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PRESS RELEASE

Wittmann Battenfeld with concentrated process technology at the Plast '09

At this year's Plast '09 in Milan from March 24 to 28, visitors can look forward to concentrated, state-of-the-art process technology with proven, successful machine models at the Wittmann Battenfeld booth (booth B30, hall 22). Of course, this includes a presentation to the Italian market of the high-speed TM Xpress series, which was introduced last fall, with an IML application.

TM Xpress: the "high-speed" solution for the packaging sector

The fast-running TM Xpress machine, specially developed for the packaging industry, will be *the* exhibition highlight. It combines high speed with precision and is available with clamping forces ranging from 160 to 450 tons.

On a TM Xpress 270/1350 with 270 t clamping force, Wittmann Battenfeld will demonstrate the production of a 750 ml PP cup with a 2-cavity mold within a cycle time of 4.7 seconds. A Wittmann in-mold labeling device will take care of inserting the labels as well as removing and depositing the finished cups.

The Wittmann group is supplying all components of this production cell. The mold and the IML automation equipment are coming from the Wittmann subsidiary in France. The peripheral equipment is being contributed by Wittmann Kunststoffgeräte GmbH, and Wittmann Battenfeld is delivering the injection molding machine.

HM: proven machine concept with patented Airmould[®] gas injection technology

The production of a PA car door handle with Airmould[®] gas injection technology will be presented on an HM 350/3400. The handle will be manufactured with a mold from Riku (Bitburg, Germany) within a cycle time of 58 seconds.

Airmould[®] is the gas-assisted injection molding process developed by Wittmann Battenfeld and protected by multiple patents. The most important advantages are improved surface quality and higher dimensional accuracy of the molded parts. The internal gas pressure process on display during the fair also reduces the material requirements, which, in turn, lowers the part weight.

A W833 robot from the latest generation of Wittmann robots has been integrated into the system to handle removal and depositing of the finished parts. The integration of the robot's control system into the machine's control system enables the operator to address the functional pages of both the injection molding machine and the robot directly.

Multi-component technology for cost-efficient applications

Another exhibit from the HM series is the HM MK 240/1330H/350S. It will manufacture a 2-component handle from PP and TPE with a soft-touch effect for a transportation box.

Wittmann Battenfeld can look back on many years of experience in multi-component injection molding. Based on the HM series, the HM MK offers the right package for all types of multi-component technology with an extensive range of options. This allows optimal adaptation of machines, molds and automation equipment to individual products. Wittmann Battenfeld's expertise includes all process variants, such as multi-color, composite, assembly and sandwich injection molding.

In the 'insider solution' demonstrated, a W821 robot from Wittmann deposits the finished parts on a conveyor belt integrated in the machine frame. This solution makes it possible to minimize space requirements for the production of injection molded parts, which contributes to cutting costs.

The exhibit on display at the fair has been produced for the customer GT Line. Following its demonstration during the exhibition, it will be shipped directly to the customer's production facility.

EM: all-electric, efficient and clean room-compatible

From the energy-saving EM series, Wittmann Battenfeld will present an EM 110/350 showing the production of a medical part: dosing detents for insulin pens will be manufactured with a 48-cavity mold supplied by Hasco (Lüdenscheid, Germany) within a cycle time of just 6 seconds. The part weight is 0.2 g.

The machines from the all-electric EM series come with an optimized drive concept featuring extremely high dynamics, efficiency and precision.

The right solution for every application

Wittmann Battenfeld offers the right solution for every conceivable application, starting with expert counseling to select the right machine model, right up to process technology support to optimize the manufacturing process.

The range on offer includes standard injection molding equipment for thermoplastic resins, thermoset materials and elastomers as well as specialized processes such as gas and water injection technology, multi-component technology, even powder injection molding and physical foaming processes.

Luciano Arreghini, managing director of Battenfeld Italia s.r.l., is pleased with the well-balanced mix of exhibits: "From the vast portfolio of different processes, we are presenting modern applications for the medical, packaging and automotive industries. In selecting the exhibits, our focus has been on solutions for cost- and energy-efficient production. So the part weight and consequently the material costs can be reduced, for example, with Airmould[®] gas injection technology, with the additional benefit of shortening cycle times and simultaneously improving the quality of molded parts."



Fig. 1: TM Xpress – the “high-speed” solution for the packaging industry



Fig 2: IML cups made of PP, manufactured on a TM Xpress 270/1350



Fig. 3: PA car door handle, produced with Airmould[®] gas injection technology



Fig. 4: Dosing detents for insulin pens, manufactured on an all-electric EM 110/350

Contact:

Wittmann Battenfeld GmbH

Wiener Neustädter Straße 81

A-2542 Kottlingbrunn / Austria

Tel: +43 2252 404-1400

Fax: +43 2252 404-1002

susanne.binner@wittmann-battenfeld.com

www.wittmann-battenfeld.com

Battenfeld Italia s.r.l.

Via Donizetti, 9

20020 Solaro

Italy

Tel: +39 02 9698 1020

Fax: +39 02 9698 1029

info@vit.battenfeld-imt.com

www.wittmann-battenfeld.com