

Success Story

Voith Paper

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Niederauer Mühle: PM 2 rebuild increases paper quality and reduces energy consumption

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- Successful joint conversion project from Voith and subsidiary Toscotec
- Improved energy, cost and raw material efficiency
- 100 percent ropeless threading system increases safety for employees

HEIDENHEIM/KREUZAU, GERMANY. Papierfabrik Niederauer Mühle GmbH has rebuilt its paper mill in Kreuzau, North Rhine-Westphalia, with the help of Voith and its subsidiary Toscotec. Due to increasing quality demands and energy costs, the German manufacturer – like many paper producers – is seeking to improve quality, productivity and competitiveness with the installation of innovative technologies and products. The total production of Niederauer Mühle amounts to approximately 350,000 tons per year of white top testliner based on 100 percent recovered paper.

The rebuild of PM 2 of the Niederauer Mühle marks the successful cooperation between Voith and Toscotec. Giancarlo Gianlorenzi, Paper & Board Sales Area Manager at Toscotec, is convinced: "The rebuild project is a perfect example of how the synergy and specific skills of both companies together result in an innovative and attractive solution for our customer."

The goal of Niederauer Mühle was to increase the quality of the end product as well as to reduce the energy consumption of the PM 2 by rebuilding the entire dryer section. Roman Knorr, Operations Manager at Niederauer Mühle, is very satisfied with the decision to commission Voith and Toscotec for this rebuild: "We found the perfect partners for our ambitious project in the full-line supplier Voith and its subsidiary Toscotec. Both companies convinced us with their market-leading technologies, many years of experience and high-quality standards."

Toscotec supplied 22 TT SteelDryers, which due to their low shell thickness offer a higher heat transfer rate compared to cast iron dryers and achieve up to 30 percent more drying capacity. Thus, in combination with the new drying hood, they enable significant energy and cost savings on the PM 2. The complete installation service was also part of the scope of supply.

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Voith supplied a SpeedSizer HP with high line force and a ModulPro for regulating the moisture cross-profile. In addition, a 100 percent ropeless threading system was installed, consisting of vacuum threading belts and corresponding take-off device from the Voith Prevo portfolio.

Page 2 of 3

The SpeedSizer HP applies the starch film evenly and, due to the higher starch penetration, in a particularly raw material-efficient manner, thus specifically improving the paper properties of the white top testliner. In the event of a web break, the ropeless Prevo threading system enables the machine to be restarted quickly thanks to extremely short threading times, thus ensuring higher productivity through higher machine availability. Likewise, the safety for operating personnel is significantly increased due to a fully automated threading solution.

Oliver Thomas, Sales Manager at Voith, further explains: "Our comprehensive approach ensured that we fully exploited the potential of the existing PM 2 at Niederauer Mühle and achieved the targets set."

The rebuild project took only nine months from order to delivery. "Since the startup of the PM 2, we have achieved a very good quality level with excellent processing properties, which mirrors the response of our customers," sums up Peter Czoski, plant manager at Niederauer Mühle. "The high efficiency and runability are also reflected in low energy consumption. Thanks to the good and professional cooperation with Voith and Toscotec, we were thus able to achieve all set goals on time and without any accidents."

About the Voith Group

The Voith Group is a global technology company. With its broad portfolio of systems, products, services and digital applications, Voith sets standards in the markets of energy, paper, raw materials and transport & automotive. Founded in 1867, the company today has around 21,000 employees, sales of € 4.9 billion and locations in over 60 countries worldwide and is thus one of the larger family-owned companies in Europe.

The Group Division Voith Paper is part of the Voith Group. As the full-line supplier to the paper industry, it provides the largest range of technologies, services, and products on the market, and offers paper manufacturers integrated solutions from one source. The company's continuous stream of innovations facilitates resource-conserving production and helps customers minimize their carbon footprint. With its comprehensive automation products and leading digitalization solutions from the Papermaking 4.0 portfolio, Voith offers its customers state-of-the-art digital technologies to improve plant availability and efficiency for all sections of the production process.

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Page 3 of 3

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