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Jeffrey Bassett

Welcome to our fall 2021 issue of *In-Line with Fi-Tech*. At this time last year, I believe we all would have expected to have gone back to life as it was before the pandemic of 2020. That has simply not been the case, and most likely, will not be for some time to come. However, we are and will continue to learn and to adapt to our "new normal". It has been nice to see some in person events return. We were present for the INDA

WOW event in Atlanta and exhibited at Techtextil North America in Raleigh. We are also back to conducting in person customer visits on a regular basis; all being done with precautions and care to help protect one another. It has been really nice to have in person discussions following months on end of online meetings. As we have all adapted to, and accepted this this new technology, we will continue to use it effectively going forward. However, we see the importance of engaging our customers in person whenever possible. This leads to better identification of issues and solutions as well as building solid relationships.

As COVID has brought much change to our daily lives, the last year has brought about some significant changes within Fi-Tech. Since February 2021, we have had three long time "Fi-Techers" retire with over 112 years of combined service – Barb Koch with 34 years, Jon Schmidt with 34 years and Keith Wise with 44 years. We gathered together in late July to celebrate their service and accomplishments. We will not fill their shoes, but we will build upon the strong foundations and tremendous contributions they have made.



Barb Koch & Keith Wis

With retirements come the opportunity for new team members to join our organization. In 2021, we have added three new members in addition to Stein Carlsen who joined us in late 2020. Joshua Sansbury started in mid April followed by Jessica Ethridge in

mid April and Lindsey Wanders on June 1. Joshua is on our outside sales team covering customers in Virginia and North Carolina. Jessica is integrating into our textiles sales team while

also taking on internal project work, and Lyndsey joins our inside customer service and support team. We are very pleased to have each on board.

In closing, we hope we will continue to be able to connect with you at upcoming planned in person events; although, we know that any such planning can change quite suddenly. Hope to see you soon!

## INDEX 20

The postponed INDEX™20 nonwovens exhibition will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, October 19-22, 2021. The rescheduled exhibition will be offered in a hybrid format. While the traditional in-person event will take place at the Palexpo Exhibition Hall in Geneva, EDANA will also offer a comprehensive virtual platform for those not able to attend the live exhibition. We are pleased to announce that the following companies represented by Fi-Tech will be exhibiting at INDEX™20:

#### AstenJohnson Advanced Fabrics - Booth No. 1354

AstenJohnson is a global supplier of woven wire belts for the nonwovens industry. The belts are used for forming, drying, conveying, dewatering and bonding of all types of nonwoven fabrics; including spunbond, meltblown, SMS, airlaid, hydroentangled and carded nonwovens.

#### Autefa Solutions Germany - Booth No. 4035

Being a market leader of hydraulic bale presses and automatic fiber logistics, Autefa Solutions continues to increase the efficiency and improve the quality of fiber packing. The transfer fork UNI-FORK together with the wrapping machine AD-WRAP reduce labor costs and provide high process uptime with a quick return on investment.

#### Brückner Textile Technologies – Booth No. 1580

Brückner is a leading producer of finishing and thermal treatment lines and dryers for the nonwovens industry. They will present the latest developments in belt dryers including designs with high evaporation capacity for hydroentangled nonwovens, and gentle transport and precise temperature control for carded ADL, and the efficient bonding of high loft nonwovens.

Schill+Seilacher Spin Finish

# Schill+Seilacher

Schill+Seilacher offers a variety of processing agents, surfactants, and refinement chemicals for nonwovens and is the leading supplier of spin finishes for hygiene products. This includes applications that require permanent hydrophilicity, hydrophobicity, soft touch and antistatic protection for fibers and spunlaid nonwovens made of polyolefins, polyesters, PLA, or bico polymers. End uses include baby diapers, femcare, adult incontinence, and medical products as well as wipes. Schill+Seilacher also offers a complete range of spin finishes for technical applications such as filters as well as products for the automotive, geotextile and building industries.

Recent developments include spin finishes for the manufacturing of bico-fibers for topsheet/ATB and for ADL/ATB:

- SILASTOL® PHP 77 for topsheet/ATB with excellent permanent urine absorption, medium soft touch, low rewet, no dry migration, no aging and good thermostability
- SILASTOL® PHP 10 for ADL/ATB with high performance wicking and LAC (liquid absorbance capacity) properties, no aging, and good thermostability

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for disinfecting wipes, face masks and PPE. Schill+Seilacher provides finishes such as SILASTOL 186F, which have an optimized compatibility with many common disinfectant agents (alcohol, quaternary ammonium compounds) and do not decompose hydrogen peroxide or hypochlorite. S+S also has spin finishes for the production of nonwoven face mask materials and other PPE.

## New Member to the Schill + Seilacher Sales Team

We wish to welcome Iris Rueckert to the Schill + Seilacher sales team. She joins Sabine Borst and Reina Koeppe. Iris joined Schill + Seilacher on April 1, 2021 and will fill the role of Area Sales Manager – Man-made Fiber Business Unit.



Sabine Borst, Iris Rueckert and Regina Koeppe

She will have responsibility for the USA, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and parts of the European Union market. She is a graduate engineer with a focus on textile chemistry and has over 20 years of experience in the fields of man-made fibers including filament, staple and nonwoven production as well as textile finishing and coating. We welcome Iris and look forward to the opportunity later this year to introduce her to our customers in N. America.



# Galan PRX Twisting Machinery

GALAN Textile Machinery, S.L. from Barcelona is presenting the PRX NEW RANGE of Monoblock Twisting Machines. After extensive R&D performed in the last couple of years, this new machine combines many improvements into this new product range that makes it superior to any twisting machine previously made. Each machine is easily customizable and has ready-made kits available. They are offered with remote access and different features which make this machinery more in-line with what the market was demanding. Please reach out to us for our latest specification sheet regarding this featured model.

## Fi-Tech Welcomes New Members to the Team

We are pleased to welcome Jessica Etheridge, Joshua Sansbury and Lyndsey Wanders to our Fi-Tech Team. Jessica joins our technical sales team serving the textile and nonwoven industries. She has held numerous technical positions in both textile and nonwoven manufacturing over the last 21 years. Joshua joins our technical sales team serving mostly fiber and nonwoven accounts. He has over 15 years of technical sales experience with a variety of manufacturers and industries. Lastly, Lyndsey joins our sales and customer support team. She has over 11 years in front line customer service. Both Joshua and Lyndsey are based in our Richmond, VA office while Jessica is based from a home office in South Carolina, with an active presence in Richmond.

Please welcome them to our Team.



Jessica Etheridge & Joshua Sansbury



**Lindsey Wanders** 

# 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

Enka Tecnica GmbH - Germany Spinnerets, Extrusion Dies, Spinpacks, Breaker Plates

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

Galan Textile Machinery- Spain Mini Twisters, Heavy Duty Twisters, Specialty Twisters HANSA MIXER – Germany In Line Mixers and Foamers

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

Saurer Fibrevision - United Kingdom On Line Monitoring Systems, Sensors, Lab and At Line Monitoring Systems Saurer Technologies GmbH &Co KG - Germany

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

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 Spare Parts Service for Zimmer® Polymer Plants

Tokuden Co., Ltd. - Japan Induction Heated Rolls<sup>®</sup>

Zentes Unitex GmbH - Germany Promik Spinneret Inspection Devices, Melt Pump Tester, Spin Finish Pump Tester, Specialty Chemicals

#### ■ INDEX 20 cont...

#### Enka Tecnica - Booth No. 2638

In addition to precision spinnerets, hydroentanglement jet strips, melt blowing die tips and long rectangular spinnerets, Enka Tecnica will promote its proven cost-effective SMART melt blowing die bodies. MB Smart Die Bodies are excellent for upgrading older MB lines for improved fabric quality and efficiency and are customized to meet each application.

#### HANSA Industrie-Mixer - Booth No. 1558

Hansa Mixer specializes in the development, design, and manufacture of continuous in line mixing machines and foam generators for textile and nonwoven applications such as impregnating, reinforcing, finishing and foam coating.

#### **Idrosistem Energy – Booth No. 4652**

For more than 25 years, Idrosistem has led the development of specialized water filtration systems used in spunlace nonwoven production. Their systems operate continuously providing contamination free water without any interruption to the production process.

#### Reifenhäuser Reicofil® - Booth No. 2531

Reifenhäuser Reicofil will present their latest advances in technology for the production of spunbond, meltblown and composite fabrics. Reicofil 5 lines are now in production in the market offering nonwoven producers new capabilities and a wealth of machine intelligence setting new standards for quality, uptime, output, and energy efficiency. Reicofil also has solutions for profitable entry into smaller markets and for the production of soft and bulky nonwovens.

#### Saueressig Ungricht - Surface Solutions - Booth No.1648

Saueressig Ungricht combines decades of experience and competencies in the design, development, and repair of all type of rolls for spunmelt and staple fiber nonwoven processes. This includes engraved and smooth calender rolls, embossing rolls, ultrasonic anvil rolls, and MPS microporous shells.

#### Saurer Technologies - Engineered Bearing Solutions - Booth No. 4337

Saueressig Ungricht combines decades of experience and competencies in the design, development, and repair of all type of rolls for spunmelt and staple fiber nonwoven processes. This includes engraved and smooth calender rolls, embossing rolls, ultrasonic anvil rolls, and MPS microporous shells.

#### Schill+Seilacher -

Schill+Seilacher will have representatives attending the show and they will be available to schedule meetings. S&S is known worldwide for its portfolio of fiber finishes and surfactants which meet the demands of the hygiene and medical industry for a wide range of polymers such as polyolefin, polyester, PLA or bico.

#### Spoolex - Booth No. 2451

Spoolex is recognized as the world leader for slitting, winding, splicing and spooling tension-sensitive materials. From simple equipment to complete automated converting cells, they provide both off the shelf and customized solutions.

## **Enka Tecnica Spinnerets**

#### Nonwoven Spinneret Refurbishment

Enka Tecnica offers a wide range of services for Spunbond and Meltblown Spinnerets to assure optimal performance at all times. Months or even years of operation wear out spinnerets, which in turn reduces the quality of your nonwoven. The repair, overhaul, or in some cases the optimization of a spinneret returns it to a nearly new condition for a fraction of the cost.

Enka Tecnica can offer the following services for repair/overhaul of your Spunbond and Meltblown spinnerets:

- Preventive maintenance (grinding/lapping of spinneret faces, recalibration of capillaries)
- Repair of damage to capillaries or spinning plate
- Modification and optimization of the spinneret, adding or blocking holes
- Inspection and overhaul of Meltblown dies

Thanks to their state-of-the-art machinery and the latest inspection equipment, Enka Tecnica can also service all lengths of spinneret plates. The work is performed using special purpose-built drilling, lapping, and optical measuring/inspection equipment.

#### Melt Blown Smart

As pioneers of precision spinnerets, dies and melt blown die tips dating back to 1910, Enka Tecnica has used this collective expertise and state-of-the-art manufacturing technology to produce complete melt blown spin beam assemblies for hygiene, filtration and absorbent melt blown nonwoven production. Enka Tecnica delivers a completely

vendor-neutral individual component based on their extensive knowledge and configured to the end customer's system.

The Enka Tecnica Melt Blown Smart Dies are designed specifically for



the requirements of the user. They have developed simpler, user-friendly functions such as cassette assembly, allowing faster and easier settings. Fewer steps mean more time for other processes resulting in greater efficiency. The MB Smart Dies have longer cycle times meaning longer times between die tip exchanges, a

more stable die tip geometry resulting in a lower risk of mechanical damage, and shorter change over times due to the fixed settings for air gap and set back. In addition to these key features, MB Smart Dies have highly uniform air gaps for better process air distribution resulting in cross directional uniformity, and they are more energy efficient than older designs due to efficient heating elements and optimum insulation.

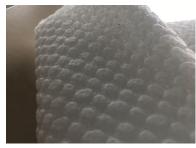


Many details have been improved in the latest version of MB Smart, for example, the shielding of the cables and the possibility to change the heating cartridges without disassembling the isolation connections.

#### SAUERESSIG Surfaces

As the leading international supplier along the pre-press stage as well as rotogravure and embossing cylinders, SAUERESSIG Surfaces offers a strong technical expertise in the field of tissue, hygiene products and nonwovens. The use of different materials always requires tailor-made manufacturing procedures and individual finishing processes. The requirements for nonwoven fabrics are constantly growing.

I he requirements for nonwoven fabrics are constantly growing. Engraving designs are becoming more challenging, and manufacturing techniques more complex. SAUERESSIG Surfaces has adapted to these growing demands and offers customers state-of-the-art software programs, 3D visualizations and renderings of designs, which can be used to develop optimal solutions for the increasing need of



differentiation. If you can think it, they can make it happen. Engraving design, grammage and color of the nonwoven fabric parameters are variable and can be adjusted for each 3D visualization. SAUERESSIG Surfaces will present its latest

developments in 3D

Embossing and Aperturing at INDEX in Geneva. Currently, two pilot lines are existing in Mönchengladbach (.250 mm wide) and Vreden (1.1m wide). Within these lines, the rolls can be heated, have very low and tight tolerancing with respect to the engraving, and can produce samples at speeds up to 600m per minute.

This development process combines the production of 3D embossed and apertured nonwovens, creating the possibility of adding new special effects to high-quality nonwovens while improving material properties. The process is achieved by using a set of high-precision heated rollers with high-precision engraving designs. Such extreme precision is required due to the high processing speeds. SAUERESSIG Surfaces' aim is to provide solutions to increase production speed even further.



The application gives nonwovens producers the opportunity to expand their portfolio and diversify in the market with new and unusual designs, enhance product properties, generate completely new applications, and increase the production speed.

Nonwovens produced with this process have a low weight in contrast to conventionally produced nonwovens. They impress with extraordinary and new design possibilities and 3D effects, as well as having an improved tensile strength

with good elasticity, are pressure resistant and have a high air and water permeability.

## 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, Complete Meltblown Die Bodies

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

HANSA MIXER – Germany In Line Mixers and Foamers

Hastem Transportbänder GmbH - Germany Slat Aprons, Spiked/Needle Aprons, Spare Parts Idrosistem Srl - Italy

Water Filtration Systems for Spun Lace Production

#### MOVEngineering Srl - Italy

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

# Reifenhäuser REICOFIL® GMBH & CO. KG - Germany

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

# Saurer Technologies GmbH & Co. KG - Germany

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

# Saueressig UNGRICHT Surface Solutions – Germany

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

Tokuden Co., Ltd. - Japan Induction Heated Rolls<sup>o</sup>

#### WISTA GmbH - Germany

Punch Perforating Machines, Commission Perforating Services

#### Zentes Unitex GmbH - Germany

Promik Spinneret Inspection Devices, Pocket Microscopes



#### **Shelton Vision**

In their 50th year of continuous operation, Shelton Vision continues to develop and lead the application and implementation of new machine vision technology in the field of automated textile inspection with the Shelton WebSpector Automated Textile Inspection System.

The Shelton WebSpector vision system uses advanced and tailored algorithms for textile defect detection. This has been proven over many years of operation to be the most efficient and effective method, particularly in textile applications where a large range of defect characteristics are encountered. In a typical system there are over 100 algorithms operating simultaneously, many of which are uniquely created for textiles.

## Machine Learning

The key to the power of the system is full algorithm deployment and effectiveness which is facilitated by a unique Machine Learning capability within the system, called Autotraining. This is where the system learns the characteristics of each individual fabric type (style) and then automatically sets the algorithm detection sensitivity to suit the type of texture and fabric appearance. This is to limit false positives, whilst ensuring real defects are detected.

The detection sensitivity settings created by the system, and fine tuned in commissioning, are stored in a database and recalled for use each time an Autotrained style is inspected. If a style Autotrain set up is not present in the database (ie. has not been run before) the system will automatically run the Autotrain function and store the settings, then continue to inspect the new product.

## Real time Al Defect Classification and Grading

In addition to the Autotrain function the system has a Real Time Al classification capability which is used for real time defect naming and grading. This provides another layer of control to minimize false positives, so that the final map is as accurate as possible and generally much more consistent than the human can achieve. It also means that reports based on defect types can be created directly from the system requiring minimal human intervention when reviewing defect maps.

Initially there are no defects in the classification engine. It is populated by images as they are detected in the set up phase, maybe over 2 to 3 weeks, depending on throughput.

In the set up period the Review Operator assigns a defect name to each of the defect images detected and displayed, to populate the Al system. Once a sufficient number of images have been manually named (30 to 50), the Al engine is engaged and will operate autonomously from then on.

The AI system automatically highlights where there are conflicting manual naming errors in the model set up, which need to be resolved.

# WebCorder – System Performance Validation Tool

In addition to the Machine Learning and Real Time Defect Classification and Grading there is the WebCorder video performance validation tool, which creates a video of the entire web for each lighting plane/camera set. This is used in the set up phase to ensure the detection settings are correct and allows rapid feedback of detection settings to ensure they meet requirements.

There is a very fine adjustment of detection sensitivity within the system. Detecting only course/gross defects of a certain type can take place whilst finer defects of another type are also detected. There is separation between the way different defect types are handled. The WebCorder video shows the commissioning engineer and client exactly what is happening for each defect and the requirement for successful detection.

The capability of the system is far greater than other systems for textiles in all aspects. It is a PC based system with multiple and extremely powerful PC's that enable the features described above to operate to the desired capability, as well as to power new features now being released.

# New – Patterned Fabric Inspection Capability

A unique new and exciting addition to the WebSpector is the ability to inspect patterned fabrics at speed and with accuracy, even those that are elastic or require inspection on both faces.

The patterned fabric inspection can be applied on patterning machines, such as printing lines, where real time alerts for repeating and critical defects can be provided.

It can also be applied on other patterned fabric forming processes: (weaving, knitting), patterned fabric finishing process lines (such as heat setting, calendaring, drying) or on a purpose built reel to reel stand alone inspection machine.

To demonstrate capability, Shelton has built a full scale reel to reel transport and patterned fabric inspection system for in house testing and running of rolls from interested clients.

Shelton is pleased to introduce Roth as a sign of commitment to the US market and advise that he has already been involved in new systems recently delivered to new customers in the US.

## 24 HOUR SERVICE

Give us a call on: 804-794-9615





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

# 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

Guarneri Technology S.r.l. - Italy Textile Calenders

HANSA MIXER - Germany In-Line Mixers and Foamers

#### Idrosistem Srl - Italy

Water Treatment and Recovery Plants for Textiles

#### KKA GmbH - Germany

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

#### Lab-Pro GmbH - Switzerland

Jet Dyeing Machines, Beam Dyeing Machines, Laboratory IR Dyeing Equipment

#### 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

#### Ontec Automation GmbH - Germany

Scrim Products for Reinforcement of Fabric Structures used in Roofing Membranes, Floor Coverings, Adhesive Tapes, Geo Textiles and Pool Liners

#### Pindarus S.r.l. - Italy

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

#### Shelton Vision Ltd. - UK

Vision Inspection & Defect Classification Systems

#### 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

#### Testa S.r.l. - Italy

Automated Inspection and Packaging Systems



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RISE

September 28-30, 2021 Virtual Platform <u>www.inda.org</u>

INDEX 2020 (Rescheduled) October 19-22, 2021 Geneva, Switzerland www.edana.org

IFAI EXPO 2021 November 1-4, 2021 Nashville, TN www.ifaiexpo.com

Synthetic Yarn and Fabric Association Fall Conference November 4-5, 2021 Charlotte, NC www.thesyfa.org

Hygienix 2021 November 15-18, 2021 Scottsdale, AZ <u>www.inda.org</u>

IDEA 2022 March 28-31, 2022 Miami Beach, FL www.inda.org

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Jeffrey G. Bassett, Todd L. Bassett, Christopher G. Layton, W. Randy Wise, Vicky Gant Wilson, Ian Mills, Brian W. Williamson, Fred Adams, Stein Carlsen, Joshua Sansbury.

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