

## Spiroflow Bulk Bag Discharger Alleviates Back Problems for Major Industrial Coatings Manufacturer

### Customer Requirements

A customer who produces coatings for architectural finishes needed a better way to process one of the functional chemicals used to produce its paint base product.

Previously the product was delivered in 220 lb. bags that were manually emptied into a storage silo that fed digesters. Manually emptying such heavy bags caused back injuries for operators resulting in pain and lost company time.

The problem was extremely difficult to resolve because the silo which fed the digesters was mounted on a mezzanine floor with a low, sloping overhead roof. A bulk bag discharger was clearly needed because the functional chemical was being delivered in such heavy bags but it was clear from the onset that the discharger would need to be retrofit into the available space. Additionally the mezzanine floor was not accessible by forklift truck so the bulk bags would need to be hoisted on to the discharger.

The Engineering Project Manager was challenged with the problem and contacted Spiroflow Systems for a solution.

### Spiroflow Solution

Spiroflow engineers visited the site to determine how a bulk bag discharger could be best installed. For this complicated application, the discharger would be suspended through the mezzanine floor. The only compromise would be that operators would have to kneel to reach the dust cabinet in order to untie the neck of the bulk bags, a small price to pay for the heavy lifting that was previously required.

Forklift trucks now lift the material from the ground floor to the mezzanine floor. It is then moved to the front of the bulk bag discharger by electric pallet truck and hoisted into place by an ultra low-profile electric hoist that runs along a runway beam. Spiroflow supplied the hoist plus all electronic controls for the discharger and its integral conveyor.

During a typical two-shift day, three bulk bags are emptied. The Engineering Project Manager is pleased with the installation and the custom design of the new Spiroflow Bulk Bag Discharger. "Our operators are pleased with the new system and the company is no longer experiencing the lost man hours. And, of course, there are the additional benefits of lower cost materials when bought in bulk and less waste with reusable bulk bags," he said.



Front view of Bulk Bag Discharger



View from the rear of the Discharger