

## Hartness Attends State of the Art Plant Opening in Japan

Under the shadow of Mount Fuji, Hartness International recently attended the opening of Shikoku Kakoki's newest facility at Fuji-Oyama, Japan. Headquartered in Tokushima, Shikoku Kakoki is a global leader in filling, carton forming and processing technology, as well as food production. The Fuji-Oyama Food Factory is Shikoku's 5<sup>th</sup> production facility and will serve as the company's benchmark as it relates to "automaton, work saving, and environmental" responsibility. The facility features state of the art packaging equipment technology, innovative manufacturing techniques, and tight quality control. Perhaps most importantly, the products produced at the Fuji-Oyama plant are made using pure mountain water from Mt. Fuji.

The Fuji-Oyama Food Factory was built based on 3 Centers of Excellence. Productivity increase, energy savings, and environmental responsibility were all strongly considered in the design and execution of the site. The 23,388 m<sup>2</sup> facility, is on a 7,180m<sup>2</sup> campus, and currently houses 2 liquid packaging lines. It is designed for maximize efficiency of not only production lines, but also around ecological concerns. The facility utilizes a recuperative system to reuse cooling water and "cool chamber machine" which greatly reduces emission of CO<sub>2</sub>. "Plant logistics were also greatly considered in the design," says a company representative. "The plant was designed with economical movement of people/products which was done by engineering knowledge of Shikoku Kakoki group. What's more, the factory includes an innovative helical accumulation system for brick pack, and which enables a higher rate of operation."

The two packaging lines both contain helical Hartness Dynacs, designed to accumulate, as well as to buffer products between the Shikoku filler and downstream equipment. Hartness International is the only non-Japanese equipment company to have supplied packaging equipment for the state of the art line.

"Shikoku Kakoki is a company that is well known around the world for supplying state of the art technology and the highest quality workmanship. It is an honor to be associated with a company like this. The Fuji-Oyama



*Pictured under the cherry blossom trees are from left: Mr. Masaki Kawamura, Deputy General Manger of Engineering of Shikoku and Mr. Junichi Miyake, General Manager of Sales of Shikoku; Scott Smith, Vice President of Global Sales and Marketing for Hartness; Mr. Ryo Iizuka of D.I.E.C.; Hiroshi Asai, Executive Director of Sales for Shikoku Kakoki.*

facility is very beautiful and truly a showcase for our Dynac technology," says Scott Smith, Hartness' Vice President of Global Sales & Marketing, who attended the opening at Fuji-Oyama as a guest of Mr. Shigeru Ueda, President and C.E.O. of Shikoku Kakoki.

While Shikoku Kakoki is a leader in filling, carton forming and processing technology for paperboard brick packs, the company also provides packaging materials for food products, such as plastic cups, sealing film, aluminum foil, and shrink wrapping film. To the Japanese consumer, however, the company is best known for as a leading supplier of soybean-based foods, including the tofu or bean curd that has been selling in domestic Japanese markets under the brand of "SATONUYUKI" for over 30 years.

Headquartered in Tokushima, the company has offices in Germany, the United States and throughout Japan.