

Jennmar Opens Belt Conveyor Structure Plant in Russell County, Virginia



JM Conveyors New Plant in Lebanon, Virginia

On November 3, Jennmar held a ribbon cutting ceremony to open its new manufacturing facility in Lebanon, Russell County, Virginia. In the company of customers, local dignitaries and employees, Tony Callandra, Executive Vice President and Co-Owner of Jennmar, was joined by Gary Varney, Kendall Wright, Troy Dolan, and Shannon Wright at the event.

“We are very excited about the next few years in the coal industry under this government and have great pleasure in opening this plant,” said Callandra as he cut the ribbon to mark the official opening. “Already, JM Conveyors, a Jennmar affiliate, has become the largest distributor of conveyor belting in the United States through our alliance partnership with Fenner Dunlop and this plant we are opening today builds heavy duty conveyor systems to complement that product,” he explained. Callandra added that \$2 million of grants had been received to help toward start-up costs and thanked a number of organizations for their considerable help in making the move into the plant possible.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) worked with Russell County and the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) to secure the project. VCEDA approved a loan of \$1.5 million to the Industrial Development Authority of Russell County towards the purchase and equipping of the buildings and a grant from the Commonwealth’s Opportunity Fund of \$100,000 was made available. In addition, the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission approved \$215,000 in funds for the company. Funds for training activities are being provided through the Virginia Jobs Investment Program administered by VEDP. The Russell County Board of Supervisors, the Town of Lebanon, and New Peoples Bank all played a vital role in making this project successful.

After the plant tours guests and employees enjoyed a hearty BBQ lunch on the shop floor. The plant presently has 21 employees, who have been hired locally except for the Plant Manager, Gary Varney, who hails from Tennessee. Another 20 employees will be hired in the near future. The facility consists of two buildings: one of 40,000 sq. ft. and a second

one of 60,000 sq. ft. providing a large area for the manufacture and assembly of conveyor structure. Office space comprises an additional 3,000 sq. ft.

A display in the shop was set up for the visitors including both roof-hung and floor mounted structure. The roof-hung structure was for 60" belt width and complete with 6" diameter 3 roll 35 degree troughing idlers and 2 roll 'v' return idler assemblies. The floor-mounted structure was 54" belt width of catenary 3 roll design with 5" diameter rolls and tubular sides. Both fixed and adjustable legs are available.

The visitors toured the plant and saw the raw materials including the steel spindle rods and tubes. These are cut to length and machined using the latest design of machining centers. The end caps are welded to the tubes before the sealed for life grease-filled ball bearings and spindles are pressed into the tubes and the final roll assembly is completed before painting. Parts for the troughed idler frames are manufactured and the components welded together. The rolls are then mounted into the final assembly.

Jennmar Conveyors is well-placed for the future in moving into this large well-equipped plant. The combination of the wide range of Fenner Dunlop conveyor belting and the new line of Jennmar Conveyors structure brings together two highly-respected names and allows solutions to be provided for both large and small conveying projects primarily throughout the coal mining industry, as well as the automotive, aviation, construction, electronics, and transportation industries. The opening of the new plant clearly shows Jennmar's optimistic view of the coal mining industry both today and in the years ahead.



Tony Calandra Cuts the Ribbon



Tony Calandra



Kendall Wright



Troy Dolan



Shannon Wright



Gary Varney



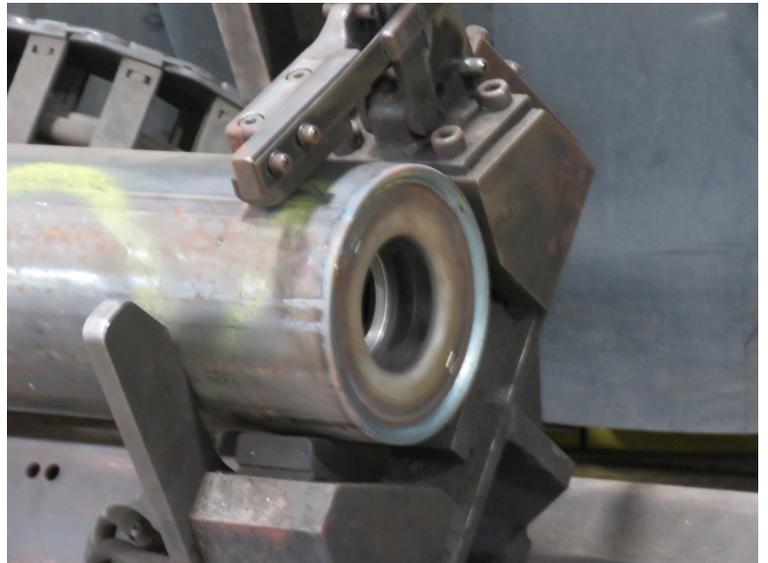
Steel Tubes Ready to Have End Caps Fitted and Welded



Steel Rods for Roll Shafts



Roll End Cap Welding Machine



Roll End Cap Being Welded



Roll Shaft Machining Center



Idler Frames in Manufacture



Rolls Being Assembled



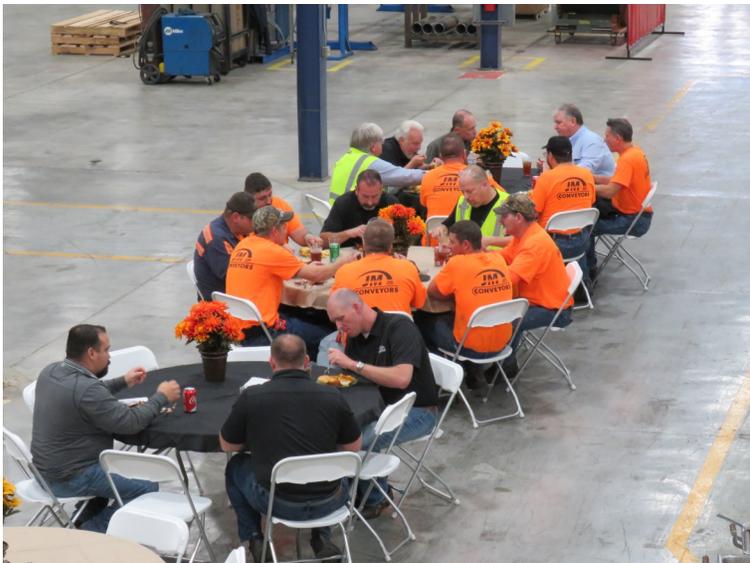
Floor Mounted Conveyor Structure



Guests Touring the Shop



Delicious BBQ Lunch Provided by Tony



Employees Enjoying Lunch



Kim Cranmer of Jennmar with Barbara Altizer, VCEA



Members of VEDP, VCEDA, VTRRC, Russell County Board of Supervisors, Town of Lebanon, New Peoples Bank, and VCEA



View Inside the Large Shop