

Philippines' leading integrator chooses single stage option

Poultry production in the Philippines, like elsewhere in the world, is currently impacted by high corn and soya prices but, prior to this, things were going well. Recently, International Hatchery Practice visited the country and went to San Miguel's newest hatchery, which is operated by LDP Farms Food Corporation.

The company started processing chickens in the Philippines in 1996 and then in 2002 they went into ice production and cold storage. In 2008-9 they expanded and renovated their poultry processing operation, which in 2004 had become a toll plant for the major Filipino integrator San Miguel. That plant is now dedicated to producing product for export to Japan.

In 2011 the company took the decision to build a 2,600m² hatchery to supply day old chicks to San Miguel on a 4.6 hectare site that they already owned. Building started in October 2011, the hatchery was blessed in August 2012 and the following month the first eggs were set.

The relationship between the companies is one in which San Miguel pay LDP for the hatching eggs and this price includes the cost of incubation and producing the chicks. If a certain hatchability is not achieved a penalty clause trips in, which is significant for LDP as this has a motivational effect to do well!

They decided to use Petersime incubators, making this the first Petersime hatchery



The entrance area at the hatchery.

associated with San Miguel. Previously, they had used two American incubator manufacturers for their incubators.

This choice was based on LDP Farms Food Corporation's perception of the quality of the craftsmanship in the Petersime machines and San Miguel's desire to go into single stage machines that can be easily fine-tuned. In addition, when it came to presentations from prospective incubator suppliers, Petersime's was easy to under-

stand. So, LDP visited Belgium and saw some Petersime hatcheries – and again they were impressed. They also liked the accompanying technologies and the fact that the machines were easy to clean and, therefore, hygienic.

The hatchery has 24 AirStreamerPlus setters and six corresponding hatcher. With these it processes some two million eggs a month.

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Traying up and, right, eggs ready for incubation.

