Progress through the PANDEMIC

Giuseppe Mapelli, Bedeschi Spa, provides an update on the company's operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, and discusses new contracts covering a range of materials handling equipment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe and unforeseen global impact, and has forced all industrial sectors to make unprecedented choices and to rethink certain business models.

From an economical point of view, the pandemic has hit consumption heavily and slowed down investments, especially in Q2 and Q3 of 2020, by affecting markets at a global level.

However, in the second half of 2020, the construction industry recovered in most of the major markets, having suffered record declines in the first half amid the restrictions on activity imposed to contain the spread of the pandemic. Despite a renewed spike in infections in the latter part of 2020, the construction industry in general has been permitted to continue. GlobalData[1] expects that global construction output will expand by 4.5% in 2021 considering that many governments will attempt to advance spending on infrastructure and transport and energy utilities.

Progress through the pandemic

During this difficult period, Bedeschi established two priorities: to maintain a certain level of productivity while safeguarding employees. The company's entire workforce came out in support of the company, backed the decisions made and demonstrated a sense of loyalty, highlighting how success depends on people and stakeholders.

Customers also remained loyal, a fact that Bedeschi attributes to its ability to create stable and long-lasting relationships, as well as an ongoing focus on new applications and tailor-made solutions, and a commitment to reducing operating costs and pursuing environmental goals especially in the cement sector. In the cement industry in particular, the company's activities have never stopped despite all the difficulties caused by the pandemic.

The company recently signed a contract with Lafarge Cement. The new order for the plant in Poland will include the refurbishment of existing storage with the installation of two new semi portal reclaimers – Pal SP 130/18 for limestone at a capacity of 340 tph each and a new crushing system featuring two RI 450/1500 double roller crushers to reduce gypsum, correctives and other cement additives.

In addition to this, another order has been won from Dangote Ciment in Niger. The project scope includes the supply of a stacker STK with a capacity of 1000 tph, and a reclaimer PAL T with a capacity of 440 tph for limestone.

There's no doubt that the lockdowns and restrictions established in many countries made operations more complicated, but Bedeschi was still able to continue some plant operations. For example, in China (Yunnan), for the client Sinoma Nanjing, field operators were at site to oversee the supply of two reclaimers (type BEL C) and three stackers (type STK P) for a mix of clay and coal with a capacity of 470 tph.

Technology focus

The Bedeschi BEL C, is composed of an interconnected system with a tripper, two bridge stackers and one overhead bucket reclaimer, to provide a complete remote automatic material stacking and reclaiming process. The storage process foresees the making of two piles – one pile in stacking operation and the other one in reclaiming operation at the same time. The system has an automatic coordination of stacker and reclaimer to ensure safe operation without any risk of collision.

Bedeschi Bel C works especially well with moist, plastic and sticky materials and it is able to: minimise spaces used, provide high homogenisation of materials in stock, and reclaim every type of raw material.

Bedeschi BEL C system for Sinoma Nanjing (China).

Bedeschi shiploader for cement for Al Sarh Trading Co. (Oman).

Port & logistics equipment

For the cement industry, Bedeschi also designs and engineers port logistics equipment. Indeed, the company's latest project in Ghana (Port of Takoradi) includes the supply of handling equipment and services for bauxite and manganese for export and clinker for import. Bedeschi will supply three conveyor belts with a total length of approximately 3 km and an eco-hopper for handling clinker. The shiploaders and the eco-hopper will be delivered fully erected from the company's shipyard directly to the client jetty via a dedicated heavy lift vessel. With regard to environmental standards, the project is state-of-the-art and has a dust collection and de-dusting system specifically designed for this application. Additionally, all the conveyors are closed, including the section where tippers and eco hoppers are in operation.

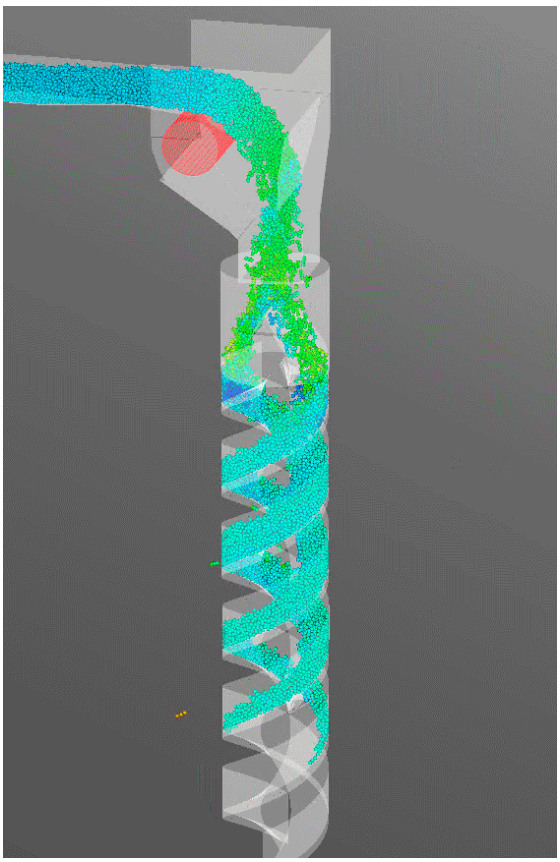
Another client, Al Sarh Trading Co., has commissioned Bedeschi for the supply of handling equipment to operate in Oman (Khatam Malaha). The equipment includes three conveyor belts with a total length of 4.3 km and a capacity of 2000 tph for the handling of gabbro and other materials. The last section of the conveyor is engineered for offshore installation, with a self-holding galleries structure installed above pylons. Approximately 2 km out in open sea, there is a luffing and slewing shiploader, with a capacity of 2000 tph, designed to load vessels up to 55 000 DWT. It is installed on an offshore platform and is designed to work on both sides of the platform with boom of 30 m.

An eye on the environment

Every item of equipment from Bedeschi is designed to be eco-friendly and meet sustainability standards. The prevention of pollution is the company's primary objective throughout the supply chain. Thanks to investment into research and development and a commitment to green technology, the company is able to apply systems to control dust production, such as controlled flow spouts, filters and dry fog that use microdroplets of nebulised water to keep the surrounding environment clean, and much more. ■

Reference

1. GlobalData – Construction impact assessment, p. 84.



Example of a Bedeschi dust control system for green technology.