

An optimum plant with integrated system competence

“We are a partner to the paper industry.”

The key to lower energy and production costs on the one hand and greater quality and productivity in the paper industry on the other is in integrated system solutions. Four Voith Paper managing directors explain why Voith plants are especially suited to offer customers this added value.







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President Paper Machines

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Dr. Antti Kaunonen,
President Automation

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Commissioning the new paper machine for Palm Paper in King’s Lynn, England was the perfect example of how to do things.

“Three essential aspects came into play here: the customer bought an optimally coordinated system, we were able to shorten the time before commissioning and could start up the plant in an optimum manner.” Kurt Brandauer, President Paper Machines, sees these aspects as ‘elementary’. They combine all the relevant processes. The Voith paper machine was not delivered as a single unit but coordinated with additional Voith components such as machine clothing, roll covers and doctor blades, the entire fiber line as well as integrated automation solutions.

Working with the Palm paper mill, a pre-engineering team had determined the needs and the resulting optimal process systems. Brandauer is certain that: “Only integrated processes carried out by specialists with many years of experience lead to a resource conserving and equally economically optimized plant. So it is all about reconciling economy with ecology. This is exactly what Green Technology means to us.” This is how Voith Paper is able to give the paper industry the corresponding quality guarantees. That means to think of integrated system solutions which include the maintenance, the preventative upkeep or even the customer’s training concepts for employees. To achieve this end, Voith Paper increased its efforts to dovetail the product and service business even more.

“Our people and our production

sites as well are located in Europe, in Asia, in North and South America as well as in India,” says Martin Scherrer, Executive Vice President Fabric & Roll Systems. He sees the global positioning of Voith Paper as an essential competitive advantage as well as the fact that “in our Paper Technology Center we can test the integrated systems under real conditions in trials without the customer having to endure machine downtimes.” Just recently roll covers and press felts as well as doctor blades were optimally coordinated with each other, leading to outstanding results. “In our press concept we have system-optimized covers, felts and doctor blades. Therefore, we can give start-up guarantees that pay off for the customer very quickly but also further optimize existing paper machines.”

All mechanical engineers are driven by the concept of ‘Total Cost of Ownership’. Reducing costs by minimizing unnecessary interfaces, increasing the efficiency of the systems and continuously improving the reliability of the plant is Voith Paper’s goal. “Many different processes take place in a PM. With our automation systems we can combine them and are in a position to offer optimized solutions to reduce energy and raw materials costs for fibers and water,” says Dr. Antti Kaunonen, President Automation. “No matter what area is involved, Voith Paper is a competent partner. It is an unnecessary challenge for a customer to have to work with a number of different suppliers for his plant.”

Dr. Antti Kaunonen and Martin Scherrer agree on the goal to further stress the

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advantages of integrated system solutions to the customer. “This is where the strength of Voith Paper has lain for decades and this is unique. We also have the ability to achieve significant improvements with respect to energy savings and quality, not only with new plants but above all in running plants as well.”

Is it therefore only possible to implement Green Technology with integrated system competence? “The customer can save a lot of money if, for example, he optimizes the water loops between the PM, wastewater treatment facilities and stock preparation. With anaerobic wastewater treatment or by burning rejects energy can be reclaimed. The payback for the initially higher machine costs is very quickly realized,” says Stephan Bocken, President Fiber & Environmental Solutions. To him, integrated system competence and Green Technology are symbiotic. “One doesn’t work without the other. We are currently working harder than ever on enhancements, for example, to further link the automation technology with mechanical process technologies to reduce the consumption of chemicals.” It is thus possible, for example, to reduce the amount of defoaming agents in the process water. “The strain on the water cycles of the plant is thereby further reduced.” Today the environmental

aspect is now more than ever a component of the total process know-how.

Voith Paper is a pioneer in this area as well. Integrated system competence is thus the point of departure for successfully and in this sense sustainably thinking about the concept of an integrated paper mill and being able to make it a reality. To this end, Voith Paper supplies the customer not only with paper machines with matching rolls, covers, machine clothing, doctor blades and the appropriate automation technology but also with a complete plant for processing recycled paper, treating the process water, the wastewater and for generating energy from biowaste.

Kurt Brandauer sums it up: “A total concept requires coordinated components. If individual components are replaced, the cheapest aren’t always the best. The supposedly cheaper components can very quickly become the most expensive because the results are no longer right.” The example of King’s Lynn and many others have shown clearly that: “We are more productive than the competition.” And he closes with an appeal: “Voith Paper is a partner to the paper industry. If the paper industry trusts its partner, enormous improvement and value-added potential can still be realized in this partnership.”



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