

Karl Mayer open Customer Support and Development Centre

KARL MAYER celebrated its 70th anniversary on 11 September and held a joint event to celebrate the opening of its Customer Support and Development Centre at the same time. As well as the Mayer family, invitations were extended to the company's clients, suppliers and partners. The celebrations included a tour of the company, a gourmet lunch and a reception on the family's own country estate, the 'Eltviller Aue'. Roughly 800 guests were first of all welcomed on the lower floor of KARL MAYER's new Innovation Centre, which had been festively decorated for the occasion.

In his speech, Fritz P. Mayer said that, ever since the company first came into existence, it had been adapting constantly to cater for the changing demands of the market. Dramatic regional shifts have been taking place over the last few years in particular. For example, China already accounts for 50% of KARL MAYER's current turnover, whilst the rest of Asia accounts for a further 20%.

During a tour of the site, with stop-offs at three areas where the company has recently made considerable investments, illustrated the changes that had been introduced in Obertshausen in order to implement this new strategy.

The new Customer Support and Development Centre

The first stop on the tour of the company was KARL MAYER's new Development Centre. Only through close interdisciplinary cooperation can KARL MAYER's products be adapted to cater for constantly changing market conditions. This is the only way of developing new products and refining them to the point at which they are ready to be introduced onto the market.

The new Customer Support and Development Centre, with its modern equipment and well-thought-out layout, promotes networking between the various teams of experienced specialists and thus speeds up the entire development process. It also enables us to continue to make technological break-throughs,' explained Fritz P. Mayer.

The building houses 200 workstations for employees and covers an area of 9,000 m². 500 m² is taken up with customer support, the offices account for 4,500 m², and the rest is allocated to the test facilities and laboratories on the ground floor.

The new machining centre in the production department

The second stopping-off point in the company tour, the production section, where key areas of production expertise, optimised our processes in this respect, and ensured that our manufacturing and production machines are state-of-the-art,' said Fritz P. Mayer. We have already invested roughly 40 million euros in the site in Obertshausen since 2005, and we intend to make further investments in the future.'

The production section currently takes up an area of 56,000 m² and has 720 workers and 160 machine tools. One of the most modern machines, which was the focal point of the company tour, was the DMC 200 U.

The new Logistics Centre

The KARL MAYER Group can currently supply more than 120 types of machine for a variety of applications. Clients can also expect an efficient spare parts service. These functions can only be carried out by using an intelligent logistics system to handle the large number of components.



The guests at the reception held to celebrate KARL MAYER's anniversary and the opening of the new Development Centre.

Despite a high level of standardisation between products, more than 100,000 product codes are used throughout the company as a whole, and more than 70,000 of these are spare parts. Since the end of last year, KARL MAYER's new Logistics Centre – the third stopping-off point in the company tour – has been ensuring that the large number of items is arranged in a clear and logical order, and that they can be distributed quickly. The total area amounts to 4,350 m² and houses the sections of 'Order Picking, Dispatch and Administration' (3,350 m²) and the 'Warehouse' (1,000 m²). The efficient, well-organised packing department has a maximum capacity of 25,000 items and 1,750 items can be received and dispatched every day. 15,700 items and 2,100 spare parts are currently in stock. All the spare parts that are held in stock can be dispatched within 24 hours. 'Our new Logistics Centre is an excellent example of a state-of-the-art materials handling system,' explained Fritz P. Mayer, the managing director. 'In conjunction with SAP-based implementation and control of all the processes within the company, we can guarantee an optimum materials flow with the shortest possible delivery times. After all, the aim is to optimise the delivery chain for spare parts and to meet the requirements of the customer who is using the machine as far as possible,' the managing director went on to say. ♦

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Indian Textile Companies meet Italian Machinery Manufacturers for Technical Textiles and Nonwovens

The Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers (ACIMIT) and the Italian Trade Commission (ICE) will host a delegation of 10 Indian companies involved in technical textiles and nonwovens sectors in Italy from January 28th to February 2nd. Indian delegates have been chosen among the most qualified companies operating in the production of nonwovens and technical textiles items, thanks to the assistance of Business Co-ordination House, an Indian consultancy firm specialized in the sector.

During the stay Indian delegates will meet some leading Italian companies involved in the production of textile machinery for technical textiles and nonwovens. In a week Indian mission could enhance its knowledge regarding the great expertise of Italian technology in these two sectors. Moreover the up-to-dated processes for the production of most innovative textiles will be shown to Indian delegates.

The mission is part of a promotional program that ACIMIT and ICE have been realizing for many years in order to strengthen the links between Italian textile technology providers and Indian textile operators. The promotional initiatives of this program includes attendance to the main trade fairs for textile machinery occurring in India and many technological meetings.

ACIMIT and ICE widespread promotional activity is due to the great relevance of the Indian textile industry, that is aiming to enhance the quality of their textile and garments products. In the global scenario India is only behind China among the leading markets for textile machinery. The sales of Italian machinery in India were about Euro 183 million in 2006 and Euro 102 in first nine months of 2007. The most requested Italian machinery were the spinning ones (37% of the total export towards India), followed by weaving machines (24%) and finishing machines (20%).

"This mission could be an important step to strengthen the relationship with Indian companies, mainly in a emerging sector as technical textiles one, where Italian companies are focusing in the last years, ACIMIT President, Mr. Banfi, says. Moreover I am confident that cooperation with our Indian partner Business Co-ordination House will be fruitful for each other".

Improved shrinkage with new sanforisor from Monforts

A completely new redesigned compressive shrinkage sanforisor for both woven (Monfortex) and knitted (Toptex) fabrics is introduced by A. Monforts Textilmaschinen, offering increased residual shrinkage, higher production speeds, automatic grinding of the rubber blanket, reduced water consumption for cooling and substantial time savings for blanket changes.

The new redesign also allows faster rubber belt changes taking just a single shift compared with two days for industry standard. The simplified belt removal is accomplished by an integral lifting device to lift the rollers instead of their complete removal.

With the necessity of grinding the belt at least 5-6 times throughout its life, a new automatic grinder ensures only a minimum of rubber is ground thereby increasing the efficiency and life of the belt.

It also eliminates the need for a skilled craftsman/operator in manual grinding techniques.

The new sanforisor also offers simplified and faster installations with improved access for maintenance procedures. All steam and water connections, for example, are centralised, eliminating the 'plumber's nightmare' with a streamlined installation.

This, together with filtration and recovery techniques of the used cooling water on the shrinkage range has provided a conservative use of water, resulting in a 40% reduction in water consumption of cooling water. For minimised water consumption only water lost by evaporation or absorption by the fabric has to be topped up.

An innovative edge cooling system prevents the edges of the rubber belt becoming brittle if not covered by fabric during the shrinkage process; increasing the service life of the belt.



Monfortex

The edge of the belt is cooled by a width-adjustable water spray mist, creating a more homogeneous temperature profile over the complete rubber belt width.

The water used can be recycled in a water recovery plant, ensuring there is no increase in cooling water consumption.

The fabric shrinkage factor is also increased with a larger diameter heated drum ensuring an extended contact area of fabric between the shrinkage cylinders and the rubber belt.

Dickson offers temperature & humidity monitoring tool

Dickson Company and its web portal www.dicksondata.com offer the wide selection of data loggers and chart recorders to monitor temperature, humidity, pressure, or electronic signals.

Textile companies tracking temperature or humidity conditions affecting inventory quality can now have the convenience of both real-time data and the ability to download data for further analysis with the redesigned Dickson Graph-at-a-Glance Flat Panel Temperature and Humidity Data Loggers model FH320.

The Graph-at-a-Glance data loggers are paperless chart recorders that provide a digital graph enabling plant workers and managers to immediately visualize environmental trends that have potentially affected inventory quality.



Dickson Graph-at-a-Glance

Features of the redesigned Graph-at-a-Glance data loggers include:

- ❖ 36% greater data resolution in a Jumbo 4.5" x 3.4" (114.3 mm x 86.36mm) display screen
- ❖ Up to 37% price reduction, now starting at US\$299
- ❖ FLASH memory card data transfer capability.
- ❖ USB-enabled triple speed downloading.
- ❖ User-defined display settings, 32KB storage and also audio/visual alarms.

Dickson's Graph-at-a-Glance Flat Panel Data Logger models include: FT300 and FT325 for temperature only; and FH 320 and FH325 for Temperature and Humidity.

Details on Dickson Graph-at-a-Glance data loggers can be found at www.dicksondata.com.