

Spring 2018

In-Line with **fi-tech**

A Publication for Synthetic Fibers, Nonwovens and Textile Producers

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Todd Bassett

Fi-Tech would like to welcome its two newest employees to our team. Cheryl (Sherry) Whitney joined Fi-Tech in December 2017 as Assistant Controller and replaces Pat Stith who retired from Fi-Tech in January. We would like to

thank Pat for her service to Fi-Tech in the varying roles she filled as Fi-Tech grew from 5 employees in 1975, when she began her career, to 30 employees today. Also, we would like to welcome Fred Adams to the Fi-Tech team. Fred came on board with Fi-Tech in January and will be working with Ian Mills in our growing Textiles Group. Fred comes to us with 30 plus years of Operations experience in Dyeing & Finishing with various companies in the US and the UK.

In the coming months, Fi-Tech will be exhibiting at a few important trade shows/conferences. We will have a joint booth with KKA at the NPE Show in Orlando, May 7-11. Fi-Tech will also be exhibiting at the Techtextil Show in Atlanta, May 22-24. This show covers the textiles, fibers and nonwovens industries in the North American Market. We will also participate and exhibit at the WOW Conference in Chicago, June 5-8. This Conference, which is organized by INDA, covers the Wipes segment of the Nonwovens industry and is always well attended by the full supply chain for this important market. We look forward to meeting you at one of these important industry events.

In this issue of *In-Line with Fi-Tech*, please read more about important updates from some of our key principals in Nonwovens, Fibers, and Textiles. If you need further information about our principals, please call us or check out the information on our web site www.fi-tech.com.

Pat Stith Retires

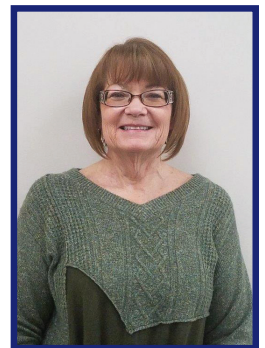


In July 1975, Pat Stith joined Lee Bassett as his “secretary” for Fi-Tech, Inc. At that time, Lee was looking for a German speaking secretary; and Pat was a teacher looking for

a career change. Pat fulfilled many duties as a secretary, bookkeeper, translator and numerous other positions as the company evolved to where it is today. For the last many years, Pat has served as Lee’s personal assistant, as well as Assistant Controller monitoring principal commissions, foreign payables, and sales management reporting for the company. On January 15, 2018, Pat retired from Fi-Tech to devote more time to her family, more specifically, her aging mother. Her years of hard work and dedication will be truly missed. We wish you well Pat!

Sherry Whitney Assistant Controller

Sherry joined Fi-Tech in December 2017 as our new Assistant Controller. She comes to Fi-Tech with over 25 years of professional accounting experience with several Richmond based businesses. Sherry will work closely with our CFO, Rick Williamson, and primarily will be



responsible for paying our foreign vendors, tracking and collecting principal commissions, sales management reporting, and other key accounting functions. We are very pleased to have such an experienced accounting professional join our Fi-Tech team.

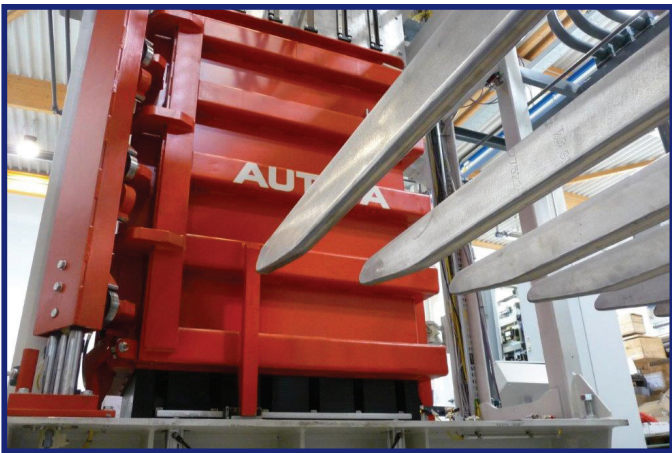
Bale Pressing - Bale Transport – Bale Wrapping – Autefa’s Unique Solutions

Autefa has been manufacturing fiber balers and automatic logistics systems for the man-made fiber industry for over 70 years. With over 3,000 baling presses sold, the machines and downstream handling solutions exemplify know-how and experience. Customers prefer the fully automatic baling presses with combined bale transport and storage. Autefa balers dominate the viscose and polyester staple fiber manufacturers. Autefa balers are also used in the pulp industry for filling fibers for diapers.

Nonstop-Ultra Baler – Autefa Solutions High-Capacity Baling Press

The Nonstop-Ultra baling press fulfills all requirements regarding capacity and quality for the production of polyester and viscose staple fibers. Considerable decreases in personnel costs, as well as the high availability of the baler and the short period of amortization, have made this baler a popular baler.

With a pre-press and a main press, the Autefa Nonstop-Ultra baling press is designed for continuous man-made fiber bale production. This single box baler is equipped with a press box at the pre-press side. The final pressing at the main-press is realised without a box, up to a maximum pressure of 4.000 kN. Due to this unique concept, customers are able to handle 32 bales/hr manually and more than 60 bales/hr with the fully automatic wrapping machine AD-WRAP.



UNI-FORK BALER

Uni-Fork Baler Concept

The conventional fiber transfer in a lift turning unit with two press boxes has been replaced by quick and dynamic

transfer using the Uni-Fork. The Uni-Fork design allows the pre-press to be available for new fibers more quickly. A further increase in capacity is also related to the main press. The patented Uni-Fork is inserted into the pre-press precisely, without damaging or even touching the fibers. When the fork is positioned in the press ram, it moves apart. The fibers pre-compressed with a pressing force of 80t expand into the transfer fork. Then the fork with the fiber turns by 180° and moves into the press ram of the main-press on the opposite side. With the Uni-Fork the baling presses are planned in an optimal way and offers more space for the operators. Damage to the fibers or the rupture of the bale wrapping are excluded by using the removing fork.



AD-WRAP

Maximum production volume for fiber lines with Autefa Solutions AD-WRAP

Customers are excited by the advantages of the wrapping machine AD-WRAP. AD-WRAP wraps fiber bales into a protective film. Up to 60 bales/hr can be produced. Compression of the fibers, as well as strapping and wrapping of the bales takes place simultaneously with separate machines. AD-WRAP grips the bale and wraps it. The baling press has more time for pressing the staple fibers as the wrapping does not consume the time of the baling press. The output of a baling press installation can be increased by up to 50%. Two elastic stretch hoods made of polyethylene are put over the bale from two sides. They enclose each other and thus seal the fiber bale safely off from dirt, foreign fibers (e.g. hair) and insects. The AD-WRAP can be perfectly combined with Autefa Solutions Lift Box Balers as well as Autefa Solutions Nonstop-Ultra Balers.

Techtextil North America 2018

Techtextil North America 2018 is scheduled this year for May 22-24, 2018 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The 15th edition of the Techtextil North America is the only trade show in North America dedicated to technical textiles and nonwovens. In addition to the exhibition, a symposium will be held featuring numerous sessions on the latest developments regarding technology, research, products and processes as well as the latest industry trends.

Fi-Tech is pleased to participate in this event once again. Our staff will be on hand and ready to discuss our entire portfolio of machines and products for fiber, nonwoven and technical textile production. We also welcome representatives from Mario Crosta, Tecnorama and Corino who will be on hand in our booth as well. Please stop by Booth #2946 to receive information and

discuss the following featured principals:

Autefa Solutions Germany – Balers and Bale Wrapping Systems

Brazzoli S.p.A. – High Temperature Jet Dyeing, Lab Scale Jet Dye Equipment

Brückner Textile Technologies – Tenter Frames, Through Air Dryer Systems for Nonwovens

Cason Textile Machinery – Bobbin Strippers: Manual, Semi Automatic, Fully Automatic

Corino S.p.A. – Hydro Extraction, Tubular Slitters, Web/Edge Guidance Systems, Padders

Enka Tecnica – Jet Strips, Die Tips, Spinnerets, Breaker Plates and Spin Packs for all applications

Erbatech – Open Width and Tubular Bleaching/Washing Ranges, Vacuum Extraction

DM&E – Fiber Cutters, Tension Stands and Crimper

Saurer Fibrevision – On-Line Monitoring Systems, Sensors, Lab and At-Line Monitoring Systems

Continued on page 6

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

Spoolex Plant Expansion

On January 19, 2018, Spoolex held an open house to inaugurate the expansion of its plant in Roche la Moliere, France. Customers, suppliers, employees' families and local dignitaries were in attendance.



Spoolex Celebrates New Plant Expansion

Spoolex is recognized worldwide as a leader in high quality converting equipment, especially for tension sensitive materials. Its Calemard® product line includes slitter-rewinders and spooling lines. In response to the demands of its growing markets, Spoolex management launched an expansion project 2 years ago to increase its assembly area and its testing and demonstration showroom.

By doubling the size of its testing and demonstration area and by adding new equipment, Spoolex now has more resources to respond to more technical projects. Spoolex's expanded showroom is equipped with its latest developments in slitting, spooling, ultrasonic splicing and rewinding, including an in-line turret winder.

In order to meet customers' need for greater automation, the larger assembly area offers more floor space for the assembly and testing of automated spooling, packaging and "manufacturing cell" projects.

Reifenhäuser Digital

In 2017, the Reifenhäuser Group created a new business unit, Reifenhäuser Digital. This new business unit was created to serve as the internal group incubator for digitalization of the products and services supplied by the various group companies such as Reifenhäuser Reicofil®. It is managed by Dr. Benedikt Brenken, Head of Business Development and Thomas Fett, Head of Technical Development. Many of our Reicofil customers know Thomas from his position as Reicofil Head of Electrical Design and Automation which he continues to serve while also dedicating time to leading Reifenhäuser Digital.

Bernd Reifenhäuser, CEO of the Reifenhäuser Group, commented: "Digitalization offers us the greatest potential for innovation that we have seen in plastics extrusion for a long time. So founding our own business unit with its own resources and the possibility of establishing new ways of working was a logical next step for us. Digital transformation isn't something that can be accomplished in passing. Within Reifenhäuser Digital, we are currently focusing hard on generating real customer benefits from new opportunities such as smart data, machine learning and anomaly detection, and on bringing digital products to the market in a swift and targeted manner. Our goal is to develop intelligent production, both for and with our customers."

Reifenhäuser Digital is working closely with internal and external customers and suppliers, as well as outside experts, in an interdisciplinary team to design and develop these digital solutions. The new Reicofil 5 production platform is being launched with this new automation system to reap the benefits of Industrie 4.0 to increase profitability through higher productivity, efficiency and quality. The digital solution features 5 areas of emphasis: 1) Operating System, 2) Performance Cockpit, 3) Diagnostic Center, 4) Cloud Analytics and 5) Enterprise Integration. In the new operating system, a feature called "Digital Assistant", a tablet device, will permit our customers to access technical information and spare parts details via QR code as well as tutorials, video chat features, and directly access the Reicofil RQS portal.

Other key features available include nonwoven grading, predictive maintenance, anomaly detection and performance cockpit, a web based dashboard. Stay tuned for further developments and announcements from Reifenhäuser Digital.

Schill+Seilacher offers a wide range of processing agents and performance chemicals for the Man Made Fiber Industry. There are products available for the production and processing of filaments, fibers and nonwovens of any common polymers including biopolymers.

Schill+Seilacher is busy with ongoing development activities especially for the nonwoven industry. As a leading supplier of spin finishes and surfactants for hygiene end uses (hygiene articles such as baby diapers, femcare products, adult inco articles, medical articles and wipes) Schill+Seilacher continues to bring innovative solutions to this industry.

This includes applications that require permanent hydrophilicity, hydrophobicity, soft touch and antistatic protection for fibers and spunlaid



nonwovens made of polyolefine, polyester, PLA or bico polymers. The latest developments are spin finishes for the manufacturing of fibers for ADL-Nonwoven.

SILASTOL® DL 2 M + Product A-LM are spin finishes for polyester fibers which are processed to ADL-Nonwoven in combination with low melt fibers or by latex bonding. SILASTOL® DL 2 M + Product A-LM are permanent-hydrophilic, thermally stable and allow a high wicking of fluid into the nonwoven.

A new member of the SILASTOL® PHP-family has been especially designed as “no leakage” finish for spunlaid topsheet for diapers.

Silastol PHP 8 is permanent hydrophilic with NO wet, NO dry migration tendency and NO aging (migration into the polymer) on the treated nonwoven.

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

Textiles/Technical Textiles

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filtertechnik.Europe – Pack Filter Screens and Screen Changer Filters

Galan Textile Machinery – Ring Twisting Machinery, Winders, Creels

Hastem – Slat Transport Aprons for Nonwovens

Heberlein – Interlacing Jets, Air Texturing TexJets, Aspirators and Splicers

KKA GmbH – Coating, Print/Lacquering, Calendaring, Lamination, Embossing, Slitter/Rewinder

Mahlo America – On-Line Gauging Systems for Nonwovens

Mario Crosta S.p.A. – Drum Raising/Napping, Sueding, Shearing, Lamination

Mayer & Cie. – Fabric Surface Finishing, Napping, Sueding and Shearing Equipment

MOVEngineering Srl – Hypox Spinneret and Pack Cleaning Units and Polymer Filter Systems

Mozart – Fiber Cutting Blades and Slitting Blades

Pindarus S.r.l. – Raising Fillet Wire, Cleaning Brush Wire, Felt and Rubber Backing

Reifenhauser REICOFIL® – Spunbond and Composite Nonwoven Systems

Schill + Seilacher – Fiber Finishes and Nonwoven Surfactants

Sikoplast – Fiber and Nonwoven Recycling Systems

Saurer TEMCO – PU Discs, Separator Rollers, BCF Jets, Arbors for Covering Machinery - ICBT/RPR

Technip Zimmer GmbH – Complete Engineering for Staple Fiber and Filament Plants, Plants for Engineered Plastics, Polymerization and Solid State Polycondensation Plants

Tecnorama S.R.L. – Automatic Dispensing for Textiles

Tokuden – Induction Heated Godet and Drying Rolls for Fiber and Film Processes

UNGRICHT Roller + Engraving Technology – Heated, Cooled and Engraved Rolls for Nonwovens



Fred Adams

Fred Adams joins the Fi-Tech team, bringing a wealth of operations and technical experience in textile manufacturing. Fred has worked in managerial roles in both Europe and USA for major textile corporations working extensively in the dyeing and finishing of both knitted and woven fabrics, covering a wide range of

end uses from intimate apparel to technical textile fabrics.

Fi-Tech's Managing Director, Todd Bassett, stated that "Fred's passion, technical knowledge and experience in dyeing and finishing process improvement will provide a valuable resource for our customers, as we continue to provide innovative solutions to the textile manufacturing sector".

Mozart Plant Expanded



Mission accomplished! The new addition to the MOZART production complex has been finished (almost) on time. The extra 1000 sqm are giving home to the colleagues working in the fitter's department and mechanical engineering for maintaining our machines and building new components.

The free space now available in the main building will be remodeled and afterwards dedicated to production, blade packaging and storage. These departments are in urgent need for extra space due to the substantial growth generated over recent years.

Erbatech - Scout Applicator

Erbatech GmbH, of Erbach, Germany has developed a new impregnation pad that reduces common problems during wet on wet application for knit and woven fabrics. This technology was developed through many years of experience in engineering Cold Pad Batch processes for knit fabrics.



Main design features:

- Horizontal padder where liquor floods the area above the rollers. Sides are closed using automatic closing side plates.
- Low bath content in the nip, (only 8 liters in 2,200mm width), quick replenishment and less waste.
- Adjustable pick-up using center supported rollers (10 – 50 N/mm) or an hydraulic S-Roll for wide widths.

- A flow meter is used to control liquor consumption and pick-up on fabric.

- Easy access and good visibility of fabric makes it operator friendly.

Advantages against a traditional padder:

- No tailing because of low liquor content and quick replenishment.

- No trough, making cleaning/rinsing quicker and easier.

- Easy to thread, good access even with its compact design.

- Center supported roller balances the side/center/side pressure mechanically and requires no pick-up tests (one dial to set squeezing pressure), no need for hydraulic oil + maintenance + additional spares.

- Integrated measuring roller with load cell for synchronization with downstream equipment.

- Fully made of stainless steel and 100% manufactured in Germany.

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.

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

Idrosistem 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

NPE 2018

Orlando, FL
May 7-11, 2018
www.npe.org

Techtextil North America 2018

May 22-24, 2018
Atlanta, GA
www.us.messefrankfurt.com/atlanta

ANEX 2018

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

World of Wipes 2018

June 5-8, 2018
Chicago, IL
www.inda.org

RISE 2018

September 11-13, 2018
Raleigh, NC
www.inda.org

Hygienix 2018

November 5-8, 2018
Orlando, FL
www.inda.org

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In-Line with Fi-Tech, a Fi-Tech, Inc. publication, is designed to assist Engineering, Management, Purchasing and Plant Personnel by providing an avenue of communication between fiber producers and the best machinery manufacturers in the world. Fi-Tech, Inc. is the premiere representative for Nonwovens, Synthetic Fiber, and Textile machinery and components.

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