

PulseFlow sets fresh standards for healthcare laundering



BEST IN EVERY WAY: The Goodwill healthcare laundry in Miami aims to be state-of-the-art in every respect

When non-profit company Goodwill Industries diversified into healthcare laundering it aimed to build a plant that would represent the ultimate in state-of-the-art design for the sector throughout the USA. The company knew it needed to do its homework thoroughly

Goodwill Miami's CEO Dennis Pastrana, senior vice president Peter Roberts and vice president Harry Ramsarran approached Ralph Tuccillo at Milnor's authorised dealer Steiner-Atlantic Corporation with a request for proposal (RFP) to "build one of the most state-of-the-art healthcare laundries in the USA."

Tuccillo jumped at the opportunity and advised the Goodwill team on the benefits of PulseFlow® Technology, which include minimal fresh water consumption, uncompromising wash/rinse quality and faster process times.

After weighing the options, Milnor's PulseFlow Technology proved a decisive factor and the Goodwill team chose Steiner-Atlantic over the other equipment manufacturers that bid on the project.

Dennis Pastrana said that Goodwill's entry into the healthcare laundry business was "a bold decision" that took eight years to materialise. The move is expected to reinforce

the diversified entrepreneurial activities that generate the revenues to support the human-services mission of the Miami-based non-profit company.

David Graumlich, the laundry manager at the Goodwill plant, said that Ralph Tuccillo was the key person on the project from the beginning. He was on the site every day and his input was instrumental in deciding the laundry's layout and in the choice of a "shuttleless" design.

The plant is energy efficient, thanks to the two Milnor 76039 PulseFlow tunnels. These eight-module, 68kg (150lb) washers each process up to 2,100kg (4,700lb) hourly.

They are true top transfer machines and the interrupted counterflow allows an average fresh water consumption of only 3.49litres/kg (0.42gallons/lb). The PBW™ washers will help the laundry save over 5.6million litres (15million gallons) of fresh water.

Goodwill has installed two Milnor MP1656 single-stage presses to extract moisture from the processed goods. Each has a capacity of 68kg (150lb) and is rated at 56bar.

These presses are efficient and have reduced maintenance requirements. The optional door-mounted exhaust fan eliminates chemical vapour exhaust and the standard ratcheting ram device rotates the ram 10degrees after each pressure to prevent wear on the diaphragm.

The presses also have a wider basket that produces thinner

EFFICIENT AND HYGIENIC: Milnor's PulseFlow Technology is central to the Goodwill healthcare laundry concept helping the laundry to save water, boost productivity and ensure strict hygiene. Here the tunnels are being loaded in the "soiled side of the laundry"





ECO EFFICIENT: The plant is eco efficient and its two Milnor PBW™ tunnel lines process up to 2,100kg (4,700lb) per hour with an average fresh water consumption of 3.49litres/kg (0.42gallons/lb)

cakes that retain less moisture and therefore need less drying time. Goodwill's ten 64058 pass-through dryers are energy efficient thanks to the dryer pod configuration that prevents bottlenecks and increases productivity. The dryer pod design eliminates the need for shuttles in the laundry, promoting safety in the workplace.

Graumlich says that the dryer pod design goes "hand-in-hand" with Goodwill's concept of uninterrupted service to its hospital customers. This design means that "there is one fewer major component and production pinchpoint to fail" and he adds that all managers know the importance of that factor.

The laundry began operation in September 2013 and by early 2014 production had reached 5,445,000kg (roughly 12million lb). By working double shifts, it hopes to eventually achieve 18,000,000kg (40million lb).

The PulseFlow tunnel lines are used for processing work for large hospitals but the Goodwill laundry also operates a parallel section of washers and dryers to handle work from smaller contracts such as rehabilitation homes, neighbourhood clinics, nursing homes, assisted living accommodation and smaller hospitals.

This dual washing line helps to maintain the same cost effectiveness and efficient service for smaller contracts as that enjoyed by high volume customers.

The plant is designed as a (true) barrier laundry with a



SAFE AND DRY: The dryer pod avoids the need for shuttles and helps to promote safe operation



HYGIENIC SEPARATION: A barrier wall runs throughout the plant to ensure separation between soiled and cleaned linen. The plant has two Milnor Staph Guard barrier washers and plans to install two more

barrier wall running through the whole plant, along with negative air engineered egress openings.

In line with Goodwill's barrier concept, the laundry has two 42044 Milnor Staph Guard® barrier washers, each with a capacity of 100kg (220lb). Goodwill plans to install two more Staph Guard washers soon.

The laundry features many safeguards – such as backup generators – to ensure a smooth operation under adverse conditions, even during and after hurricanes.

CEO Pastrana is particularly proud of the laundry's proximity to Liberty City. Once the laundry reaches its full 18,000,000kg (40million lb) operating capacity, it will create 200-plus jobs to help a community with a level of unemployment that is triple that of the whole of Miami-Dade County.

As a business enterprise with a social mission, Goodwill uses the revenues generated by its four entrepreneurial divisions to significantly support its combination of rehabilitation-driven work programmes and the creation of employment opportunities.

Goodwill Industries has four entrepreneurial divisions: Donated goods; apparel/flag manufacturing; commercial services and service contracts. The new industrial laundry will be part of the service contracts' division.

All members of the Goodwill Industries Miami team are thrilled with the laundry project.

Both Milnor (established 1947) and Steiner-Atlantic Corporation (established 1959) have been in business for several generations. Goodwill is confident that with the help of these longstanding companies, it will be able to provide the best service for customers throughout Southern Florida.

Laundry manager Graumlich said: "It was important for Goodwill to partner with a company with a long sustainable history so we can provide the best service for our healthcare partners and our associates that we want to help and employ."

Milnor now has over 150 PBW tunnel installations throughout the world and the whole laundry industry has recognised the importance of this revolutionary tunnel washing concept. In every market sector, both new build laundries and upgraded plants have testified to the inherent benefits of PulseFlow Technology. ■