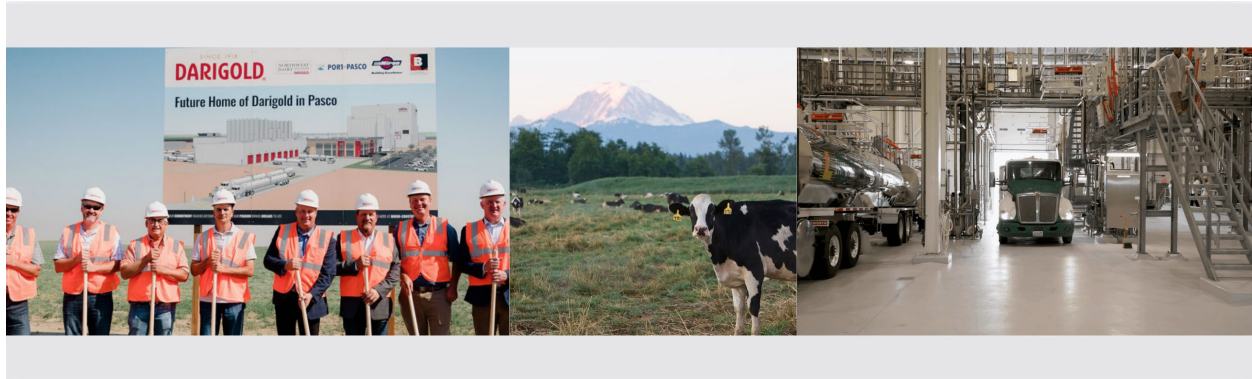




CASE STUDY: How MeritPress™ in Stainless Delivered Project Speed, Safety & Savings



Consolidated Supply Co. is a fourth-generation family business serving the Pacific Northwest since 1928. They have 21 locations with over 500 employees. Consolidated Supply's corporate mission is to provide their customers with friendly & high-quality customer service that mirrors their penchant for high quality products. JRT and Consolidated have been working together for several years.

JRT Mechanical, Inc. started out as a local plumbing company in 1992 in Battle Ground, Washington. Today, they are a leading mechanical company with over 160 employees and two locations. JRT's services include plumbing, HVAC, mechanical insulation, gas and hydronics & service.

Darigold has been in business since 1918 serving local communities with dairy products that keep families strong. Today, they partner with family farms in 4 states (Idaho, Montana, Oregon & Washington) to produce 26 million pounds of milk/day. Their focus is on consumer products and ingredients.

Pasco, Washington - In 2022, Darigold broke ground for their new location located in Pasco, Washington. Pasco is the equivalent of 7-1/2 football fields according to Darigold's Chief Executive Officer, Allan Huttema. This location is ideal because it is close to their local family farms; and for ease of distribution, near highways, maritime ports and railroad. The Pasco plant processes butter and protein powder for use in baby formula as well as other uses.



Project Planning: A Search for a Solution

JRT's role with this project included both plumbing and mechanical piping: domestic water, process water, sanitary sewer, compressed air, steam and steam condensate and hot/cold glycol.

Engineers and architects were looking for a product that:

- Did not have a harborage point where the pipe meets the fittings
- Was readily available
- Had a reputation for its reliable lifespan

As a result, Merit's MeritPress™ stainless fittings and valves were chosen because they were the only system that addressed the projects' overall needs.

“For a project like Darigold's Pasco facility, we needed a piping solution that delivered speed, safety, and reliability. MeritPress™ in stainless helped us reduce labor hours, eliminate hot work risks, and meet the high sanitary standards required for

food-grade processing. It was the right choice for our team and the client.” —

Cody Clements, Project Manager, JRT Mechanical

Piping System Success

Welding small bore pipe requires a lot of labor. JRT was looking to reduce the time to complete the project, enhance safety by reducing the dangers of welding and reduce the overall cost of labor. Press fittings were chosen; specifically, MeritPress™ in Stainless. These stainless steel press fittings were used for any stainless steel piping 2” and down for water and compressed air. As a result, the cost of labor was reduced as well as the time it took to complete the project.



Project Completion Starts with Safety

Throughout the Darigold project, everyone remained committed to not only project completion; but project safety. As a result, when JRT used the MeritPress™ stainless press fittings, they consistently marked the fitting with the insertion depth on the pipe. They also had the installers initial all fittings after they were pressed. This was in addition to Merit's Visual Indicator Press Ring (VIPR)™. The VIPR provides an added confirmation of a complete press due to the presence of the band around the ends of the fitting. The VIPR is color-coded to the application (e.g. green for water, yellow for gas, etc.).

JRT used grinders to cut and prep the pipe and Milwaukee press tools to press the fittings. When cutting pipe, JRT's team always used face shields.

Conclusion

Project success starts with understanding the needs of the end user and ensuring that you align yourself with a team that is:

- Committed to quality
- Focused on project completion with safety in mind
- Knowledgeable and experienced with the product(s) they are using and the application(s) that they will be used for
- Experienced in similar installations
- Managing expenses to ensure that the project does not go over budget

Interested in MeritPress™ - Stainless Press Fittings & Valves for Your Next Project?

Contact our PVF specialists to learn how MeritPress™ in stainless can help you reduce labor costs, improve safety, and deliver high-performance piping solutions.