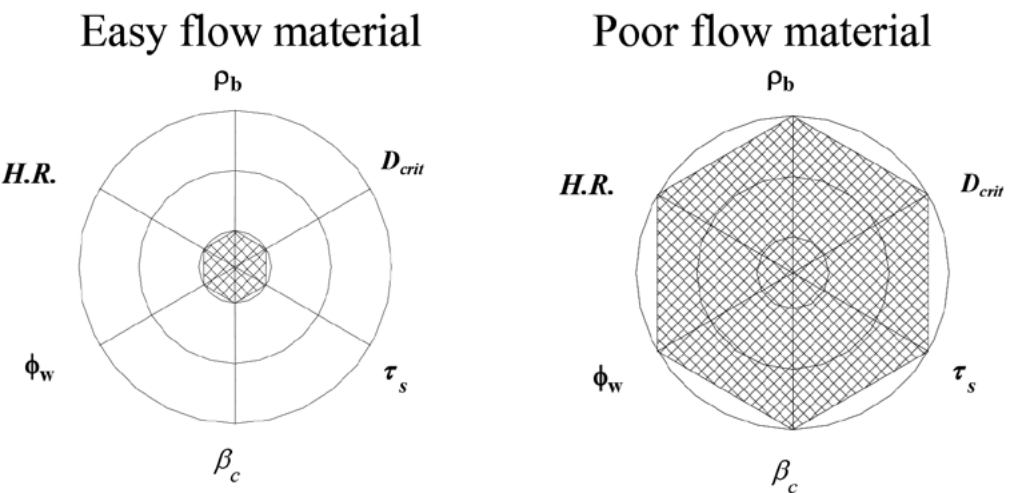


Figure 3: McGee spider diagrams for easy and poor flow materials

- **Shear strength** is the resistance of the bulk solid to deformation and failure. This property governs whether a powder will form stable arches or rat holes that prevent discharge. Importantly, shear strength increases with consolidation: a powder that flows when loose may become extremely strong after sitting in a full hopper.
- **Bulk density** links these two properties. Unlike true material density, bulk density varies with packing, vibration, stress, and air content. Materials with stable bulk density tend to be forgiving in handling. Those whose density changes significantly under compaction are far more sensitive to how they are stored and discharged.

Why hopper design matters

Equipment geometry has a profound influence on flow. Steep hopper walls and sufficiently large outlets encourage mass flow, where all material moves uniformly toward the outlet. This prevents segregation, eliminates dead zones, and ensures first-in–first-out discharge.

Shallow hoppers, by contrast, promote funnel flow. Material moves only through a central channel while stagnant regions remain at the sides. Over time, this can lead to stable rat holes, reduced storage capacity, and unpredictable discharge. If the outlet is too small, a stable arch may form and stop flow altogether.

Despite this, many hoppers are still built using standard wall angles – often around 60 degrees to the horizontal – without reference to the actual material being handled. Extensive testing has shown that such angles frequently fail to produce mass flow for common powders, particularly in conical hoppers. Adopting the design methodology of Jenike (reference) is an assured way of design for mass flow based on material characterisation tests.

Testing powders for real performance

Reliable design requires measurement. Wall friction testing quantifies how a powder interacts with specific surfaces under realistic loads, enabling calculation of minimum hopper wall angles for mass flow. A wall friction tester set up as shown in figure 2a can generate the data needed (figure 2b) for establishing features of this crucial characteristic.

Shear testing focuses on the most critical condition in practice: restarting flow from a fully consolidated state. From these tests, engineers can determine the outlet size required to prevent arches and rat holes.

Bulk density measurements under different stress conditions reveal how sensitive a powder is to handling. Ratios such as the Hausner ratio provide insight into how compaction worsens flowability, but density must always be considered alongside strength and friction.

Bringing the data together

One effective way to visualise powder behaviour is through a “spider” or radar diagram. This combines key parameters – wall friction, shear strength, bulk density, outlet size, mass flow wall angle, and density sensitivity – into a single profile. Easy-flowing materials produce compact, balanced diagrams, while problematic powders show pronounced spikes that highlight their weaknesses.

The diagrams can have quantified axis if the data from the tests on the large number of materials reported in (McGee, 2005) is used to define the ‘easy’, ‘average’ and ‘poor’ flow circles, Table 1.

Such characterisation profiles allow engineers to focus on the characteristics that matter most. One material may need larger outlets, another steeper

walls, and another smoother surfaces or modified feeders. In many cases, operational strategies such as limiting consolidation or disturbing the bulk before discharge can be just as important as hardware changes.

Designing for success

Bulk solids will never behave like liquids, but they do not need to be unpredictable. By understanding how powders develop strength, interact with surfaces, and change density under stress, engineers can design storage and handling systems that work reliably.

An example of applying these characteristics to a real industrial situation is shown below with the solution of a chisel shaped hopper offering steep walls and large outlet size determined by the characterisation tests (low bulk density, high shear strength and wall friction) described previously and fully served with extraction across the whole width and length of silo outlet by a screw feeder. The system then generating reliable mass flow with the poor flow polymer powder that comprised of many fine particles with springy, elastic properties that presented issues in other storage systems.

The key is to move beyond rules of thumb and treat powder flow as a measurable, characterisable engineering problem – one that deserves the same rigour as any other part of the process plant.

For more information:

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Circle	Wall friction (deg)	Bulk Density (kg/m³)	Shear strength (N/m²)	Hausner ratio	Outlet size (cm)	Mass flow Wall angle (deg)
Easy flow	< 20	1200	300	1.1	15	65
Average	25	800	1000	1.25	50	73
Poor flow	> 30	400	2000	1.5	100	80

Table 1: Parameters from tests on over 200 materials reported by McGee



Figure 4: Silo and integrated feeder design for mass flow based on material characterisation tests

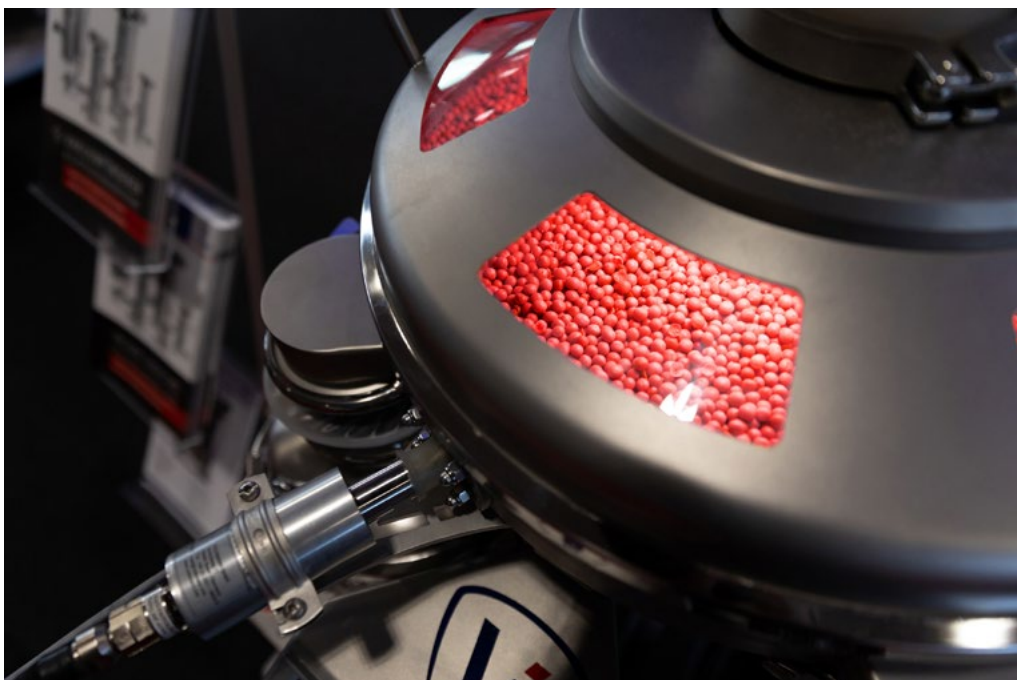


Dry bulk industry connects

Join EuroBulkSystems at the industry meeting place with a top-class supporting programme



SOLIDS Dortmund is where visitors can connect with industry experts



Discover new innovations in solids handling at SOLIDS Dortmund

SOLIDS Dortmund, the trade fair for granules, powders and bulk solids technologies, is celebrating its 20th anniversary on 18 and 19 March 2026. With a motto of 'Ideas that move. Solutions that stay,' this event is the place for professionals in the dry bulk industry to find efficient solutions for processing, handling, storing, transporting and analysing bulk solids. Exhibiting companies will present the entire spectrum of mechanical process engineering: from conveying, dosing and screening technology to crushing, mixing and storage technology to dust extraction, filtration and process automation solutions for fine to coarse-grained materials.

Alongside SOLIDS Dortmund, the RECYCLING-TECHNIK Dortmund trade fair for recycling technologies, will run in parallel, focusing on machinery, plants and components for recycling and environmentally friendly disposal. The close interconnection between the bulk solids and recycling industries generates valuable synergies in terms of resource-saving solutions, greater efficiency and sustainable approaches.

A who's who of the dry bulk industry

At SOLIDS & RECYCLING-TECHNIK Dortmund 2026, national and international companies will present new and proven technologies and solutions for the bulk solids, process and recycling industries in four halls. Returning exhibitors include AZO GmbH & Co. KG, EBRO ARMATUREN Gebr. Bröer GmbH, GKM Siebtechnik GmbH, Fr. Jacob Söhne GmbH & Co. KG, KITZMANN GmbH, REMBE® GmbH Safety+Control, SEW-EURODRIVE GmbH & Co KG and many more.

'SOLIDS Dortmund has been an integral part of our trade fair calendar for two decades – and it's hard to imagine our annual schedule without it. The personal atmosphere and valuable contacts make it unique,' emphasises Kevin Schneider, Sales/Marketing at GKM Siebtechnik GmbH.

In addition, trade visitors can also look forward to brand new exhibitors such as Fumex GmbH, Habasit GmbH, Heidland GmbH & Co. KG, IFA Technology GmbH, Michel Tube Engineering GmbH and S&Z Verpackung GmbH.

Synergies across co-located events

Both trade fairs focus on material flows and processing. But while SOLIDS Dortmund aims to take care of the big questions around dry bulk materials, RECYCLING-TECHNIK Dortmund is much more focused on the recycling and environmentally friendly disposal of waste products. Exhibitors at SOLIDS Dortmund will present the entire value chain of mechanical process engineering for fine to coarse-grained materials. How can bulk materials be efficiently processed, handled, stored,

transported and analysed? Visitors can find the answers with experts at the stands.

New process automation exhibition area

Visitors can expect numerous highlights, including a new exhibition area on process automation, a start-up area, live explosion demonstrations powered by REMBE, and a high-calibre programme of presentations across several stages.

In the Process Automation Special Area, visitors will gain insights into the latest developments in automation technology. The solutions presented are designed to help users make their production processes more sustainable and efficient. These include integrated services such as data integration and data analysis, cloud-based solutions, remote monitoring and control, predictive maintenance and real-time communication. The range is complemented by human-machine interfaces (HMI), manufacturing execution systems (MES), sensors, switches and control systems. These technologies are essential building blocks for increasing digitalisation and efficiency in the process industry.

In addition, visitors can look forward to the specially created start-up area, where young companies such as Mineral Waste Manager GmbH, Optocycle GmbH, Reuter Fertigungstechnik GmbH & Co. KG and TEL GmbH will be presenting themselves. They will also be showcasing their innovative products for the bulk solids and recycling industry through a presentation on the ImpulsCenter stage to a wide audience of experts.

Two days packed with knowledge – lectures and panels aplenty

The SOLIDS InnovationCenter I in Hall 4 offers trade visitors a series of high-calibre presentations by renowned experts reporting on research, development and future trends, including the importance of cybersecurity. The content is aimed in particular at trade visitors who are looking for new perspectives, ideas and inspiration for their everyday work. In addition to specialist topics, keynotes from outside the industry, such as from the world of football or management consulting, will enrich the programme.

The lecture forum by Dr.-Ing. Matthias Kaul from the Institute for Particle Technology at the Bergische University of Wuppertal will focus on 'Dust release during the handling of powders, granules and bulk materials'. Another topic by Prof. Rainer Barnekow from the Ostwestfalen-Lippe University of Applied Sciences focuses on innovative mixing processes for powders in the food industry.

At the SolutionCenter in Hall 5, numerous exhibitors will be presenting their products and



Connect with new potential solution providers



Learn from experts at the various forums

technologies on both days of the fair. Trade visitors will receive first-hand, practical information on specific solutions from the process industry and will be able to compare these directly with their own applications.

Furthermore, IND EX is organising a half-day Explosion Safety Forum. The event will take place on the morning of 18 March 2026 and is aimed at specialists and managers who are intensively involved in explosion protection and process safety.

Podcast with added value

The new podcast 'BULK TALK' provides the perfect preparation for the trade fair. With experienced experts, listeners can immerse themselves in specific industry topics and explore them in greater depth at the dual trade fair. The industry channel for an innovative bulk solids and recycling industry provides expert interviews, background stories and trends: from predictive maintenance to plastics and building material recycling to AI in production processes. Overarching issues such as skills shortages, diversity and resilient corporate culture are also discussed.

Worth a visit

Trade visitors will find concrete solutions to challenges in bulk solids handling, energy efficiency and process optimisation at SOLIDS and RECYCLING-TECHNIK Dortmund 2026. Two compact days with an exhibition and a varied supporting programme offer the opportunity to bring your specialist knowledge up to date, compare technologies live, expand your own network and actively shape the future of the bulk solids and recycling industry.

Use code 1608 to claim your free ticket:



Network and generate leads at SOLIDS Dortmund

Eriez expands European market presence

Eriez has expanded its European sales network as part of a broader regional growth initiative to strengthen customer support and accelerate responsiveness across key industrial markets.

This enhanced structure enables Eriez-Europe to deliver deeper technical expertise and more direct engagement with customers. These local insights in the mining, aggregates, recycling, food, packaging, and other process sectors are essential to achieving consistent performance and reliability.

New appointments to the Area Sales Manager team include Simo Rounela (Nordic Region), Jean-Christophe (Benelux), Joerg Baldauf (Germany), and Philippe Vallouy (Spain and Portugal). They join the established Eriez-Europe sales group – Lewis Railton (South UK), Gareth McCreesh (Ireland), and Manuel Andreis (Italy) – to provide cohesive coverage across the continent.

"Europe encompasses a wide range of industries, regulatory frameworks, and operating conditions," said Lloyd Williams, Sales Director of Eriez-Europe. "Expanding our in-region sales presence ensures customers have immediate access to knowledgeable Eriez professionals who combine local insight with the company's global engineering resources."

This regional framework reflects Eriez' ongoing strategy of integrating global innovation with localised expertise. By broadening in-territory representation, the company enhances its ability to collaborate closely with customers from project concept through execution, delivering solutions that provide measurable value.

"This growth initiative is about strengthening relationships as much as expanding reach," added John Klinge, Regional Director – EMEA Operations & Strategy. "With experienced sales managers positioned across Europe, we're better equipped to anticipate customer needs, respond swiftly, and deliver technologies that advance efficiency and performance."

New Eriez QRC kit advances metal detection and retail compliance worldwide

Eriez, a global leader in separation and inspection technologies, introduces the new Quality Retail Compliance (QRC) Kit, setting a new standard for metal detection performance and product safety. This innovative solution enhances the company's X8 metal detectors with intelligent automation and verification tools, enabling processors to meet and surpass the world's most rigorous retail and regulatory standards.

Developed in response to escalating food safety and quality demands – particularly within UK and European retail supply chains – the QRC Kit integrates state-of-the-art software and precision-engineered hardware to deliver exceptional inspection accuracy, traceability, and reliability. Automated monitoring and control functions provide users with complete confidence in system performance while

ensuring the transparency required by global compliance programs.

"The QRC Kit represents a transformative leap in retail-ready metal detection," said Emmett Keim, Eriez Global Product Manager for Inspection Systems. "It allows manufacturers to verify functionality automatically, maintain audit-ready documentation, and uphold brand integrity within a single, streamlined solution."

The QRC software features guided challenge testing, dependable fail-safe verification, and comprehensive event logging, automatically recording every reject and test action to simplify audit preparation and reporting. Optional hardware components, including reject-bin auto locks, tunnel guards, air pressure regulators, and photo-eye sensors, provide real-time oversight of critical inspection points. If any condition falls outside

specification, the system immediately halts operation and alerts personnel to ensure rapid correction and continuous product quality.

All new X8 metal detectors are now equipped with QRC software as standard, while existing users gain access at no additional cost. Compatible hardware retrofits extend these capabilities across legacy or mixed equipment fleets, promoting consistent compliance throughout plant operations.

Modeled after globally recognised retailer protocols for fail-safe inspection and data traceability, the QRC Kit reinforces Eriez' commitment to product safety and customer success. With advanced automation and data management capabilities, manufacturers can stay ahead of evolving regulations while maintaining the precision and dependability that define the Eriez brand.

Cavotec signs cable and hose reels order

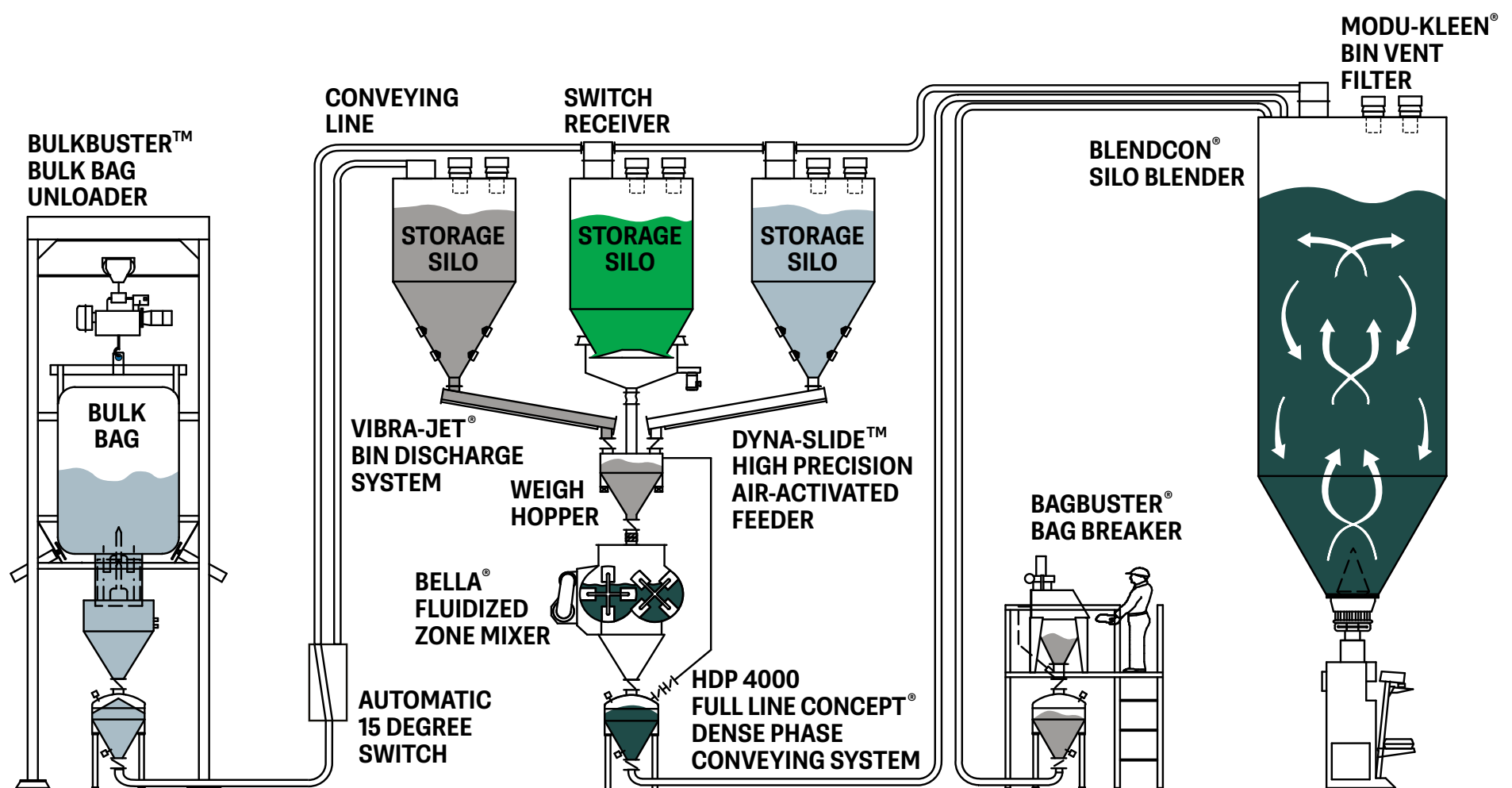
Cavotec has signed an order with TAKRAF India for the supply of cable and hose reel systems for one of Morocco's largest companies that processes and manufactures phosphate and sulphur.

The order comprises seven cable reel systems and six hose reel systems. The systems will provide safe and reliable power and fluid supply to bulk material handling equipment operating in harsh environments.

"This order expands our installed base at the end customer and strengthens our long-term partnership with TAKRAF," said David Pagels, CEO of Cavotec. "The order also supports our positions in both the growing mining and minerals sector in North Africa and in the bulk materials handling market."



SOLUTIONS *that Power Success*



Who We Are

Dynamic Air has over five decades of expertise in designing and manufacturing pneumatic conveying systems and equipment for handling dry bulk solids. We are a leading provider of custom solutions for the handling of bulk materials for processing businesses across various industries.

Our Approach

We never take a cookie-cutter approach just to cut costs up front; we know that the right solution will save you money in the many years to come. Our tailored solutions involve thoughtful planning, meticulous engineering and precise manufacturing that optimize efficiency and productivity.

Dynamic Difference

At Dynamic Air, we set the standard for excellence in bulk solids handling. With a relentless focus on quality, reliability, and customer satisfaction, we deliver reliable, high-quality pneumatic conveying systems, equipment, and custom solutions that exceed expectations.



Dense Phase Transporter



DC-5® Air Saver Control



Bella® Fluidized Zone Mixer



Blendcon® Air Blending Head

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