



Louis du Boberil, hatchery manager Aviagen France

Aviagen France Broiler Grandparent Stock hatchery

Champtocé sur Loire, France





Aviagen France

Part of Germany's EW Group, Aviagen's market-leading genetic selection programmes for broiler, turkey and layer breeds have shaped the largest poultry breeding company in the world.

With customers in 130 countries, the company's broiler breeds include the Arbor Acres®, Indian River® and Ross® brands - and in France, the Ross PM₃ remains an enduring favourite for its high productivity, efficient offspring and excellent feed conversion, conformation and characteristics.



Renovation and expansion with a customer focus

In line with a clear vision for Aviagen's future - and as Ross celebrates 60 years at the forefront of poultry breeding and genetics - Aviagen France has embarked on a programme of renovation and expansion for its GP hatchery at Champtocé sur Loire, in the North West of the country.

With a focus on the needs of its customers and their changing market requirements, Aviagen embraces a culture of science and innovation, implementing new technologies to deliver breakthroughs in performance and efficiency.

With these principles at the heart of plans to overhaul its European hatcheries, Aviagen France is creating a new, state-of-the-art facility that will set a benchmark in terms of environmental impact, animal welfare and sustainability: a model for meeting the challenges of increasing production, saving energy and realising greater efficiencies and biosecurity for Aviagen's breeder lines, while at the same time increasing hatching capacity by 50 per cent, to c. 6.7 million broiler breeders per year.

Partnership and innovation

Aviagen France was looking for a redevelopment solution that would allow the hatchery to retain 132 egg flat setter tray compatibility. By collaborating with Pas Reform's US partner, NatureForm Hatchery Technologies, this was easily achieved. The hatchery's advanced, single-stage incubation system is fully compatible with a 66 or 132 egg flat system.

Monitoring and maintaining specific environmental conditions for each breeder line is critical. The new hatchery information system SmartCenterPro™ registers precise incubation climate data, not only for each room and every individual machine, but also from the hatchery's new HVAC system.

This ensures that hatchery personnel have full control over every aspect of hatchery operations both inside the hatchery complex and when they're offsite, via their smartphones or home based internet connections.

Should technical back up be required, Pas Reform's expert teams can support Aviagen France by accessing the system from anywhere in the world, day or night.



Smart solutions for energy efficiency

The new hatchery has been designed for optimum performance, with energy efficiency a key focus at every level of operations, from incubation and handling, to biosecurity and climate control.

Among many energy-saving features, incoming fresh air is warmed by an advanced heat recovery system that reuses heat generated by hatchery equipment and cooling water. The entire 3,500 m² complex can in fact be warmed by heat recovered from heat pumps in the newly installed water chillers.

All 27 incubators feature the Energy Saving Module™ (ESM™), with regulated speed control on all pumps, proportionally regulated air handling units and exhaust fans, to ensure that energy use is limited in line with incubation and the number of hatching eggs in process at any given time.

Hot air dryers run on natural gas and washers are equipped with heat exchangers connected to the heat recovery system, to maintain a fully optimised, energy efficient environment.

Enhanced bio-security

Cooling panels are fully integrated into the walls of the hatchers for superior cleaning, and the hatchery's layout has been engineered to enhance bio-security, with features including a strictly one-way product flow and isolated, access-controlled vaccine preparation, to prevent contamination.

Inspiring future generations

With a deep understanding of changing demands in global poultry markets, Aviagen's new hatchery in France is helping to shape the future of the world's leading poultry breeding company for generations to come.



“Having completed the first incubation cycles in the new hatchery, we are now fine-tuning to fully implement all the new systems - and expect to see significantly reduced heating and energy costs, enhanced bio-security and improved product flow and processing within our first full year of operation. The Champtocé sur Loire renovation is of key importance to Aviagen - and not only in France. As a supplier of day old breeding stock, biosecurity and chick quality are business critical. This new facility is a centrepiece in fulfilling the EW Group’s ambition, to remain the world’s leading supplier of genetic solutions for animal production worldwide.”

Louis du Boberil, hatchery manager Aviagen France

Hatchery capacity

- 6.7 million Broiler Grandparent Stock each year

Type of breed:

- Ross PM₃ and Ross 308

Type of machine

- 27 SmartSet™ NF-12 setters, divided across three setter rooms to deliver a setting capacity of 1.3 million eggs per cycle
- 18 SmartHatchPro™ hatchers, divided across three hatcher rooms, to deliver a total weekly hatching capacity of 725,760 eggs
- Air handling for the setter and hatcher rooms is managed by two separate air handling units, each injecting conditioned air into setter and hatcher plenums
- SmartCenterPro™ hatchery information system



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NatureForm Hatchery Technologies

A leading supplier of single-stage incubation technologies for the poultry, game and vaccine development markets in the USA since 1983, NatureForm joined forces with Pas Reform in 2014, to create NatureForm Hatchery Technologies.

From its Jacksonville base in Florida (USA), NatureForm Hatchery Technologies' operations include production, logistics, sales and after-sales for hatchery customers across North America, who also have unique access to technical support and training from Pas Reform Academy.



Pas Reform Hatchery Technologies

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