

Huyck.Wangner

New clothing technologies

On the heels of a challenging year shaped by the financial restructuring of its parent company, Xerium Technologies Inc., Huyck.Wangner too is once again optimistic about the future: Behind the scenes, the company's Reutlingen and Gloggnitz-based development engineers have developed new, unique clothing technology in order to set new benchmarks in paper manufacturing.

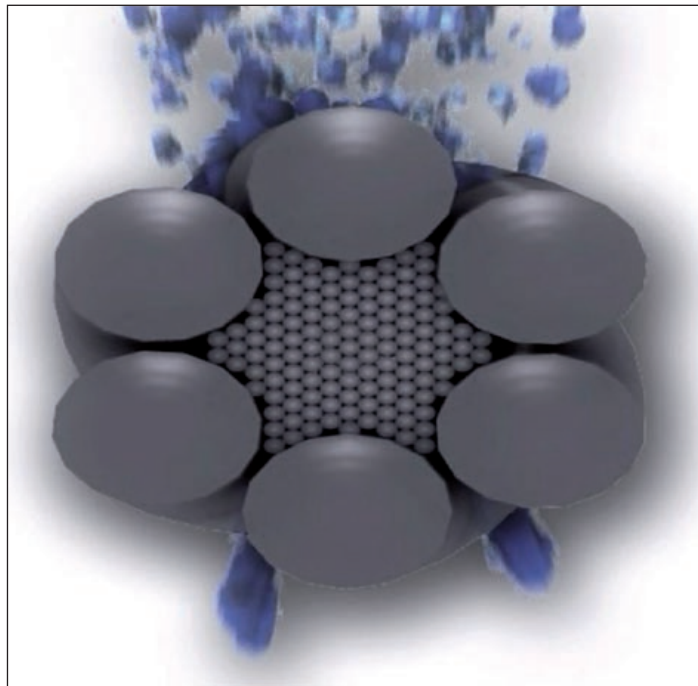
Securing lasting growth through product innovation is item number one on the company's business agenda. Huyck.Wangner aims to generate 60% of its revenue based on product innovations currently being introduced to the market by 2012. Since the end of May, this objective has been accompanied by a return to a secure financial footing.

Huyck.Wangner's parent company, Xerium Technologies Inc., has completed a financial restructuring initiative and reduced its debt by about USD 150 million. As a result, Xerium companies around the world once again have a comfortable capital cushion that makes room for important investments in product development and manufacturing.

Replacing SSB forming fabrics

SSB technology, developed, patented and introduced to the market by Huyck.Wangner in 1999 under the trade name huytexx, was the last major revolution in forming fabrics. Now, the supplier again wants to start a new era with EDC (Engineered Drainage Channels) – a completely new forming fabric design, patented worldwide, which is meant to offer papermakers significantly better production and resource utilisation efficiency.

Forming fabric performance is mainly defined by its behavior in the initial fabric drainage section of the paper machine. By thinking out of the box, development engineers shifted the focus from the fabric structure to a specially formed drainage channel, which in con-



The unique hydrophilic yarn technology of Impact works like a "sponge" and enables immediate saturation of the press fabric

graph: Huyck.Wangner

junction with the paper side topography, paves the way to optimum sheet formation. With EDC and the associated drainage control, developers have zeroed in on the fabric design properties that give papermakers the best performance characteristics/savings potential when it comes to energy consumption and production costs or higher output, while maintaining top paper quality. According to Huyck.Wangner, measurements taken during test runs and on initial installations have confirmed the advantages of the new technology compared to SSB. The forming fabric portfolio will be sequentially replaced by fabrics having the new EDC characteristics.

Hydrophilic yarn for press felts

With the new "Impact" technology, Huyck.Wangner is for the first time offering nonwoven technology, thus closing a gap in its premium segment. Unique yarn technology together with a newly arranged felt structure represent the core of the design. Special properties enable every single yarn to absorb an enormous amount of water. The structure behaves like a sponge that is immediately saturated with water. At the same time,

the yarns are inter-connected by a multi-dimensional linked layer that makes the felts extremely stable.

Combined with well proven needling techniques, the new press felt technology offers an attractive package of benefits: Fast and above average water absorption results in immediate paper machine startup. Low void volume and excellent compressibility at the press nip give the press felt extremely high nip dewatering attributes. Higher drainage performance optimises the dry content at the press exit, which results in lower energy consumption in the drying section. Dimensional stability is improved by the parallel yarns, which are further stabilised during a specially developed manufacturing process. With the Impact structure, there is absolutely no marking and thus printability is outstanding. The high drainage capacity of this design at the nip leads to excellent self cleaning and as a result, the felt remains uncontaminated throughout its entire running life.

Huyck.Wangner has integrated the trend-setting Impact technology into its existing press felt portfolio. **sha ■**