innovations
Technics – Markets – Trends
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Power for the Future

Battenfeld
Dear Reader,

*Power for the Future* – this is our slogan for the K 2013, it stands for the enthusiasm we have invested over the years in order to now exhibit our best-ever range of machinery and equipment. Our aim is to help you make the most competitive products on the market – and enable you to make a powerful start into the future now.

Once again, the WITTMANN Group is going to be attending this year’s K show in Düsseldorf from October 16 to 23, with two stands and a total of 1,200 square meters of exhibition space: in Hall 10/A04 and Hall 16/D22. We’ll be exhibiting over 125 products, including 12 world firsts, of which we are especially proud.

We keep getting asked why we have two stands at K. The exhibition is so vast that in order to best accommodate the specific interests of the visitors, closely related products tend to be concentrated in particular exhibition halls. For us, this means we have to present our full product range in two separate halls. Although this increases the logistical effort involved, it means that both our injection molding machines and peripheral devices can be shown in the areas where they are expected to be in terms of the thematics.

For the first time ever, we’ll have a mascot at this year’s K. Not an obvious decision, we know. But having received encouragement to do so on a number of occasions now, we’ve finally decided to have our *PowerMan* represent us at K. *PowerMan* is an anthropomorphic robot with a handsome physique, who will be helping to distribute our *Power Bars*, high-energy muesli bars to help the public cope with the exertions they undergo at the K.

None other of our units better symbolizes the *Power for the Future* efforts we are making than the new *MacroPower* 1500. At the 2010 K we showcased our largest machine to date in the form of the *MacroPower* 1000. This year we’re again expanding our range in the higher clamping force segment with the *MacroPower* 1500. The *MacroPower* heavy-duty series is now available with clamping forces ranging from 400 to 1,600 tons. Check out the new models for yourself on stand D22 in Hall 16.

You can take a closer look at our robots and peripheral devices on stand A04 in Hall 10. This is where we’re presenting the new W8pro robot series and the DRYMAX Aton2 F30 segmented wheel dryer for the smaller segment alongside many other innovative products.

Pay us a visit and experience *Power for the Future* for yourself. I very much look forward to meeting you in person.

Sincerely, Michael WITTMANN
Backhaus is on the road to success

Since the return of Kunststofftechnik Backhaus to being a family-owned company a little more than a year ago, the well-known German automotive supplier has seen dramatic growth. Full order books, rising sales figures and numbers of associates clearly speak for themselves. An increase in the workforce is planned from today’s 146 to 200 by the end of this year. In 2013, Backhaus was even nominated for the award “Großer Preis des Mittelstandes” (High Award for Medium-sized Companies) of the Oskar Patzelt Foundation. The company, which was established by Ernst Backhaus in 1925, and became a member of the American Key Plastics Group 2004 top 2011, was taken over on 10 May 2012 by Manfred Gante, its long-standing Chief Technology Officer. It has been clearly on the road to success again ever since, largely thanks to an excellent team, as Manfred Gante emphasizes, as well as to reliable partners who have already stood by Gante for many years. To meet the growing demand, a building site of 7,000 m² has been purchased, on which construction of a warehouse facility with 1,000 m² of floor space will begin before the end of this year.

Backhaus stands for highest quality

On an 8,000 m² production floor, Backhaus manufactures high-quality, innovative plastic parts made of thermoplastic and thermoset materials, of which about 70% are delivered to renowned customers from the automobile industry such as Audi, VW, BMW, Daimler, Bentley, Maybach, and other OEMs. The product portfolio includes fans, air ducts, cold air intake systems, door frames, belt pulleys, housings, holding fixtures, claddings, and other complex parts and assemblies. The main segment consists of all kinds of innovative air conduction systems for passenger cars and increasingly also for commercial vehicles. The range includes, for example, elaborate 2-component parts, in which materials of different hardness are combined. But Backhaus can also expand more and more into the non-automotive sector thanks to its innovative technologies. One representative example is the medical industry, whose requirements in terms of quality standards and reliability make Backhaus an interesting supplier.

The company’s innovative strength, boosted by in-house part development, its top-class quality standards, absolute reliability and customer-specific know-how – new products are developed and system solutions found jointly with the customers – are the cornerstones of success at Backhaus. To keep up these high standards on a long-term basis, Manfred Gante invests not only in state-of-the-art machinery and equipment, but also in basic and advanced training of his associates. So apprentices have been in training at Backhaus in all areas relevant for the company since May 2012.

WITTMANN BATTENFELD – the injection molding technology partner

When investing in their injection molding machinery and equipment, Manfred Gante and his Chief Technology Officer, Uwe Möller, pay special attention to seeking reliability, easy machine setting and user-friendliness and, in particular, energy efficiency. According to Gante, energy-optimized equipment is a decisive factor for competitiveness on the
market, and this factor is becoming more and more significant. This is why Backhaus also invests in several technologies to reduce energy consumption and to control the temperature recovery system in the mold, which substantially contributes to reducing cycle times.

Backhaus currently operates a total of 64 injection molding machines ranging from 15 to 1,300 t in clamping force. Further investment is in planning, in both 2-component and single-component machines, and here especially in large-scale machines with clamping forces between 1,300 and 1,600 t, and this has already been implemented to some extent. About one third of the company's injection molding machines come from WITTMANN BATTENFELD. The most recently delivered machines are hydraulic 2-component models with 650 t clamping force, on which materials of different hardnesses, in particular PP and TPE, are injection-molded in a single production process. The HM 650 machine models are equipped with WITTMANN automation for parts removal and depositing. CELLMOULD® technology is used on one of the two machines in addition to multi-component technology. CELLMOULD® is a process for manufacturing structured foam parts, with nitrogen being added directly in the barrel during plasticizing. The entire machine technology, including the plasticizing barrel unit, injectors, gas flow regulator and gas generator, has been developed and manufactured by WITTMANN BATTENFELD. This process offers several advantages. For instance, significant reductions in material consumption with simultaneous high dimensional stability can be achieved in this way. The process also brings about considerable reductions in weight, required clamping force and cycle times. This results in attractively designed, high-quality, lightweight parts – significant factors especially in the automotive industry.

**Comprehensive professional service**

Manfred Gante and Uwe Möller appreciate WITTMANN BATTENFELD as a competent, reliable partner capable of achieving intelligent, energy-efficient solutions jointly with Backhaus.

The experience with the machines delivered so far was consistently positive. In addition to the high quality of the machines and their outstanding process technology, however, decisive arguments in favor of investing in WITTMANN BATTENFELD machinery and equipment are the reliability, fast response and competence of local customer support.

Manfred Gante comments: “Quality, flexibility, innovation and reliability are vital for our success. This is why we need flexible, reliable, innovative partners able to supply us with high-quality, energy-efficient products. In this respect, WITTMANN BATTENFELD is exactly what we are looking for.” Uwe Möller is also more than satisfied with this cooperation: “Our partnership with BATTENFELD has stood the test of time for many decades. In fact, it has existed as long as both Backhaus and BATTENFELD have been in existence themselves.”
Encapsulating Excellence

Leading trade molder Barkley Plastics has developed the IMIW process (In-Mould Internal Welding); a new injection molding production technique which provides molders with a convenient and fault-free method of ensuring flawless products without having to engage in post-molding welding operations. Barkley Plastics is a valued and close partner of WITTMANN BATTENFELD.

Adrian Lunney

By means of this new process inserts can be fully encapsulated by injection molding and thus protected (gas-and-water-proof) against any damage. The new process is particularly suitable for insert molding electronic parts for RFID components (RFID = Radio Frequency Identification). The new process also offers a large field of further applications. For example, it can be used for all those plastic parts which need to be perfectly connected without post-molding operations.

Birmingham-based Barkley Plastics has been helped in bringing IMIW to market by leading equipment supplier WITTMANN BATTENFELD in Austria. The Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) has also been instrumental in validating key parts of the IMIW process, using optical microscopy to investigate weld integrity, interface conditions, material homogeneity and MEK attack.

The new process successfully premiered at the WITTMANN BATTENFELD Competence Days in Kottingbrunn, Lower Austria (April 24/25). The process was demonstrated on a servo-electric EcoPower 110/350 injection molding machine with a mold tool supplied by Barkley Plastics. The WITTMANN BATTENFELD machine was specially programmed for the IMIW process and the tool was demonstrated with a sliding core. The WITTMANN Group developed the production cell automation systems, including the insertion of electronics, the demolding of the finished products and the placing of final product onto a conveyor belt.

The IMIW production cell provides yet another proof of the WITTMANN BATTENFELD capability to deliver all production needs from just one supplier. Not long after this first presentation, at the PLASTPOL exhibition in Kielce, Poland in May 2013, the IMIW technology was awarded first prize, both for the molding technology and for the innovative machine array. Barkley Plastics Owner and Managing Director Mark Harwood says that “the time has now come to share IMIW expertise with the rest of the industry. The technology is fully ready for the marketplace and for other molders to use it on a ‘first come first served’ basis. Needless to say, we at Barkley Plastics are also preparing to mold IMIW-based products to client specifications.”

The IMIW process

Encapsulation is a large part of the IMIW appeal and is also key to providing a number of failsafe molding solutions for any number of industries, including critical applications in electronics, medical, healthcare and other sectors.
In essence, In-Mould Internal Welding (IMIW) allows the simultaneous molding of two parts within a mold tool; one on the fixed half and one on the moving half.

Alignment methods of the two halves after first-stage molding can be achieved by either radial, linear or angular movement. The parts are then internally welded together, achieving a hermetic seal and negating any need for post molding welding operations.

Prior to welding, the product/insert can be loaded into either side of the component. The great simplicity of this production process creates very significant cost and convenience advantages. A smaller manufacturing footprint also saves on factory space and pre-empts any need (and cost) for assembly or post molding operations. IMIW also cuts out the need for further parts or materials, as the manufacturing process needs no seals or fixings in order to achieve a hermetic seal.

The integrity of the weld is also measured internally via means of a self-calibrating pressure transducer. Any faults thus identified in the mold tool are automatically removed from the production line as part of the manufacturing process. In this way a 100% production quality assurance is automatically achieved, again negating any need for further production equipment and assessment.

Advantages and applicability

Barkley Plastics points out that the IMIW process is there to help product designers to imagine new manufacturing and new products. Design imagination can be stretched since the IMIW process facilitates almost any internal shape desired together with a more consistent wall thickness.

IMIW has been successfully trialed in a number of commodity and engineering plastics, including PC, PC/ABS, Polyamides, PPSU and glass-filled plastics. Barkley Plastics technical director Maurice Cassidy says that “on all counts the IMIW technique passes with flying colors. We are therefore very excited about our new process – both for our clients and for the industry. In my view IMIW will now greatly reduce design constraints for future plastic enclosures. It will also give the processor options – simplifying and streamlining production and helping to reduce costs. IMIW enables the whole molding and assembly process to be completed in one step.”

The Barkley Plastics success and WITTMANN BATTENFELD

Barkley Plastics is the molding partner in the Midlands Assembly Network (MAN), a ten company organization created in 2006 and responsible for boosting sales and marketing for its members in the region. Over the past couple of months the MAN network connection has led to Barkley Plastics enjoying some prime time spells on BBC Midlands TV, taking part in coverage that shows successful Midlands-based manufacturers in the region, increasing output and exports.

Matt Powell, Barkley Plastics Business Development Manager has hosted the TV cameras and says that “IMIW has arrived at a great time for our company and now provides great new string to our bow, for designers, for other molders and clients and in the service of our exports which now stand at nearly 20%.” Recent Barkley Plastics successes relayed on BBC Midlands TV have included the “re-shoring” of M&S-based molding work from China and a number of significant orders for German automotive group BMW.

The WITTMANN BATTENFELD association with Barkley Plastics stretches back many years and involves exclusive sales rights partnership of the IMIW process. The WITTMANN Group can supply single IMM machines or complete IMIW production cells, including sensors, automation and conveying equipment, all for the client need/specification. WITTMANN BATTENFELD in partnership with Barkley Plastics is able to supply the advanced IMIW technology as a turnkey production plant system.

The Barkley Plastics IMIW launch team: Mark Harwood, Managing Director, Matt Powell, Business Development Manager, Maurice Cassidy, Technical Director, Daniel Williams, WITTMANN BATTENFELD Area Sales Manager (from left to right).

Adrian Lunney is a press and public relations agent specialized in media work for companies in plastics, chemicals, packaging, recycling, and general manufacturing sectors.
In-Mold Labeling: The multi-faceted production concept

When setting up to produce IML parts, many injection molders find themselves faced with the realization that instead of being able to produce umpteen million identical parts, the market is only able to support runs in the six-figure range.

It’s also frequently the case that many IML parts which are large or which hold large volumes get commissioned and these are required in even smaller quantities. A typical example of this would be paint buckets; hardly ever are as many as a million produced in a particular size.

The choice of robot

The choice of the correct robot for the job from WITTMANN’s wide range of servo robots allows IML systems to be custom-designed for virtually any conceivable requirement.

Classic IML systems use side-entry high speed robots. They have differentiated automation with discrete labeling and palletizing, and usually have devices for assuring quality control too. These systems are designed for single or stacked molds and intended for cycle times of less than seven seconds. Such systems are typically designed for round-the-clock production or plants for the production of very large batches, since the effort required for reconfiguring from one part to the next can be quite considerable, depending on the customer’s requirements and label geometry. In contrast, IML systems are designed for smaller quantities.

The adoption of a new technology usually happens in small increments. The decision to get involved with in-mold labeling (IML) needs to be carefully considered too, and most of the time starts with applications for smaller piece counts or systems with a greater degree of flexibility. What’s certain is that while IML systems can differ fundamentally in terms of design, a suitable solution can be found for each particular requirement.

Antonio Jurado
but must demonstrate a high level of flexibility and ease of refitting. These types of systems are preferentially designed with top-entry standard robots which have much more freedom of movement, are easier to retool and can be used for other tasks. Obviously, the investment costs for smaller production are going to be proportionally higher than for larger ones. For this reason, one of the requirements of such systems, in addition to the high degree of flexibility, is the desire for similarly low investment costs.

Both of these criteria are met by the classic W8 series standard robots from WITTMANN. The W822 and W832 models, as well as the new W842 with reinforced vertical axes and payloads of up to 25 kg, are particularly well suited for these types of applications.

**A typical WITTMANN IML system**

An example of this type of system was installed for demonstration purposes on the WITTMANN BATTENFELD booth at K 2013, designed to manufacture an IML-decorated bucket made from polypropylene with a volume of 14 liters, a sidewall thickness of 1.4 mm and a weight of 420 g – a set-up using a single cavity mold with pre-chamber injection and 24 cooling circuits.

This IML system involves a WITTMANN W842 HS top-entry unit designed for rapid loading of the mold that removes and stacks the finished buckets. The IML robot is equipped with high speed servo motors and removes banderole labels from a vertically-mounted label magazine before inserting them, with the help of a dummy core, into the cavity of the fixed half of the mold. In order to minimize the cycle time, removal of the finished bucket and label insertion are both performed simultaneously.

In addition to this, the special WITTMANN real-time SmartRemoval function which already starts accelerating the robot axes during the mold-opening action of the machine is implemented. Even though numerous movements are performed in and around the mold, the entire time that the mold is open can be kept to under 2.5 seconds.

The benefits of this automation concept are, on the one hand, optimum value for money, and on the other, short delivery times thanks to fact that the majority of the components being used are tried-and-tested standard items from WITTMANN’s automation range.

The label magazine is designed to take labels from 800 × 200 mm up to 1000 × 350 mm in size. This means that the magazine is flexible enough to be used for other bucket sizes too.

Cost of investment related to the plastic part itself is reduced to that for the insert core. And of course the WITTMANN W842 HS robot, with its payload of 25 kg, can also be used for the removal of other parts as necessary.
Founded nearly 190 years ago, the exchange-listed Semperit Group is now one of the world's leading suppliers of rubber and plastic products. The international industrial group headquartered in Vienna develops, produces and sells highly specialized medical equipment and various other industrial products: examination and surgical gloves, hydraulic and industrial hoses, conveyor belts, escalator handrails, construction profiles and products for railroad track construction industry. Semperit employs over 10,000 employees at 22 production sites and sales subsidiaries worldwide, including 7,000 in Asia and more than 700 in Austria.

Christoph Schweinberger

Semperit places great importance on continuous product development. The research and development center in the Lower Austrian town of Wimpassing acts as a think tank for all production areas, including the Semperform division.

As part of the Semperit Group, Semperform is a leading European manufacturer of molded and extruded articles made from rubber and plastic.

Semperform works in close cooperation with customers to develop customized solutions for profiles, handrails, cable car sheaves and other molded parts which are then manufactured.

Precise dosing is required

This constant quest for improvement and optimization has prompted Semperit AG to optimize both the quality and production costs for an ongoing project in the railroad track sector. The parts in question are high-precision underlay slabs for rail support systems.

Passenger safety is of the utmost importance in the passenger transportation sector and, as a consequence, these parts have to meet the highest of standards with regard to manufacturing accuracy. In the past, such underlay slabs were manufactured using a conventional dosing device.
Dosing with chamber dosing wheel and downstream homogenizing mixer for feeding the masterbatch. With this technology, however, elaborate control systems were required in order to ensure that the quality of the moldings remained consistent over long periods. In times of strong competition and increasing price pressure, an effective solution had to be found quickly.

Semperit had been impressed with WITTMANN as a partner during the preparation phase of the project, and initiated preliminary talks without further hesitation. After establishing the process data and performing a comparative trial with a dosing unit from another supplier, the decision was made to use the WITTMANN GRAVIMAX B34 gravimetric dosing unit. Its unique real-time weighing technique, the so-called RTLS (Real Time Live Scale), achieves highly-accurate dosing results and its automatic batch logging system ensures the highest level of process reliability. The WITTMANN GRAVIMAX’s advanced technology was the crucial factor for deciding in its favor.

**Trial operation of the GRAVIMAX**

For the comparison test, both dosing units – the GRAVIMAX and a competitor’s product with chamber dosing wheel – were subjected to identical operating conditions, and the dosing accuracy of the two devices was compared based on the dosing results. The results showed a significant improvement potential for the process if a WITTMANN GRAVIMAX was used as the dosing unit. Variations in the masterbatch dosing could be almost entirely eliminated. The main reason for this high dosing accuracy lies in the real-time weighing system, whereby the GRAVIMAX is able to actively regulate the dosing process, thus ensuring the exact repeatability of the dosing process. The results of this comparative test paved the way for a trial production run using the GRAVIMAX.

In addition to high dosing accuracy, consistent, optimal mixing of the different materials is also of great importance. The GRAVIMAX was also able to demonstrate its impressive precision mixing performance during trial operation. Thanks to the special geometry of the mixing chamber, so-called “dead corners” (areas within the mixing chamber in which material could accumulate) are completely eliminated. The components within the chamber are homogeneously mixed using specially-developed mixing blades. As it was necessary to eliminate any impact on production stemming from the composition of the masterbatch, the carbon black content of the masterbatch itself was raised during the trial.

And this test showed that it can be assumed to remain constant with a maximum variation of ± 0.21%. The GRAVIMAX was fed with new material by a central feeder unit, and the masterbatch fed via a stand-alone feeder unit.

To ensure that the system was operated correctly, Semperit operators were given instruction during the course of the commissioning phase. Thanks to the pretty much self-explanatory design of the user interface, operation of the dosing unit proved to be straightforward.

**Lessons learned from the test series**

Compared to other device configurations, the trial operation using the WITTMANN GRAVIMAX showed significant improvements in process reliability, material consumption and part quality. Semperit carried out special analytic tests in order to determine how the masterbatch was distributed in the finished product. These tests confirmed the consistent dosing accuracy and material mixing capability. By using the GRAVIMAX, the carbon black content in the finished product could be kept nearly constant with a standard deviation of 0.052%. The test series clearly demonstrates that fluctuations that were quite normal when using conventional dosing units are definitely a thing of the past with the GRAVIMAX. As a future-oriented company, continuous product improvement remains one of Semperit’s most important objectives.

The company is not only looking to work with WITTMANN with regards to material dosing, but in other peripheral technology fields too.

**Christoph Schweinberger**

is Sales Manager Austria for Peripheral Equipment at WITTMANN Kunststoffgeräte GmbH in Vienna.

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**GRAVIMAX B34 blender from WITTMANN, mounted on an injection molding machine at Semperit.**

**Lessons**, learned from the test series with the GRAVIMAX blender.

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**WITTMANN innovations – 4/2013**
At this year’s K show in Düsseldorf, WITTMANN presents at booth A04 in hall 10 several brand new tempering units that are working with water as a flow or tempering medium: the latest models from the widely known FLOWCON and TEMPRO series. 

Walter Lichtenberger – Gerald Schodl

Again, the latest models from the FLOWCON and TEMPRO series are representing the avant-garde in this field – and they have what it takes to become the industry standard.

FLOWCON plus

With its proportionally controller stepper motor and wear-free flow meter, the FLOWCON plus is the latest model from the series of WITTMANN water flow controllers. He is replacing the solenoid valves of the previous model, allowing for a significant improvement in temperature control. The valves of the FLOWCON plus can be used both as simple control valves with flow monitoring and in combination with a temperature probe to regulate mold temperature.

Process data such as flow and temperature values can be entered either on the touch screen of the teach box or directly on the control panel screen of the processing unit, because it is connected to the flow regulator via an interface.

The key advantage of this type of flow regulator over a manually adjustable one is that it permits continuous electronic monitoring of the preset flow and temperature values. All data are logged and can be automatically adjusted proportionally via control valves. Already proven in service many times over, the WITTMANN fine regulating valve of the 301 Series performs the flow regulation function here.

Generously dimensioned channels in the casing blocks guarantee a low pressure loss and high flow rates. Additional options for the FLOWCON plus are currently under development: the ability to connect directly all the injection molding machine models from WITTMANN BATTENFELD, for example, as well as the ability to blow mold channels out with compressed air and the ability to switch from cold water regulation to the operation of a temperature control device. The maximum equipment configuration of the FLOWCON plus features 4 × 12 cooling circuits, which are connected to one another via a data cable.

Presented at the K 2013 for the first time: WITTMANN FLOWCON plus (here shown with 12 cooling circuits).

Temperature controller TEMPRO plus D180-2-L

With this temperature controller (the “L” stands for “large”), WITTMANN is presenting a large unit in dual zone configuration. The TEMPRO plus D180-2-L represents a completely new development.

It has two heat exchangers for each circuit. Every heat exchanger can deliver 18 kW of heating and up to 40 kW of cooling capacity. Through this configuration, it is possible to offer this unit with a heating capacity of up to 36 kW and 80 kW cooling capacity per circuit.

For the optimal transmission of heating and cooling to the consumer, the system can be fitted with one of two different pumps. In the standard version, the TEMPRO plus D-2-L is equipped with a 2.2 kW peripheral impeller pump, which has a maximum pump capacity of 90 l/min (at max. 6 bar). A 4 kW peripheral impeller pump with a pump capacity of 200 l/min (max. 6.5 bar) is also available as an option.

The TEMPRO plus D-2-L features a new cold water valve block with a modular arrangement, which can be expanded indefinitely depending on the equipment variant. This makes it possible to incorporate customer-specific solutions – such as a cold water bypass for cooling the return line, or emptying the mold by means of compressed air – easily and inexpensively. Moreover, the standard package includes important equipment features such as automatic filling, emptying the mold by reversal of the pump rotation, system pressure regulation, leak monitoring, and much more.

At K 2013 in Düsseldorf, the brand new WITTMANN TEMPRO plus D-2-L temperature controller is being presented in the 180 °C dual circuit version. But versions for 140 °C and 160 °C are also available. WITTMANN also plans to produce a single-circuit unit and a 90 °C version in an open configuration. The new TEMPRO plus D-2-L is suitable for applications with variotherm temperature
control. The special variotherm tempering process was presented for the first time at the FAKUMA in Friedrichshafen in 2008.

Over the course of the past five years the process design has been extensively refined in terms of operability, control precision and process optimization. The area of extrusion opens up further possibilities for the TEMPRO plus D-2-L.

But ultimately a temperature controller with significantly larger dimensions was mainly needed in order to be able to offer a temperature control system which is also suitable for large machines – not least as part of any operating environment which includes also MacroPower injection molding machines from WITTMANN BATTENFELD.

**WITTMANN innovations – 4/2013**
Robomatik in Lüdenscheid offers the full range

For 20 years now, Robomatik GmbH in Lüdenscheid, Germany, has been working with WITTMANN as their regional representative for robots and peripheral equipment. Today, the company markets the entire range of WITTMANN Group products in North Rhine-Westphalia, including with immediate effect, the range of injection molding machines.

The company began as a one-man operation and traded under the company name “Schröer Kunststofftechnik”. Business activities included the sale of robotic systems, temperature control devices and flow regulators. The product range gradually expanded over the years to eventually include WITTMANN’s other product lines: material handling (dryers, conveyors) and granulators.

Robomatik GmbH was founded in Lüdenscheid in 2005 as the successor to Schröer Kunststofftechnik, and took over the sale of all WITTMANN products for the North Rhine-Westphalia territory. Robomatik has its own service workshop with inspection, maintenance and repair department, including an extensive spare parts warehouse for temperature control devices and flow regulators as well as a new equipment warehouse for these two product segments.

Robomatik’s customers benefit from their 20 years of experience in the system design and sale of WITTMANN robotic systems and peripherals. As of September 1, 2013, Robomatik has additionally taken over the sale of injection molding machines from WITTMANN BATTENFELD. True to the old WITTMANN Group company motto – “One stop shopping” – with immediate effect, all solutions up to and including entire injection molding work cells that incorporate the processing machinery can now be designed and delivered in addition to stand-alone devices and peripheral systems.

Their close proximity to WITTMANN BATTENFELD’s branch office in Meinerzhagen allows Robomatik to demonstrate the entire WITTMANN Group range to its customers “live”, including carrying out test series that take into account the individual customer’s requirements.

WITTMANN Group growing rapidly in North America

Due to the continuing rapid growth of the WITTMANN Group in North America, the headquarters of its US subsidiary – WITTMANN BATTENFELD Inc. in Torrington, CT – is being extended for the second time since it was built in 2000.

The extension of the facility – that will be ready for use in January 2014 – consists of a further addition of 1,850 m² to the existing building. It involves 2.4 million US $ in capital investment. The extension to the building will provide WITTMANN BATTENFELD Inc. with additional space to accommodate the larger machines from the MacroPower series with up to 1,600 t clamping force, and for commissioning more turnkey lines consisting of machines, automation systems and peripheral equipment. The extension’s height of more than 10 m permits unimpeded assembly and testing of the large MacroPower models.

With this extension, the US subsidiary of the WITTMANN Group will now be able to further strengthen its position as a system supplier of machines, robots, automation equipment and peripheral appliances for the plastics industry. David Preusse, President and CEO of WITTMANN BATTENFELD, Inc., comments: “WITTMANN BATTENFELD has been the market leader in robots for injection molding plants for many years, largely due to local robot production. The latest addition to the building will now give us even more opportunities for turnkey systems. With it, we will be able to offer complete packages, in the range above 500 t in addition to our existing capacity for smaller systems, which are delivered from here in Torrington, CT as well as from our Mid-West Tech Center in South Elgin, IL. Such integrated injection molding production cells can be proven here with molds, process and with downstream automation systems. We add complete project management to our multi-line projects with customers to work through more efficient product launches. And we back each of our three product lines with instant remote web servicing with our technical staff all seven days per week.”

WITTMANN has already been in Torrington, CT for 24 years and has developed over the last 10 years, thanks to its growing product portfolio, from a well-known maker of automation equipment for the plastics industry with its own robot development and production facility into a system supplier of solutions for the American plastics market. At the US headquarters in Torrington 130 associates are currently employed. But due to successful expansion and constantly increasing demand for the products, their numbers are also continuing to grow.

Since 2010, WITTMANN BATTENFELD Inc. has succeeded in raising its sales figures by 140%! •
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