



# CPI COMPLETES FACILITY MOVE

RETURNS TO PRODUCTION AFTER TEMPORARY  
CORONAVIRUS-INDUCED CLOSURE

BY DANIEL FOELBER

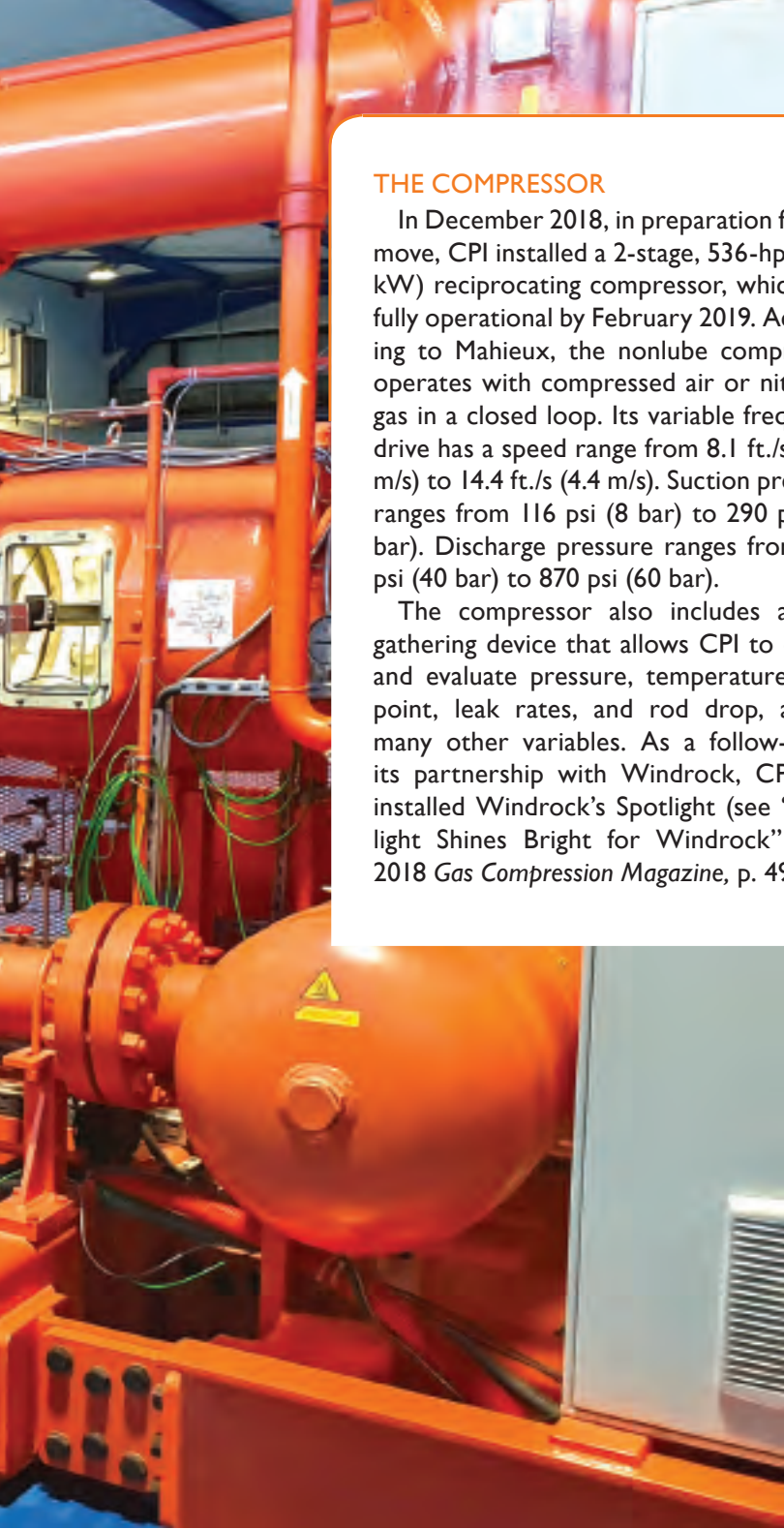
It is well known by now that the coronavirus (COVID-19) is impacting companies and new projects around the world. For Compressor Products International's (CPI) year-old facility in Feignies, France, the rise in cases in Italy and Germany threatened the health and safety of employees.

CPI's parent company, EnPro Industries, has a global team responding to COVID-19 by implementing protocols that minimize the risks to its employees. After a period, EnPro's protocols de-

termined that the facility was safe enough, and isolated enough, to continue operating. "The main challenge and focus is to keep our operations as safe as possible for employees who can't work remotely," said Mathieu Tcherbak, general manager of CPI France.

"CPI has a global footprint around the world, which gives us the chance to support the urgent needs that our customers could have. A lot of customers are in the same situation as us," said Pascal Mahieux, technical director of CPI Europe.





### THE COMPRESSOR


In December 2018, in preparation for the move, CPI installed a 2-stage, 536-hp (400-kW) reciprocating compressor, which was fully operational by February 2019. According to Mahieux, the nonlube compressor operates with compressed air or nitrogen gas in a closed loop. Its variable frequency drive has a speed range from 8.1 ft./s (2.47 m/s) to 14.4 ft./s (4.4 m/s). Suction pressure ranges from 116 psi (8 bar) to 290 psi (20 bar). Discharge pressure ranges from 580 psi (40 bar) to 870 psi (60 bar).

The compressor also includes a data gathering device that allows CPI to obtain and evaluate pressure, temperature, dew point, leak rates, and rod drop, among many other variables. As a follow-up to its partnership with Windrock, CPI also installed Windrock's Spotlight (see "Spotlight Shines Bright for Windrock" April 2018 *Gas Compression Magazine*, p. 49).

### THE FACILITY

To have a purposeful flow of products through the facility, from raw material reception to the finished shipping of products, CPI organized its facility by product line. According to CPI, the facility has the capacity to manufacture piston and rider rings, packing and wiper rings, packing cases, pistons and piston rods, valves, and emission guard products. Services include field services, training, technical support, and trouble shooting. "Equipment is mainly made of ultramodern CNC [computer numerical control] machines. All lifting and handling operations are mechanically assisted," said Tcherbak.

The new facility comes equipped with a testing station that includes a wiper ring test rig to design and improve wiper ring performance. "We also have a valve impact tester that allows us to evaluate the impact threshold of valves," added Mahieux.

According to CPI, the testing station enhances the new facility's purpose as a dedicated space for research and development, training, performance tests, and innovations. 

CPI's new facility is the result of a move from Bavay, France, to Feignies, which was inspired by the need for more space, development, and progression. CPI maintained production over the course of the three-month move, which began in January 2019. "In order to avoid any manufacturing disruption, the decision had been taken to progressively transition over the three-month period," said Tcherbak. CPI's planning and preparation for this three-month transitional period, and both facilities execution of that plan, was no easy accomplishment. "The major challenge was the management of the flow of products and materials between the two sites," said Tcherbak.

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