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PRESS RELEASE

WITTMANN BATTENFELD at the Plastpol in Kielce

WITTMANN BATTENFELD wins award for its condition monitoring system

At this year's Plastpol in Kielce, WITTMANN BATTENFELD was able to convince an independent jury consisting of experts from universities and specialist institutes of the benefits offered by its condition monitoring system (CMS) when used in injection molding machines for processing plastics. CMS is a system of sensors to monitor the condition of the machines.

Condition monitoring systems have already been used in large-scale plants for many years to anticipate and prevent production failures and optimize time-consuming servicing schedules. Recent progress in sensor technology and the increasing availability of high-speed data transfer networks now make such systems an interesting option for injection molding machines, too. When used in injection molding machines, the system monitors the condition of individual machine components to optimize their availability and efficiency and to keep them on this optimal level. The system detects malfunctions before they cause a machine breakdown and thus enables proactive scheduling of servicing sessions. In this way, costs can be minimized with a simultaneous increase in productivity.

The heart of the condition monitoring system is the CMS computer. This computer is part of a production control system. It communicates with the injection molding machines and collects and saves the measurement data for possible later backtracking. A CMS control center can monitor up to 50 machines simultaneously and pass on early warnings to the corporate maintenance staff by email. Besides current status information, the software also delivers trends indicating changes in functional values, which provide the basis for decision-making by maintenance staff.

At this year's Plastpol, the condition monitoring system was demonstrated on a high-speed machine for the packaging industry, an *EcoPower* Xpress 160/1100+. On this machine, a lid made of PP (supplied by Borealis, Austria) was manufactured with a 4-

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cavity mold, using a high-speed IML system with a W837 pro side-entry robot from WITTMANN.



Fig. 1: from the left: Udo Rath, Regional Sales Manager WITTMANN BATTENFELD and Bogdan Zabrzewsky, Managing Director of WITTMANN BATTENFELD Polska, with medals and certificates

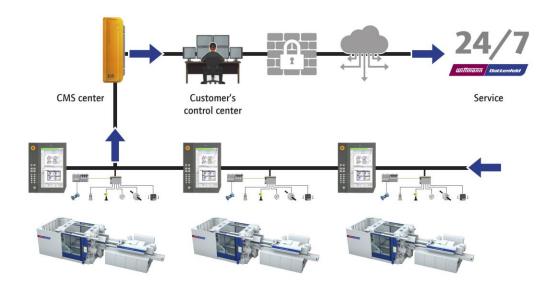


Fig. 2: Overview of CMS control center

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The WITTMANN Group

The WITTMANN Group is a worldwide leader in the production of injection molding machines, robots and peripheral equipment for the plastics processing industry, headquartered in Vienna/Austria and consisting of two main divisions: WITTMANN BATTENFELD and WITTMANN. They jointly operate the companies of the group with eight production plants in five countries, and its additional sales and service companies are active with 34 facilities on all important plastics markets around the world.

WITTMANN BATTENFELD pursues the further expansion of its market position as an injection molding machine manufacturer and specialist for state-of-the-art process technologies. As a supplier of comprehensive, modern machine technology in modular design, the company meets both present and future market demands for plastics injection molding equipment.

The WITTMANN product portfolio includes robots and automation systems, material handling systems, dryers, gravimetric and volumetric blenders, granulators, temperature controllers and chillers. With this diversified range of peripheral units, WITTMANN offers plastics processors solutions to cover all production requirements, ranging from independent production cells to integrated plant-wide systems.

The syndication of the various segments under the umbrella of the WITTMANN Group has led to complete connectivity between the various product lines, for the benefit of plastics processors with an increasing demand for seamless integration of processing machinery with automation and peripherals.

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