

Media Release

Voith GmbH & Co. KGaA
Group Communication
St. Poeltener Strasse 43
89522 Heidenheim, Germany
Tel. +49 7321 37-2749
Fax +49 7321 37-132749
www.voith.com

Page 1 of 3

Voith to build new XcelLine paper machine and BlueLine stock preparation for Grupo Gondi

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Heidenheim, Mexico City: Grupo Gondi has entered into a contract with Voith to supply a new paper machine with an annual production capacity of 400,000 metric tons. The new paper machine will be located in a facility in Monterrey in Northern Mexico. Voith will supply the complete BlueLine stock preparation and XcelLine paper machine from wet end process to winder, which should minimize the number of interfaces for the customer and maximize the operating efficiency of the project.

From early 2020, the new state-of-the-art PM 7 will operate at the new Papel y Empaques Monterrey (PEM) plant. The machine will have a working width of 6,660 mm at the reel and a design speed of 1,200 m/min to produce testliner and corrugated medium with basis weights in the range of 90 to 250 g/m².

"With the new paper machine, Grupo Gondi will strengthen its position in the Mexican market for high-performance light weight recycled containerboard. It will also enhance our integration levels since our converting capacity has risen in recent years as we have expanded converting plants and grown through acquisitions. Voith will supply an extended scope of services, including the stock preparation, the paper machine, supporting sub systems and automation. Voith's ability to deliver an advanced, full-line, state-of-the-art system was very important to us and we continue to work closely with our partners at WestRock in connection with project planning and execution," states Eduardo Posada, CEO at Grupo Gondi.

The XcelLine paper machine offers a range of special technical features that both improve the quality of the finished paper and reduce energy consumption. The scope of supply also includes a Tandem NipcoFlex Press, a TopFormer F, and an EcoCal calender. Moreover, the PM 7 will be equipped with a VariFlex NG winder with an operational speed of

2,500 m/min, with MCS, DCS and QCS completing Voith's scope of delivery. Voith will supply the project with an extended scope, including detailed engineering for process, automation and electrical engineering.

In addition to the paper machine and the BlueLine stock preparation system, MERI, a Voith company, will supply the major sub-systems – material handling, internal water treatment, sludge handling, and reject handling. These systems are designed to lower operating costs while maintaining a clean and safe working environment.

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Page 2 of 3

About Grupo Gondi

Grupo Gondi is a leading paper packaging company in Mexico, strongly committed to its consumers, collaborators, investors, the environment and Mexico – where, over the past 65 years it has positioned itself as one of the major players in the paper and packaging industry. WestRock Company, a multinational provider of paper and packaging solutions for consumer and corrugated packaging markets, is a minority shareholder of Grupo Gondi.

Grupo Gondi is composed of 14 companies and a labor force of more than 7,500 employees. Thanks to our multi-plant approach the company offers integral packing and packaging solutions, specializing in the production of recycled paper, corrugated cardboard boxes, pre-printed corrugated boxes and solid fiber containers, folding containers, micro-corrugated and digital cardboard boxes as well as services that support the manufacture of these products.

Grupo Gondi relies on certified processes, international standards which allow the company to offer high-quality products and services on the market, based on a vertical integration that comprises the manufacture of paper from 100% recycled fibers as well as the creation of consumables and tools that contribute to the manufacture of the final product. In addition, Grupo Gondi exports packaging products indirectly to over 189 countries, having presence in the five continents.

About Voith

Voith Paper is a Group Division of Voith and the leading partner and pioneer in the paper industry. Through constant innovations, Voith Paper is optimizing the paper manufacturing process, focusing on developing resource-conserving products to reduce the use of energy, water and fibers. Furthermore, Voith Paper offers a broad service portfolio for all sections of the paper manufacturing process.

Voith is a global technology group. With its wide range of systems, products, services and digital applications, Voith sets standards in the markets for energy, oil & gas, paper, raw materials and transport & automotive. Founded in 1867, Voith today has more than 19,000 employees and earns 4.2 billion euros in sales. It has locations in over 60 countries and is one of the largest family-owned companies in Europe.

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Page 3 of 3

Contact Grupo Gondi:
Francisco Rodríguez
CFO
Tel. +52 55-5249-6018
francisco.rodriquez@grupogondi.com

Contact Voith:
Matthias Herms
Global Market Communication Manager
Tel. +49 7321 37-2749
Matthias.Herms@Voith.com

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