



WORLD WIDE WEAVE

ACHEMA 2018: Demand for superfine mesh from GKD

Innovative weaves underline solution expertise

Not just one, but three innovations at once for hot topics in industry and for local authorities: Visitors to this year's AICHEMA showed a great deal of interest in the products and services on show by leading international technical weavers GKD – Gebr. Kufferath AG. In terms of industrial weaves, inquiries focused on the high-performance Porometric and ODW6 filter media for process water, ballast water, and waste water filtration applications. The sampling basket for fractionation of particulate material larger than six micrometers also attracted a great deal of attention, as did the special mesh designs for the automotive industry. In addition to this, numerous visitors from all sectors were keen to chat with the filter experts about solution approaches to concrete issues.

"Significantly better across the board than three years ago!" This is how Head of Industrial Weave, Peter Wirtz, summarizes the response to his company's appearance at the leading international trade fair for the process industry in Frankfurt. Not only did significantly more people visit the stand, it was even possible to initiate several concrete projects.

Porometric: Unsurpassed in terms of water filtration

It was the multiple-award-winning, high-performance Porometric mesh that attracted the most interest. This mesh combines unparalleled high permeability with equally good cleaning characteristics. Boasting the same separation rate, its extremely open three-dimensional structure guarantees three times greater flow rates than conventional mesh. Based on a model that compared the flow rates of a typical plain dutch weave with optimized



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dutch weaves and Porometric mesh, GKD impressively demonstrated the significantly better performance of the latter on its trade fair stand in Frankfurt. "The benefits were instantly recognized during discussions," comments Peter Wirtz. This resulted in many sample orders, as well as discussion of customer-specific new developments. Besides the stainless steel design, visitors also displayed great interest in the purely synthetic version of Porometric. With an almost five times greater flow rate, it brushes aside standard market synthetic mesh with 20 or 25 μm apertures. GKD also has a hybrid version of Porometric weave in its portfolio for applications in which the use of synthetics leads to static charges, which in turn make cleaning more difficult. As an alternative to the stainless steel version, one of the people now testing this is anACHEMA visitor who was looking for a solution to reduce the huge maintenance costs caused by the short service life of the synthetic coverings he has previously used. Concrete inquiries were also received for the saltwater-proof version of Porometric, above all from international customers. With a pore opening of 24 μm , this surpasses all other 10 μm filtration mesh used in the field of ballast water filtration to date. Coupled with the unsurpassed high flow rate typical of this mesh design, as well as its mechanical robustness and ease of cleaning, this not only increases process efficiency, but is also ideal for the tight spaces typically encountered in ballast water systems thanks to its compact dimensions.

ODW6: Successful in the battle against microplastics

GKD also had another visitor attraction for micro filtration in the shape of its ODW6, a further development of the optimized dutch weave (ODW). Thanks to a woven pore opening of 6 μm , this single-layer mesh design more than doubles the already extremely high particle retention rate of ODW20. ODW6 combines this extreme separation rate with the high throughput required for large-scale water processing. Among other things, this qualifies it for various



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areas of application in the battle against microplastics. Whether they are used for filtration of outlet water at sewage plants or in sampling baskets that collect tire abrasion in street drains as a way of reducing the amount of microplastics entering aquatic systems, ODW6 meshes are already impressively demonstrating their potential in multiple research projects sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. This was also a topic that attracted a lot of aspiring engineers at theACHEMA fair. Besides questions on the projects, several of these even submitted direct requests for their degree theses. System manufacturers from the household appliances industry, too, became aware of the opportunities associated with ODW6 and were keen to discuss the possibility of a development partnership with the specialists from GKD. "People know us as an innovative solution provider," comments Peter Wirtz. "Many equipment manufacturers and users on the lookout for new products that can contribute to greater added value through improved performance and copy protection therefore took the opportunity to chat with us." His summary of the trade fair appearance is accordingly positive: "Our expectations were greatly exceeded. Now we must focus on responding to all the requests from the many valuable contacts and on further developing the Porometric range in a step-by-step approach to close the gap that still exists between 30 and 100 µm."

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GKD – WORLD WIDE WEAVE

As a privately owned technical weaver, GKD - Gebr. Kufferath AG is the world market leader in metal, synthetic and spiral mesh solutions. Four independent business divisions bundle their expertise under one roof: Industrial Mesh (woven metal mesh and filter solutions), Process Belts (belts made of mesh and spirals), Architectural meshes (façades, safety and



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interior design made of metal fabrics) and Mediamesh[®] (Transparent media façades). With its headquarter in Germany and five other facilities in the US, South Africa, China, India and Chile – as well as its branches in France, Spain, Dubai and worldwide representatives, GKD is close to markets anywhere in the world.

For more information:

GKD – GEBR. KUFFERATH AG
Metallweberstraße 46
D-52353 Düren
Tel.: +49 (0) 2421 / 803-0
Fax: +49 (0) 2421 / 803-233
E-mail: industrialmesh@gkd.de
www.gkd.de

Please send a reprint to:

impetus.PR
Ursula Herrling-Tusch
Charlottenburger Allee 27-29
D-52068 Aachen
Tel.: +49 (0) 241 / 189 25-10
Fax: +49 (0) 241 / 189 25-29
E-mail: herrling-tusch@impetus-pr.de