

Fall 2017

In-Line with **fi-tech**

A Publication for Synthetic Fibers, Nonwovens and Textile Producers

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Jeff Bassett

Welcome to our fall issue of *In-Line with Fi-Tech*. This newsletter has been a regular part of our communication with our customers and principals since the fall of 1996 when we published our first issue. I took the

opportunity to look back at

the first few issues reflecting on our principals and product lines. There are several companies which we continue to represent and others we do not. Mergers, acquisitions and other changes have an effect over time on the products and services we offer. However, the one constant is our desire to bring the best technology, service and solutions to the synthetic fiber, nonwoven fabric and textiles industries. Today, our portfolio has an excellent line up of leading companies in their fields. We are happy to be adding Mayer & Cie. to our textile portfolio.



In addition to the large number of principals Fi-Tech has cooperated within N. America for many years, we also have a number of team members who are having significant service anniversaries in 2017. Keith Wise reaches his 40th year of service,

Reicofil Launches RF5

At the INDEX 2017 Show in Geneva in April, Reicofil® announced to the industry its newest Reicofil machine generation: RF5. After more than 14 years in the market with RF4, the RF5 Generation presents new developments in both Spunbond and Meltblown technology coupled with digitalization technology which paves the way for intelligent machines and intelligent production. In addition, Reicofil announced new upgrade opportunities for existing RF3 and RF4 lines that incorporate some of the key developments of the RF4 technology for RF3 and RF5 technology for RF4.

One highlight of RF5 is the significant reduction of failures within the nonwoven. When running standard raw materials, hard pieces will be reduced by up to 90 percent in comparison to RF4 technology. By this, Reicofil provides a solution for one of the major issues of contamination that exists in the industry. Producers running an RF4 line will be able to make use of this advantage by upgrading the line to RF4.5.

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both Barbara Koch and Jon Schmidt have 30 years of service, and Richard Williamson has 20 years of service. Keith, Barb, Jon and Rick have all contributed significantly to our success. We congratulate them on their achievements.

We have another busy fall conference season upon us beginning with September events, RISE in Raleigh, IFAI Expo in New Orleans and OUTLOOK in Cascais, Portugal; followed by November events HYGIENIX in Austin, TX and VDMA B2B Forum in Charlotte. We look forward to seeing you at these events.

Cason Bobbin Strippers

Cason Textile Machinery, located in Montonate di Mornago, Italy specializes in the cleaning of almost any bobbin or tube used in synthetic fiber, tape, or filament production - whether the tubes are made of paper, cardboard, plastic, or metal in almost any length or diameter.

Cason Bobbin strippers offer many advantages over common methods for cleaning bobbins:

- The stripper does not damage the tube. This is accomplished through a patented stripping process developed by Cason. Therefore, the cleaned tubes are able to be reused.
- The waste yarn can be resold or re-extruded, saving money on waste disposal fees and increasing the efficiency of processes.
- Labor costs are drastically reduced. Employees can now perform other tasks rather than being tasked with traditional bobbin stripping.
- Cason offers a process that is safe to its operators and the surrounding environment. It removes the operator from direct contact with the cleaning – such as cutting blades or hot knives.

Strippers are available in manual, semi-automatic, and fully automatic configurations. Cason offers a variety of stripping methods: Rotating blades, a hot air nozzle, or a combination of the two methods to completely clean the cop, bobbin, or pirn. There are several types of bobbin strippers that could be useful to the customers we serve:

AC3 – There are a few models of the AC3 that range from manual loading to fully automated systems. This type of bobbin stripper is specifically designed for the removal of yarn or tape from cylindrical tubes made of cardboard, metal or plastic. These tubes have many diameters and lengths. The units are designed to service the manmade fibers industry and its downstream users in POY, FOY, FDY, BCF, and Acetate. Under normal conditions, 500-600 tubes per hour can be processed. The AC3 system is able to automatically

dump tubes on to the conveyor, automatically align each tube for cleaning, clean the tube, and take away the cleaned fiber. All of this is done through automation control. The system even detects an incorrect tube diameter for the current cleaning run and ejects it.

2M-T2/A – This machine is a universal machine that handles any tube diameter and length. It is a manual loading system. A single operator can remove residual yarn up to a thickness of about 2 inches without scoring the tube. It is specifically designed for smaller producers and users of synthetic yarn. An experienced operator should expect to clean 300 tubes per hour. The operation of the 2M-T2/A begins with the operator putting the correct mandrels for the tube diameter on the machine. The operator places a tube on the mandrel, presses a button, and the system turns 180 degrees so the cleaning group removes the yarn. While the yarn is being cleaned off the tube, the operator puts another tube on the reverse mandrel. When the cleaning is complete, the system flips back, the clean tube is removed, and a new tube is placed on the mandrel. The other tube is being cleaned while all this is happening. The system goes back and forth in this efficient manner.

Air Cutter – The air cutting unit is a fast and cost effective method for removing yarn from a tube. The unit uses a hot air jet to burn off the fiber. It is a safe and easy way to remove residual yarn. However, since the yarn is heated, it may not be suitable for recycling.

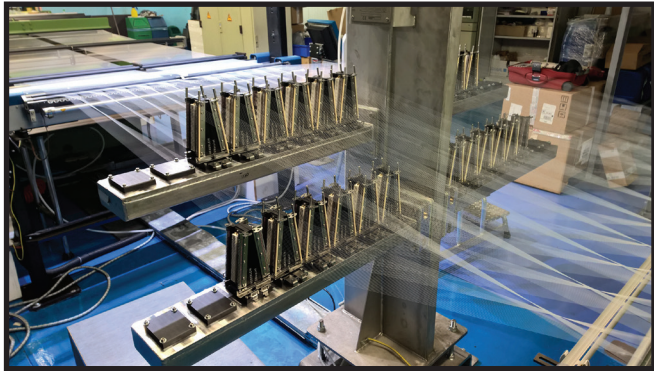
Cason offers complete turnkey systems and will design a stripper for any customer application.



Cason 2M-TZ/A

Fibers and Polymers

The Heberlein® WarpJet-KV provides time saving threading and energy efficient customized air interlacing. The Heberlein WarpJet-KV is used for efficient interlacing during warping. The fast and simple threading from above is combined with easy cleaning



and reduced machine downtimes. In air interlacing, an air blast is used to mechanically intermingle individual yarn filaments together. The resulting interlacing knots provide the required yarn compactness. This allows higher processing speeds, resulting in improved beam structure and a reduced number of filament and yarn breaks during subsequent processes.

Features and Benefits

- High processing speeds
- Suited to multifilament yarns made of polyester and polyamide
- High interlacing performance
- High uniformity of position
- Up to 20% lower air consumption
- Slider valves mean that compressed air supply to both sides can be adjusted
- The yarn guides are fully enclosed for increased protection
- The modular design allows up to 64 yarns to be interlaced in a single unit
- The jet packages can be easily replaced
- The jet packages can be easily cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner
- Efficient and easy threading from above
- Fewer filament & yarn breaks mean that the machine does not have to be stopped during downstream processes

Fi-Tech represents these companies to serve manufacturers of Fiber and Polymer Products

Ambersil - England

Anti-Stick Silicone Spray, Spinneret Lubricants

Autefa Solutions GmbH - Germany

Bale Presses, Bale Wrapping & Strapping Systems

Cason Textile Machinery - Italy

Bobbin Strippers, Semi-Manual and Automatic POY/FDY Spinning Plants

DM&E Corp. - USA

Fiber Cutters, Tension Stands, Cutter Reels, Crimper Repairs

Enka Tecnica GmbH - Germany

Spinnerets, Extrusion Dies, Spinpacks, Breaker Plates

EuroSpares - USA

Spare Parts Service for European Machinery

Fibrevision - United Kingdom

On Line Monitoring Systems, Sensors, Lab and At Line Monitoring Systems

filtertechnik.Europe GmbH & Co. Kg - Germany

Filter Screens for Spin Packs, Filters for Screen Changers, Filter Belts

Galan Textile Machinery- Spain

Mini Twisters, Heavy Duty Twisters, Specialty Twisters

Heberlein - Switzerland

Air Interlacing Jets, Air Texturing Jets, Aspirators, Splicers, Suction Cut Units

MOVEngineering Srl - Italy

Hypox® Spinneret & Pack Cleaning Units, Hypox® Polymer Filter Systems, Auxiliary Cleaning Equipment

Mozart AG - Germany

Staple Cutting Blades, Film Slitting Blades

Reifenhäuser REICOFIL® GmbH & Co. KG - Germany

Extruders, REICOFIL Spinbonding Plants, Melt Blowing Plants

Schill+Seilacher GmbH - Germany

Spin Finishes, Fiber Auxiliary Chemicals

Sikoplast Recycling Technology GmbH- Germany

Recycling Plants for PET, PA, PP and PE Waste

Technip Zimmer GmbH - Germany

Complete Engineered Staple Fiber & Filament Plants, Plants for Engineered Plastics, Polymerization & Solid State Polycondensation Plants

TEMCO - Germany

Texturing Units, PU Friction Discs, Air Entangling Jets for BCF, Industrial & Glass Fibers, Separator Rollers, Guide Rollers, Special Bearings

Tokuden Co., Ltd. - Japan

Induction Heated Rolls®

Zentes Unitex GmbH - Germany

Promik Spinneret Inspection Devices, Melt Pump Tester, Spin Finish Pump Tester, Specialty Chemicals

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Reicofil Launches RF5

RF5 Technology also fulfills the market demand for finer and finer filaments: the technology can produce up to 20 percent smaller fiber diameters at higher throughput than RF4. For the first time, the Reicofil spunbond technology can produce filaments of <1 denier. In terms of productivity the RF5 technology also raises the bar significantly: the output increases by up to 35 percent – to up to 270 kg/h per meter beam width for spunbond and up to 70 kg/h per meter beam for meltblown.

The new Reicofil meltblown technology benefits from the increased output provided by a much wider process window, which raises operational flexibility. Producers can now decide, depending on their requirements, whether to use the maximum output capacity and increase productivity by up to 35 percent, or to produce 20 percent higher meltblown quality at the present throughput levels.

The line speed of the new RF5 technology reaches

a new peak value of 1,200 meters per minute. As this value is the actual speed on the conveyor belt, and not as before, the speed at the winder, it can be fully utilized in production. Effectively, producers can run their RF5 lines 30 percent faster than they could on RF4 lines. The new RF5 generation is energy efficient as well. For the production of composite nonwovens, RF5 saves up to 15% as compared to RF4.

Regarding digitalization, Reicofil developed solutions for more intuitive operation, continuous process and quality monitoring, predictive maintenance, and detection of anomalies. For example, the line will provide its operators with productivity analyses, predicts when a wear part is going to fail, warns the operator of drip formation before it occurs, and provides information to help solve the problem.

RF5 is your technology for next level nonwovens. Please contact us for more information on RF5 or the available RF4.5 and RF3.4 upgrades for existing RF4 and RF3 machines.

	RF4	RF5
Specific Throughput SB (kg/h/m)	120-200	150-270
Specific Throughput MB for Composite Lines	15-50	15-70
Titer Range znPP(den)	1,5-1,8	1,2-1,8
Titer Range mPP(den)	1,0-1,5	0,9-1,1
Production Speed on the Belt	910	1200
Specific Throughput @1.8 den (kg/h/m)	200	270
Specific Throughput @1.5 den (kg/h/m)	175	230
Specific Throughput @1.3 den (kg/h/m)	150	170
Specific Throughput @1.2 den (kg/h/m)	140	160
Specific Throughput @1.1 den (kg/h/m)	130	160
Specific Throughput @1.0 den (kg/h/m)	120	150
Specific Throughput @0.9 den (kg/h/m)	N/A	140
Basement	Yes	for up to 3.200mm: No

The new Reicofil RF5 Technology for the production of spunbond, meltblown and composite nonwovens is setting new standards in terms of quality, output, uptime, efficiency and machine intelligence.

New Guide Roller for Tension-Sensitive Yarns



Saurer Components focuses on the gentle guiding of lightweight nonwoven webs at high speeds, such as on hygiene converting lines. This includes guide rollers and special bearings.

One recent development is the new Temco® Yarn Guide Roller FR26 for gently guiding materials such as Lycra threads. These yarn guide rollers are suitable for textile and technical applications requiring the lowest

possible friction, and therefore the smallest elongation at maximum speeds of 700 m/min. In addition to low friction, another benefit of the compact 26 mm diameter FR26 design is the low rotating mass and low starting torque.

Solutions from Temco feature the concept of the integrated bearing, where internal raceways are integrated in the shaft and external raceways in the bearing housing. This enables very economical solutions for applications with highest demands on rotational speed, available mounting space, and load.

Matthews International Corp Acquires Ungricht



Matthias Picker - Managing Director

After announcing the acquisition of Ungricht Roller + Engraving Technology in late 2016, the purchase was completed in early 2017. Matthews International already owned Saueressig GmbH + Co KG based in Vreden, Germany. The purchase brings together Ungricht and Saueressig, who are both leading engraving technology companies serving a variety of markets. Both firms operate with the Matthews' SGK Brand Solutions Segment. The SGK Brand Solutions Segment is a leader in the delivery of brand development, activation and



Achim Wandke - Sales



Achim von Wirth - Sales

deployment services that help build clients' brands and consumers' desire for them.

Ungricht Roller + Engraving Technology will continue to operate out of the same Monchengladbach facility many of our nonwoven customers have visited over the years. The staff also remain in place now working under the new management responsible for both Saueressig and Ungricht. Fi-Tech is pleased with activities initiated under the new management, and we are confident you will continue to receive the first class service, rollers and engravings you are accustomed to and associated with the Ungricht brand.

Fi-Tech represents these companies to serve manufacturers of Nonwoven Products

AstenJohnson Advanced Fabrics - USA

Woven Plastic & Metal Wire Belts, Forming Fabrics, Dryer Fabrics, Transport Belts

Brückner Textile Technologies - Germany

Thru Air Dryers and Heat Setters, Stenters, Heat Recovery and Air Purification Systems, Laminating Equipment

Enka Tecnica GmbH - Germany

Spinnerets, Extrusion Dies, Jet Strips, Die Tips, Repairs

EuroSpares - USA

Spare Parts Service for European Machinery

filtertechnik.Europe GmbH & Co. Kg - Germany

Filter Screens for Spin Packs, Filters for Screen Changers, Filter Belts

Hastem Transportbänder GmbH - Germany

Slat Aprons, Spiked/Needle Aprons, Spare Parts

Idrosistem Srl - Italy

Water Filtration Systems for Spun Lace Production

Industrial Machine Mfg., Inc. - USA

Spin Pack Components, Precision Custom-made Machine Parts

MOVEngineering Srl - Italy

Hypox® Spinneret & Pack Cleaning Units, Hypox® Polymer Filter Systems, Auxiliary Cleaning Equipment

Mahlo America, Inc. - USA

On Line Monitoring Systems for: Basis Weight, Coat Weight, Thickness, Moisture

Reifenhäuser REICOFIL® GMBH & CO. KG - Germany

Turnkey Plants for Spun Bond, Meltblown, Composite, Laminated Fabrics, Bicomponent, Maintenance Products, Spare Parts

Schill+Seilacher GmbH - Germany

Surfactants, Antistats, Specialty Chemicals

Sikoplast Recycling Technology GmbH - Germany

Recycling Plants for PET, PA, PP and PE Waste

Spoolex/Calemard - France

PEGASE Traversing Winders & Spooling Equipment, Orion and Centaure Slitter/Rewinders

TEMCO - Germany

Guide Rollers, Separator Rollers, Special Rollers and Bearings for High Speed Applications

Tokuden Co., Ltd. - Japan

Induction Heated Rolls®

UNGRICHT Roller + Engraving Technology® - Germany

Calender Engraved & Smooth Rollers, Embossing Rollers, Engraved & Smooth Chill Rolls, Heated Non Stick Press Rolls, and Ultrasonic Anvils

WISTA GmbH - Germany

Punch Perforating Machines, Commission Perforating Services

Zentes Unitex GmbH - Germany

Promik Spinneret Inspection Devices, Pocket Microscopes

Nonwovens

BRÜCKNER – CONNECTING THE FUTURE

The motto for this year's TECHTEXTIL in Frankfurt was CONNECTING THE FUTURE. BRÜCKNER, the leading supplier and technology leader, has a wide range of application examples for Technical Textiles that can be finished on specially designed machines. The layout and design for specific product qualities display the competence of the creative BRÜCKNER team.

Two of the machines designed and manufactured specifically for finishing of Nonwovens and foil are the SUPRA FLOW BX double belt oven for nonwovens and the ETRO bow-shaped dryer specifically designed for coating with PVC.

In addition, BRÜCKNER offers different application systems for coating of Technical Textiles and one of them is the ECO-COAT application system for minimum amounts of add on. And in addition, other machines include padders, drying, heat-setting, and curing ovens with maximum production capacity with lower energy consumption and high precision temperature distribution.

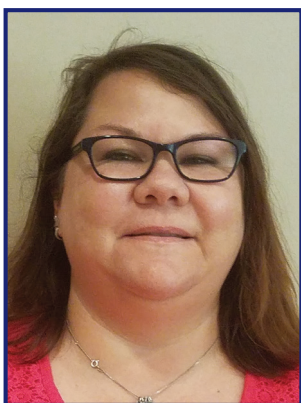
Other examples for final applications with BRÜCKNER finishing lines include:

- Woven Glass Fabric for circuit boards
- Carbon textiles for textile-reinforced concrete
- Linings for walls and roofs used in the automotive industry, and airbags as well.

If you are designing or considering a new special product for the future and need a finishing range on which to run trials to confirm the results, visit with BRÜCKNER in their TECHNOLOGY CENTER where a full process finishing range is available.



BRÜCKNER, the textile machinery company and technology market leader is armed and ready for the future and looking with great confidence to meet the process demands of their customers.



Mia Johnson

With the addition of new key suppliers, we are pleased to welcome our newest Fi-Tech team member, Mrs. Mia Johnson. Mia is the Sales Assistant for our Spare Parts Department and works directly with our customers and suppliers on a daily basis. Mia plays a vital role in our operation, and speaks fluent German! Mia's previous Military experience and attention to detail will help strengthen our team, and better serve our customers. Welcome Mia!

**For Fi-Tech After Hours Service
Call 804-794-9615**

**You will receive instructions on how to contact a
Fi-Tech Team Member who is on call to assist you.**

Textiles/Technical Textiles

Fi-Tech to Represent Mayer & Cie.



Benjamin Mayer, CEO Mayer & Cie., and Todd Bassett, MD Fi-Tech (left to right) signing contracts in July 2017.

Effective September 1, 2017, Fi-Tech will take over as Mayer & Cie.'s U.S. sales, spare parts and service representative. Preliminary talks have been under way for over two years, with initial contacts taking place at the 2015 ITMA in Milan. The contracts were signed in Albstadt in mid-July 2017.

Mayer & Cie. (MCT) is a leading international manufacturer of circular knitting machines. The company manufactures an entire range of machines servicing markets for home textiles, sportswear, nightwear and swimwear, underwear, seat covers, and technical applications.

Founded in 1905, Mayer & Cie., with headquarters in Albstadt, Germany, generated sales of EUR 105 million in 2016 with about 500 employees worldwide.

Fi-Tech has retained two senior members of the Mayer Industries circular knitting team, Klaus Berwald and

Darrell Smith, who will work closely with Fi-Tech's Bill Davis, to ensure knowledge and expertise are maintained and to assure the smoothest possible transition. In addition, Mayer's entire inventory of spare parts is being relocated from the Orangeburg, SC location to the Fi-Tech, Inc. warehouse in Richmond, VA. This will ensure that we can continue the high levels of support enjoyed by Mayer's existing customers.

Todd Bassett, co-owner and managing director of Fi-Tech, takes a highly positive view of the collaboration. "Mayer & Cie.," he says, "is definitely a flagship in the list of our partners. We are impressed by the company's leading position in both the technology and the market. Its long history, and its investment in its employees, all of that makes Mayer & Cie. something special."

"Our target for the U.S. is clear," says Mayer and Cie.'s sales director, Wolfgang Müller. "We want to regain market shares in the circular knitting market. With our new Fi-Tech representatives, we also see good opportunities for gaining access to large textile enterprises and to re-establish a foothold with them."

Ian Mills, market development manager at Fi-Tech, is convinced that this is an opportunity for both companies. "With a circular knitting machine manufacturer, we are expanding our textile portfolio," he explains, "and with our wide-ranging networks we will be able to introduce Mayer beyond their traditional circular knitting machine market and also offer our existing customers a strong partner for innovation".

Fi-Tech represents these companies to serve manufacturers of Textile/Technical Textile Products

Brazzoli S.p.A. - Italy

High Temperature Jet Dyeing, Lab Scale Jet Dye Equipment

Brückner Textile Technologies GmbH & Co.KG - Germany

Tenter Frames, Thru Air Dryers, Compactors, Relax Dryers, Coating Systems, Heat Recovery and Air Purification

Corino S.p.A. - Italy

Hydro Extraction, Rope Openers, Die Twisters, Tubular Slitters, Web/Edge Guidance Systems, Padders, Batching Stations, Fabric Inspection Machines

Erbatech GmbH - Germany

Open Width Bleaching and Washing Ranges, Tubular Bleaching and Washing Ranges, Padders/Foulards, Vacuum Extraction, Cold Pad Batch

Irosistem Srl - Italy

Water Treatment and Recovery Plants for Textiles

KKA GmbH - Germany

Coating, Roto-Gravure, Printing/Lacquering, Calendaring, Laminating, Embossing, Slitter/Re-Winders

Mario Crosta S.r.l. - Italy

Single/Double Drum Raising/Napping, Sueding, Shearing, Lamination

Mayer & Cie. GmbH & Co. - Germany

Circular Knitting Machines for Jersey, Interlock, Rib, Jacquard and Elastomeric Plaiting

Pindarus S.r.l. - Italy

Raising Fillet Wire, Cleaning Brush Wire, Felt and Rubber Backing

Tecnorama S.R.L.

Automatic Powder and Liquid Dyestuff Dispensing, Bulk and Lab Scale Systems Automatic Powder and Liquid Dyestuff Dispensing, Bulk and Lab Scale Systems



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EVENTS CALENDAR

RISE

September 12-14, 2017
Raleigh, NC
www.inda.org

IFAI EXPO 2017

September 26-29, 2017
New Orleans, LA
www.ifai.com

HYGIENIX 2017

November 6-9, 2017
Austin, TX
www.inda.org

VDMA B2B Forum

November 6, 2017
Charlotte, NC
www.germantech-ustextile.de

ANEX 2018

June 6 -8, 2018
Tokyo, Japan
www.anex2018.com

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