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AUTOMATION

# French® Hydraulic Press Automation

## Reduce Operating Costs, Improve Production Time and Part Quality

The French Oil Mill Machinery Company offers numerous production-improving automation solutions to complement our reliable hydraulic press designs. Whether you want to retrofit your existing hydraulic press or you are in the market for a new press system, French engineers partner with you to understand your processing applications and custom design the best solution for your manufacturing requirements. Choose from individual automation options such as light curtains, vacuum packages, shuttle systems and loading/unloading systems or a complete integrated turn-key system that increases production, saves energy and improves part quality while lowering your operating costs.

*"French's engineers worked with us over several years to develop the right solution for our needs. To help create a cross-functional solution we used data collected through years of productivity studies and input from our production and maintenance personnel. French developed many iterations that were critiqued and tweaked by our teams before the final automatic hydraulic press system emerged.*

*The automatic four-press cell design gave us a clean slate approach to our production process. Since these presses have been in operation, they have greatly improved our production levels and allowed us to consistently mold high quality components."*

*-John Parker, Plant Engineer, Utex Industries, Inc.*



Automated 350-ton Sideplate Press System

# PRESS AUTOMATION CASE STUDY

Several years ago, Utex Industries, Inc. in Weimar, Texas approached us with their need for a new integrated press system to mold composite and rubber seals for the oil and gas industry. The system needed to allow for flexibility in their existing process, increase production and be adaptable to future business needs.

John Parker, Plant Engineer at Utex recalls of the design process, “French’s engineers worked with us over several years to develop the right solution for our needs. To help create a cross-functional solution we used data collected through years of productivity studies and input from our production and maintenance personnel. French developed many iterations that were critiqued and tweaked by our teams before the final automatic hydraulic press system emerged.”

In December 2010, just as the new press cell concept was being finalized, a fire damaged numerous pieces of equipment at the Utex Weimar facility. As a result of the fire, the project moved forward at an accelerated pace.

To fulfill Utex’s molding requirements, French incorporated multiple custom features to the automatic 350-ton sideplate hydraulic press system. In order to be adaptable to various changes in the production schedule, the press system has selectable programming to sequence the molding process based upon single or multiple operators and has both front and rear operation. The press cell accommodates one to four tools with quick tool exchanges (SMED concepts) and has the flexibility to run various tools from one to sixteen cavities. Selectable two or three piece mold shuttle, separation and part eject provides additional flexibility and consistent productivity. An integrated maintenance jib crane provides dedicated lifting capacity that allows quick service to any of the major hydraulic components. To further reduce overall downtime and maximize production utilization, the press system was designed with individually selectable press lockout and maintenance schedules.

“The automatic four-press cell design gave us a clean slate approach to our production process,” testifies Parker. “Since these presses have been in operation, they have greatly improved our production levels and allowed us to consistently mold high quality components.”

French designs, manufactures and supports a wide assortment of stand-alone hydraulic presses and turnkey systems for the composite, friction, lamination and rubber industries. Press tonnages generally range from 20 to 2,000 tons, with various platen sizes, for compression, transfer, lamination or vacuum molding. Our ISO-certified presses are well known for their superior value, very low deflection, rugged construction, long life and industry-leading three-year warranty, all of which optimize your process, improve part quality and give you the lowest life cycle costs.







*The press runs through the mold service cycle.*

If you want to improve your production rates and optimize your molding process, it’s time to contact French about our hydraulic press automation options. We are in business to improve your business.

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