

ArcelorMittal chooses Plattco valves to make operations more efficient at integrated steel mill

Kelan Nowak had three things in mind when he decided to upgrade the double-flap valves on fume collection bag houses at the ArcelorMittal integrated steel mill in Burns Harbor, Indiana.

A mechanical project engineer at one of ArcelorMittal's largest facilities in the US, Nowak needed valves that sealed 100% every time so no particulates would trigger alarms in the smokestack. Second, he needed valves that could be maintained in the field in little time and with virtually no tools. And third, he needed a valve provider that delivered excellent service.

Nowak got all three when he chose to install Plattco's 8" electric H-0812 Double Flap Airlock Valve. The search for new valves was prompted by a poor experience Nowak had with another company's double flap valves. "We didn't have a lot of success with the competing valves," he explains. "From day one, they leaked. I could put my hand on the vent and feel that it was sucking air constantly. That told me they weren't working properly."



Disappointed with the product performance, Nowak contacted the manufacturer only to be disappointed again. "We brought the problems to the attention of their sales people. They looked at them and agreed there was a problem. But that's all they did. We never saw them again."

In response, Nowak contacted Plattco, which has installed more than 200 8" and 10" Double Flap Airlock Valves at the Burns Harbor plant since 1978. "In my 27 years at the Burns Harbor plant, the spec is almost always the Plattco double dump valves," he explains. "It's easy to see why. Plattco valves consistently out-perform the competition in terms of quality and overall value."

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Kelan Nowak, Mechanical Project Engineer,
ArcelorMittal, Burns Harbor, Indiana

facts at a glance:

⇒ Company:	ArcelorMittal
⇒ Location:	Burns Harbor, Indiana
⇒ Industry:	Steel
⇒ Plant capacity:	4.7 million tons of raw steel per year
⇒ Revenue:	\$78 Billion (corporation)
⇒ Employees:	320,000 worldwide (3,500 Burns Harbor)

Plattco products:

- Since 1978, more than 200 8" and 10" Plattco Double Flap Airlock Valves have been installed at the Burns Harbor steel mill

Plattco valves improve bag-house performance

Nowak says installation of the H-0812 valves in the fume collection system has improved operational efficiency and environmental compliance.

"Because the Plattco valves seal perfectly every time, we don't risk an environmental violation because particulates have escaped the bag house and reached the smokestack," he says. "This is critical because any time dust probes in our stacks detect particulates, we need a corrective action plan to maintain environmental compliance. This is costly and a distraction from our core mission."

One nice aspect of the Plattco valve design, according to Nowak, is the use of cam locking handles for the doors. In normal operations, foreign matter like cardboard or plastic can jam the valve or the hopper and a field worker has to clear the jam to keep the system running. "The Plattco design makes it easy for a field worker to pull the plates to remove the debris," Nowak says. "Unlike competing designs that have numerous bolts that must be removed and then replaced, the Plattco system enables the worker to just hit the cam with a hammer and it swings open, providing access to the inside. It's a good design because the fewer tools you need in the field, the better."

Customer service tips the scale in favor of Plattco

Customer service also tips the scale in favor of Plattco, Nowak says. "We get great customer support from Plattco," he says. "The local rep visits the plant every month to check on the installation. And when we need things, we call Plattco and they deliver." He cites a problem they encountered when clutch settings on a gear box were too tight, which caused a gear reducer to fracture. "Dealing with Plattco's service was easy," Nowak says. "They overnighted the parts so we could make repairs the next day."

Eleven Plattco H-0812 valves have been installed in the past two years and there are plans to transition more bag houses at the Burns Harbor plant to Plattco valves. "We're having the same problems with poor seals on the competitor's valve installed on three other large bag houses," he says. "We'll fix the problem by installing another 24 Plattco valves."

Business Benefits

- Perfect seal every time for optimum performance and environmental compliance
- Innovative design for easy field maintenance
- Responsive customer service

About Plattco:

Plattco Corporation is the recognized leader for valves that solve material handling problems in a wide variety of industries. Plattco specializes in the design and manufacture of Double Flap Airlock® Valves and associated multi-purpose slide gates. Plattco is an integrated manufacturer with engineering capabilities, a pattern shop, foundry and machine shop at its facilities in Plattsburgh, NY. Plattco invented the double flap material handling valve in 1960 and has established a proven record of innovation. Plattco was the first to install double flap airlock valves on the windbox at iron ore mines and on the clinker coolers at cement plants. Founded in 1897, Plattco began as a gray iron foundry, producing drainage castings, stock valves and other machined castings for the paper, mining and other regional industries. Plattco is employee owned.



Plattco Corporation
7 White Street
Plattsburgh, NY USA 12901

tel: 800.352.1731
intl calls: 518.563.4640

email: info@plattco.com
www.plattco.com