

KUHNE exceeds requirements of Italian film producer Idealplast

Low energy costs and a high output rate



Leone Bernardi, managing director of Idealplast, is impressed with the new KUHNE line, which exceeds his company's expectations in day-to-day production

An optimised production process, high output rates and low energy costs were convincing arguments for Italian film specialist Idealplast S.r.l. of Romano d'Ezzelino. The company quickly decided to purchase its first German-manufactured production line: KUHNE's three-layer blown film line with an output rate of 550 kg/h producing film with a width of 2,200 mm.

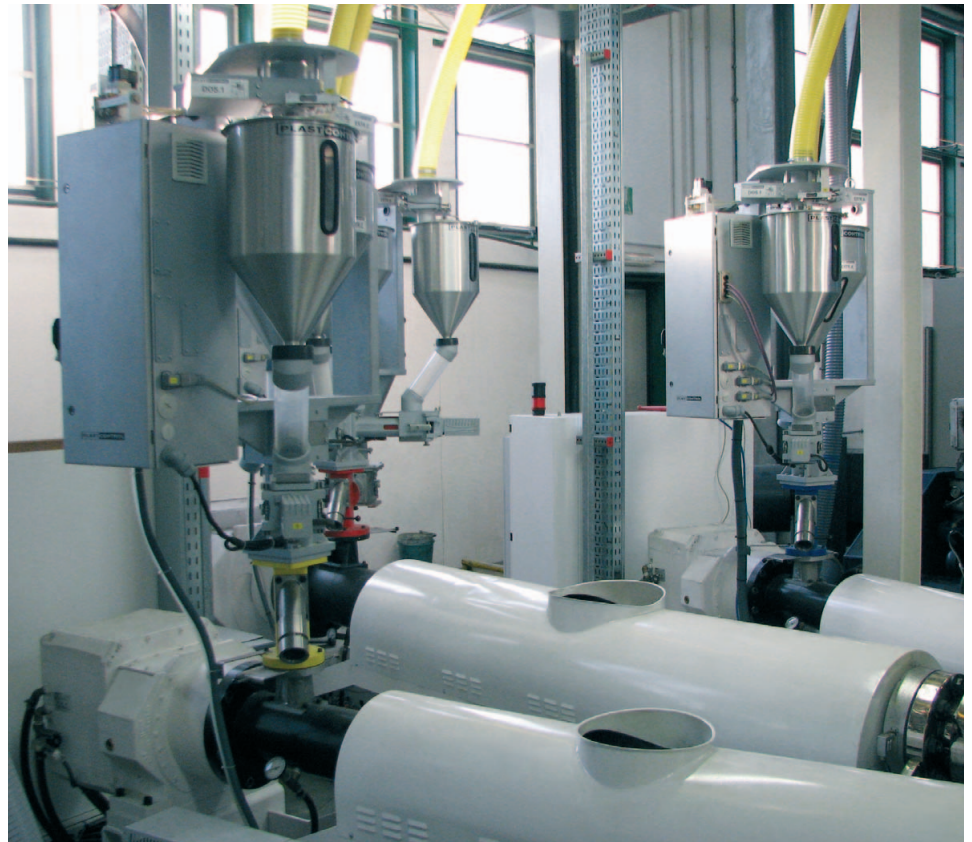
"As we are faced with fixed material costs which contribute about 70 % to our overall costs, the only way of widening our profit margin is to increase our output rates and economise on energy costs," Idealplast's managing director Leone Bernardi explains and underlines his company's innovative drive. Only recently, the manufacturer of packaging, food and shrink films introduced a range of newly developed formulations and products.

New line exceeds expectations

Bernardi is convinced: "Our objective is to reverse our portfolio's product ratio,

which is currently 60 % industrial film to 40 % technical film. We will use our expertise and innovative drive to boost our technical film production". The newly installed line is a first step in this direction. "We are pleasantly surprised that the new line not only meets but actually exceeds our practical requirements."

Prior to purchasing the line, Idealplast specified a film formulation with narrow tolerances and explained that the new line would have to be able to meet the corresponding requirements. At the same time, the company asked for high output rates in conjunction with low energy consumption. KUHNE met all specifications. "With KUHNE, we found a machine manufacturer that operates on a technically advanced level which combines innovation with service," Bernardi commends.



CMG drives not only promote a very compact extruder design, they also boost extruder output rates and increase the line's overall performance

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High degree of automation, high quality standards

At present, Idealplast operates eleven blown film lines, three of which are coextrusion lines, with a total annual output of 20,000 tonnes of film. Idealplast employs 32 people and has been reporting continuous sales increases for the past years. In 2008, the company posted annual sales figures of EUR 16m. The plastics processor's core market is in Italy and only about 15 % of the production volume is exported, predominantly to Russia, Greece and Poland.



At the Italian customer's facility, the Smart Lip Maximizer with its optimised operation delivers high output rates, a vast width range and narrow thickness tolerances



KUHNE's three-layer blown film line meets Idealplast's specifications right down to the double station winder

Automation and quality control at the production facility is a crucial part of the corporate strategy. Naturally, Idealplast is certified to ISO 9001 and was one of the first companies to be certified to ISO 14001 in 2005. A comprehensive automation system monitors both the raw material feed as well as the finished products and contributes to a high product quality.

Optimisation of "hot parts"

The new, three-layer coextrusion blown film line installed in Italy is equipped with a gravimetric metering system, three extruders, a 350-mm die, one Smart Lip Maximizer high-performance cooling ring including thickness control, IBC system and a double station winder. Thanks to recent measures undertaken to opti-

mise the "hot parts", the line's overall energy consumption was reduced significantly. Optimum configuration of temperature profiles, screw geometries and CMG drives also made important contributions to this improvement.

The line is suitable for processing standard raw material types such as LDPE, LLDPE, MDPE, EVA and mLLDPE.

KUHNE at Plast trade fair in Milan from 24 until 28 March 2009

Tailor-made lines for the Italian market

At Plast 09 in Milan, the largest Italian plastics trade fair, KUHNE will exhibit a three-layer blown film line in operation for the first time. "We made a conscious decision to present the live production of FFS film, a highly challenging product in order to demonstrate that we can provide the ideal machine technology for producing any product," Marcel Perrevort, manager of KUHNE's blown film division explains.

Represented by Polyfilm S.a.s. of Gallarate, KUHNE has been active in the Italian market for two years – with success: several lines have already been sold and brought onstream.

Live operation of an FFS line

At the trade fair, which will take place from 24 until 28 March 2009, KUHNE will show a three-layer FFS line with a 180 mm die and an output rate of 360 kg/h producing a 120 µm film for heavy duty raw material sacks with a layflat width of

560 mm. The second-generation Smart LipMaximizer contributes substantially to the outstanding output rate of this line with two 60 mm extruders and one 90 mm extruder.

The new, twice improved high-performance cooling ring boosts the blown film production output by about 50 % compared to that of conventional double-lip cooling rings. Thanks to its special construction, this cooling ring guarantees the production of a vast width range of between 400 mm and 1,000 mm for 180 mm dies. The entire line is installed at the trade fair to allow visitors to take a close look at the cooling ring.

The company's flat film division will also present a variety of selected highlights from its product portfolio in Milan, including a high-speed extruder, a seven-layer feedblock and a polishing stack. These three machine components are the most important elements of a complete extrusion line for flat film production.



Equipped with the twice-improved Smart Lip Maximizer high-performance cooling ring, the FFS line achieves an outstanding throughput rate of 360 kg/h



For the first time, KUHNE will present a three-layer coextrusion blown film line for the production of FFS film in live operation at Plast 2009

72-mm extruder for 2,200 kg/h of PS

The KHS70EE-33D high-speed extruder with a screw diameter of only 72 mm delivers an output rate of 2,200 kg/h when processing PS, and an output rate of 1,800 kg/h when processing PP. As is clear from the name, this impressive delivery is the result of an outstandingly high screw speed of 1,500 rev/min. In addition to the high output rate, this special extruder speeds up colour and material change-over times while maintaining an even melt temperature and high material quality.

This innovative machine concept has many benefits for processors: in contrast with conventional extruders with comparable output rates, the high-speed model has a substantially smaller footprint, which translates into four times more output per square meter. The high-performance machine with its smaller footprint is constructed with fewer components, which also significantly reduces maintenance and repair requirements.

Seven-layer lamella-feedblock

KUHNE's seven-layer lamella-feedblock is another special feature exhibited at the

trade fair. The patented system allows a very precise adjustment of the required layer thickness, which results in strict adherence to the most narrow thickness tolerances. This benefit translates into hard cash, particularly for barrier-layer film production.

Polishing stack with thin roll shells and substantially increased cooling capacity

The flat film division will present a polishing stack with 400 mm rolls and a width of 1,100 mm, which impresses customers with its outstanding cooling capacity. This is of particular benefit for the production of critical film products at high speeds, which require sufficient cooling. The impressively high capacity is achieved by a thin wall shells of the rolls. Thanks to a special hardening method, the roll shells can be designed with a very fine thickness of only 12 mm, which results in a cooling capacity that is 40 % higher than that of conventional rolls.

During the trade fair, specialists from both divisions – blown film and flat film – will be available for customers with specific questions: "We are professionals in film production – challenge us!"

Robert Fack takes over management of KUHNE Service Team from Peter Amft

Centralisation and consolidation of service department

KUHNE will introduce extensive restructuring measures to its service department in order to enhance the company's customer proximity. All members of the spare parts sales, electrical services, mechanical services and site planning teams will be pooled into one new department by the middle of this year. In future, all twenty-five service specialists will be part of one single team – the new KUHNE service team.

This structural and local centralisation is part of KUHNE's efforts to optimise its customer service. In future, the company's service specialists will work in close cooperation within the team and with customers. This centralisation shortens response times, guarantees fast troubleshooting for customers and ensures the quick resumption of production processes. Naturally, KUHNE is already supplying fast support, holds a wide variety of spare parts in store and provides help quickly and without red tape.

In order to improve the service quality, the number of specialists working in the service team will be stepped up and all service specialists will undergo in-house and external training sessions. At the

same time, KUHNE will expand its spare parts storage facility.

Robert Fack will take over as new manager of KUHNE's service department from Peter Amft on 1 January 2010. Peter Amft will retire from his position and after many years of employment at KUHNE at the end of this year. Until then, both Fack and Amft will be responsible for the service department. Fack has been work-

ing for KUHNE since 2000. During the past eight years, he gathered experience in different areas, from assembly to start up, specializing in electrical equipment, applications engineering of sheet equipment and blown film extrusion lines. Having accumulated comprehensive expertise in both departments, Fack is familiar with the extensive KUHNE product portfolio and a competent partner for customers in need of help and support.



The KUHNE Service Team (left to right): Dirk Kuchheuser-Bierhals, Robert Fack (future manager of the service department), Dirk Halm, Nicole Helmstatter, Susanne Lulsdorf, Peter Amft (current manager of the service department), Manfred Hanke

*We wish our customers
and partners a happy Easter
and a relaxing holiday!*



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KUHNE on show:

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