

**Dipl.-Kfm. Alexander Lohmann**Tel.: +49 5481 14-3669 · Fax: +49 5481 14-3355
alexander.lohmann@wuh-group.com**Elisabeth Braumann, M.A.**Tel.: +49 5481 14-2929 · Fax: +49 5481 14-3355
elisabeth.braumann@wuh-group.com

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Impressive In-house EXPO at Windmüller & Hölscher

From 10 to 12 November 2009, the biggest in-house Expo in the 140-year history of German-based machine manufacturer Windmüller & Hölscher (W&H) was staged at the company's headquarters in Lengerich. More than 1,200 visitors from 57 countries came to Lengerich to witness as many as nine world premieres of new technologies in film extrusion and package printing. „It's Time for New Innovations“ was the slogan of the W&H house EXPO.

„This EXPO was the biggest in-house show in the history of W&H in terms of both the number of innovations presented – among them as many as nine world premieres – and the number of machines and systems shown in operation. More than 1,200 customers and prospects from 57 countries witnessed the live demonstration of our equipment“, summarizes Dr. Jürgen Vutz, CEO. „The feedback we got from our guests already during the show has satisfied us that our decision to invest heavily in research and development was the right one. We offer our customers innovative products and technical solutions which help them improve their competitive edge in the flexible packaging market“, says Peter Steinbeck, Managing Director in charge of Sales/Service. „The very



positive response from our customers gives us every reason to be cautiously optimistic for the future“, they add.

The focus of W&H's R&D work not only is it on state-of-the-art technologies and processes, but on environmental sustainability as well. That's what Dr. Jürgen Vutz pointed out in his welcome address. „Greenovation“ is the term which describes W&H's approach to reconcile innovation with environmental protection. Example: Advanced, efficient technologies help reduce usage of energies, and shorter job changeover times translate into reduced consumption of precious resources and minimization of waste.

Extrusion Highlights

OPTIMEX and AQUAREX, two new blown film lines

The EXPO started off with the world debut of OPTIMEX, the little sister of the very successful VAREX blown film line. OPTIMEX stands for OPTIMUM EXtrusion. The low-cost 3-layer blown film extrusion system is optimally suited for the production of a wide range of film types (as for example packaging film in general, carrier bag and laminating film, shrink wrap and stretch wrap film) at high output and with the well-known, excellent W&H quality.

Another highlight was the world premiere of AQUAREX, a blown film line working on the upside-down wet extrusion principle featuring water quench cooling for the film bubble. AQUAREX film is characterized by excellent transparency and look and lends itself to products for medical applications and barrier film structures.



OPTICOOL, the new W&H air ring technology

The innovative concept of the new OPTICOOL air ring which was presented at the W&H in-house EXPO for the first time on a VAREX 3-layer line, provides a cooling capacity which even exceeds the output rates achieved with dual air ring systems. During the demonstration of the VAREX line featuring OPTICOOL and a die with a diameter of 400 mm, film for automatic packaging machines was produced at an output of 1000 kg/h.

New universal film winder FILMATIC N

Optimum roll quality is ensured by the new FILMATIC N winder designed for use downstream of blown film extrusion lines running films with widths of up to 3.6 m. Offering center, gap and surface winding capability, it is ideally suited to a broad range of applications.

MDO – Machine Direction Orientation

Film upgrading by monoaxial stretching: This is achieved with the MDO which notably improves the properties of the film to adapt them to the intended application. A MDO unit was demonstrated operating off-line with barrier film which, after stretching, excels with increased tensile strength, improved transparency and, in the end, reduced layer thickness. The system thus helps optimize the use of expensive barrier resins.

FILMEX with nano-layer feedback technology for stretch films

Puncture resistance, ultimate stretch and maximal stretching speed are the defining characteristics of stretch film. The film produced on the W&H FILMEX cast film line with nano-layer feedback technology fully meets these requirements. The line was demonstrated in conjunction with a



special winder with automatic core loading and finished roll handling system.

Highlights in Packaging Printing

The new flexo sleeve press MIRAFLEX AM

But also a machine for flexible packaging printing applications celebrated its world premiere at the W&H in-house EXPO 2009: MIRAFLEX AM. The new C.I. flexo press is the ideal supplement to the very successful W&H range of MIRAFLEX printing presses and is available for printing widths from 820 to 1450 mm and a maximum speed of 370 m/min. Since its market launch on the occasion of interpack 2008, more than 40 presses of this type have been sold.

VISTAFLEX CL – 10-color flexo press for long repeat lengths and wide web applications

The VISTAFLEX CL as well made its debut at W&H EXPO 2009. It is specially designed for long repeat lengths of up to 1,250 mm and wide web applications with widths up to 2,200 mm at a maximum speed of 800 m/min. Striking feature of the new VISTAFLEX C range of presses is VISTA-PORT, the innovative robot handling system for fully automatic change of printing mandrels and sleeves as well as anilox rolls and sleeves. With their high potential in terms of both output and job changeover, flexo presses of the VISTAFLEX C range are optimally suited for short-run and long-run orders.

EASY-COL

The most recent version of the ink recipe and dosing system EASY-COL incorporating a redesigned operator interface and an innovative ink weighing system, was shown in operation on a 8-color MIRAFLEX CM.



EASY-COL is the ideal instrument to reduce press set-up costs notably by accelerating color matching on the press and at the same time minimizing waste and left-over inks.

EASY-SET S and EASY-REG S – the new generation of auto impression and register systems

With these two systems, press set-up waste is reduced to the very minimum. The cost of investment are low, since the systems do not use expensive RFID technology, special plate mounters or other costly retrofits to sleeves and adaptors. The outstanding performance of EASY-SET S and EASY-REG S was demonstrated on a 10-color NOVOFLEX CM press.

HELIOCONTROL – integrated register system for gravure printing presses

HELIOCONTROL is the name of W&H's new register control system using sensors to detect all kinds of register marks as well as their position and length on most different types of substrate: white-opaque, transparent or even metallic, reflective materials. HELIOCONTROL made its world debut on a HELIOSTAR G and is the ideal supplement to the pre-register setting system EASY-SYNC developed by W&H. Both systems give reduced waste during job changeovers and press start-up.

Another EXPO highlight was the demonstration of the 10-color HELIOSTAR SL gravure press with slide-cart technology which was performing live at Bischof + Klein GmbH & Co. KG in Lengerich.



The W&H subsidiary companies Garant Maschinenhandel and Bag Solutions Worldwide (BSW) availed themselves of the W&H in-house EXPO to showcase some of their carrier bag and paper bag machines and equipment for the production and conversion of woven fabric and woven fabric sacks respectively.



Captions

PR 1262

Curtain up! World premiere of OPTIMEX, the new, reasonably priced 3-layer blown film extrusion line for the production of a wide range of film types at high output rates and with proven W&H quality.



PR 1264

The outstanding performance of the new generation W&H auto impression and register setting systems EASY-SET S and EASY-REG S was demonstrated on a 10-color NOVOFLEX CM press.



PR 1265

Optimized mechanical and optical film properties through the use of monoaxial stretching systems (MDO).



PR 1266

A must-see: Demonstration of VISTA-PORT, the innovative robot system incorporated with the VISTAFLEX C giving fast, automatic changeovers.



PR 1267

The all-new W&H air ring system OPTICOOL with maximized cooling capacity.



PR 1269

OPTIMEX = OPTIMUM EXTRUSION of packaging film, carrier bag and laminating film, shrink wrap and stretch wrap film.



PR 1272

The most recent version of the award-winning ink recipe and dosing system EASY-COL was shown in operation on a MIRAFLEX CM press.