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Process belt expertise in demand

GKD: Filter belts with early warning system become trade fair highlight

"Promising new contacts, as well as highly positive feedback on the filter belt with integrated wear indicator." This is how Michael Seelert, Head of Process Belts at leading international technical weavers GKD – Gebr. Kufferath AG, summarizes the 2018 IFAT fair. The attractive range of solutions for sewage sludge dewatering and water filtration attracted a great deal of interest among those visiting the fair. The expertise of the process belt specialists was also in great demand in addressing concrete problems and development tasks.

The efficiency of sewage sludge dewatering and drying is a key determining factor for efficient system operation in the water industry. The belt type 1003, developed by GKD together with leading machinery and plant manufacturers for mechanical dewatering in belt presses, has become synonymous with efficient dewatering. Thanks to use of a contrasting color core in the polyester monofilament, this globally established filter belt has also been reliably displaying mechanical abrasion (wear) since the start of the year. Whether misadjustment in the system environment following belt loading or process-based wear: an early warning system integrated into the belt makes it possible to detect wear early on, which in turn enables system operators to take any necessary action in good time. This helps avoid unplanned downtimes and accurately schedule belt changes. Feedback on the integrated wear indicator from those visiting the stand at the IFAT fair was very positive – especially since GKD offers this visible belt security as standard and without any surcharge. The spiral belts that GKD develops and produces in-house for pre-dewatering and belt presses proved an almost



WORLD WIDE WEAVE

immediate success. In terms of performance, they match the 1003 mesh belt, but a specific post-treatment means that the belt tension does not need to be readjusted multiple times during installation. For longstanding customers of GKD mesh belts, made by GKD is a seal of quality they also trust when purchasing spiral belts. Most of the visitors to the stand from the process belt sector at the IFAT fair therefore initially focused on the samples board, but were then also keen to discuss concrete questions/issues with the experts on hand. Numerous prospective international clients – above all from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and India – also headed straight for the stand of the process belt experts from Düren. Since these countries are largely still focusing on mechanical dewatering, the renowned belt manufacturer with global market presence was a sought-after contact and system supplier for their delegations.

Safety more important than ever

The leading role of GKD as a solution provider was also underlined by a development partnership in the field of drilling mud dewatering which was established with the belt specialists during the IFAT fair. The same applies to a new customer order from the fruit juice industry, which was a reaction to the comprehensive FDA certification of the GKD synthetic belts with PAD seam. The test parameters defined by GKD for FDA certification not only fulfill the FDA stipulations under laboratory conditions, but also reflect the real-world usage and load conditions. As such, these belts have been tested and FDA-certified for single and multiple contact at 90°C up to a contact time of 120 minutes. This top level food contact safety motivated a well-known fruit juice producer to visit the GKD stand and subsequently place a large belt order for use in fruit juice dewatering. For Michael Seelert, this success provides yet further evidence that customers operating in increasingly sophisticated and highly competitive markets are keen to find the best possible solutions for their process. "Secure processes, reliable partners with



WORLD WIDE WEAVE

pronounced solution expertise and global presence are more important than ever for manufacturers and operators of equipment," concludes the expert. GKD was once again able to use this to impress visitors at the IFAT fair.

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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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