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GKD at ACHEMA:

Integrated process belt expertise for key industries

The process belt specialists from GKD – Gebr. Kufferath AG will be presenting three focus topics at ACHEMA, World Forum and Leading Show for the Process Industries. From June 11 to 15, they will be showcasing process belt solutions made of mesh and spirals for thermal treatment, dewatering, and filtration to the international trade specialists in attendance in Frankfurt. The focus of the trade fair appearance is on the integrated expertise of the technical weavers. Process-dependent, custom product development and technologically leading manufacturing from a single source underline the efficiency of GKD belts that is in demand worldwide. Based on past experience, the belt experts are a sought-after contact at the ACHEMA event among equipment manufacturers and users for discussing concrete challenges.

Process efficiency and reliability are the top priorities for all protagonists in the process industry. Continuous, uninterrupted production, high system availability, and perfect product quality are key success factors for critical applications. Whether drying, cooling, or freezing in large systems, preparing industrial process and waste water, sewage sludge dewatering, or filtration of fertilizers or cooling lubricants: process belts from GKD play a key part in all of these applications.

Drying, cooling, freezing

In the food industry, industrial belt dryers or coolers ensure that natural products retain their nutrient content and sensory product qualities, such as taste and appearance, and also achieve a longer shelf life. The custom-



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designed and precision-manufactured synthetic or metal mesh belts from the leading international technical weavers make an important contribution to this. Their range of dimensions and temperatures, transverse stability, smooth running, and matched, process-specific ratio of pore size to air permeability predestine them for exacting thermal processes. **TRACKMATIC™ belts** made of highly tempered stainless steels impress with their hygienic safety when coming into contact with foodstuffs. Boasting resistance to aggressive cleaning agents, they are also capable of withstanding cleaning-in-place (CIP) processes for years. Their special design lends the flexible metal belts excellent tracking stability with guide lugs on the bottom side. For applications with tacky products, GKD also offers these belts with plastic-coated, food-grade warp wires, whose smooth surface reduces product adhesion and thereby simplifies cleaning. The excellent transverse stability of both types allows high layer thicknesses to be processed. Thanks to an optimum woven seam design that is based on the intended application, TRACKMATIC™ belts guarantee long system availability, even in continuous operation. GKD also offers metal belts made of special alloys for drying highly aggressive materials or PTFE powder.

Synthetic belts from GKD represent an attractive alternative for belt dryers, belt coolers, or belt freezers in the food industry. They are precisely matched to the respective process and system type from a weaving perspective and thermally treated. This application-specific thermosetting allows the belts to be optimally adjusted to the required process temperature. This makes any notion of uncontrolled shrinkage or extension of the belts in the system a thing of the past – just like creasing or inaccurate tracking. The flat PAD seam contributes to a long service life thanks to significantly reduced particle penetration. GKD produces all **polyester belts** for the food industry with thermally sealed edges and food-grade PAD seam. **Mesh and seam are FDA-certified** and fulfill the requirements of EU Directive 10/2011. The belts



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cover the entire temperature range encountered in the production of foodstuffs and are available in widths of up to 8 meters and lengths of up to 140 meters. The new **spiral belts** from GKD are currently setting previously unequalled standards in special food industry applications.

Dewatering and filtering

Waste water and sludge from the process industry place strict requirements on the mechanical, thermal, and chemical robustness of the process belts used for their dewatering. GKD filter belts are proven and enjoy an enviable reputation in the field of process water treatment in the chemicals industry, as well as the paper industry and pectin production sector. **Belt 1003** is unparalleled in terms of its transverse stability, dewatering performance, and particle retention. GKD now offers this filter belt, which is known worldwide, as standard **with integrated wear indicator** to provide greater assistance in determining mechanical abrasion. A contrasting-colored core in the woven polyester monofilament provides an early visible indication of the degree of process-based wear or incorrect belt adjustments after loading the belt. This makes it possible to plan belt changes and promptly implement any necessary corrections.

For applications with fibrous sludges, which are less capable of flowing, such as those typically encountered in the paper industry, GKD offers the **"1003" of spiral belts** for pre-dewatering and belt presses. This belt was developed and is also manufactured in-house. The seamless belt has only been available for around one year but has quickly made the transition from insider tip to successful product thanks to its excellent performance and is now being used in over 100 systems. Its special stability can be attributed to the refining process, which involves strong drawing. This specific post-treatment reduces any undesirable elongation of the belt in the process and completely eliminates the need for readjusting the belt tension, which is necessary with



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all conventional belts. This spiral belt therefore combines the benefits of a seamless dewatering belt with the transverse stability of a woven belt. In the food sector, **linear screen** belts with FDA-approval are in demand worldwide for applications such as salad washing.

Used in continuous vacuum belt filter systems, filter belts from the **VACUBELT® product range** significantly surpass the performance of conventional filter belts when dewatering FGD and phosphorous gypsum, as well as potash. Their special mesh design with apertures from 50 to 500 µm impresses thanks to its optimum air permeability, constantly high filtration performance, low clogging tendency, as well as its good cleaning characteristics. Thanks to their resistance to the high stresses encountered in the process industry, they offer the best prerequisites for a long service life. The particularly flat PAD seam also makes a key contribution to this through significantly reduced particle penetration. The transverse and tracking stability of the process-specific VACUBELT® filter belts also contribute to the success of this product range. Their excellent characteristics profile has enabled the rugged belts made of polyester monofilaments to become the global leaders for exacting large-scale filter processes. Its exceptional performance is what speaks for this belt type, also in the field of cooling lubricant filtration in central installations of the metalworking automotive supply industry. During theACHEMA fair, users and equipment manufacturers can get a much clearer picture in person of the performance spectrum offered by GKD process belts for the numerous special applications in the process industry. The tried and tested problem solvers at GKD are popular conversation partners when it comes to discussing new challenges and potential solution approaches.



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**Visit GKD – Gebr. Kufferath AG at
ACHEMA 2018
June 11 to 15, 2018
Messe Frankfurt
Hall 5.0
Stand C62**

7.693 characters incl. spaces

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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 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.

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