

Feeding the

BEAST

A new feeder system helps regulate feed at Anderson Columbia Co., Inc.'s new Lake City plant.

Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. (ACCI) of Lake City, Fla., is a multi-dimensional company with diverse operations. Since its founding in 1958 as a local contractor, ACCI has grown to become one of the largest construction firms in the Southeast.

ACCI places a strong emphasis on its corporate philosophy of combining highly qualified personnel with state-of-the-art technology. The company strives to meet its core goal of providing professional services on schedule and within budget.

According to Dan Johnson, general manager at ACCI's corporate office in Florida, "Reliable, innovative equipment is the key to Anderson's success. That's why we choose our suppliers carefully. We have to be confident we can count on their equipment and their service."

Johnson explains that in the construction world, time is money. "In our business, keeping our projects on schedule is extremely vital to ensure deadlines are met and profits are protected. We seek equipment that requires minimal downtime and zero unnecessary repairs." He says that suppliers help them maintain their position as a leader in their field. "We depend on our equipment to operate within our requirements and perform without problems."

When ACCI selected one of its most recent suppliers, it was looking for a company to meet its needs, but found one that exceeded its expectations.

Small space, big expectations

The successful partnership began as ACCI searched for high-volume feeders to fit in a very small area. The company knew that the nature of the need would make finding the right solution a challenge. "Identifying cost-effective equipment to match our heavy material flow has been problematic," Johnson says, adding that after construction of the company's newest plant in Lamont, Fla., the need for new feeders became evident.

"The first company we looked at simply didn't have a feeder that could meet our needs, and we found their bulky product to be rather pricy and too difficult to fit our small application. We then looked at a second company that claimed it had a competitive product to offer us." Unfortunately, Johnson explains, that didn't work out either. "The product it offered didn't quite match the volume characteristics we were looking for."

At this point in the search, Erie, Pa.-based Eriez entered the mix.

ACCI management connected with a sales representative who suggested the High Volume Vibratory Feeder (HVF), a rugged unit capable of moving high volumes of bulk materials. The feeder

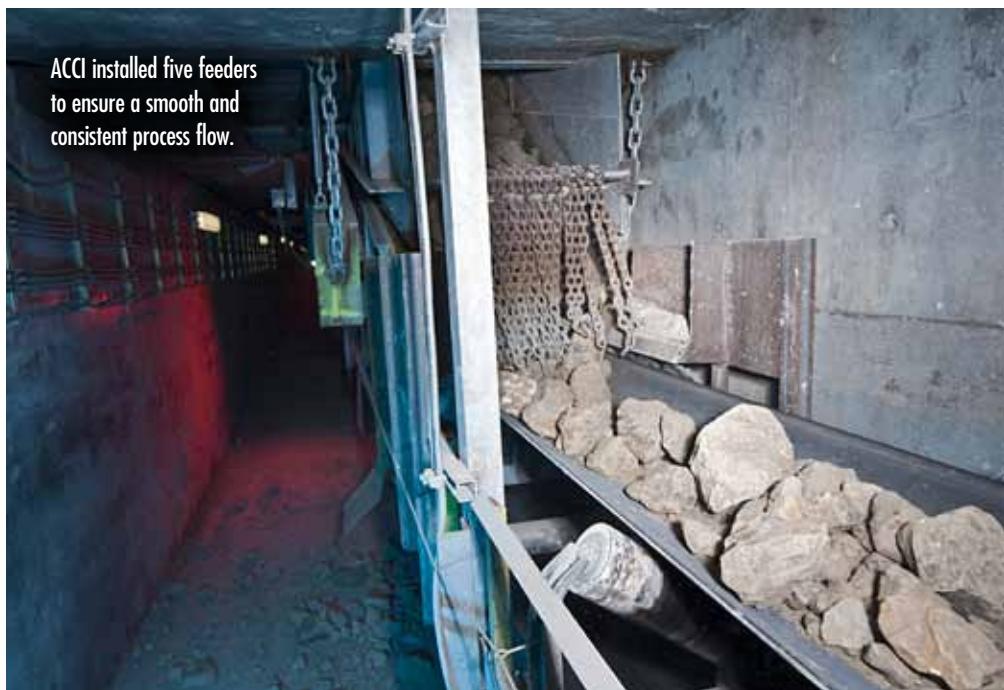
is a two-mass vibrating system, excited by a three-phase, 230/460 volt TEFC 60 Hz motor-driven shaft. Equipped with adjustable and removable angle rubber springs, the unit amplifies the motion of the trough to optimize the flow rate according to specific application requirements. It also offers a low profile and minimum headroom for installation. Based on what it learned, ACCI placed an order for five custom-designed units with a standard, variable frequency controller.

"Working with the sales team was a smooth process," Johnson says. "They listened attentively to our requests and fulfilled each one. The delivery and installation were exceptional as well. They delivered the products on time. The installation was clean, and there were no problems."

ACCI has been satisfied with the feeders, which are used to maintain a consistent and continuous feed rate to a crusher and screen. The five feeders are set up the same way to produce feed rates of 750 to 800 tons an hour. "That way we have the ability to switch from one to another. Eighty percent on one feeder is the same as 80 percent on the next one and so on," Johnson says. "Therefore, if we set one at 90 percent, we're getting so many tons an hour. Then we can go to the next feeder and run it at 90 percent for the same results." To help ensure processing accuracy is maintained, ACCI also purchased a belt scale, as well as a suspended electromagnet to remove tramp metal from the product flow.

"The magnet is now in operation at the Lamont plant, and it's performing as promised. I expect it to operate for 10 to 15 years, at least," Johnson says, noting that — based on his experience with the supplier and its products — he would not be surprised if the magnet exceeded that expectation. **AM**

This article is courtesy of Eriez.



ACCI installed five feeders to ensure a smooth and consistent process flow.