



## SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT CENTRE SAN JUAN DE DIOS IN CIEMPOZUELOS (Madrid) Spain

### AN EFFICIENT LAUNDRY WITH SOCIAL VALUE

The San Juan de Dios Special Employment Centre in Ciempozuelos was inaugurated on November 14th 2012, with the aim of providing productive and remunerative work to meet the needs of adults with different degrees and types of disability. The Centre gives preference to the inclusion of people with mental illness or an intellectual disability, so that as part of their rehabilitation process they can be provided with better social integration through work.

Its laundry, designed and equipped by Girbau, has become one more factor in achieving the strategic objective of the Orden Hospitalaria de San Juan de Dios and the Centre: focusing on people with disabilities and their families in order to achieve the highest level of autonomy for residents and aid their integration. It is yet another unit for rehabilitating the disabled resident, since it provides a work routine that is matched to the capabilities of the worker, as well as an adequate wage.

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Hospitalaria centres in Madrid. This involves about 4,000 kilos of linen per day, around 2,500 kilos of flat linen and some 1,500 kilos of the users' linen.

#### Flexibility as a cornerstone of laundering

In the washing area the laundry is equipped with a Girbau TBS-50 Flexi batch washer, together with sanitary barrier washers with a capacity of 200 kg and 23 kg (for the residents' clothing).

According to the head of sales in Girbau centre area, Javier Alonso, the Flexi batch washer was chosen because *"the laundry needed versatility since they have to wash both hospital linen, and linen from the psychiatric centre, closer to the requirements of the hotel industry, and even the residents' personal clothing"*.

The flexibility of this batch washer model is such that it can be configured in ways ranging from a with-current pre-wash, a counter-current wash and counter-current rinsing to a wash in individual chambers with fully independent processes between them. The batch washer makes it possible to work with a high degree of soiling on loads of different colours.



The drying area has three 100 kg capacity ST100 dryers and the ironing area consists of two ironing systems. One, designed for large flat items of linen such as sheets and bedspreads, is equipped with an automatic 3-station DRF feeder, a PC120 Gas flatwork ironer with two rollers and an FL folder. The other, designed for small flat articles of linen such as pillowcases, has an automatic 2 position DRB feeder, one single-roller PC120 Gas flatwork ironer and an FL Folder.

The laundry is completed with a flatwork ironing system for overalls.

#### Safe and intuitive machines to help rehabilitation in the work centre

The **manager** of the laundry, **José Luis García**, points out that they chose to work with Girbau *“because of the value for money offered, the fact that they are manufacturers in the country, and especially because the sales and technical network is very close”*.

García added that *“Girbau machinery is highly intuitive and adapts perfectly to the profile of our employees. We started from scratch, with a completely new and inexperienced team, and in a short time we had things running very well. The Girbau machinery made it easy for them to learn”*.

Another of the variables valued by the centre was the safety measures that Girbau machinery incorporates.

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#### Integrating a Girbau technician into the team for 1 year

Another particular feature that has determined the success of the San Juan de Dios laundry in Ciempozuelos is the integration of a Girbau technician for one year in the special work centre’s team.

With a commitment of 40 hours a week, the technician has not only taken charge of maintenance in order to ensure that the laundry operates optimally, but has also resolved performance and operational issues. *“The proximity and professionalism of Girbau’s service has been a key factor in ensuring that the laundry functions properly”*, says its manager José Luis García.

The integration of a Girbau technician into the team *“was one of the fundamental conditions that we noted in the tender to equip the laundry. The whole team was new, and generally speaking without any prior experience or training in the laundry business. Therefore having a technician available for monitoring, training and resolving problems has helped us to move forward quickly and with confidence”*, adds García.

The San Juan de Dios laundry in Ciempozuelos is an example of how it is possible to achieve a highly efficient and profitable business with machinery adapted to the needs of the centre and an accompaniment that makes it possible to transfer Girbau’s 50-plus years of experience in the laundry business, while carrying out an exceptional exercise in social rehabilitation.

