Second stage of development realized

A Swiss plant manufacturer has used its time wisely and developed a new coating line that is expected to bring significant economic and ecological improvements.

Much is and has already been written about the negative effects of the Corona crisis worldwide. Many companies are currently trying to keep costs down and wait until things pick up again. In the process, they found they had something on their hands that has been in short supply in recent years: time. This time can be used wisely to question many things, to turn over every stone and to rethink things completely.

Understandably, it is difficult to switch immediately from constrained day-to-day operations to innovation mode. However, those who have invested regularly in development before will find it easier at the present time. Just like Forplan AG, a family business from Switzerland. For several years now, the company, which is run by three brothers, has been launching new products at regular intervals.

For example, the Forplanet 515 zinc flake coating line introduced in 2018 offers an extensive range of new capabilities. For example, a planetary system capable of generating a relative movement between the bulk material to be coated and the centrifuging baskets at full centrifuging speed.

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The savings in coating material have a positive effect on the return on investment and CO_2 emissions of the line.

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Defined part movement during the process is intended to bring considerable advantages when coating geometrically difficult parts.

This system makes it possible reliably to coat parts that previously could only be coated with great effort and disproportionately high scrap rate. The defined part movement during the coating and centrifuging process brings significant advantages for the coating of geometrically difficult parts with internal recesses (e.g. small screws with deep Torx) as well as black coatings or adhesive parts. The savings in coating material with up to 30% lower paint consumption, short coating times even for geometrically complex parts, and the very uniform coating thickness distribution have a positive economic and ecological impact – for example on the ROI and CO_2 emissions of the line. Further features of the 515 are the very small coating tank volume, combined with a high turnover of the coating material, and a low space requirement due to the compact design.

Now, the company is following up with the launch of a new high-performance system called Forplanet XXL, which is intended to offer a performance increase of two and a half times that of the Forplanet 515. With the XXL, up to 7.5 tonnes of bulk parts per hour can be coated using the same process. A completely new furnace concept, which separates the evaporation, heating, holding and cooling zones from each other, enables a significantly higher output within a much smaller production area. In addition, a significant reduction in the CO_2 footprint is achieved. The new concept can ideally shorten the ROI by years. The whole concept is modular.

When the machine guides the operator

Forplan AG is also breaking new ground in the field of machine control. On the one hand, the operator interface is equipped with the swipe technology familiar from smartphones, which enables intuitive operator prompting.

Behind the interface there is an intelligent database system that helps the operator to use the line as efficiently as possible. In this way, the planning of the coating process can be partially transferred to the machine. In addition, the control system provides the operator with time windows – for viscosity measurement, maintenance and other jobs, for example. The machine communicates intensively with the operator, thus significantly reducing errors and productivity losses. //

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