Welcome to our fall issue of In-Line with Fi-Tech. This newsletter has been a regular part of our communication with our customers and principals since the fall of 1996 when we published our first issue. I took the opportunity to look back at the first few issues reflecting on our principals and product lines. There are several companies which we continue to represent and others we do not. Mergers, acquisitions and other changes have an effect over time on the products and services we offer. However, the one constant is our desire to bring the best technology, service and solutions to the synthetic fiber, nonwoven fabric and textiles industries. Today, our portfolio has an excellent line up of leading companies in their fields. We are happy to be adding Mayer & Cie. to our textile portfolio.

In addition to the large number of principals Fi-Tech has cooperated within N. America for many years, we also have a number of team members who are having significant service anniversaries in 2017. Keith Wise reaches his 40th year of service, both Barbara Koch and Jon Schmidt have 30 years of service, and Richard Williamson has 20 years of service. Keith, Barb, Jon and Rick have all contributed significantly to our success. We congratulate them on their achievements.

We have another busy fall conference season upon us beginning with September events, RISE in Raleigh, IFAI Expo in New Orleans and OUTLOOK in Cascais, Portugal; followed by November events HYGIENIX in Austin, TX and VDMA B2B Forum in Charlotte. We look forward to seeing you at these events.

Reicofil Launches RF5

At the INDEX 2017 Show in Geneva in April, Reicofil® announced to the industry its newest Reicofil machine generation: RF5. After more than 14 years in the market with RF4, the RF5 Generation presents new developments in both Spunbond and Meltblown technology coupled with digitalization technology which paves the way for intelligent machines and intelligent production. In addition, Reicofil announced new upgrade opportunities for existing RF3 and RF4 lines that incorporate some of the key developments of the RF4 technology for RF3 and RF5 technology for RF4.

One highlight of RF5 is the significant reduction of failures within the nonwoven. When running standard raw materials, hard pieces will be reduced by up to 90 percent in comparison to RF4 technology. By this, Reicofil provides a solution for one of the major issues of contamination that exists in the industry. Producers running an RF4 line will be able to make use of this advantage by upgrading the line to RF4.5.

Continued on Page 4
Cason Bobbin Strippers

Cason Textile Machinery, located in Montonate di Mornago, Italy specializes in the cleaning of almost any bobbin or tube used in synthetic fiber, tape, or filament production - whether the tubes are made of paper, cardboard, plastic, or metal in almost any length or diameter.

Cason Bobbin strippers offer many advantages over common methods for cleaning bobbins:

- The stripper does not damage the tube. This is accomplished through a patented stripping process developed by Cason. Therefore, the cleaned tubes are able to be reused.
- The waste yarn can be resold or re-extruded, saving money on waste disposal fees and increasing the efficiency of processes.
- Labor costs are drastically reduced. Employees can now perform other tasks rather than being tasked with traditional bobbin stripping.
- Cason offers a process that is safe to its operators and the surrounding environment. It removes the operator from direct contact with the cleaning – such as cutting blades or hot knives.

Strippers are available in manual, semi-automatic, and fully automatic configurations. Cason offers a variety of stripping methods: Rotating blades, a hot air nozzle, or a combination of the two methods to completely clean the cop, bobbin, or pirn. There are several types of bobbin strippers that could be useful to the customers we serve:

**AC3** – There are a few models of the AC3 that range from manual loading to fully automated systems. This type of bobbin stripper is specifically designed for the removal of yarn or tape from cylindrical tubes made of cardboard, metal or plastic. These tubes have many diameters and lengths. The units are designed to service the manmade fibers industry and its downstream users in POY, FOY, FDY, BCF, and Acetate. Under normal conditions, 500-600 tubes per hour can be processed. The AC3 system is able to automatically dump tubes on to the conveyor, automatically align each tube for cleaning, clean the tube, and take away the cleaned fiber. All of this is done through automation control. The system even detects an incorrect tube diameter for the current cleaning run and ejects it.

**2M-T2/A** – This machine is a universal machine that handles any tube diameter and length. It is a manual loading system. A single operator can remove residual yarn up to a thickness of about 2 inches without scoring the tube. It is specifically designed for smaller producers and users of synthetic yarn. An experienced operator should expect to clean 300 tubes per hour. The operation of the 2M-T2/A begins with the operator putting the correct mandrels for the tube diameter on the machine. The operator places a tube on the mandrel, presses a button, and the system turns 180 degrees so the cleaning group removes the yarn. While the yarn is being cleaned off the tube, the operator puts another tube on the reverse mandrel. When the cleaning is complete, the system flips back, the clean tube is removed, and a new tube is placed on the mandrel. The other tube is being cleaned while all this is happening. The system goes back and forth in this efficient manner.

**Air Cutter** – The air cutting unit is a fast and cost effective method for removing yarn from a tube. The unit uses a hot air jet to burn off the fiber. It is a safe and easy way to remove residual yarn. However, since the yarn is heated, it may not be suitable for recycling.

Cason offers complete turnkey systems and will design a stripper for any customer application.
The Heberlein® WarpJet-KV provides time saving threading and energy efficient customized air interlacing. The Heberlein WarpJet-KV is used for efficient interlacing during warping. The fast and simple threading from above is combined with easy cleaning and reduced machine downtimes. In air interlacing, an air blast is used to mechanically intermingle individual yarn filaments together. The resulting interlacing knots provide the required yarn compactness. This allows higher processing speeds, resulting in improved beam structure and a reduced number of filament and yarn breaks during subsequent processes.

**Features and Benefits**

- High processing speeds
- Suited to multifilament yarns made of polyester and polyamide
- High interlacing performance
- High uniformity of position
- Up to 20% lower air consumption
- Slider valves mean that compressed air supply to both sides can be adjusted
- The yarn guides are fully enclosed for increased protection
- The modular design allows up to 64 yarns to be interlaced in a single unit
- The jet packages can be easily replaced
- The jet packages can be easily cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner
- Efficient and easy threading from above
- Fewer filament & yarn breaks mean that the machine does not have to be stopped during downstream processes

Fi-Tech represents these companies to serve manufacturers of Fiber and Polymer Products

**Fi-Tech**

- **Ambersil - England**
  Anti-Stick Silicone Spray, Spinneret Lubricants
- **Autefa Solutions GmbH - Germany**
  Bale Presses, Bale Wrapping & Strapping Systems
- **Cason Textile Machinery - Italy**
  Bobbin Stripers, Semi-Manual and Automatic POY/FDY Spinning Plants
- **DM&E Corp. - USA**
  Fiber Cutters, Tension Stands, Cutter Reels, Crimper Repairs
- **Enka Tecnica GmbH - Germany**
  Spinnerets, Extrusion Dies, Spinpacks, Breaker Plates
- **EuroSpare - USA**
  Spare Parts Service for European Machinery
- **Fibrevision - United Kingdom**
  On Line Monitoring Systems, Sensors, Lab and At Line Monitoring Systems
- **filtertechnik.Europe GmbH & Co. Kg - Germany**
  Filter Screens for Spin Packs, Filters for Screen Changers, Filter Belts
- **Galan Textile Machinery - Spain**
  Mini Twisters, Heavy Duty Twisters, Specialty Twisters
- **Heberlein - Switzerland**
  Air Interlacing Jets, Air Texturing Jets, Aspirators, Splicers, Suction Cut Units
- **MOVEngineering Srl - Italy**
  Hypox® Spinneret & Pack Cleaning Units, Hypox® Polymer Filter Systems, Auxiliary Cleaning Equipment
- **Mozart AG - Germany**
  Staple Cutting Blades, Film Slitting Blades
- **Reifenhäuser REICOFIL® GmbH & Co. KG - Germany**
  Extruders, REICOFIL Spinning Plants, Melt Blowing Plants
- **Schill+Seilacher GmbH - Germany**
  Spin Finishes, Fiber Auxiliary Chemicals
- **Sikoplast Recycling Technology GmbH - Germany**
  Recycling Plants for PET, PA, PP and PE Waste
- **Technip Zimmer GmbH - Germany**
  Complete Engineered Staple Fiber & Filament Plants, Plants for Engineered Plastics, Polymerization & Solid State Polycondensation Plants
- **TEMCO - Germany**
  Texturing Units, PU Friction Discs, Air Entangling Jets for BCF, Industrial & Glass Fibers, Separator Rollers, Guide Rollers, Special Bearings
- **Tokuden Co., Ltd. - Japan**
  Induction Heated Rolls®
- **Zentes Unitex GmbH - Germany**
  Promik Spinneret Inspection Devices, Melt Pump Tester, Spin Finish Pump Tester, Specialty Chemicals
Reicofil Launches RF5

RF5 Technology also fulfills the market demand for finer and finer filaments: the technology can produce up to 20 percent smaller fiber diameters at higher throughput than RF4. For the first time, the Reicofil spunbond technology can produce filaments of <1 denier. In terms of productivity the RF5 technology also raises the bar significantly: the output increases by up to 35 percent – to up to 270 kg/h per meter beam width for spunbond and to up to 70 kg/h per meter beam for meltblown.

The new Reicofil meltblown technology benefits from the increased output provided by a much wider process window, which raises operational flexibility. Producers can now decide, depending on their requirements, whether to use the maximum output capacity and increase productivity by up to 35 percent, or to produce 20 percent higher meltblown quality at the present throughput levels.

The line speed of the new RF5 technology reaches a new peak value of 1,200 meters per minute. As this value is the actual speed on the conveyor belt, and not as before, the speed at the winder, it can be fully utilized in production. Effectively, producers can run their RF5 lines 30 percent faster than they could on RF4 lines. The new RF5 generation is energy efficient as well. For the production of composite nonwovens, RF5 saves up to 15% as compared to RF4.

Regarding digitalization, Reicofil developed solutions for more intuitive operation, continuous process and quality monitoring, predictive maintenance, and detection of anomalies. For example, the line will provide its operators with productivity analyses, predicts when a wear part is going to fail, warns the operator of drip formation before it occurs, and provides information to help solve the problem.

RF5 is your technology for next level nonwovens. Please contact us for more information on RF5 or the available RF4.5 and RF3.4 upgrades for existing RF4 and RF3 machines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>RF4</th>
<th>RF5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific Throughput SB (kg/h/m)</td>
<td>120-200</td>
<td>150-270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Throughput MB for Composite Lines</td>
<td>15-50</td>
<td>15-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titer Range znPP(den)</td>
<td>1.5-1,8</td>
<td>1,2-1,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titer Range mPP(den)</td>
<td>1,0-1,5</td>
<td>0,9-1,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Speed on the Belt</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Throughput @1.8 den (kg/h/m)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Throughput @1.5 den (kg/h/m)</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Throughput @1.3 den (kg/h/m)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Throughput @1.2 den (kg/h/m)</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Throughput @1.1 den (kg/h/m)</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Throughput @1.0 den (kg/h/m)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Throughput @0.9 den (kg/h/m)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basement</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>for up to 3.200mm: No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The new Reicofil RF5 Technology for the production of spunbond, meltblown and composite nonwovens is setting new standards in terms of quality, output, uptime, efficiency and machine intelligence.

New Guide Roller for Tension-Sensitive Yarns

Saurer Components focuses on the gentle guiding of lightweight nonwoven webs at high speeds, such as on hygiene converting lines. This includes guide rollers and special bearings.

One recent development is the new Temco® Yarn Guide Roller FR26 for gently guiding materials such as Lycra threads. These yarn guide rollers are suitable for textile and technical applications requiring the lowest possible friction, and therefore the smallest elongation at maximum speeds of 700 m/min. In addition to low friction, another benefit of the compact 26 mm diameter FR26 design is the low rotating mass and low starting torque.

Solutions from Temco feature the concept of the integrated bearing, where internal raceways are integrated in the shaft and external raceways in the bearing housing. This enables very economical solutions for applications with highest demands on rotational speed, available mounting space, and load.
Matthews International Corp Acquires Ungricht

After announcing the acquisition of Ungricht Roller + Engraving Technology in late 2016, the purchase was completed in early 2017. Matthews International already owned Saueressig GmbH + Co KG based in Vreden, Germany. The purchase brings together Ungricht and Saueressig, who are both leading engraving technology companies serving a variety of markets. Both firms operate with the Matthews’ SGK Brand Solutions Segment. The SGK Brand Solutions Segment is a leader in the delivery of brand development, activation and deployment services that help build clients’ brands and consumers’ desire for them.

Ungricht Roller + Engraving Technology will continue to operate out of the same Monchengladbach facility many of our nonwoven customers have visited over the years. The staff also remain in place now working under the new management responsible for both Saueressig and Ungricht. Fi-Tech is pleased with activities initiated under the new management, and we are confident you will continue to receive the first class service, rollers and engravings you are accustomed to and associated with the Ungricht brand.

Matthews Picker - Managing Director

Fi-Tech represents these companies to serve manufacturers of Nonwoven Products

- AstenJohnson Advanced Fabrics - USA
- Brückner Textile Technologies - Germany
- Enka Tecnica GmbH - Germany
- EuroSpar - USA
- filtertechnik.Europe GmbH & Co. Kg - Germany
- Hastem Transportbänder GmbH - Germany
- Idrosistem Srl - Italy
- Industrial Machine Mfg., Inc. - USA
- MOVEngineering Srl - Italy
- Mahlo America, Inc. - USA
- Reifenhäuser REICOFIL® GMBH & CO. KG - Germany
- Schil+Seilacher GmbH - Germany
- Sikoplast Recycling Technology GmbH - Germany
- Spoolex/Calemard - France
- TEMCO - Germany
- Tokuden Co., Ltd. - Japan
- UNGRICHT Roller + Engraving Technology® - Germany
- WISTA GmbH - Germany
- Zentes Unitex GmbH - Germany

Matthews International Corp
The motto for this year's TECHTEXTIL in Frankfurt was CONNECTING THE FUTURE. BRÜCKNER, the leading supplier and technology leader, has a wide range of application examples for Technical Textiles that can be finished on specially designed machines. The layout and design for specific product qualities display the competence of the creative BRÜCKNER team.

Two of the machines designed and manufactured specifically for finishing of Nonwovens and foil are the SUPRA FLOW BX double belt oven for nonwovens and the ETRO bow-shaped dryer specifically designed for coating with PVC.

In addition, BRÜCKNER offers different application systems for coating of Technical Textiles and one of them is the ECO-COAT application system for minimum amounts of add on. And in addition, other machines include padders, drying, heat-setting, and curing ovens with maximum production capacity with lower energy consumption and high precision temperature distribution.

Other examples for final applications with BRÜCKNER finishing lines include:
- Woven Glass Fabric for circuit boards
- Carbon textiles for textile-reinforced concrete
- Linings for walls and roofs used in the automotive industry, and airbags as well.

If you are designing or considering a new special product for the future and need a finishing range on which to run trials to confirm the results, visit with BRÜCKNER in their TECHNOLOGY CENTER where a full process finishing range is available.

With the addition of new key suppliers, we are pleased to welcome our newest Fi-Tech team member, Mrs. Mia Johnson. Mia is the Sales Assistant for our Spare Parts Department and works directly with our customers and suppliers on a daily basis. Mia plays a vital role in our operation, and speaks fluent German! Mia’s previous Military experience and attention to detail will help strengthen our team, and better serve our customers. Welcome Mia!
Effective September 1, 2017, Fi-Tech will take over as Mayer & Cie.’s U.S. sales, spare parts and service representative. Preliminary talks have been under way for over two years, with initial contacts taking place at the 2015 ITMA in Milan. The contracts were signed in Albstadt in mid-July 2017.

Mayer & Cie. (MCT) is a leading international manufacturer of circular knitting machines. The company manufactures an entire range of machines servicing markets for home textiles, sportswear, nightwear and swimwear, underwear, seat covers, and technical applications.

Founded in 1905, Mayer & Cie., with headquarters in Albstadt, Germany, generated sales of EUR 105 million in 2016 with about 500 employees worldwide.

Fi-Tech has retained two senior members of the Mayer Industries circular knitting team, Klaus Berwald and Darrell Smith, who will work closely with Fi-Tech’s Bill Davis, to ensure knowledge and expertise are maintained and to assure the smoothest possible transition. In addition, Mayer’s entire inventory of spare parts is being relocated from the Orangeburg, SC location to the Fi-Tech, Inc. warehouse in Richmond, VA. This will ensure that we can continue the high levels of support enjoyed by Mayer’s existing customers.

Todd Bassett, co-owner and managing director of Fi-Tech, takes a highly positive view of the collaboration. “Mayer & Cie.,” he says, “is definitely a flagship in the list of our partners. We are impressed by the company’s leading position in both the technology and the market. Its long history, and its investment in its employees, all of that makes Mayer & Cie. something special.”

“Our target for the U.S. is clear,” says Mayer and Cie.’s sales director, Wolfgang Müller. “We want to regain market shares in the circular knitting market. With our new Fi-Tech representatives, we also see good opportunities for gaining access to large textile enterprises and to re-establish a foothold with them.”

Ian Mills, market development manager at Fi-Tech, is convinced that this is an opportunity for both companies. “With a circular knitting machine manufacturer, we are expanding our textile portfolio,” he explains, “and with our wide-ranging networks we will be able to introduce Mayer beyond their traditional circular knitting machine market and also offer our existing customers a strong partner for innovation”.

**Fi-Tech represents these companies to serve manufacturers of Textile/Technical Textile Products**

**Brazzoli S.p.A. - Italy**
High Temperature Jet Dyeing, Lab Scale Jet Dye Equipment

**Brückner Textile Technologies GmbH & Co.KG - Germany**
Tenter Frames, Thru Air Dryers, Compactors, Relax Dryers, Coating Systems, Heat Recovery and Air Purification

**Corino S.p.A. - Italy**
Hydro Extraction, Rope Openers, Die Twisters, Tubular Slitters, Web/Edge Guidance Systems, Padders, Batching Stations, Fabric Inspection Machines

**Erbatech GmbH - Germany**
Open Width Bleaching and Washing Ranges, Tubular Bleaching and Washing Ranges, Padders/Foulards, Vacuum Extraction, Cold Pad Batch

**Irosistem Srl - Italy**
Water Treatment and Recovery Plants for Textiles

**KKA GmbH - Germany**
Coating, Roto-Gravure, Printing/Lacquering, Calendering, Laminating, Embossing, Slitter/Re-Winders

**Mario Crosta S.r.l. - Italy**
Single/Double Drum Raising/Napping, Sueding, Shearing, Lamination

**Mayer & Cie. GmbH & Co. – Germany**
Circular Knitting Machines for Jersey, Interlock, Rib, Jacquard and Elastomeric Plaiting

**Pindarus S.r.l. - Italy**
Raising Fillet Wire, Cleaning Brush Wire, Felt and Rubber Backing

**Tecnorama S.R.L.**
Automatic Powder and Liquid Dyestuff Dispensing, Bulk and Lab Scale SystemsAutomatic Powder and Liquid Dyestuff Dispensing, Bulk and Lab Scale Systems
In-Line with Fi-Tech, a Fi-Tech, Inc. publication, is designed to assist Engineering, Management, Purchasing and Plant Personnel by providing an avenue of communication between fiber producers and the best machinery manufacturers in the world.

Fi-Tech, Inc. is the premiere representative for Nonwovens, Synthetic Fiber, and Textile machinery and components.

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**Fi-Tech, Inc. Editorial Board**


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**EVENTS CALENDAR**

**RISE**
September 12-14, 2017
Raleigh, NC
www.inda.org

**IFAI EXPO 2017**
September 26-29, 2017
New Orleans, LA
www.ifai.com

**HYGIENIX 2017**
November 6-9, 2017
Austin, TX
www.inda.org

**VDMA B2B Forum**
November 6, 2017
Charlotte, NC
www.germantech-ustextile.de

**ANEX 2018**
June 6 -8, 2018
Tokyo, Japan
www.anex2018.com