



AGI, IFC partner to improve Ukrainian farms sustainability

KIEV, UKRAINE — Ag Growth International (AGI) announced on Jan. 15 that it has partnered with International Finance Corp. (IFC) to assist small and medium farms in Ukraine to become more sustainable producers by educating them on post-harvest storage of grain and establish financing solutions for these new technologies.

“In North America, most grain farms consider an acceptable level of loss due to spoilage to be less than 1%. We see many farms in other parts of the world regularly lose 15% or greater due to lack of or improper storage. That’s a direct hit to the bottom line of the farm and can be the difference between being a viable business or not. We are excited about teaming up with IFC, leveraging our knowledge and experience in other markets to the benefit of Ukrainian producers.” said Gary Anderson, president and chief executive officer of AGI.

The first step will be to create a training program designed to edu-

cate farmers about the technologies available and the economics of grain storage systems allowing them to make an informed decision about what is right for their operation. A key component of the training program will be demonstration farm systems showcasing proven grain storage solutions supplied by AGI.

“Farmers often learn best from other farmers, and the most effective way to convince them that a concept will work is with successful local referrals. We hope to have the demonstration farms up and running in 2014, using them as a gathering point for group learning. The demo sites will also allow us to train our network of dealers to be able to reach even more small and medium-sized farms that need grain storage solutions,” said Anderson.

IFC will build upon its previous work in the region to create a financing solution for on-farm storage purchases by small and medium farms via Ukrainian banks.



Fundiciones Balaguer building facility in Poland

OSTROW WIELKOPOLSKI, POLAND — Balaguer East Europe, a subsidiary of Fundiciones Balaguer, broke ground Dec. 20 on a new service facility in Ostrów Wielkopolski, Poland

In 2010, the company established a pilot project to test the idea of creating subsidiaries in Central Europe and the selected country was Poland. The aim of the project was to test customer interest in the modern center and directly reach out to roll users.

Ostrów Wielkopolski is located in the center of Europe and has qualified staff with experience in machining. The city is also the perfect point of contact for manufacturers and target customers. The project was welcomed by the local authorities. They actively participated in the development of the Polish company, providing assistance in obtaining

permits for business activities and building permits. The mayor granted exemptions from taxes, thus helping the launch of the company.

After completing and training staff in Fundiciones Balaguer in Spain, production facilities were leased in Ostrów Wielkopolski for a trial period.

The plant was equipped with modern equipment for regeneration of rolls: grinders, CNC groovers, sandblasting machines and a CNC balancer. As part of the regeneration services, all rolls are subjected to a dynamic balance control, and if necessary, appropriate adjustments are made.

The roll regeneration services for grinding and matting are performed up to the diameter of 630 mm and a length of 3,000 mm, and for grooving in the diameter range of 450 mm and a length of 2,000 mm. All services



Balaguer broke ground on a service facility in Poland. Photos courtesy of Balaguer.



The new Balaguer service facility is equipped with modern equipment for regeneration of rolls, grinders, CNC groovers, sandblasting machines and a CNC balancer.

are performed on CNC equipment by trained and experienced staff with an accuracy of up to 0.01 mm.

The plant also repairs damaged rolls, including replacement of roll necks. It also provides the gravitational transport systems based on products of the German company KMH, including installation, rolls exchange services, gears for roller mills, crushers, spare parts, maintenance and technological projects (aspiration lines, pneumatic and gravity transportation).