



The top address for system know-how

On July 1, 1999, the Voith Group acquired the roll covers, roll service and paper machine clothing businesses of the Scapa Group plc, Blackburn/UK. After integrating these companies into the corporate structure, Voith became the first company in the world capable of meeting all the papermaker's machine needs from headbox to reel, including stock preparation and sheet finishing. Voith now can supply the paper machine, clothe it and service it,

regardless of the original equipment manufacturer. No other company today can offer such broad-ranging and complete papermaking equipment sales and service as Voith. With this strategic expansion in roll covering, roll repair and service as well as clothing technology, Voith is ideally positioned to help papermakers optimize their papermaking process and produce more and higher quality paper at a lower cost.

Fig. 1: Inspection of inner surface of a suction press roll.

Fig. 2: High precision tooling of a dummy head.

Fig. 3: Inspection of suction press roll on the drilling unit.

Fig. 4: Manufacturing of a rubber cover.



competent personnel, Voith is better able to meet such demands. Thanks to this strategic expansion, the Voith brand provides increased customer benefits. The former Scapa companies have been assigned to two independent business units of the Voith Group. They work together closely both in customer service and R&D for ongoing product development.

Roll cover and roll service sector

The industrial globalization and consolidation currently taking place worldwide, particularly in the paper industry, demands a radical change of approach among suppliers. Today's papermakers expect true partnership from their suppliers, with full system competence and turnkey responsibility. They want a single-source supplier that can handle comprehensive solutions and provide excellent service. By acquiring the Scapa assets with proven products and highly

The Scapa roll covering and service activities have been integrated into the Voith Sulzer Paper Technology Service Division with headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA. The operation remains in the capable hands of Ray Hall. The acquisition has enabled Voith Sulzer to add service centers and products such as Scapa's well-proven roll covers and expand its existing roll repair and servicing function. Voith Sulzer now offers unmatched technical expertise and a full

complement of exceptional products and services that include:

- operations and optimization products – regardless of the OEM
- paper machine and roll servicing
- roll coverings and thermal coatings
- technical and diagnostic services
- stock prep, paper machine and finishing equipment and parts.

Scapa was noted for technological advancements that include:

- the industry's toughest premium polyurethane cover system for press rolls
- high-performance drilled polyurethane roll cover for suction press rolls
- outstanding resin composite covers that yield improved sheet finishing
- state-of-the-art ceramic covers that usually eliminate the need for release agents.

Now Voith Sulzer has technological leadership in polyurethane, resin and ceramic

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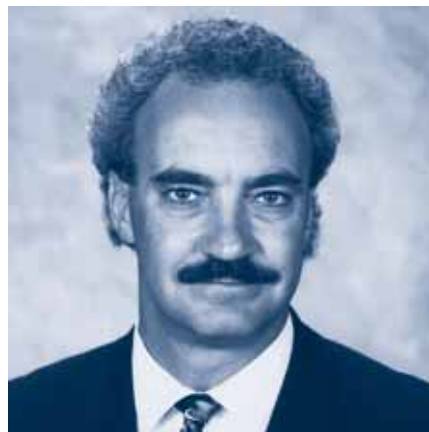
product lines and, along with the Magna series of premium rubber covers, is able to provide operational and service life benefits for any paper machine or finishing application.

Merging the Scapa and Voith Sulzer businesses has substantially improved customer benefit with regard to field services. Voith Sulzer now has 25 first-class service centers located in almost every major papermaking region in the world and can provide a rapid response when a papermaker calls with a problem or need. Further 20 service centers for paper machine clothing are added to these. The addition of Mill Service Managers offers the coordination of all the resources of the Voith papermaking concerns for paper mill management. Each is supported by the Voith global network to ensure that customers receive the Voith products and services where and when they are needed.

Paper machine clothing sector

The paper machine clothing business acquired from Scapa was merged with the former Voith Appleton Mills division to form a new, independent company. **Voith Fabrics** is headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA. CEO is Ivan J. Fearnhead.

With annual sales around DM 700 million and about 3,500 employees, Voith Fabrics



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Fig. 5: 25 Voith Sulzer Paper Technology Service Center worldwide.

Fig. 6: Ivan J. Fearnhead, Voith Fabrics.

Fig. 7: High speed weaving machine.



is a world leader in clothing for forming, press and dryer sections. Voith Fabrics engineers and manufactures high quality paper machine clothing suitable for every position in every section of every paper machine in the world. The entire offering is backed up by first-class service, with a close-knit global network covering all customer locations. Voith Fabrics has production plants in Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy, Austria, Holland, Sweden, Spain, the USA, Canada, Mexico, China, India and Malaysia.

Voith Fabrics will continue the existing product lines of Voith Appleton Mills division and Scapa Paper Machine Clothing and further develop them whilst exploiting synergies at the same time. The new company is focusing on developing innovative new materials that increase runnability and lower the cost of making paper.



Fig. 8: Automatic seaming.

Fig. 9: Heat setting equipment.

Fig. 10: R. Ray Hall, Service Division.

Fig. 11: Checking of surface micro structure.



“We have identified numerous areas of synergy between Voith Fabrics and Voith Sulzer,” observed Voith Fabrics CEO Ivan Fearnhead. *“We are particularly excited about working closely on the development of fabrics for the new generation of machines and the new technologies that are on the drawing board. The merger of Scapa Paper Machine Clothing and Voith Appleton opens up opportunities neither company had before.”* He points to such technological advances as Voith Appleton’s development of a new, non-woven membrane and Scapa’s production of a cast polyurethane composite structure for use within the press felt.

“We now have the ability to combine flow control technology with composite technology. This will permit us to make products that will be the benchmarks for press felts in the 21st century,” added Fearnhead.

Research and development

Research and development will continue as the cornerstone of Voith Fabrics and Voith Sulzer’s product offerings. Engineers from Voith Sulzer Paper Technology and Voith Fabrics will work very closely at the R&D centers in Europe, North and South America, and on pilot paper machines located throughout the world. This enables customized trials and pre-

cise diagnostics, thus identifying the optimal solution for each specific application.

Ray Hall sums up future prospects as follows: *“New developments in paper machine technology directly influence the choice of roll covering materials and fabric design and vice-versa. Advances in these materials can also bring improvements in machine design. For optimal progress, all system components have to be precisely coordinated – which is naturally much easier for a single-source supplier. With the acquisition of Scapa Paper Machine Clothing and Scapa Rolls, Voith offers unprecedented system competence. With Scapa, Voith has not only gained vast experience in roll cover technology and service, but also enhanced local contact and global market positioning – to the benefit of paper-makers worldwide.”*

