

# CASE HISTORY



**Vigo/Alessi Food Importers is an importer of Mediterranean foods, oils, spices and specialty food products. A large part of their facility in Tampa, Florida, is dedicated to the packaging of many varieties of rice and rice dishes.**

Originally the rice transfer system vacuum conveyed from the outdoor storage silos to a day bin which fed the rice packaging system by gravity. This system worked well initially, but as the demand for rice products grew and additional packaging lines were added, the gravity fed system could not meet the demand.

Southeast Equipment, DMN Inc.'s local representative, suggested that the system be changed from an essentially batch system to a continuous feed system by using a rotary airlock.

Vigo/Alessi purchased a DMN model AL250/3C airlock, hard-chrome plated to withstand the abrasive characteristic of the rice in the transfer system. The valve features an easy detachable rotor, an inlet restrictor plate and variable speed drive to provide clean ability during product change-over, adjustability to meet the fluctuating demands of the 7 packaging lines and eliminates the degradation of the rice.



The installation included strengthening the hopper support members, fabricating a more durable mounting flange for the airlock and several transitions to mate to the metal detection unit directly below the airlock. With the installation of the rotary airlock, the capacity has more than doubled and will be able to meet additional needs for many years in the future.

*DMN is a worldwide manufacturer and supplier of high quality rotary valves, diverter valves and other components for the bulk solids handling industry.*

*For more information please visit our website: [www.dmn-inc.com](http://www.dmn-inc.com)*

DMN, Inc.  
3895 South Perkins Road, Suite #8  
Memphis, TN 38118  
T 901-360-1537, F 901-360-0348  
E [dmnfo@dmn-inc.com](mailto:dmnfo@dmn-inc.com)

