Case history

Una partnership efficace

per un ambizioso rinnovamento





• gennalo 2024 • IOTIZIARIO CHIMICO FARMACEUTICO

Effective partnership for a valuable renovation

The collaboration with Amira, V-PHP bio-decontamination solutions specialist, enabled C.O.C. Farmaceutici to upgrade microbiological contamination control systems achieving greater efficiency while limiting business interruptions.

Founded in 1990 in Sant'Agata Bolognese as Chemical Organic Compound, C.O.C. Farmaceutici is active in the contract manufacturing, filling and packaging of pharmaceuticals and medical devices in liquid form in the ophthalmic, nasal and respiratory fields. It has also operated a production site in Rovereto sul Secchia near Modena since 2002 and has been owned by private equity fund Aksia Group since 2016. Thanks to the acquisition of Tubilux Pharma, ophthalmic products specialist located in metropolitan city of Rome, in 2020 it formed Content Group. It is a major player in Europe and has customers all over the world: last year it recorded a turnover of EUR 77,3 million and expects to reach EUR 96 million by the end of 2023. Two of its plants are authorised by AIFA; one is FDA-approved. With a workforce of 470, it boasts 18 filling lines and 14 secondary packaging lines. For the future it aims to consolidate business in the Middle East, North Africa and the USA as well as in Europe.

Impulse for growth

Following the introduction of the well-known Annex 1, C.O.C. Farmaceutici found itself in the need to upgrade its facilities. "Among the raised requirements," Antonio Pinna - Plant Director/QP - comments, "there was the need to update the biodecontamination system for classified environments. We needed a solution that was more effective than the existing one and such that it could be implemented in a non-invasive way in order to minimise production stoppages". When it came to selecting a suitable partner, the choice fell on Amira, a company based in Lombardy with robust experience and know-how in V-PHP (Vapour-Phase Hydrogen Peroxide). "The use of hydrogen peroxide in vapour phase," explained Angelo Delmiglio – Amira CEO, "enables a wide spectrum of microorganisms to be eliminated quickly and effectively. Our field expertise and in-depth knowledge of this technology enabled us to demonstrate how V-PHP cycles can meet Annex 1 requirements for the bio-decontamination of isolators, clean rooms and RABS. The reasons coincide with their effectiveness, given the proven constant and reproducible 6-log reduction of the most resistant microorganism Geobacillus stearothermophilus on exposed surfaces, and with reliable results over time, even in the case of complex layouts. Finally, with **safety**, as V-PHP is a perfectly safe and environmentally friendly sporicidal agent, transforming into oxygen and water once the decontamination process is completed'.

Courtesy translation of the article published in June 2024 issue (n. 1) of Italian magazine 'NCF – Notiziario Chimico Farmaceutico'

siti dell'Annex I per qual che siquarde la biodecentaminazioni di la regioni cincidenco una la brea dell'accione con la lore dell'accione conta la regioni cincidenco contante e riproducchile di chi godi micregnatismo più ratione contante e riproducchile di chi godi micregnatismo più ratione contante i periodichile di sistente Geologica transvogali e si si tentito di contanto di contanto, a contanto di contanto di tenti di contanto di contanto, a contanto di contanto di grando di transformazio i lossigno a copsa una volta terminato il praco grando di transformazione.

nacqua una volta terminato il promozza masso di decontaminaziones. Stretegie condivise affrontar a comunanza degli intenti e della tenza an

La commanza a oggi initiat si edita la commanza a oggi initiat si edita la commanza a oggi initiat si edita si edita di la commanza di colle prima battura l'approccia di edila prima battura l'approccia cissimilità a capetità di requestira è si edita di consultati di requestira. A questio manta aggiunta, mencondo Pittan, avvanta aggiunta condo Pittan, avvanta aggiunta de la terra di prima di

affrontare e risolvere con compe tenza anche le situazioni più sfi danti, offrendo un approccio con sulenziale per le varie fasi de progetto e fornendo una soluzioni chiari in mano.

Goddisfiere le richierte in termini di corrisponderax in solizione proposta e implementata si prospetto dei sumpi concrediti - ha contribionato Dalmiglio- ha signiciato per nofa rasentrie sicurce discinar per nofa rasentrie sicurce un distrata guartione del piano, un distrata guartione del piano, contrate que a superiori del piano del proposito del proposito del proposito si productiva contrata del proposito del



tutte. di principale risolate oste Statige unto - ha conclusio - de de dalla moddificazione per l'uner compitato diun addetun addificazione per l'uner compitato diun addetun addificazione per l'uner compitato produttiva di outo de diun a sittema di bodecionatamie efficies, completamente una compitato produttiva di outo di materia antienta produci di OP di fi attentivamenti la compitato di OP di fi attentivamenti la compitato di OP di fina fanti realizzationi di additivamenti la compitato di OP di materia di appronosa di di mirra ci hanno convinto a colivolgene la partere i nu sulteriore progetto.

• gennaio 2024 • NOTIZIARIO CHIMICO FARMACEUTICO

Shared strategies

The commonality of intent and vision of the two companies was immediately evident. Right from the outset, C.O.C. Farmaceutici appreciated Amira's 'scientifically impeccable' approach and ability to focus the 'different aspects' of the issues and problems involved. To this must be added, according to Pinna, 'the clarity of exposition' of the partner's staff and 'the professionalism shown with full respect for the project's timeframe and execution methods'. Delmiglio and his team proposed COMBO as the optimal solution. The CEO explains "It is a piping system with multiple injection points that, combined with the use of Bioreset® generators, allows the homogenous distribution of the right amount of decontamination agent in several areas simultaneously. Our multidisciplinary team of engineers and biologists is able to competently address and solve even the most challenging situations, offering a consultative approach for the various project phases and providing a turnkey solution".

Safety as goal

Antonio Pinna - plant director and Qualified Person at C.O.C. Farmaceutici, described the COMBO system as follows: "It consists of a vaporised hydrogen peroxide generator, the Bioreset® PLUS 21 CFR model, and a piping network equipped with automatic closing caps installed in class B rooms. An anticondensation system for pipes heating and another dedicated system for extracting hydrogen peroxide complete the system which is controlled and supervised by a PLC and a dedicated human-machine interface (HMI)".

After the contract was signed, every step of the project was outlined in a very short time, highlighting the stages that would require production downtime. "Once these critical phases had been adapted within the scheduled company shutdowns," said Pinna, "Amira's staff optimised all the steps to arrive at a validated plant delivery date. In addition, throughout the installation Amira supervised the assembly activities of the plant, in coordination with our local suppliers".

Present and future

"Satisfying the requirements in terms of matching the proposed and implemented solution and meeting the agreed timeframe," Delmiglio emphasised, "has meant for us making the customer feel secure. This required careful management of the plan, clear communication, constant commitment, open collaboration and attention even to the smallest details'.

On values such as 'passion, honesty and competence' Amira historically bases its work and 'the quality of the relationship with its interlocutors', as Angelo Delmiglio remarked, with a view to the longest possible relationship. The premises, according to Antonio Pinna, are all there. "The main achievement," he concluded, 'is the satisfaction of having taken a step forward. Our production plant is now equipped with an effective, fully automated bio-decontamination system and this, in my role as QP, gives me peace of mind. The approach and expertise shown by AMIRA's staff in environmental bio-decontamination field convinced us to involve the partner in a further project, again in the area of micro-contamination control.