

02 CHARGING POWDER WITH A LOW MINIMUM IGNITION ENERGY

THE CLIENT'S NEEDS

A leading supplier of toughening agents and resins for high-performance thermoset systems needed to safely transfer a material with a Minimum Ignition Energy (MIE) of 3 mJ. Due to space restrictions, the system would need to be installed outdoors in an extremely seasonal climate.



12» Powder Pump unit featuring reducer

OUR SOLUTION

The two primary requirements for safe pneumatic conveying of material with a low MIE are 1) reduce the oxygen level in the solids/gas mixture, and 2) ensure conductive or static dissipating materials and proper grounding measures are used in the equipment design and installation.

Based on those requirements, DDPS proposed a dense-phase, vacuum conveying system capable of monitoring and controlling the O₂ level in the conveying stream below 6% which represented the lower explosive limit (LEL).

A 12" x 8" concentric discharge hopper, lined with a sintered metal screen was supplied on the bulk bag unloader. This allowed the wall of the reducer to be flushed with nitrogen which helped prevent any bridging or rat-holing of powder during discharge.

In addition, a fluidizing gas control system was provided to monitor the flow of nitrogen into the transfer line to ensure proper inertion and dense phase transfer was maintained. Also, conductive and static-dissipative polymers and a bulk bag grounding system were included to provide electrical continuity to ground.

Finally, panel heaters, heat tracing, insulation and protective shrouds and bellows were included to shield instruments and equipment from precipitation and help withstand sub-freezing temperatures.

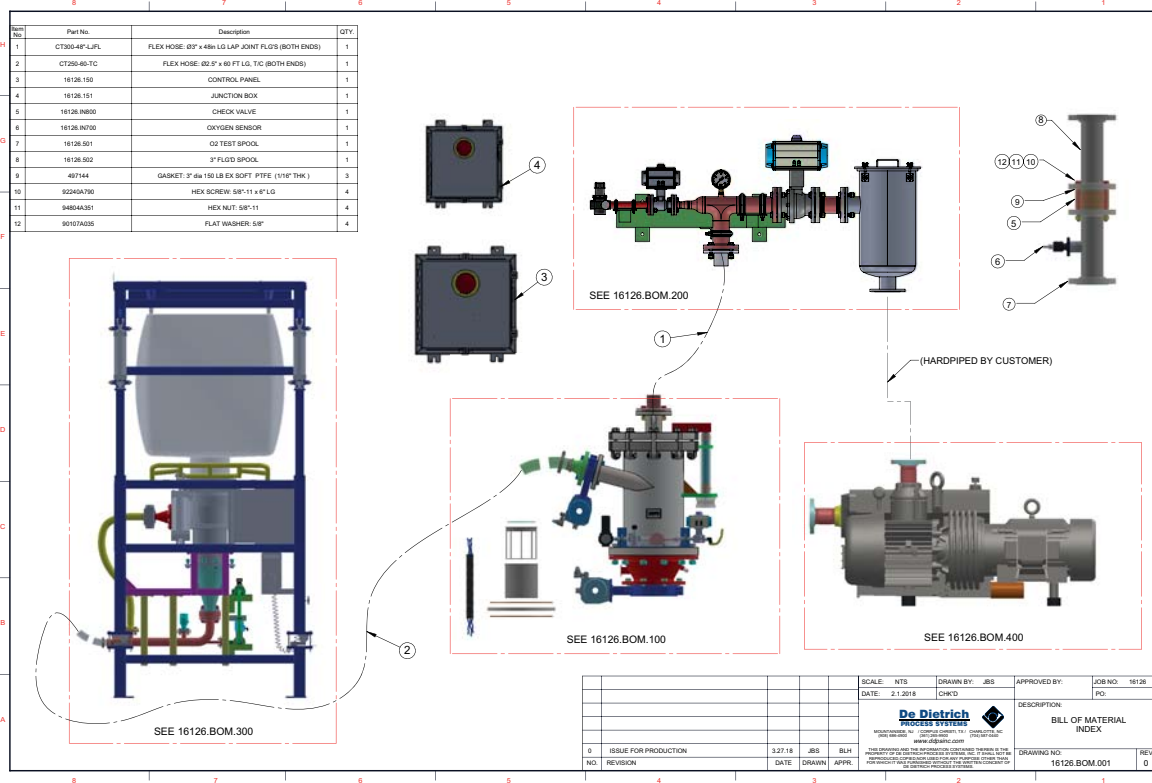
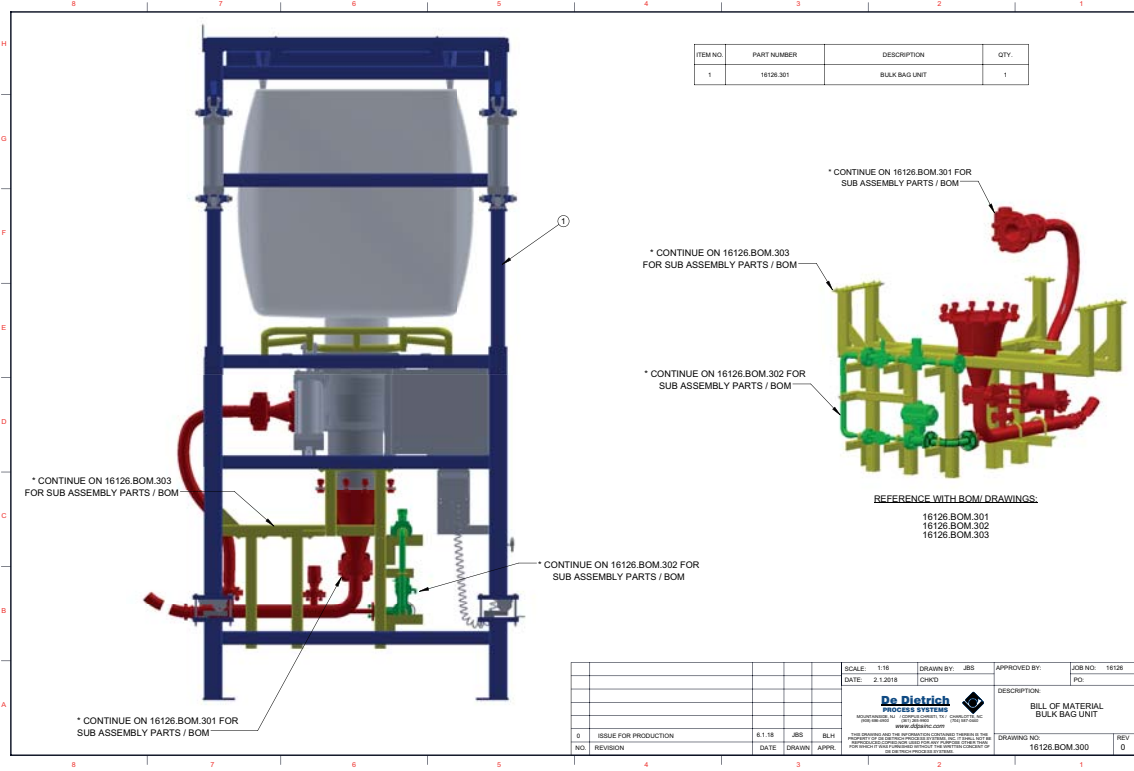


Bulk bag unloading station

RESULTS & BENEFITS

The system was able to achieve, maintain and monitor an oxygen content < 6%, which met the process design safety requirements. Also, the ability to install the system outdoors preserved floor space inside the facility for other important manufacturing operations.

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