



Issue Date: WHEN - June 2005, Posted On: 6/1/2005

PT Techs HPTO Clutches Make Grinders Cost Effective

by Kelly Gates

Sharon Center, OH-based PT Tech was founded in 1978 as a maker of specialty clutches and brakes for the mining industry. Today, PT Tech designs and manufactures specialty clutches, brakes and torque limiting devices for a variety of applications including mining, wind turbines, road working equipment, recycling equipment, rock crushers, tub and horizontal grinders.

For the past seven years, PT Tech has been highly acclaimed for its standard line of Hydraulic Power Take-Offs (HPTO), a product line that covers diesel engines from 80 Hp all the way up to 1,600Hp.

This line of diesel engine clutches is hydraulically actuated and microprocessor controlled to provide reliable service in difficult environments, said Ralph Rogers, vice president of PT Tech.

"Our HPTO clutches are built to handle the rigorous duty cycle of heavy-duty grinders used throughout the recycling, mining and other materials-processing industries," said Rogers. "The on-board microprocessor controllers on our HPTO clutches are designed to warn the operator of pending system problems and to prevent operators from abusing the clutches." By taking the operator out of the equation, the life of most grinders is significantly prolonged, he added. To date, PT Tech's HPTO clutches have logged tens of thousands of hours in grinders throughout the world, due in large part to their extreme durability.

One company that is currently using HPTO clutches in a grinder is Martinsville, IN-based Forest Commodities.

Forest Commodities was established in 1997 as a wood recycling operation that would process and resell the wood by-product produced by the owner's existing saw mill.

In order to effectively process the amount of wood waste coming from the saw mill, the company purchased a single Lane Manufacturing grinder.

Every few years, Forest Commodities traded its grinding equipment in for larger units that boasted greater production capacity.

"We've always used Lane Manufacturing grinders and when we purchased our most recent grinder from them, it was outfitted with a PT Tech HPTO clutch," said Josh Mobley, yard foreman for Forest Commodities.

Indeed, the company's new Lane Manufacturing 5212 tub grinder was delivered to the company, complete with a durable HPTO clutch. The HPTO clutch not only presented maintenance efficiencies, but was also cost effective for Forest Commodities.

According to Rogers, many companies purchase clutches from overseas manufacturers, which is more expensive and typically results in a lower-quality product.

"Many of the clutches coming from overseas have antiquated designs that leave a lot to be desired," he said.

Mobley agreed, adding that the HPTO clutches are certainly more sophisticated. As an added benefit, having PT Tech in nearby Ohio also enables his company to quickly and conveniently contact the manufacturer whenever customer support is needed.

With customers like Forest Commodities reaping the benefits of PT Tech's state-of-the-art HPTO clutches, the manufacturing company is continuing its efforts to create newer, more technologically-advanced products.

"We're currently in the final development stage of our next generation microprocessor control system," said Rogers. "This new system improves on the already robust system by using "situational parametrics" to make real-time decisions regarding the operation of the clutch system."

Rogers expects the new controls package to be introduced to customers later this year.

For further information regarding PT Tech and its complete line, please call 330-239-4933 or fax 330-239-2012; go online at www.pttech.com

[Visit the PT Tech Website](#)

[Receive Product Information about PT Tech](#)