

Technical Visit to Brooks Andell

AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD ENGINEERING TECHNICAL DIVISION



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A author paid a technical visit to Brooks Andell at Causeway Park, Manchester, England, on 5 January 2010, to have a closer look at the manufacturing facilities to produce drive system components and conveyor chains. The parts, components and conveyor chains designed/produced from this particular plant are being widely used in many industries all over the world. In Malaysia, it has a big market share in the palm oil mill industry. The parts are also being used in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and South America.

Brooks Andell was established in 1973. Now with divisions in Southeast Asia and the United States, the company enjoys a well-deserved international reputation as a leading manufacturer and supplier of high quality engineered products. From precision gears to chain wheels, conveyor chains and adapted transmission chain, the company has the experience, expertise and product range required to meet the needs of the specialist industries throughout the world. Brooks Andell is operating seven days a week, and they have enjoyed and continue to enjoy significant growth developed within new and exciting industries both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

Brooks Andell specialises in providing bespoke manufacture to customer samples or original design, and all work is completed in accordance with ISO 9001: 2000. Brooks Andell's headquarters is situated on a 25,000m² purpose built site in Manchester, England, with easy access to the Manchester International Airport and the UK's national road and rail networks. When it comes to heavy duty chains, Brooks Andell is one of the UK's leading manufacturers. They offer a standard range of chains and sprockets from 6,000lb to 85,000lb breaking load and a special range up to 300,000lb. The production and design standards meet the requirements of BS EN ISO 9001: 2000, and full material certification together with the certification of all subsequent operations is freely available.

The capacity of palm oil mills has been growing from 10/20mt/hr throughput in the 1970s to 90/120mt/hr throughput in the late 2000s. Under such conditions, the conveying/elevating facilities within the plants have also increased and new chains with higher breaking loads have been coming into the industry. The correct and rightly selected sprockets and conveyor chains provide the assurance to maintain operations with very low downtime, maintenance and replacement cost.



Ir. Kumar Subramaniam with Mr. Ben Whitham, Marketing Director of Brook Andell



Production assembly plane with Mr. Andrew Whitham, the Technical Director



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The visit started with an introductory presentation by Mr. Andrew Whitham, followed by a visit to the production and assembly plant. The plant visit was joined by Mr. Ben Whitham, the Head of Marketing. The chain and sprocket designs are done in the UK, while Brooks Andell has a manufacturing plant in China to cater for the Southeast ASEAN demand. The assembly of the chains is done in Malaysia to cater for the palm oil industry in Malaysia, Indonesia and PNG.

The discussions after the visit focused on the direction of the palm oil mills, expansions in oil palm plantations and demand for more engineers and engineering services in remote areas. Drive systems installed in plants in remote areas need to be hardy and very reliable as backup services could be slow or non-existent at all in certain areas due to the remote location. Issues such as a significant reduction in power usage, the possibilities of using green technology and palm oil mills being standalone power plants were also discussed in great length.

The writer wishes to express his gratitude to Mr. Mike Whitham, the founder of the company, for making this visit possible and meaningful. ■



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| Invited Speakers | | | | | | | |
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