

CASE

'We always come back to Mennens'



John de Smit, Managing Director at BKL Engineering in Nuenen, the Netherlands.

Cleanrooms are a familiar concept in pharmaceuticals, semi-conductor manufacture, food production and aerospace where facilities with very low levels of environmental pollutants are needed. But achieving and maintaining those extreme levels of cleanliness, while still operating heavy equipment such as to lift and manoeuvre racks of products, requires a very special level of expertise. Success or failure of such a project, especially during ISO certification, is determined by particles just microns across and pollution measured in parts per million. Compared with a typical urban atmosphere you could expect to find 35,000,000 particles per cubic metre of 5 microns in diameter, in certain certified cleanrooms, not one particle of this size is allowed*.

Thinking alike

BKL Engineering in the Netherlands are leading developers and manufacturers of lifting & hoisting tools, transport equipment and machinery for hi tech applications. They have worked with Mennens Cleanroom Cranes for several years, both alongside them and also when sourcing cleanroom solutions for themselves. Mennens Cleanroom Cranes began with cleanroom applications in the 90s moving into cleanroom assembly and the supply of hoists, cranes and complete systems. Describing the two companies, BKL's Managing Director John de Smit puts it this way, 'in the

cleanroom business, we build the lifting and transport equipment from the ground up, Mennens handles it from the roof down.'

Mennens Cleanroom Cranes not only has extensive experience as well as an impressive customer base (also a largely confidential one due to non-disclosure agreements). Their reputation has grown, and with it the offering, now extending to include complete solutions, design, consultancy as well as supply and installation. Co-operation between the two companies goes back more than ten years and they share the same dedication and commitment to excellence.

So when BKL needed a cleanroom crane to equip their assembly facility in Nuenen, Netherlands, Mennens was again the natural choice. The Mennens Cleanroom Cranes solution at Nuenen includes a complete double girder assembly with two hoists of up to 2 tonnes in capacity. And instead of the steel wire rope and/or chain that is commonly used, the Mennens approach is to use the much less polluting and quieter belt system. Whether for small cleanrooms or much larger facilities, everything needs to be enclosed, all outgassing (gas dissolved, trapped, frozen or absorbed in some material) is prevented.

* Mennens Cleanroom Cranes achieves an ISO 5 Class Cleanliness rating with their products.