



ULTIBEND MATAURA VALLEY PROJECT CASE STUDY

SECTOR: FOOD & BEVERAGE

INDUSTRY: DAIRY

BACKGROUND

Mataura Valley Milk plant was constructed with a view to manufacturing value added milk products such as nutritional powders for infants, toddlers and adults, as well as ultra-high temperature cream and small amounts of skim and whole milk powder. Mainly for international markets, exporting the finest quality NZ dairy product.

THE CHALLENGE

Wakefield Metals

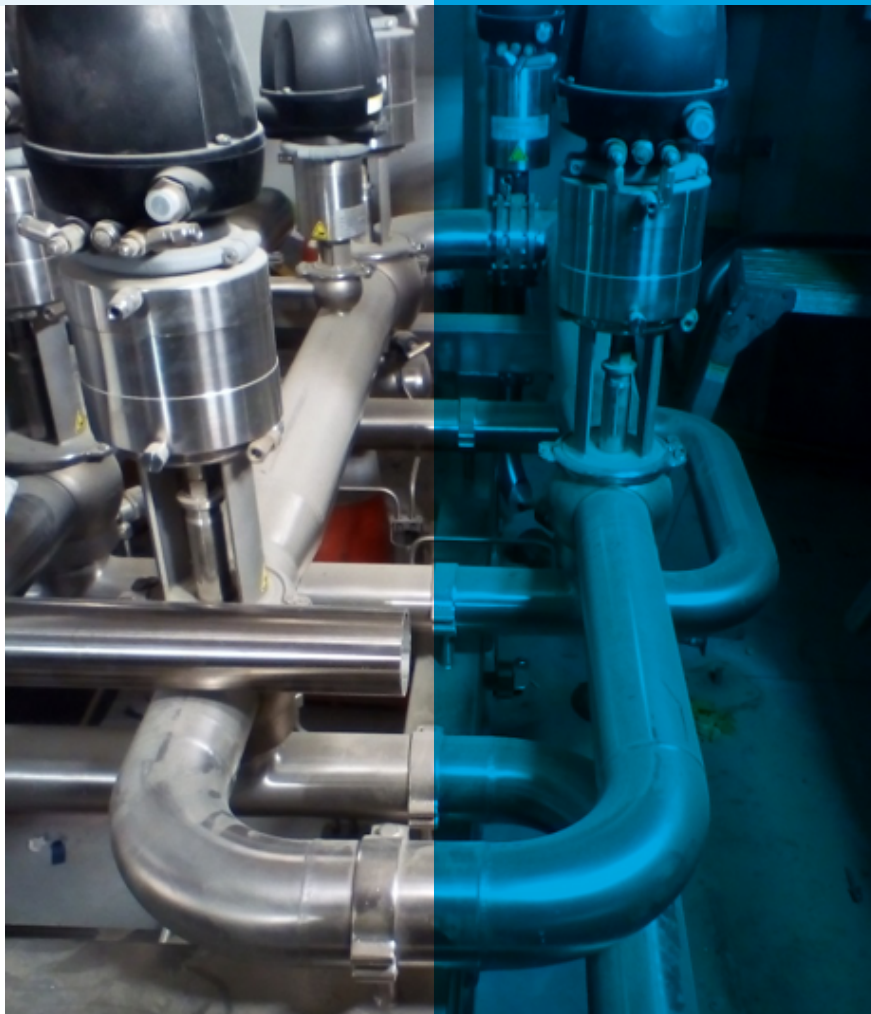
From the supplier's point of view, due to the size and remote location of this project, they faced the challenge of needing large amounts of the best quality sanitary tube fittings on site for immediate use.

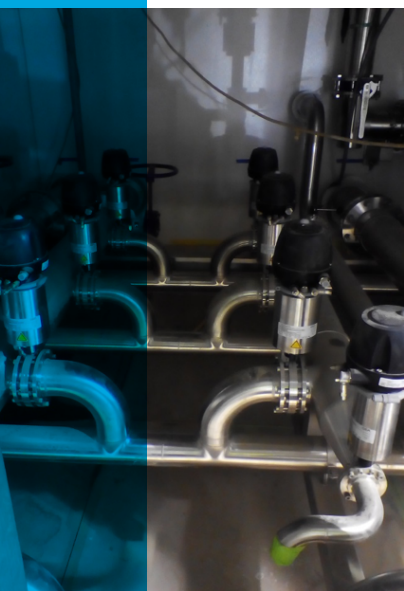
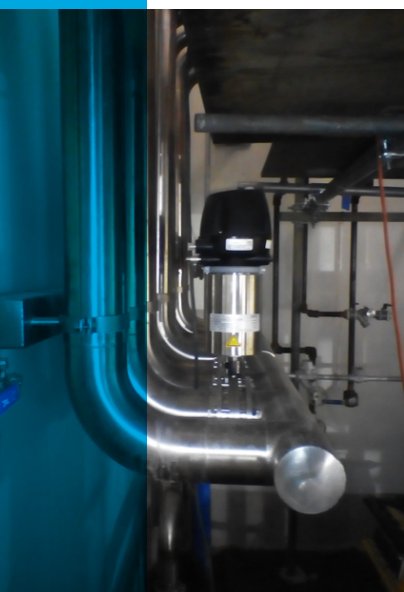
Contractor

From a fabrication perspective, for this project ensuring conformity and consistency of the product was critical.

"The design & drawing team program the true dimensions of fittings into the CAD system, so they can produce Isometric drawings with actual measurements for the onsite fabrication team." Having the actual fittings match these drawings is extremely important for the fabrication to run smoothly.

Further to this, "material certification has also now become a key supply component, with actual test certificates and traceability of feed material becoming a requirement from GEA customers." Having suppliers that can meet these requirements is a necessity.





THE SOLUTION

A temporary store located at the construction site was best suited to closely support the large fabrication operation, which required a supplier who was able to provide a consistent flow of fittings.

At the start of the project Wakefield was supplied with estimates of the total required fittings for the duration of the project. From these they worked closely with Ultibend to ensure stock levels of their onsite store would be adequate for the immediate use by the contractors throughout the project.

Having Ultibend manufacturing all products locally meant Wakefield could not only supply contractors with the volume required but were also able to meet the quick turnaround times needed to keep the onsite store running at the required stock levels.

In addition to the consistent supply, the consistent dimensional accuracy of the Ultibend fittings allowed the Fabrication team to trust the calculations of the CAD design with confidence.

Further to that, with design and fabrication working so closely, "more offsite fabrication and onsite pre-spooling could be completed before installation into the plant itself.

THE RESULTS

Due to the fast and reliable supply chain in place, the onsite fabrication was able to continue uninterrupted throughout the duration of the project. This resulted in a safer working environment and reduced the number of contractors working in the same areas." Reworks required were minimised due to less errors being made, further speeding up the fabrication process.



It also improved flexibility, allowing work to continue when high risk operations were being done, e.g. Crane lifts, by removing contractors from the risk areas and into a workshop environment to keep work going.

Robbie Wright, Contractor.

