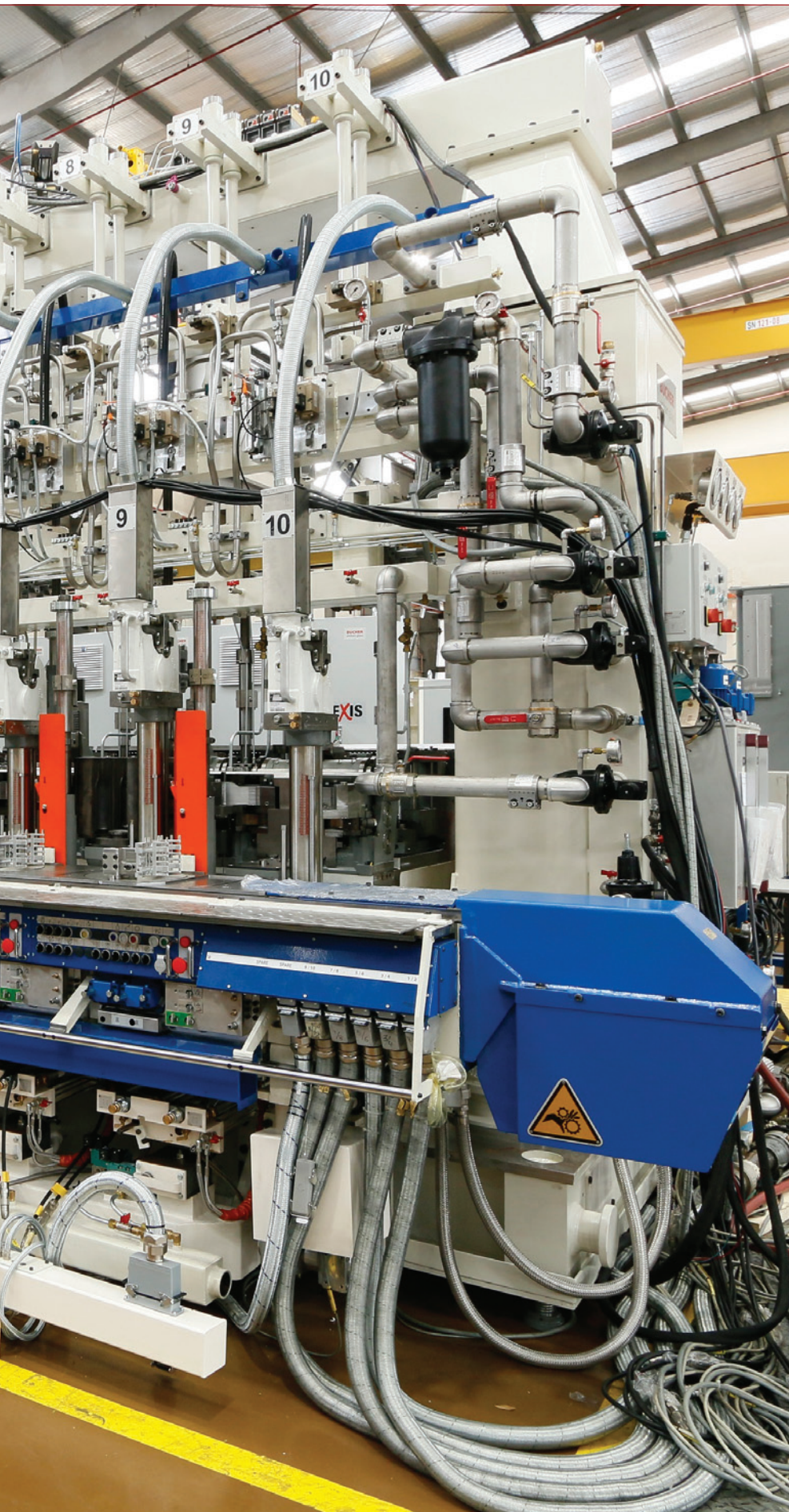Anniversary

Bucher Emhart Glass

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS, 200 MACHINES AT JOHOR BAHRU PLANT

Bucher Emhart Glass, the leading global supplier of machinery and equipment to the glass manufacturing industry, is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its manufacturing plant in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

Ten years ago, Emhart Glass (as it was then called) laid plans for a new state-of-the-art manufacturing plant in Taman Preindustrian Cemerlang, Johor Bahru, Malaysia. Construction began in 2008, and the new plant was officially opened in 2009. Covering a total area of around 6,000 square meters, the plant replaced an existing site managed by Formac, a former supplier that Emhart Glass had acquired in 2006.

THE JOHOR BAHRU PLANT – JB

Known affectionately within the firm as "JB," the Johor Bahru plant soon developed into a central part of Bucher Emhart Glass' worldwide manufacturing footprint.

In the early years, JB's main role was the assembly of new IS machines and cross-conveyors, plus the fabrication of welded parts. The new facility included a job shop and a warehouse, with space dedicated to training and demonstrations for both Hot End and Cold End products. It also served as a base for service engineers in the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2013, the plant was expanded to accommodate the assembly of all BEG's IS and AIS machines, while the firm's older plant at Sundsvall, Sweden, focused on servo-driven NIS and BIS machines.

In its first 10 years, JB has produced 200 machines for 88 customers in 45 countries. The shipments went to customers on all 5 continents who visited the JB plant for machine acceptance tests. The 200th machine was a 6 1/4" double-gob AIS unit destined for Vetropack St Prex in Switzerland.

"We're delighted to be celebrating our 10th birthday here at Johor Bahru," says Bryant Wong, Site Manager. "We've come a long way since we finished our

first IS machine for Shandong in 2007, and now we're looking forward to the next 10 successful years."

"On behalf of everyone at Bucher Emhart Glass, I'd like to congratulate all the team at Johor Bahru on the plant's 10th anniversary," adds Martin Jetter, Bucher Emhart Glass' President. "Especially I would like to mention the high production standards and quality levels which they have sustainably achieved. With an impressive 200 machines manufactured and delivered, they've played a crucial role in our worldwide development over the last decade. We wish them all the very best for the future."

SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO BUCHER EMHART GLASS

GMP&A: Does Bucher Emhart have in mind any kind of expansion for the Johor Bahru plant? If you do, are you thinking to increase the number of personnel and size of the plant and/or to update the kind of machines produced (NIS and BIS?)

Bucher Emhart Glass: The Johor Bahru operations are able to assemble any type of IS machine out of our portfolio. Therefore, it is likely that in the future we will assemble also NIS and BIS at JB. This would mean of course an expansion of the current operation, both in size as well as in personnel. Additionally, the storage and shipping area needs expansion to allow for the current workload.

GMP&A: Does the JB plant serve clients from the Asia-Pacific region only? If not, for which other regions does produce?

customers (i.e. for Italy. Poland, Austria) and those in the Americas.

BUCHER EMHART GLASS

Bucher Emhart Glass, a division of Bucher Industries AG, is headquartered in Cham, Switzerland, with offices and manufacturing facilities located throughout the world. The company is a leading supplier of forming machines, inspection machines, controls, and parts to the glass container industry. ■

Bucher Emhart Glass: The Johor operation currently produces all IS and AIS machines which means it produces for our global customer base.

GMP&A: You mentioned 88 customers from 45 countries, would you like to mention the three countries the plant produces more machines for?

Bucher Emhart Glass: Besides our Asian customers for example in Thailand, China or India, we also produce for our European