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AmeriTex focuses on innovative technology with new Radial Press

AmeriTex Pipe & Products decided to replace its Radial Press at the Seguin facility in Texas after 15 years of reliable and efficient operation. For the concrete plant, the replacement of the Radial Press with the latest RP 1625-5 version of the radial press proved to be an ideal solution within the long-term cooperation with Prinzing Pfeiffer. Prinzing Pfeiffer is a leading global manufacturer and supplier of high-performance machines, moulds and associated equipment for pipes, manholes and precast concrete elements. The latest concrete pipe machine enables AmeriTex to optimally fulfill the increasing requirements for concrete pipes between DN 300 and DN 1600.

Since the company's foundation in 2009, AmeriTex has grown to become the major supplier of reinforced concrete pipe and box culverts in Texas. With state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Seguin, Gunter, and Conroe, AmeriTex is ideally positioned to serve the East Texas, Central Texas, and Gulf Coast markets with exceptional products, service, and delivery. AmeriTex is dedicated to continuous improvement in all facets of its operations, including the areas that already place them far above the competition. As an American-owned, privately held company with a small, hands-on management team, AmeriTex is able to provide personalized service to its customers. Kevin Thompson, the Founder and CEO of Amer-

iTex, is always available to give a quick response to any issue that may arise. The AmeriTex team works hard to keep the focus on the customer with its world-class sales team, plus a skilled and conscientious manufacturing team. Kevin Thompson, CEO of AmeriTex, states: "Prinzing Pfeiffer and AmeriTex have worked together over 15 years and have built several new world-class facilities. We chose to upgrade our original Radial Press in Seguin to align with our newer Radial Press that are in production at our other locations across Texas."

Machine Replacement & Commissioning

The first RP 1635 Radial Press was delivered to the AmeriTex plant in Seguin in 2008-2009 and was officially commissioned in July 2009, starting the mass production of concrete pipes ranging from 12" to 60" diameter. After providing 15 years of reliable service and continuous pipe production, AmeriTex ordered the latest Radial Press RP 1625-5 as a replacement at the end of 2022. "The installation and commissioning of the Radial Press went smooth and ahead of schedule. There are always challenges replacing an existing machine in a facility that has been in operation for many years. The Prinzing Pfeiffer engineering team helped ensure a smooth installation which began months in advance of the manufacturing of the new Radial Press", explains Dylan Lorenz, COO AmeriTex.



*Radial Press RP 1635:
Replacement after
15 years of continuous
non-stop concrete
pipe production*

Final works and the beginning of lifting the new Radial Press PR 1625-5



Lifting of the new Radial Press PR 1625-5

The replacement process was strategically scheduled during the end-of-the-year period in 2023. The new machine was successfully installed and went into operation at the beginning of February 2024. This ensured minimal disruption to ongoing production. "Prinzing Pfeiffer ensured that the new Radial Press was manufactured and delivered according to our anticipated installation schedule at the end of the year", emphasizes Rocky Lorenz, President AmeriTex. "Upon delivery of the new machine, both the Ameritex and Prinzing Pfeiffer team worked together to ensure a timely and successful commissioning."

Replacing a machine of such significance is challenging for both the customer and the technology partner. However, the experienced commissioning team from Prinzing Pfeiffer and AmeriTex significantly minimized production downtime.

This efficiency in the replacement process demonstrates the intense preparation, thorough planning, and underscores AmeriTex's focus on maintaining production capacities. This proactive approach helped to safeguard continuous supply of high-quality concrete pipes for their clients. "We have made quality pipes with our Radial Press over the years and know that this replacement machine will continue to manufacture high quality products that our customers demand across the State of Texas", states Dylan Lorenz, COO AmeriTex.

The Radial Press RP 1625-5

The Radial Press RP 1625-5 is a fast, efficient concrete pipe production machine capable of producing pipes up to 1600mm (60") in diameter and 2.5m (8') in length. It utilizes a unique radial compaction method where concrete is pressed



Final installation works

against the mould by a rotating roller head and distribution tools, preventing twisting of the reinforcement cages. It's capable of producing both thick wall and double-reinforced pipes.

Unlike many other models, the Radial Press allows pipes to remain in their moulds during transport to the curing area, where demoulding takes place. This system consists of two moulds and a turntable that rotates 180° to switch between the moulds. This minimizes downtime and improves production efficiency.

The machine operates with a hydrostatic drive that enhances efficiency and higher torque and reduces the demand for

electrical loads. Its modular design and compact frame help to optimize space and extend its lifespan. A height-adjustable table and quick-change system facilitate easy adjustments to pipe sizes and significantly reduce downtime.

The machine includes the Karajan control panel with a visualization system from Prinzing Pfeiffer, built on the Simatic IPC427 platform with a Touch Panel by Siemens and running on the Windows 10 operating system. The system allows detailed control of the production process, provides diagnostics, and supports trend recording and PLC monitoring, all accessible via a user-friendly multilingual interface.

Start of commissioning and concrete pipe production





Successful Radial Press Replacement

The scope of supply includes:

- The new model Radial Press RP 1625-5, designed to meet the latest industry standards and requirements.
- Quality Control Station to ensure precise and high-quality concrete pipe products.
- Spigot former to shape and form spigots according to specific requirements.
- Karajan Control Panel, offering advanced control of the production process and PLC monitoring of the machine.
- Advanced Safety System to ensure the highest level of safety for the operators.
- Performance Monitor to track and measure the performance of the plant.
- Working table designed to accommodate different lengths and facilitate cleaning and maintenance tasks.
- One-man forklift operation system for efficient handling of the equipment.
- Pneumatic cage centering system eliminating the need for spacers.
- Push-button forklift opener for easy and convenient handling of moulds.

The Radial Press RP is designed and supplied to operate with existing moulds. The machine was carefully fitted into the pit between building beams to utilize existing foundation and save construction costs and commissioning time.

Future Outlook

The recent installation of the Radial Press RP 1625-5 at AmeriTex's facility in Seguin marks a significant development in the company's strategy to improve production capabilities and the quality of its concrete pipe products. "Our team has worked with the Prinzing Pfeiffer team over the years to both install new machines and troubleshoot problems that arise in the course of operating high-capacity manufacturing equipment. Communication and customer service are paramount from our equipment suppliers; Prinzing Pfeiffer ensures that both are upheld to the highest standards", highlights Dylan Lorenz, COO AmeriTex. As AmeriTex looks ahead, the company plans to continue its growth and maintain its competitive edge by further enhancing its technological capabilities. This includes ongoing upgrades to its machinery and processes to improve production efficiency and product quality. By focusing on technological advancement and strategic expansion, AmeriTex ensures its continued success in the concrete manufacturing sector and is well-prepared to meet growing market demands in the future. ■



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