

Media Release

Voith Paper

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‘Future(s) unfolding’ – Voith takes the next step towards the autonomous paper mill

2024-07-18

- Voith is developing an integrated system for intelligent, automated paper production in order to save resources and relieve operators.
- Intelligent networking of automation solutions enables fast, data-supported adjustments to the machine; automates routine tasks; and facilitates data analysis.
- The development addresses current challenges in the areas of sustainability and efficiency and the shortage of skilled workers in the paper industry.
- Close cooperation with customers and partners ensures a clear focus on the needs of real production processes and long-term support.

HEIDENHEIM, GERMANY. The autonomous paper mill has long been part of Voith's strategy for the future. Numerous automated systems are already successfully in use in the paper manufacturing process today and optimize machine settings based on real-time data in order to save resources, minimize wear and relieve operators. With the development of an integrated system, Voith is now taking the next step towards the autonomous paper mill. Intelligent, holistic solutions connect all applications, creating valuable synergy and linking effects for highly efficient and optimized production.

The intelligent networking of innovative technologies – including sensor and camera technology, cloud-based monitoring tools and options for data evaluation in real time – enables further data-supported adjustments to the machine that take every production step into account. In this way, the papermaking process can run more reliably and resource-efficiently.

Furthermore, advanced AI-supported tools automate routine tasks and facilitate data analysis. The operating personnel can find all relevant

information bundled on a clear dashboard instead of having to analyze complex systems in the control room in parallel on different screens, as was previously the case. In this way, Voith is creating a varied and safe working environment that is attractive to skilled workers and focuses them on value-adding activities.

The developments tackle challenges that paper manufacturers are currently facing, with the focus on three core areas: people, sustainability and profitability. The importance of efficiency, knowledge transfer, automation and attractive workplaces is increasing significantly, particularly in times of skills shortages and resource scarcity. Facing up to these challenges means increasing competitiveness in the long term, which contributes to corporate stability, growth and sustainability.

As development work is clearly geared towards the needs of real production processes, Voith works closely with customers and partners. Together, data is collected and potential is identified that can be exploited using networked, digital tools. "New technologies and intelligent digital solutions have already revolutionized the paper industry; autonomous paper production is a logical next step," says Ulf Grohmann, Director Product Management Autonomous Mill at Voith Paper. "Only together with our customers can we leverage the potential and respond to individual requirements. With its many years of expertise in Papermaking 4.0 and automation, Voith is the right partner for this."

As a full-line supplier, Voith supports customers in the step-by-step implementation of automated systems. The aim is to support paper manufacturers as a long-term partner throughout the entire process, well beyond the introduction phase. With the ongoing development of integrated automation solutions, Voith is taking the next important step on the way to the autonomous paper mill and a more efficient, sustainable and future-proof paper industry.

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 22,000 employees, sales of €5.5 billion and locations in more than 60 countries worldwide and is thus one of the larger family-owned companies in Europe.

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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 a single source. The company's continuous stream of innovations facilitates resource-conserving production and supports customers in significantly reducing 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 the availability and efficiency of their systems in all sections of the production process.

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