

VIGAN builds strong relationships with Morocco

Morocco is a significant wheat producer, but also a major wheat importer as its consumption is far above the production rate. Moreover, its location and weather conditions cause instability in production.

The cereal import regulating government body, ONICL (Office National Interprofessionnel des Céréales et des Légumineuses), makes sure that the country does not run out of wheat.

Usually, once Moroccan farmers have sold all of their wheat, ONICL completes its stocks by reducing the import tariffs and making it easier for importers, namely coming from France and Northern Europe countries, United States and Canada.

ONICL has four grain silos located within the ports of Casablanca, Safi, Nador and Agadir.

These silos, managed by its subsidiary SOSIPO (Société des Silos Portuaires), control the unloading and transfer operations of grain imports.

VIGAN'S ROLE IN MOROCCAN GRAIN IMPORTS

VIGAN has been active in Morocco for 35 years and, notably, has established strong relationships with SOSIPO.

The first VIGAN pneumatic unloaders (two 160tph [tonnes per hour] NIVs) were installed in 1982 in the Port of Nador.

Later, in 1995, SOSIPO bought a further two VIGAN pneumatic unloaders — type NIV 250tph — for the Port of Casablanca.

In 2004, a new order for one NIV 300tph completed the series in the Port of Safi.

All these machines are still in operation and VIGAN is proud to continue servicing SOSIPO with the necessary spare parts.

In this context, two years ago, VIGAN carried out modifications on the two NIV 250tph from 1995 in the Port of Casablanca. VIGAN installed new multi-stage turbo blowers and electrical cabinets with frequency inverters to control the turbo blowers.

This has led to significant savings in energy consumption, thanks to:

- ❖ direct coupling instead of transmission belt;
- ❖ suppression of the mechanical air regulator. The air regulation is now controlled by the inverter; and
- ❖ when the suction is stopped by the operator or by the locking system, the inverter stops the blower, leading to additional cost savings during stoppages.

The machine already enjoyed very good capacity rates, but these modifications also resulted in:



VIGAN pneumatic unloaders installed in Casablanca 20 years ago.

- ❖ better control of hold cleaning due to the frequency variation; and
- ❖ lower necessary maintenance level resulting in reduced maintenance costs;

This is not the first time that VIGAN has suggested to its customers that they should put a new turbo-blower on their old machines, leading to energy savings estimated at $\pm 30\%$.

For ten years, this system of multi-stage turbo blower with frequency inverter has been a standard design on all VIGAN NIV models.

A NEW UNLOADER IN CASABLANCA

The Port of Casablanca is one of the largest ports in Morocco, and the grain trade is mostly related to wheat and corn imports. Two share this activity in Port of Casablanca: SOSIPO and Mass Céréales Al Maghreb, a port operator that uses a new terminal for grain unloading and storage.

They are both equipped with unloading gantries, conveyors for the transfer of grain, silos for the storage of cereals, and truck/railcar loading stations.

VIGAN has just installed its sixth machine in Morocco, which has been in operation since January 2017 at Mass Céréales Al Maghreb.



VIGAN multi-stage turbo blower.



*VIGAN NIV 600tph/500kW
installed at the new terminal
of Mass Céréales Al Maghreb
in the Port of Casablanca.*

The pneumatic unloading machine type NIV 600tph/500kW is on rails and has a rail span of 16m. The chain conveyor is equipped with five pneumatic valves, allowing either the alternative loading of three lines of trucks, the loading of railcars, or the feeding of the two quay conveyors to transfer grain to silos.

VIGAN NIV is equipped with a boom of 30m length, and is designed for the unloading of vessels up to 70,000dwt of wheat and corn.

With two electrical motors of 250kW, 400V, 50Hz with frequency inverter, the unloader has two four-stage turbo blowers with direct transmission and coupling.

This standard design VIGAN machine is particularly well-suited for final hold-clean up, and was principally chosen by the customer for this reason. Since then, VIGAN is proud that its equipment not only satisfies customer requirements, but has also been chosen to work every time a vessel needs to be unloaded.

Pneumat Systems' HopperPopper

ASSISTING BULK MATERIAL CLEAN-OUT FOR RAILCARS AND TRUCKS

The HopperPopper from Pneumat Systems assists in the unloading of DDGs (distiller's dried grains) and meal products from railcars or trucks by combining the power of compressed air blast technology with precise hydraulic controls. Through patent pending technology, the wirelessly controlled HopperPopper allows operators to position a hydraulically driven blast probe in the hopper compartment, blasting out bulk material bridges and hang-ups. The HopperPopper eliminates problems that come from banging, pounding and poking railcars or trucks, while decreasing unload times, reducing labour costs and minimizing worker compensation risks.

Pneumat's extensive experience — combined with custom engineered, innovative products — has been helping solve bulk material flow problems since 1982. Pneumat Systems products are designed to keep bulk materials moving in the ethanol, grain, cement, feed and coal industries. Pneumat's equipment solutions are designed for use with various materials including DDGs, powdered cement, coal, fertilizer, powdered chemicals, minerals, ash, biomass and more.

