

CUSTOMER: Ajinomoto Frozen Foods U.S.A., Inc.

APPLICATION: Frozen food processing facility

LOCATION: Portland, OR

CONTRACTOR: Progressive Mechanical, Inc.

Viega ProPress® for stainless saves time and money while maintaining Ajinomoto's food processing operations

For food & beverage applications, the Viega ProPress system offers substantial savings in man-hours when compared to welding and grooving. The system also provides a safer, cleaner, higher-quality installation.

“On the first project alone...we saved the customer about \$23,000.”

Ajinomoto Frozen Foods U.S.A. makes prepackaged Asian food products that are cooked, processed and frozen. The company has used the services of Progressive Mechanical to install, retrofit and maintain the piping at its plant.

“The Ajinomoto project was an opportunity for us to use Viega ProPress and it worked,” said Dave Ruby, the mechanical contractor’s Vice President and Project Manager. “We were able to save money for the owners and give them a quality product. They loved it for the time savings.”

In the past, Ajinomoto had always threaded the stainless steel pipe at its facility. “Today, we used Viega ProPress in copper for the mains and Viega ProPress in stainless for the exposed materials,” Ruby said. “At a minimum, it took one third less of the installation time compared to the old way.”

Ruby’s customer also likes the cleanliness of stainless steel connections. “On Ajinomoto’s processing lines, everything that has to be cleaned and sanitized after every run is



stainless,” Ruby continued. “It’s easier for them to keep the lines clean and sanitized which is critical in a food processing facility.

“With soldered joints, you get flux and debris that stay in the pipe,” he added. “I would have to chlorinate the line, let it sit for eight hours and then flush it out to get certified by the FDA. With the stainless system, we put everything back online within a couple of hours and met the FDA parameters. That’s what really made me a believer in Viega ProPress.”

Ajinomoto appreciates the fact that its own maintenance crews can make repairs. “Viega’s ProPress system allows them to do their own repair work in-house without being off-line,” Ruby said. “They are 100% sold on what Viega ProPress can do for them. It’s been a huge value for them.

“The labor savings of Viega’s ProPress system offsets the cost of the materials,” he added. “On Viega ProPress versus soldering, it’s about overall savings. That’s significant when you’re talking a dollar a minute for labor. The customer will realize some of that savings and we will realize some of it. So it’s a win-win situation.”

For more information on Viega ProPress, visit www.viega.us or call toll free: 800.976.9819.

