

IN-LINE WITH **fi-tech**_{INC}

**FALL
2023**

Mozart Blades
100th Anniversary

Futura Converting
New Partnership

ProJet B.V.
Exclusive Representative

**Southern Textile
Association**
Jessica Ethridge - New Board
Member

Fi-Tech Recruitment
Two Positions Available

Brückner
Alternative Heating Systems

**NEW TECHNOLOGIES
AND SOLUTIONS**

COMPANY UPDATES





Jeffrey G. Bassett

Welcome to our fall 2023 issue of *In-Line with Fi-Tech*. I want to start off this issue by thanking all our customers for making us your first choice and putting your trust and confidence in Fi-Tech and our Team. We are grateful and appreciate the opportunity to serve you. We strive every day to help you be successful and to be *Your Global Connection*.

In this issue, we have updates on numerous developments from our principals announced and promoted at the recent ITMA 2023 in Milan, Italy. We also are pleased to announce our new relationship with ProJet B.V. based in The Netherlands as well as Futura Converting in Luca, Italy. We look forward to promoting their unique technologies and solutions to the Nonwovens Industry.

Our sustainability initiatives continue to pay off with a recent investment in equipment to convert waste corrugated into packaging materials. More information is included in this issue. At time of writing this article, we have also surpassed 128 MWh of power generation with our solar array avoiding emission of 61 tons CO₂.

I would like to thank Fred Adams for his service to Fi-Tech. Fred retired officially at the end of July, but will carry on for several months in a consulting role. Fred joined us 5 years ago to enhance our knowledge and capabilities in textile production, dyeing and finishing. We appreciate the knowledge and professionalism Fred brought to our team during his time with us.

Lastly, I wish to recognize Cathy Shaw in our accounting group for her 35 years of service and Randy Wise from our sales team for his 25 years of service to Fi-Tech. Both have exemplified and demonstrated a strong commitment to our mission. We appreciate their loyalty and dedication to Fi-Tech.

Jeffrey G. Bassett
Managing Director



Randy Wise & Cathy Shaw

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

Our Mission Statement:

Fi-Tech, Inc. is committed to a sustainable future by maintaining a positive impact within the community and on our environment. Our efforts are focused on reducing, reusing, recycling, overall waste reduction, and energy conservation. Stewardship guidelines are in place granting to humanitarian needs, animal welfare, education, and more to raise awareness and in the support of our local community.

cont. on page 3





Sustainability Update cont...

In an ongoing effort to become more sustainable and to better serve our community, our warehouse and distribution team identified a need to ensure our customers' goods arrive safely at their door by adding an HSM ProfiPak corrugated shredder. This allows us to reuse waste corrugated boxes by creating our own packing material and giving these boxes another purpose. The addition of this shredder has also significantly reduced the amount of 100% biodegradable packing peanuts we use in our packing department.

100 YEARS OF MOZART BLADES

MOZART AG from Solingen celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. Founded in 1923 as a manufacturer of razor blades and razors under the brand name MOZART. The company realigned itself in the 1950s and switched production to the manufacture of today's world-renowned blades for craftsmen, as well as for various industrial applications.

At the Solingen site, 125 employees produce over 100 million blades per year. In recent years, the range has been supplemented by professional knife handles, which are also manufactured in Germany. A new knife will be presented this year at the BAU Trade Fair.

Under the leadership of Sebastian Schlipkötter, who, as Chairman of the Board, represents the 4th generation of the owning family, a wide range of innovations and investments have been launched in recent years to make the company fit for the future. These include new punching presses and grinding lines, and the use of future-proof technologies in the company's own hardening shop.

The company can currently rely on its employees for nearly 1,500 years of combined service and the experience they have gained along the way. They are an invaluable asset for MOZART, and at the same time a guarantee for a successful future of the company.



FUTURA CONVERTING PARTNERSHIP

In July of this year, Fi-Tech and Futura Converting of Lucca, Italy started a cooperation for the North American market to promote their line of Pin to Pin/ Pin to Flat Calender Systems for thermal bonding of nonwoven materials, their Off-Line Web Lamination System for hybrid products, and their Andromeda System for automatic fast steel roll change.

Thanks to the lower heat transmission created by the minimized points of contact, the Futura Pin to Pin technology can guarantee a final product with an unprecedented 3D effect, greater volume

and thickness of the web, superior softness, sustainability and better profile definition. The Offline Web Lamination System allows for high speed lamination of both synthetic and natural fibers such as viscose and cellulose without the use of glue; saving costs and making the process more environmentally friendly. The Andromeda System, which can be integrated into Futura Calender Systems, is an automatic system for heated rolls replacement, allowing safe change of configuration in just 20 minutes.

Futura, the technological leader in the production of Tissue Converting Lines, has put its innovative instincts to work on integrated technological solutions for the Nonwoven sector. Thanks to substantial investments in research and development, the company is now able to offer the Nonwovens Industry some of its most proven solutions, guaranteeing new advantages to manufacturers in the sector. The Fi-Tech team in the US and Mexico looks forward to our cooperation with Futura and introducing their unique technology to our North American customer base.

YOUR SOURCE FOR THE FIBER & POLYMER AND NONWOVEN INDUSTRIES

Ambersil

- Anti-Stick Spinneret Silicone Spray

AstenJohnson Advanced Fabrics

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

Autefa Solutions GmbH

- Bale Presses, Bale Wrapping & Strapping Systems

Brückner Textile Technologies

- Thru Air Dryers & Heat Setters

Cason Textile Machinery

- Bobbin Strippers

filtertechnik.Europe GmbH & Co. Kg

- Filter Screens for Spin Packs & Screen Changers, Filter Belts

Futura S.P.A.

- Pin-To-Pin Embossing Calenders

Galan Textile Machinery

- Ring Twisters for Fiber, Rope & Twine, Winders, Kiss Roll Devices, Creels

HANSA MIXER

- In Line Mixers and Foamers

Hastem Transportbänder GmbH

- Slat & Spiked/Needle Aprons

Heberlein

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

Idrosistem Srl

- Water Filtration Systems for Spun Lace Production

MOVEngineering Srl

- Hypox® Spinneret & Pack Cleaning Units

PROJET B.V. REPRESENTATION

Fi-Tech is happy to announce that as of spring of 2023, we are now the exclusive representative of ProJet B.V. for the Nonwovens markets in North America. From their initial founding over 25 years ago, ProJet B.V. has set themselves apart as a specialist in high pressure cleaning and cutting equipment for technical mesh laydown belts in continuous web-based manufacturing.

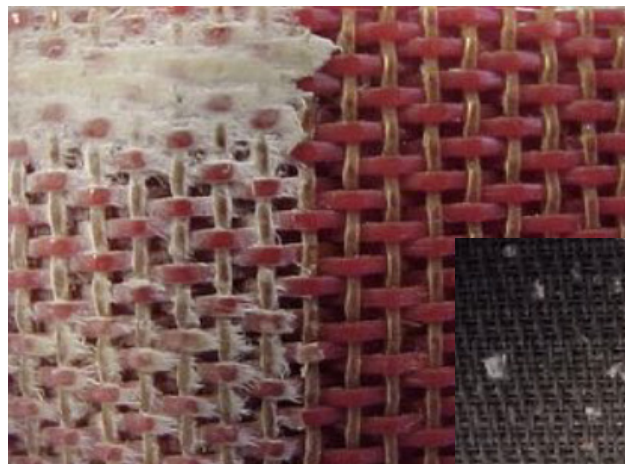
Initially designed for the paper board, pulp, and tissue industries, it became quickly apparent that the benefits derived from an online belt cleaner transferred well over into nonwoven production lines. Their Power Cleaner System is ideal for:

- Spunbond & Meltblown lines
- Wetlaid lines (e.g. fiberglass mat, filtration grades, etc.)
- Dry and Airlaid lines
- Chemical - Latex bond lines
- TAD dryers
- Double belted ovens

This cleaning system is designed to maintain a fully cleaned processing belt that provides the same technical performance on day one through the end of its life. Some of the benefits include:

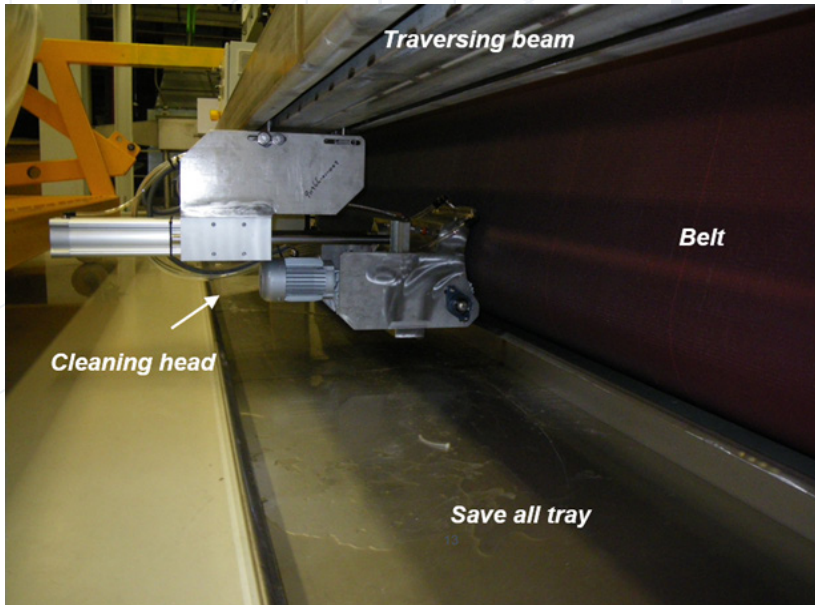
- Improving the formation process
- Increased line speed
- Reduction of web breaks
- Eliminating holes in the web/sheet
- Decreasing the drag of the belt resulting in lower motor load and less wear on the belt
- Increase of overall quality of the sheet/web
- Elimination of shutdowns to manually clean belts
- Better CD profiles

ProJet B.V. has a global presence with over 1,500 installations worldwide, and over 100 Power cleaners installed on Spunbond and Meltblown lines. Companies have realized actual cost reductions, increased productivity by throughput, less downtime, reduced change overs, and increased profitability once the Power Cleaner was installed. For more information, or to arrange a consultation, please contact your Fi-Tech representative.





Professional high pressure water jet technology



JESSICA ETHRIDGE STA

On June 25th, at the Southern Textile Association-Fiber Buyers Group Annual Meeting, Jessica Ethridge was elected as a new board member.

The STA was founded in 1908 as a nonprofit organization for individuals in textile and related industries with a common interest in all phases of textile manufacturing. Per the mission statement, benefits of membership are to promote good fellowship among members, to exchange professional knowledge relating to textiles, to promote other social, educational, personnel relations, research, and scientific activities for the benefit of the textile industry.

Jessica looks forward to expanding STA membership in areas of the industry that are not currently heavily represented. Jessica is participating in new member recruitment and plans recruitment

from Dyeing and Finishing groups and Nonwoven companies. Jessica began her textile career in June of 2000, as a process engineer. She has worked for the following dye and finishing companies in various positions: Milliken and Company, Sage Automotive Interiors, Lear Guilford and Trelleborg. She also has experience in Nonwovens, having worked at Berry Plastics as a process engineer on a 5 Beam R4 Line, as well as experience in specialty thread processing, having worked at Coats as the head of finish winding.

"I am happy to bring my network from a 20+ year textile manufacturing career into the STA, as it has a long history and meaningful impact on an industry that has supported many communities and families in the Southeast." This year's STA slogan is "I love this industry".

Mozart AG

- Staple Cutting Blades, Film Slitting Blades

ProJet B.V.

- Power Cleaner Process Wire Belt Cleaning System

Reifenhäuser Enka Tecnica GmbH

- Spinnerets, Jet Strips, Die Tips, Repairs, Complete Meltdown Die Bodies

Reifenhäuser REICOFIL® GmbH & Co. KG

- Turnkey Plants for Spun Bond, Meltdown, Composite, Laminated Fabrics, Bicomponent

Rieter Components & GmbH, TEMCO

- Texturing Units, PU Friction Discs, Air Entangling Jets, Industrial & Glass Fibers, Separator Rollers, Guide Rollers

Saueressig Surfaces

- Engraved & Smooth Rollers, Embossing Rollers, Ultrasonic Anvils, MPS Microporous Shells

Saurer Fibrevison

- On Line & Lab Fiber Monitoring/ Testing Systems

Schill+Seilacher GmbH

- Spin Finishes, Surfactants & Fiber Auxiliary Chemicals

Sikoplast Recycling Technology GmbH

- Recycling Plants for PET, PA, PP and PE Waste

Spoolex/Calemard

- PEGASE Traversing Winders & Spooling Equipment, Slitter/ Rewinders

T.EN Zimmer GmbH

- Spare Parts Service for Zimmer® Plants

Tokuden Co., Ltd.

- Induction Heated Rolls, Air Cooled Hybrid Rolls, UPSS Super Heated Steam Generator

Zentes Unitex GmbH

- Spinned Inspection Devices, European Spare Parts

YOUR SOURCE FOR THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Benninger

- Jet & Beam Dyeing Machines, Jiggers

Brückner Textile Technologies

- Finishing and Coating Lines for Woven and Knitted Fabrics, Dryers, Tenter Frames & Coating Equipment

Corino S.p.A.

- Hydro Extraction, Openers, De-Twisters, Tubular Slitters, Padders

Erbatech GmbH

- Continuous Wet Finishing Equipment for Woven and Knitted Fabric, Bleaching & Washing Ranges, Cold Pad Batch

Guarneri Technology S.r.l.

- Textile Calenders

HANSA MIXER

- Foam Generators & Mixers

Idrosistem Srl

- Dyehouse Waste Water Recovery Plants

Mario Crosta S.r.l. - Italy

- Fabric Surface Finishing Equipment

Mayer & Cie. GmbH & Co.

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

Ontec Automation GmbH

- Turbotex Scrim Fabric Machine

Pindarus S.r.l.

- Raising Fillet Wire, Cleaning Brush Wire

Shelton Vision Ltd.

- Vision Inspection & Defect Classification Systems

Tecnorama S.R.L.

- Automatic Dispensing Systems for Powder and Liquid Dyestuff & Auxiliaries

Testa S.r.l.

- Automated Inspection and Packaging Systems

PASSING OF DANNY MAYO

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our circular knitting service technician, Danny Mayo. After a long career in circular knitting, both in manufacturing/operations and working directly with equipment manufacturers, Danny joined Fi-Tech in 2019. He was a valuable member of our team installing, servicing and troubleshooting Mayer and CIE machines for our customers. Our deepest condolences to Danny's family and friends as we navigate his tragic loss.

FI-TECH BIDS FAREWELL TO FRED

After a long career in textiles, both in the United Kingdom and USA, all employees of Fi-Tech, Inc. would like to wish Fred Adams a well deserved and long retirement. Fred joined Fi-Tech in 2017 after a career with some of the most well-respected global textile manufacturers, such as UK based Courtaulds Textiles; and in the USA: Liberty Fabrics, Milliken Corporation, Guilford-Lear and Collins and Aikman. Fred's years of operational experience and technical knowledge was a key factor in his success with Fi-Tech's textile principals in dyeing and finishing.

We thank Fred for his contributions to Fi-Tech and his dedication to our customers and principals. We wish Fred and his family, a productive and healthy retirement as his focus shifts to his garden, golfing and **even more** cycling.

FI-TECH HIRES NEW CIRCULAR KNITTING TECHNICIAN

Fi-Tech is pleased to announce the appointment of Jon Adams as our new circular knitting service technician supporting Mayer and CIE machines installed in the US. Jon has spent the majority of his career in technical roles within textiles, specializing in double knit, full electronic jacquard technologies that are a strong sector in the USA market. Centrally located in South Carolina, Jon is geographically well positioned to continue supporting our circular knitting customers with technical support, advice on spare parts and in promoting Mayer and CIE's robust machine upgrade program.

Jon can be reached at jadams@fi-tech.com or on his mobile at (804-405-7402).

FI-TECH RECRUITMENT

Fi-Tech is actively looking to fill two positions on our team. The first is an outside salesperson. We are seeking a candidate with technical sales experience. This role will be active in both our nonwoven and fiber related product fields. The second position is an inside sales role in our spare parts group based in Richmond, VA. If you have interest or know of others who might be interested in either position, please contact Kevin Grey at kgrey@warrenwhitney.com for details or to apply.

BRÜCKNER OFFERS HYBRID ENERGY HEAT SOURCES

As the textile industry searches for energy saving technologies and a global supply chain that reduces CO2 emissions, Brückner has invested heavily in alternate heating systems for their ovens, while also addressing issues related to the lack of availability of certain energy sources such as natural gas worldwide with new challenges. As the conditions are regionally very different, Brückner offers a complete portfolio of alternative heating systems in order to react flexibly in case of energy shortages, and at the same time to change into green energy step by step. The following is an overview of hybrid heating systems and Brückner's leading edge technological solutions utilizing electrical heat pumps and hydrogen based heating systems.

In principle, the following heating systems are generally available in the textile finishing industry, although traditionally one source per oven:

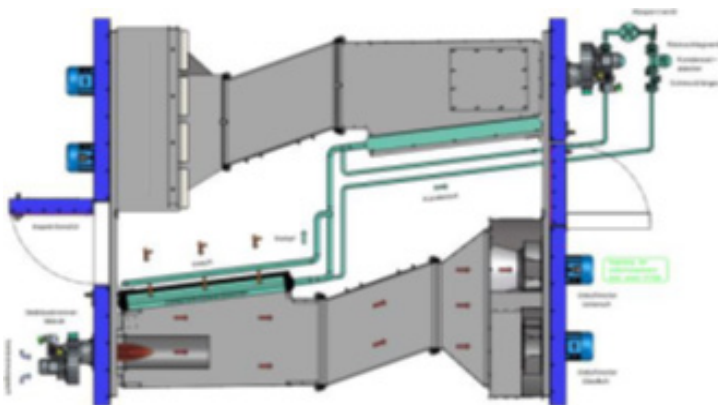
- Natural gas (direct and indirect)
- Thermal oil (indirect)
- Electricity direct (radiator)
- Steam (indirect)

The above systems can now be combined as a hybrid solution by combining two full heating systems in one dryer. Depending on the availability of the energy source it can be changed between

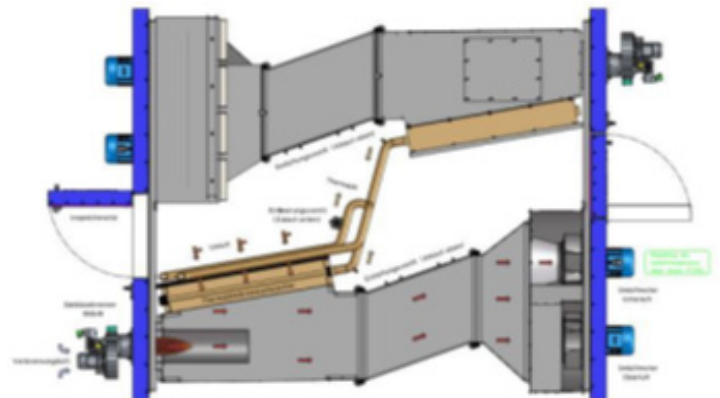
the two systems, e.g. electricity during the day, perhaps via a solar field and gas at night.

- Natural gas / steam heating
- Natural gas / electrical heating
- Steam / electrical heating
- Thermal oil / electrical heating
- Natural gas / thermal oil heating

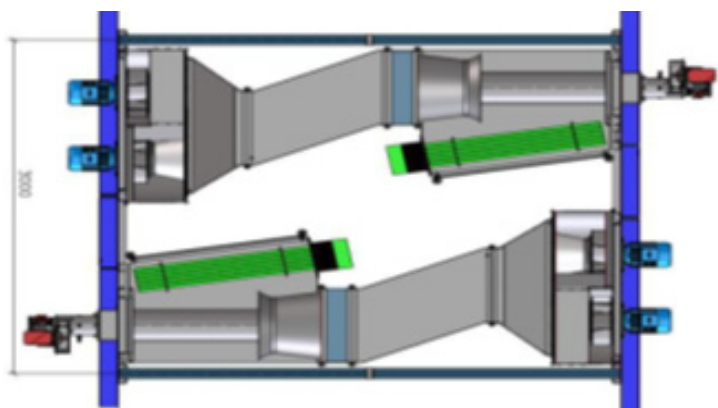
Here are some examples showing the internal air flow and heating components in several of the hybrid options available



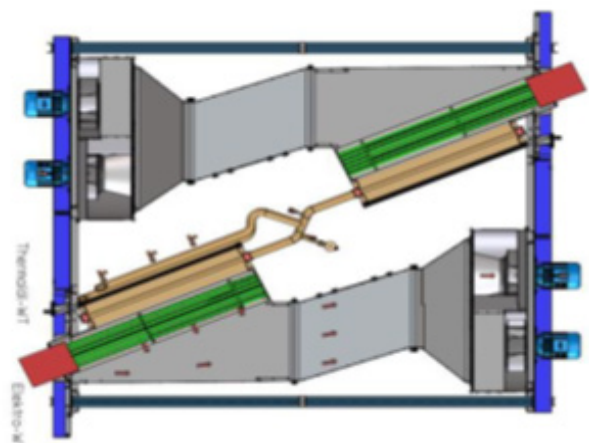
Direct gas heating & indirect steam heating



Direct gas heating & indirect thermal oil heating



Direct gas heating & indirect electric heating



Indirect thermal oil heating & indirect electric heating



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EVENTS CALENDAR

RISE

September 26-27, 2023

Raleigh, NC

www.riseconf.net

Synthetic Yarn and Fabric Association Fall Conference

October 26-27, 2023

Charlotte, NC

www.thesyfa.org

FiltXPO

October 10-12, 2023

Chicago, IL

www.filtxpo.com

Cordage Institute Annual Conference

May 16-18, 2023

Colorado Springs, CO

www.ropecord.com

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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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