



WORLD WIDE WEAVE

GKD: Specifically tailored trade fair appearance by the process belt experts

Scope of solution portfolio strikes a chord with visitors

"We hit the nail on the head!" This is how Michael Seelert, Head of Process Belts at GKD – Gebr. Kufferath AG, summarizes the company's successful appearance at theACHEMA trade fair in Frankfurt. For the process belt experts, the focus was on integrated solution expertise in and around the application areas of filtration, drying, and dewatering. This not only attracted visitors from the process industry, but also from numerous other sectors. Indeed, equipment manufacturers and users from 25 countries made their way to the GKD stand to discuss solution approaches to various issues with the specialists.

Self-explanatory models and clear topic-based structuring made it easier for visitors to find the information they were looking for on the stand and motivated several to discuss topics with the GKD experts that are actually not the core focus of theACHEMA fair. Besides familiar topics from the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, the scope of solutions discussed ranged from the dewatering of algae, coconut fibers, phosphorous, and FGDP gypsum, all the way to the drying of superabsorbents, PTFE, tea, wood, and biomass. In all of these applications, tailor-made process belt solutions from GKD offer measurable added value in terms of system availability, product quality, and process reliability. Having accumulated decades' worth of cross-sector experience, the GKD engineers are familiar with a very wide range of systems, processes, and special requirements. It was this, together with the innovative and world-leading products on display, that made them sought-after problem solvers at theACHEMA fair.



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In demand: Solutions for exacting thermal processes

Several visitors from Asia were keen to learn more about this area of expertise in the context of drying sensitive products, such as herbs, algae, or tea. To ensure that these retain their sensory product qualities – and structural qualities in the case of algae – and enjoy a longer shelf life, the synthetic or metal mesh belts are custom-designed and precision-manufactured. Their range of dimensions and temperatures combined with their high degree of lateral stability, smooth running, and process-specific ratio of pore size to air permeability, qualifies them for these exacting thermal processes. TRACKMATIC™ belts made of highly tempered stainless steels impress with their hygienic safety when it comes to contact with foodstuffs. Boasting robust resistance to aggressive cleaning agents, they are also capable of withstanding cleaning-in-place (CIP) processes for years. Thanks to guide lugs on the bottom side, the flexible metal belts also guarantee optimum tracking stability. This belt type with plastic-coated, food-grade warp wires has proven its value in applications with sticky products. Targeted inquiries were also received at theACHEMA fair for metal belts with special alloys that guarantee a high degree of process reliability for exacting PTFE drying.

Impressive: Extra process reliability

The synthetic mesh belts from GKD also attracted a great deal of interest among trade fair visitors. These belts, which are already designed for a specific process and system during the weaving process and thermally treated, prevent uncontrolled shrinkage, extension, inaccurate tracking, and creases. Together with the flat PAD seam, the synthetic belts therefore contribute to significantly better process efficiency. For the food industry, GKD has FDA approval for its polyester belts and PAD seam. This topic was very well received atACHEMA, particularly among European users with



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exacting process requirements. The VACUBELT® product range for dewatering FGDP gypsum and potash salts was in particularly great demand. This belt type, made of rugged polyester monofilaments with PAD seam, is the world's leading product for large-scale filtration processes. This is due to its special mesh design with apertures of 50 to 500 µm which, thanks to optimum air permeability, consistently high filtration performance, and low blockage tendency, has become a synonym for economic dehydration processes worldwide.

The process belt experts responded to a large number of problems faced by key industries with this broad array of GKD products and applications on show. Michael Seelert is clearly delighted by the large number of appointments scheduled: "For GKD,ACHEMA has definitely changed for the better. The focus of discussions has moved away from just the chemical industry in favor of a more open approach with a significantly diversified range of sectors." The trade fair concept of the process belt specialists, which involved showcasing the entire bandwidth of their cross-sector expertise, was tailored specifically to this extended target group.

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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 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,



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Spain, Dubai and worldwide representatives, GKD is close to markets anywhere in the world.

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