BRITISH PAPER MACHINERY NEWS

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News and views from the
British Paper Machinery Suppliers Association

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Compact Engineering successful installation of Corona infrared dryers at Austrian linerboard mill

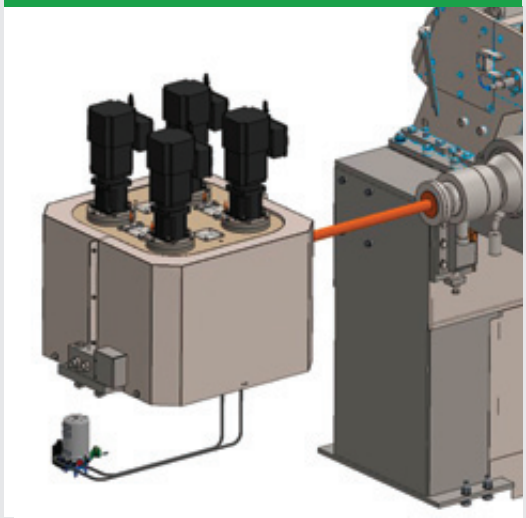
read about it on page 5

Turnbull & Scott delivers bespoke energy-efficient heating solutions to enhance productivity

read about it on page 7

Reel Solutions can supply an innovative breast roll shaker giving more consistent fibre distribution

read about it on page 6



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This publication is distributed to 2000 subscribers worldwide. We understand that over time personnel change positions, and move companies and mills. We also know that mill ownership can change.

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Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

David P Carrington
BPMSA Chairman

What's in this issue . . .

You can also read this and previous issues of British Paper Machinery News in a digital page-turning version at www.BritishPaperMachineryNews.co.uk or scan the QR code on page 13

Just follow the links to the issue you wish to read

The next issue of BPM News will be published in October 2025

Editorial Comment

The polluter pays! - PackUK, the scheme administrator for Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility, was formerly launched this January by Defra. The organisation will implement the UKs new Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging programme (pEPR), which is intended to move the cost of managing household packaging waste from local authorities and taxpayers to those businesses who use and supply the packaging.

The system is expected to boost investment in local recycling services and running alongside Simpler Recycling in England and the Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers will stimulate an estimated £10bn investment in recycling across the UK over the next 10 years and could support up to 21,000 new jobs.

A new group has recently been established to provide representation within the development of pEPR and future recycling and waste policy. It features companies from across the fibre-based packaging value chain. The Alliance for Fibre-Based Packaging will help ensure that fibre and fibre-based packaging is designed to be fully recyclable and ensure there is a level playing field between materials.

And in the EU too - last December the EU Council signed off new rules for less waste and more re-use of packaging along with restricting certain types of single-use packaging and requiring manufacturers to minimise the amount of packaging used.

There are 2030 and 2040 targets for a minimum percentage of recycled content, targets to minimise the weight and volume of packaging and avoiding unnecessary packaging along with minimising substances of concern relating to food contact packaging. And labelling and marking with information on material composition or recycled content should facilitate consumer sorting and choices.

Even though recycling rates have increased within the EU, the amount of waste generated from packaging is growing faster than the amount recycled meaning that half a kilogram of packaging waste is still generated per person per day.

Paper from fallen leaves - If like me you live somewhere surrounded by trees this could bring you some relief in late Autumn. The average city collects at least 8000 tons of fallen leaves annually and the total potential from Europe exceeds one million tons from urban areas alone! Releaf Paper is a young innovative company turning green waste such as fallen leaves into valuable raw materials for the paper and packaging industry. Born in 2021 in Ukraine with a collaboration between a scientist and an entrepreneur the first launch took place in a mini-production test facility. The company now has its own production using contract mills to produce paper and packaging using Releaf technology.

The products are sustainable and their environmental impact minimal and by utilising the waste fibres they meet a growing demand whilst helping to reduce deforestation - visit www.releaf-paper.com for more details.

It's an age thing - There appears to be a generational gap when it comes to recycling. Whilst everyone wants to play their part to help the environment, it's becoming harder to explain the important role recycling plays. Food and plastic waste frequently end up in the wrong bins of Gen Z young adults with many admitting to a lack of clarity and understanding. And younger generations are only half as likely to recycle cardboard, paper and plastic at home. On the contrary the 'boomer' generation were the highest recyclers but many considered that more clarity was required on packaging to show how it should be recycled.

Certainly more education is needed to help us all irrespective of age and the new pEPR scheme should help, but we must really start to see recycling not as just disposing of a waste product, but as needing to make the most out of all materials.

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A progress report on Frogmore Paper Mill

Frogmore Paper Mill has made substantial rebuild progress since the arson attack in 2022 and hopes to be fully open again to visitors by 2026

As featured in the last issue, it is now over three years since the tragic arson attack which closed the Apsley Paper Trail's Frogmore Paper Mill to the public. Incredibly since that time it has still managed to engage with over 6,500 people and spread the word of the incredible paper heritage located along the Gade River in Hertfordshire, UK.

Despite ongoing restoration work, the team has met the needs of as many enquiries as possible. The Mill does not want to be closed but old buildings tend to reveal more issues as work progresses … unfortunately true in this case.

The team has hosted a number of researchers at its archive. It accommodated 22 descendants of the Exeter papermaking family, the Spicers, by splitting them into two groups and making a local pub their base. Frogmore happily invited a couple of retired papermakers to share their joy of papermaking with their families, and it ran three big outside events to engage the local community for families … no-one escaped without hearing about why the museum exists.

Work at Frogmore Mill is still ongoing and it aims for partial opening this summer and for full access by 2026. If you'd like to donate any end-of-life machinery or help in any other way please get in touch at www.frogmorepapermill.org.uk

Hydraulic unit undergoing factory acceptance test

Calender commissioning

A customer of Walmsleys Ltd recently purchased and relocated an existing calender, however the controls and hydraulic systems were outdated and needed to be replaced. The calender has a heated top roll and bottom swimming roll to provide an even nip at various nip loads. The available documentation was limited, and the original controls code could not be recovered.

The calender system - best performance - minimal cost

Given Walmsleys paper machine knowledge, the company was contracted to review the calender and the limited information available, before proposing new controls and hydraulic systems to bring it back into full operation in compliance with current standards. Functional descriptions were written followed by schematics and wiring drawings before moving into system manufacture and a full factory acceptance test before delivery of the new equipment to the customer site. On-site wiring and piping were completed and the systems were connected to the calender during a machine shut. Trials were then performed to understand the swimming roll response to input control pressures. Load curves could then be generated and programmed into the new control system.

The calender has now been fully tested as a stand-alone system. It is now awaiting machine time so the connection to the machine safety system and DCS can be tested and then trials with paper can take place. Once final tests are complete, the calender will be back in full production, giving the customer the paper properties required. Re-using the original calender framework and rolls, combined with the new systems will give the customer a fully up-to-date controls and hydraulic package, plus the performance needed while keeping the cost to a minimum. Full documentation, certification and training will be given before the system handover takes place, followed by a complete support and maintenance package.

This work continues Walmsleys track record of re-using existing equipment where possible, giving best performance for minimal cost.

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How companies can prepare now for the Cyber Resilience Act

Pilz provides information and implementation tips to help manufacturers comply with the Cyber Resilience Act

The Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) was published on 20 November 2024 in the Official Journal of the European Union. The regulation contains specifications for the cybersecurity of products with digital elements. Affected companies now have 36 months to implement the requirements contained in the CRA. Certain reporting obligations must be fulfilled within the next 21 months.

The aim of the CRA is to provide better protection from cyber-attacks for consumers and businesses. The CRA contains a variety of specifications for manufacturers, importers and distributors of products with digital elements, which are capable of communicating with other products. This includes hardware and software products. In other words, products from the B2C segment such as smartphones or robotic vacuum cleaners are affected by this, as are those from the B2B segment such as controllers and sensors, as well as pure software products such as operating systems.

Risk assessment and guarantee - Manufacturers must design and develop products in such a way that an appropriate level of cybersecurity is guaranteed during the whole product lifecycle.

Vulnerability management - The manufacturer should eliminate known vulnerabilities through free security updates, unless otherwise agreed between the manufacturer and commercial user.

Documentation - Manufacturers must identify and document vulnerabilities and components in their products.

Reporting obligations - Within 24 hours of becoming aware of an exploited vulnerability, the manufacturer must report it via the ENISA (European Union Agency for Cybersecurity) reporting platform.

As an expert in safe and secure automation, Pilz recommends that all machine manufacturers address the requirements of the CRA promptly, and work with component manufacturers and operators to develop cooperation concepts. For decades, Pilz has been supporting machine builders and users with the safety of their plant and machinery, including with the new requirements for industrial security. Because without security, a machine with all its safety measures is vulnerable and unprotected. Precautionary measures are a must.

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An interview with David Nichols, Business Development Manager at Kadant UK

David Nichols discusses his first year with Kadant UK ▶

David has worked with Kadant for 12 months as business development manager for the paper and tissue markets. His career in the paper industry spans over 18 years working in a paper mill. Beginning on the shop floor running a small winder in the converting department he later advanced onto the paper machines. Prior to joining Kadant, David worked as a production manager for 11 years.

"Interviewer"

David, thank you for joining us today. Could you please share your background before joining Kadant.

"David"

I've been in the paper industry for over 18 years. I started on a small winder in the converting department of a paper mill, before moving onto stock preparation and the paper machines. For the last 11 years prior to Kadant, I worked as a production manager, focusing on efficiency, production targets, and people management.

How have you found working at Kadant so far?

Fantastic. The change from being a production manager in a paper mill to a sales type role covering lots of mills in different countries was a little daunting at first, but the people at Kadant and the culture have made the transition smooth. The knowledge and experience pool at Kadant is fantastic and everybody has been willing to help every step of the way.

What is the most exciting part of your job?

Being able to use my experience from my role at a paper mill to help customers in different mills. It's amazing how different mills all have similar problems and having worked on paper machines in the past gives me a good understanding of many different types of problems. Having Kadant's portfolio to offer solutions to problems helps as well, some of which are really interesting projects. I enjoy making paper, so working with paper machines is a bonus! Getting to visit all different machines big and small, fast and slow, seeing a tissue machine running at 2100 m/min and a board machine running at 1500 m/min is impressive to see.

What would you consider your greatest accomplishments in the past year?

Work wise the biggest accomplishment has been creating a network of contacts in the other mills, and learning how each mill operates. Although the process of making paper is similar, every mill operates in a different way.

What challenges have you faced since joining Kadant?

Learning about all Kadant's products has been challenging. There is way more to Kadant than I was ever aware of before joining the company. Managing expectations, including my own, has also been a challenge. It's easy as a supplier to say that we can offer the solution, but putting my old production manager's hat on, the customer doesn't always want or need a fancy, expensive solution, sometimes they just need a quick and easy fix.

Can you tell us something about your life outside of work?

I love the outdoors. I have two labradors that I take running and work on a game shoot local to me. I'm also a keen fell runner and have been known to do the occasional ultramarathon, the longest of which was 100 miles last summer. I'm also a practical person and I have enjoyed renovating our 1930's house over the last five years. It was a full refurbishment, re-wire, re-plumb, plastering etc., most of which I have done with my fiancée Carly. I learned to plaster just before the Covid lockdowns started which is a great skill to have!

Thank you for sharing your experiences with us today, David. Your transition from production management to business development provides a valuable perspective on the industry.

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Salvtech launches new website

As this issue of British Paper Machinery News is published, Salvtech Ltd will also be publishing a brand new website showcasing the machinery and services available to paper and tissue mills, as well as the energy from waste sector. The new site has been designed to make it easier to navigate and put customers' needs first.

"But the website is not just about our products and services. We've also included an area where customers can download guides on servicing pumps and fans, written by our in-house experts," explained Managing Director of Salvtech, Martin Christmas. He continued, "These practical, plain English resources are designed to help customer teams maintain optimal performance and reduce downtime. We are also in the process of producing a range of video guides for a YouTube channel to complement the written guides. These are meant to help strip away the complicated jargon and terms to give useful and practical information."

Salvtech's newly published website is easier to navigate and will include downloadable product servicing guides along with practical information

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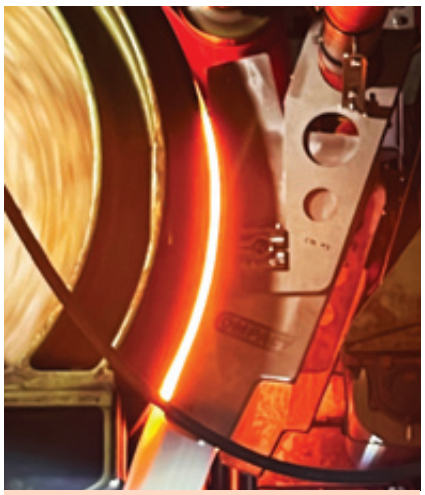
Success of Compact's Corona dryers in Austria

Compact Engineering's innovative Corona dryers have been installed on a paper machine in Austria as part of a three phase project, phase one being completed in the autumn of last year, phases two and three being combined and bought forward due to the success of phase one.

The machine makes fluting and linerboard and runs at around 1000m/min and due to a discrepancy between the desired width and the effective drying width, the edges of the sheet are up to 5% above the set point. This level of moisture variation delivers a number of problems for the papermakers to which Compact provides solutions.

The most typical issue with a poor moisture profile is a reduction in production due to having to compensate for the wettest parts of the profile. Running the machine more slowly allows more time for the required drying but this penalises the most efficient parts of the drying section. Another problem with a poor moisture profile is that the moisture in the sheet has a strong influence on the calliper profile, which is an important quality for corrugated grades.

There are also issues with internal stresses in the sheet that only show their presence when the sheet is converted and warps on the corrugator. This is due to the wettest parts of the sheet shrinking at a different point in the machine direction than the drier parts of the sheet. This difference in drying and shrinking introduces undesirable stresses into the sheet that run both across the sheet and in the machine direction. These factors mean that the excess moisture cannot just be removed where it is easy and convenient to install the dryers, the dryers must be installed in the correct location in the machine direction, however tight and inconvenient.



Phases two and three of a three phase project to install Compact's Corona dryers on an Austrian linerboard machine have been combined and brought forward due to the success of the first phase

As with all of Compact's drying solutions, overall energy efficiency is critical. In this application the Corona infrared dryers have also been located to ensure maximum performance from the drying cylinders, thus maximising the return on investment. The Corona dryer from Compact Engineering is specifically designed for installation where large drying duties exist and the space is limited. They have an installed capacity of 320kW per metre width and due to their efficiency remove the same amount of water from the sheet as four conventional infrared dryers, which could not be installed in the available space.

The efficiency of the dryers comes from the fact that Compact makes its own lamps to generate the infrared at the right wavelengths to dry paper. This is part of the reason why Compact dryers use around 50% of the energy of competing electric infrared dryers. The lamps in the Corona dryer are curved in the machine direction to allow efficient installation around drying cylinders. This feature increases the efficient application of infrared to the sheet and allows the installation of large amounts of drying capacity in limited spaces.

For correcting the moisture profile, the dryers are normally controlled in 75mm wide zones, allowing a variation in the drying rate every 75mm. In this particular application the customer wanted a finer resolution so the dryers are controlled in 37.5mm wide zones. This allows a gradual variation in moisture content in the sheet between the very wettest areas to those at the moisture set point. The finest resolution available from Compact is 18.75mm though in reality this is usually not required.

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New technical sales engineer for Turnbull & Scott

Azhar Kanyat joins Turnbull & Scott as a technical sales engineer

Turnbull & Scott (Engineers) Ltd is delighted to announce the appointment of Azhar Kanyat as its new technical sales engineer, based in Birmingham, UK. Azhar's addition to the growing team represents a strategic expansion of its presence throughout Scotland, England and Wales, ensuring enhanced local support and responsiveness for all technical and project requirements.

Azhar joins the company with an impressive educational and professional background. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Gujarat Technological University (2012) and recently completed a master's in project management at Birmingham City University (2022). Azhar brings over ten years of extensive industry experience, having excelled in various roles such as key account manager, assistant manager and technical sales engineer.

His specialist knowledge spans a wide array of engineering capital equipment, including CNC routers, fibre lasers, sheet metal products, industrial IVCs, mechanised cleaning equipment and diesel generators. This comprehensive experience positions Azhar uniquely to offer clients tailored solutions, technical guidance and proactive project support.

Azhar's appointment underscores Turnbull & Scott's commitment to delivering exceptional customer service and innovative solutions. The company is confident that his expertise and dedication will significantly enhance its capability to address customer needs efficiently and effectively.

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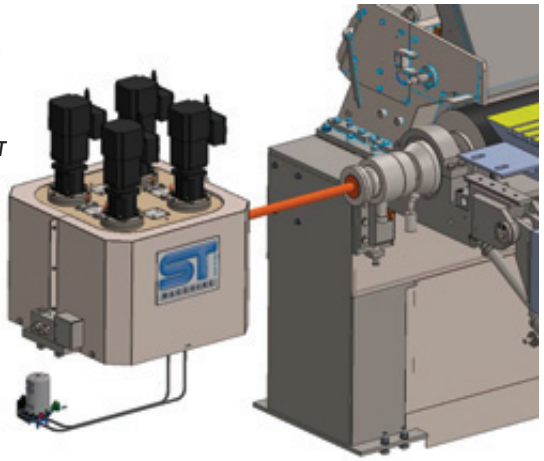
Innovative breast roll shaker gives great formation



Reel Solutions can supply the new and innovative breast roll shaker from ST Macchine

Represented by Reel Solutions Limited, ST Macchine SpA specialises in the design and production of a range of stock preparation, paper machinery and water treatment systems.

It has recently added an innovative breast roll shaker to its product range which gives a more consistent distribution of fibres and offers precise settings to easily adjust shaking stroke and frequency for the highest quality.

Previously breast roll shakers used a crank and slider mechanism limited to shaking stroke and frequency and which transmits very high forces to the foundations leading to extensive and costly civil work. Shaker effects are related to the ratio between frequency and machine speed and a certain relationship must be maintained. This determines that as machine speed increases, shaking frequencies have to increase as well up to levels not achievable by traditional units, hence the need to create a new shaker based on higher dynamics.

The innovative new breast roll shaker uses the principle of four eccentric masses divided into two pairs that rotate on their axes and are synchronised. Those masses are mounted on a trolley connected through a rod to the breast roll. The spinning creates a force transmitted only to the breast roll and not to the foundations, therefore giving a very high performance … a stroke up to 25 mm and frequency of 150-600 Hz.

There are many benefits to the new shaker, firstly having a motor for each mass means no gears are needed, the direct coupling of the motor with the mass eliminates any joint and the vertical position of the masses makes it independent from any gravitational problem. The whole system is installed on a static base and the design eliminates any hydraulic control unit. Less moving parts and the absence of hydraulics lead to higher reliability and less maintenance. Even with four motors, the total installed power is lower than 25 kW.

The operator interface is by means of a touch panel that allows local adjustment and supervision of the shaker … and the touch panel can be connected to the DCS for remote operation. The main benefits are:-

- A unique solution where each rotating mass is moved by an independent servo motor with synchronism between rotors being electronic
- The shaker slides over standard ball rail systems
- The system eliminates gears, special joints, oil lubrication unit and hydrostatic support of sliding trolley and breast roll bearings
- Same performance as other suppliers achieved but with a simpler device
- Energy consumption is limited and maintenance is reduced

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Return to the paper industry

Gary Beck recently joined Walmsleys Ltd to strengthen its engineering sales team and is already enjoying success as he returns to an industry where he began his career, following a varied journey in multiple engineering and sales roles. Gary impressed during his interview with his level of knowledge, understanding, passion and drive which made him an ideal fit for the position.

In his first three months, Gary has worked with different departments, learning the systems, procedures and processes at Walmsleys. He is now fully up to speed with the company's capabilities in offering parts, engineering design, finite element analysis, Yankee services, projects, service work, machine rebuilds and machine relocations. He has also attended essential training so is ready to visit customer sites.

Gary stated, "I'm delighted to join Walmsleys and work alongside some of the most experienced and knowledgeable people in the industry. With my experience and customer service skills, I hope to grow and excel within the business."

Gary Beck has joined Walmsleys engineering sales team

Bringing skills and knowledge of paper machinery from his early career working in paper mills, Gary also brings a diverse set of skills from outside the industry, having worked for several notable global engineering and sales companies, including OEMs. The company wishes him every success in his new role.

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Enhanced heating solution for leading packaging provider

Thermolier space heaters have optimised heating efficiency and resolved condensation problems for this packaging provider

Turnbull & Scott (Engineers) Ltd recently completed a significant heating improvement project for a leading global provider of paper-based packaging solutions. The project aimed to optimise heating efficiency and minimise condensation issues within the company's north of England converting and storage facility, critical to maintaining the quality of its cardboard products.

The client required replacement of outdated unit heaters, condensate pipework, and essential steam control valves. These upgrades were necessary due to existing inadequate heating, resulting in harmful condensation within the facility. The building itself is substantial, measuring 128m x 97m, with heights ranging from 6m at the eaves to 7m at the peak. The client aimed to maintain an internal temperature of 18°C, even during external ambient conditions as low as -5°C. Comprehensive heat loss calculations identified a heating requirement of 1,160 kW.

In response, Turnbull & Scott installed 16 Thermolier space heaters, selected for their superior efficiency, rapid heat exchange capabilities, and straightforward installation process. The Thermolier heaters delivered immediate heat distribution, minimal maintenance, and highly adaptable control, making them ideally suited to the busy operational demands of the client's industrial environment.

Additionally, Turnbull & Scott upgraded the mechanical infrastructure, replacing obsolete unit heaters, condensate pipework, and steam control valves. This comprehensive installation included efficient reconnection of fresh air inlet ducting to existing systems, significantly improving air circulation and moisture control within the facility. Robust mechanical insulation and a new condensate drainage system ensured sustained optimal performance.

The successful completion of this project resulted in substantially improved heating efficiency, effectively resolving condensation problems and safeguarding the client's cardboard products from moisture damage. This project illustrates Turnbull & Scott's ability to deliver bespoke, energy-efficient heating solutions, addressing specific industry challenges and contributing to enhanced operational reliability and productivity.

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This is a game-changer in screen cylinder durability

Salvtech Ltd represents AFT in the UK and has introduced its DiamondWire® technology to the market. This innovative, proprietary surface treatment has been designed to enhance the durability and performance of screen cylinders in fibre processing applications.

Unlike traditional chrome plating, DiamondWire® technology is completely hexavalent chromium-free, offering a more environmentally friendly alternative while providing exceptional wear resistance. The advanced treatment is currently available for the AFT MacroFlow screen cylinders and significantly extends operational life, reducing maintenance downtime and improving overall efficiency.

Enhanced durability, reduced downtime - With superior wear resistance, DiamondWire® treated cylinders last at least 20% longer than those with conventional coatings. This extended lifespan translates to lower replacement costs and improved plant efficiency. The smooth, stable screen operation minimises performance fluctuations, ensuring consistent fibre processing and reducing the risk of unexpected shutdowns.

Sustainable alternative to chrome plating - Traditional chrome plating has long been a standard in the industry, but environmental concerns surrounding hexavalent chromium - a known hazardous material - have driven the need for safer, more sustainable solutions. DiamondWire® technology eliminates this risk while still delivering high-performance protection against wear and abrasion in demanding applications.

Why choose DiamondWire® ?

- Superior wear resistance for longer-lasting cylinders
- Hexavalent chromium-free for a safer, eco-friendly solution
- Smooth, stable operation for less downtime and maintenance
- Compatible with all AFT MacroFlow screen cylinders and various fibre applications

DiamondWire® from Salvtech can optimise screen cylinder durability

As industries continue to seek more sustainable and cost-effective solutions, AFT's DiamondWire® technology sets a new benchmark in screen cylinder performance.

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Tissue machine drive upgrade by Poole Projects has met the expected design and performance criteria

Poole Projects upgrades tissue machine drive

Poole Projects Limited, the Manchester, UK based independent consultant engineering company has recently project managed a full machine drive system upgrade at a UK tissue mill to remove and replace obsolete AC drives which were no longer serviced or maintained by the original supplier.

The mill had commenced gradual replacement with retrofit kits which would keep the old drive panel shells whilst fitting new variable speed drives inside. Three of the drives had already been completed when Poole Projects was contacted to help complete the remainder. After discussing the client's requirements, a specification was prepared with the job then going out to tender.

During the tendering process and discussions, it was apparent it would be more cost effective to replace the whole drive system rather than just retrofitting the remainder. This was also a better option as the mill had considerable downtime planned for other major work, enabling sufficient time to replace the drives completely. An order was issued to replace both the paper machine and fan pump drive suites along with many other standalone drives to ensure complete upgrading of all existing ones to the latest versions.

A machine safety survey also took place to establish the correct quantities, positions and types of emergency stops to be used. It was decided to install a new safety PLC to connect the I/O and control software rather than use outdated components.

All the new drives utilised standard fitting kits, designed for installation into standard Rittal control panels fitted with neat and well-designed incomers, busbar chambers, incoming and drive sections with all equipment being rackable and accessible. The incomers have been built with extra low harmonic incoming sections to ensure no new harmonic problems were picked up from the new drives. Existing motors and cabling were re-used so each drive was fitted with a du/dt filter if not an integral part of the drive.

The old drives were disconnected and removed, the new drive cubicles installed and re-connected by the E&I subcontractor with Poole Projects E&I engineers managing the programme and assisting with the assessment and identification of all existing cables in the drives. After 25 years of installation changes to the machine drive, with some only partially documented, this was no easy task. A new ventilation system was installed above the vent of each drive to extract the hot air and evacuate it from the switch room.

The drive system contained a number of complicated features, not only the control system being replaced but the diagnostics on the drive QCS system had to be reproduced and reported across Profibus. The standard control of the drives was on the main mill PLC system. Drives Composer was implemented for all the new drives, along with fault finding diagnostics and a LAN internet connection for remote access was made available to aid remote troubleshooting as well as 24hr service cover.

To date, the feedback from the customer has been that in these early stages the system has proven to be a success with results meeting the expected design and performance criteria.

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Picon team expands

Rachael Jones has joined the Picon Team with responsibility for member engagement and retention. Working initially on a part-time basis she will also handle Picon and BPMSA professional social media posts in addition to updating the Picon website and circulating relevant information to members by email.

Rachael has a background in PA and Customer Service Administration and will be a welcome addition to the Picon Team who wish her much success in this new position.

Bringing together automation and safety solutions

IndustrialPI from Pilz is an open, modular industrial PC. It can be used both as a gateway and as a soft PLC for automation

Today, industrial transformation focuses on application scenarios that bring together automation and safety solutions in an all-in-one package. This way it is possible to achieve greater consistency between automation and safety - ultimately for a safer transformation.

As early as 2009, Pilz was pursuing the Industrie 4.0 approach with the PSS 4000 automation system, physically mixing safety and automation, but logically separating them from one another - safety was guaranteed, no matter what happened in the other areas.

Today, Pilz offers holistic automation solutions which support the industry in its transition to a safe and secure sector, with pure standard automation continuing to play an important role.

However, it is important to make the overall package manageable and easy to implement. To achieve this, relevant cornerstones such as diagnostics, solution flexibility or connectivity must be considered, because industry must manufacture its products efficiently. Diagnostics, flexibility and connectivity also form the basis that enables this.

Diagnostics - Diagnostics must be available to the user at any time. They must speak plain language and, above all, be accessible regardless of location. Users should always keep their plant and machinery firmly in sight, so that the production processes for decentralised systems can run as smoothly as possible without major disruptions, or so that commissioning can be carried out more quickly.

Industrial PCs used as IIoT gateways provide such diagnostic scenarios. Pilz can help here with its IndustrialPI industrial PC and users can easily incorporate it into existing system architectures. It collects process or operational data in the immediate vicinity of plant and machinery, for example, and transfers it directly to a company cloud.

Solution flexibility -

IndustrialPI also represents an easy-to-use solution for the implementation of Industrie 4.0 concepts. It is an open, modular industrial PC that uses Linux, a freely available open source software, as its operating system and offers numerous expansion modules. As a result, the industrial PC can be used as a gateway in Industrial IoT environments (IIoT) or as a soft PLC in the widest range of applications.

Two types are available, making it flexible and it is particularly suitable as a soft PLC for automation applications. Flexible plant concepts are also possible with the IOLS Master. The sensors and actuators share the same connection, as needed. As a result, users can make their design more flexible, and/or expand it. Ultimately, flexibility of the solution ensures production remains adaptable to different requirements.

Connectivity - The third cornerstone is connectivity resulting in seamless communication at field level. Open, flexible IIoT architectures are the basis. Only dynamic solution approaches enable mutual collaboration to work across numerous devices, installations and applications.

Users can employ the IndustrialPI as a gateway, data collector and diagnostic unit in conjunction with the PNOZmulti 2 and the PSS 4000 automation system, because this solution ensures data exchange between the internet and cloud services. The cornerstone of connectivity paves the way for transformation where greater availability has realistic benefits for the user.

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A gripping answer from Reel Solutions

Innovative and expanding Italian company Svecom PE has provided gripping solutions to the paper and tissue industry for over 30 years. Represented by Reel Solutions Ltd, the company was the first to produce an expanding reel spool with self-centring independent gripping ledges so that during operation, high winding speeds could be achieved, producing bookend finished reels off the winder. As paper and tissue winders became larger and faster, reel spools also became larger in diameter and length and with increased weight, so Svecom PE designed several different solutions for reel spool extraction, loading and lifting. The extraction systems are designed around the size and weight of the spool, operational constraints and space available in the mill.

Svecom Model 10 shaft manipulator now available from Reel Solutions Ltd

Over the last few years, numerous solutions have been developed for the converting area of the mill, one being the Svecom Model 10 shaft manipulator. This shaft handler is designed for the operator to insert and extract shafts and spools with safety and efficiency. Due to the high repeatability of converting operations, the Model 10 is designed to be simple and quick to use, so operators engage with the solution and want to use it, rather than manually handling shafts.

Model 10 is a column-mounted solution, purely pneumatic in operation and with a clamping head which can be designed to suit any journal arrangement, from 30-200mm diameter which grips and locks onto the body of the actual shaft. The Model 10 has a lifting capacity of 100kg and can be adapted to suit most reel handling applications. Once the operator clamps and grips the shaft or spool it can be raised in and out of the machine safely with fingertip control so cores can be loaded ready for the start of the next reel.

Reel Solutions has worked with Svecom PE for many years and offers a complete service from appraisal of the application, through design, manufacture and delivery. Installation is carried out promptly with a full back-up package of servicing and spare parts.

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The potential of Deublin thermo-compressors to enhance efficiency

Increasing energy costs and price volatility are key factors for the profitability of most paper mills. Deublin can help identify and rectify various process and control challenges to enhance operational efficiencies

Thermocompressors are widely used in numerous paper mills, primarily for recompressing and recycling blow-through steam in dryer drainage systems. Requiring minimal maintenance and utilising both kinetic and heat energy from the motive steam, they are ideally suited for this application. However, in practice, there are considerable questions regarding the design and application of these devices.

As machines become more efficient, a significant number of incorrectly sized thermo-compressors are seen in the market which compromises potential savings and machine efficiencies. In a recent machine upgrade, for instance, six existing thermocompressors lacked sufficient turndown capacity to accommodate the new conditions. They were oversized and probably worn out, resulting in compromised performance and decreased peak efficiency. By replacing all six thermocompressors, the paper mill managed to save up to 11,400 kg/h of motive steam, achieving a return on investment in less than six months.

Additionally, there are also cases where customers are trying to utilise thermocompressors to control differential pressure (DP), which prevents efficient operation of most dryer sections at low pressures, produces huge steam losses on breaks and loss of control, and contributes to frequent dryer flooding. For example, Deublin found that a large paper machine producing containerboard grades running DP control with thermocompressors was having significant flooding events, which compromised production and lowered the reliability of the whole dryer drainage system.

The drying process on a paper machine involves numerous complex factors, therefore it is crucial for all components, particularly thermocompressors, to operate flawlessly to maintain high efficiency operations. To effectively utilise thermocompressors, addressing various process and control challenges is also necessary.

And as demonstrated in this case, and considering the increasing focus of paper mills on enhancing efficiencies, there is a pressing need to gain a deeper understanding of the utilisation and sizing of this component. By identifying and rectifying inefficiencies, mills can substantially enhance their operation efficiencies, capacity, and financial returns.

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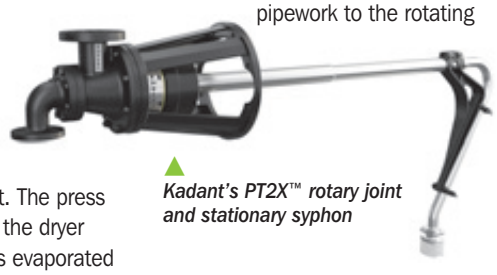
Rotary joint requirements for paper production

The papermaking process is essentially one of removing water. This process begins in the forming section where free water is drained from the pulp slurry using gravity and suction (vacuum) boxes. The forming section is followed by the press section where mechanical pressing forces are used to squeeze water out of the sheet. The press section is followed by the dryer section where water is evaporated using steam to heat the surface of multiple drying cylinders. Paper drying requires a large amount of energy and expensive equipment, so it is desirable to minimise the amount of water in the sheet entering the dryer section.

This is where rotary joints play a critical role in the papermaking process. Every steam heated drying cylinder is equipped with at least one rotary joint and syphon. The rotary joint connects the fixed pipework to the rotating cylinder and allows steam into the cylinder and condensate out of it via a syphon inside the cylinder. The cylinder's capacity to transfer heat depends mainly on the design and operation of the syphon and turbulator bars.



Kadant's PT2X™ rotary joint and stationary syphon

Rotary joints operate with different steam pressures. Pressures vary to suit the respective grades of paper being produced, from heavy board grades to lightweight tissue, graphics, newsprint, and packaging grades. Through extensive research and development testing, all Kadant Johnson rotary joints used in the papermaking industry provide reliable and extended service for all paper grades.

Rotary joints can be found on other sections of a paper machine as well, such as water-cooled rolls for press and size press positions. In this application, heat is generated by nip pressure and starch temperature that influences the soft rubber cover which needs cooling. The cover is cooled by introducing water to the centre of the roll to cool the metal shell and therefore the rubber cover.

Where soft nip calenders are used to give a specific finish to the paper being produced, rotary joints provide the transfer of hot water or hot oil to the calender rolls to heat and maintain an even surface temperature which gives a gloss, matte, or smooth finish to the paper web.

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Walmsleys surveys corrosion on two tissue machines

Corrosion on paper machines and tissue machines in particular is not a new problem. Over time, the aggressive environment can cause severe corrosion and eventually failure in the machine sections. For those wanting to extend the life of their assets, preventative maintenance is the best option, with regular cleaning and re-painting. However, when you inherit a mature asset that hasn't necessarily had the investment it might have needed, corrective maintenance may be the only option.

For older machines, the typical materials of construction would be mild steel that had been painted. Over time, the paint protection fails and the corrosion can take hold. In some circumstances, mild steel framework would have been over-clad with a thin sheet of stainless steel to give better protection. This can also fail if holes are drilled to mount new equipment, breaking the stainless steel skin and allowing water in. The cladding can then hide the corrosion from sight. Checking the material thickness of mild steel is relatively straightforward but if the machine has been stainless steel clad, small areas of this cladding must be removed to expose the structural elements to be tested beneath.

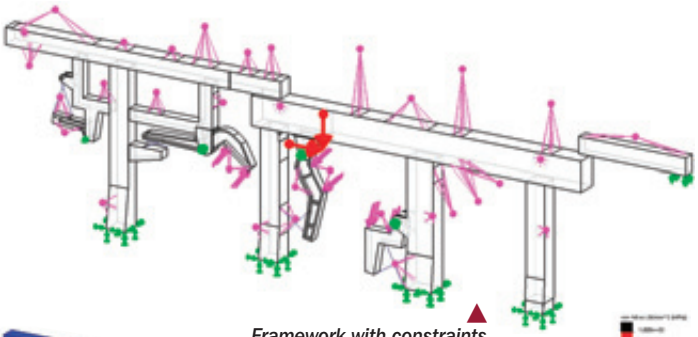
Walmsleys Ltd has been surveying and inspecting machines around the world for many years and was recently contacted to review two tissue machines with severe corrosion in the press and Yankee beam areas.

The first step was to visit the site, review the mill drawings and take readings on the affected areas to determine the extent of corrosion. As some areas had been over-clad with stainless steel, sections of the cladding had to be removed to expose the structural steel below.

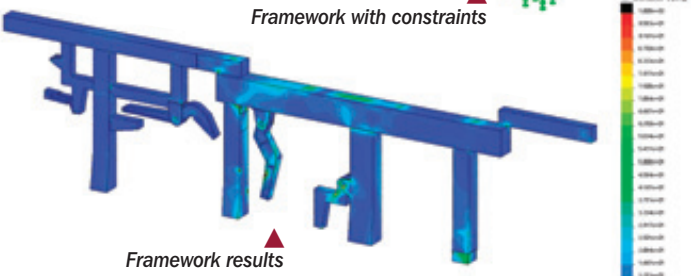
Detailed surveys were carried out, which included mapping material thickness on all suspect sections plus beam and post plate thicknesses. Material wastage was immediately apparent and temporary repairs that had previously been performed by the mill were also assessed. All available sections were measured to enable modelling of the framework.

Given the extent of corrosion and that beam plates were corroded through in places, some major re-work was going to be required. Finite Element Analysis (FEA) was used to identify the specifics of what needed replacing and/or strengthening.

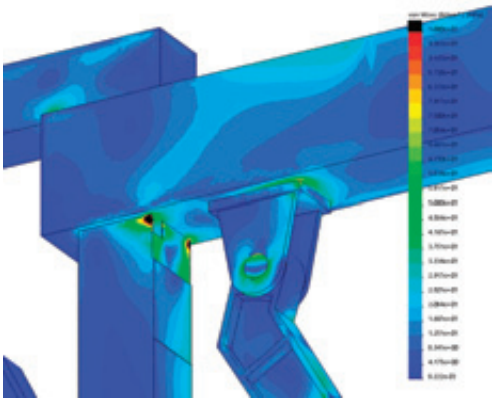
With the mill provided drawings and measurements that had been taken, models of each machine framework were created with areas thinned to simulate corrosion. Forces from masses, nips and seismic loads were applied to the models, followed by FEA to calculate the factor of safety for the different points and framework elements. This allowed problem sections to be identified and prioritised for repair or replacement.



Framework with constraints

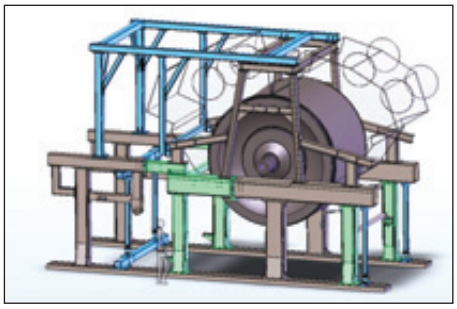


Framework results



Press framework results

New material and installation aids



Following analysis and reporting of the condition, the site was revisited to take detailed measurements to enable replacement sections and installation aids to be designed. The method of replacement was also assessed and a timeline for the site work prepared. Walmsleys then proposed turnkey solutions for the remedial works to be undertaken.

Knowing the condition of the framework on each machine enabled the mill team to plan for the remedial work in a more controlled manner based on Walmsleys assessments.

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Top of Yankee beam corroded through with side plate evident

Press post with plate corroded through

Critical heat exchanger repair for rolled laminate manufacturer

The repair was challenging due to the confined and dusty environment

Regenerative thermal oxidiser heat exchanger repair was proved durable and effective following extensive testing

Turnbull & Scott (Engineers) Ltd recently completed an essential repair of a heat exchanger tubesheet for a prominent rolled laminate specialist manufacturer based in north London. The repaired heat exchanger is a crucial component of a thermal oxidiser utilised on the manufacturer's lamination line, critical for the efficient burning-off of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). This repair ensures the manufacturer adheres to stringent environmental regulations concerning exhaust emissions, reinforcing its ongoing sustainability commitment.

The repair project posed significant challenges due to the tubesheet's location in a confined, highly dusty environment. Extended on-site operations were not only difficult but also presented substantial health & safety risks. Recognising these conditions, Turnbull & Scott conducted a thorough site assessment to devise the optimal repair strategy, effectively minimising downtime and operational disruption.

To overcome these challenges, the company developed an innovative off-site solution by designing and manufacturing customised 'repair ends' at its own facility. This strategic approach enabled precise engineering and rigorous quality control away from the client's challenging on-site conditions. Subsequently, two experienced company engineers visited the client's premises to fit and weld 390 custom-made repair ends, significantly reducing the duration of on-site work and limiting exposure to hazardous conditions.

Following the successful installation, the manufacturer conducted extensive testing of its Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser (RTO), operating at temperatures up to 800°C. The comprehensive testing confirmed the durability and effectiveness of the repair, validating the high-quality workmanship.

This project underscores Turnbull & Scott's expertise in swiftly delivering bespoke engineering solutions tailored to challenging industrial conditions. Its commitment to quality, safety, efficiency, and environmental compliance further solidifies its reputation as a trusted leader within the industry.

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By integrating the PITreader card access permission system into the PITgatebox pushbutton unit, Pilz offers users greater flexibility to implement safety and security on safety gate systems

PITgatebox from Pilz now with card access for safety gate systems

Automation company Pilz has introduced a new version of its PITgatebox pushbutton unit complete with PITreader card unit for integrated access permissions. With the corresponding RFID transponder cards, users can authenticate themselves directly on the PITgatebox. This ensures simple operation of safety gate systems and, at the same time, greater flexibility for controlling access. The new complete package for safety gate systems increases the level of safety and industrial security on the machine.

With the PITreader card unit, operators can implement flexible and efficient access permission management on safety gates. The PITreader card stores information about the person's permissions so that only qualified personnel can activate, stop or reset a machine. This protects the plant or machine from misuse or even manipulation and reduces machine downtimes.

The PITreader card is available as a freely writable version and also preconfigured. As well as the PITreader card, it is also possible to use existing RFID enabled cards in accordance with ISO/IEC 14443-A and ISO/IEC 15693 standards. Also, additional Pilz transponders such as the PITreader key and sticker can be used with the PITreader card unit. The RFID transponders combine various permissions for different machines which users will find intuitive and timesaving.

The PITgatebox is robust and slim and easy to fit to conventional profile systems. Its rotatable mounting bracket allows flexible positioning on the safety gate and thanks to the M12, 12-pin connection, installation is quick and requires no wiring. With PITgatebox, the operator has a modular, one-stop safety gate solution that provides safety and security, especially when combined with the PSENmlock and PSENslock safety locking devices.

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New investment doubles capacity

The new roll wrapping machine doubling capacity at KV Rollers. Reel Solutions can supply its full range of rolls and engineered products for many markets

KV Rollers Ltd manufactures rubber rollers, industrial rubber rollers, printing rollers, industrial rubber mouldings and engineered products for a range of different markets.

Represented by Reel Solutions Ltd and established in the early 1980s in South Wales, the company has grown to become one of the UK's leading industrial rubber roller suppliers. Having a 28,000ft^2 production facility with a state-of-the-art process laboratory, comprehensive rubber production plant and extensive manufacturing and advanced engineering facilities, in 2022 it celebrated 40 years of trading!

Flexible production enables products to be produced for all sizes of customers, from small single-machine operators and specialist process engineers to OEMs and multinational organisations. It exports to over 20 countries worldwide with North America the largest overseas market.

At the heart of its success is a commitment to customer service and technical support plus a willingness to invest in state-of-the art equipment and processes. KV Rollers develops long-term relationships with customers through collaboration, problem solving and delivering dependable and repeatable products. Its bespoke roller coatings and finishes are used across a range of industries and across a range of products, with each specialist coating performing its own unique function, helping to create an expert finish and boost quality and productivity.

Last year the company invested in solar panels on its roof to lower the carbon footprint and be more energy efficient and this combined with an electric autoclave leads the way to a sustainable future. The eventual aim is to produce enough electricity to manufacture, cure, grind and pack its rollers with minimum extraction of electricity from the grid.

The latest investment is in a new wrapping machine which is quite unique in the UK and was delivered in early January 2025. This machine is used by many suppliers in the USA and eliminates the need for calendering rubber as once rubber has been mixed it can be fed straight into the new machine, which then compresses it into strip form. The machine warms the rubber to the right temperature so that it compresses together more easily when being wrapped causing less air entrapment. The machine has been commissioned and successful trials have already taken place. KV Rollers has now doubled its wrapping capacity to speed up customer deliveries and reduce rejects and waste … a win all round.

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Pump refurbishment programme grows

Salvtech Ltd's comprehensive pump refurbishment programme has seen a growth in orders during the start of 2025. This service is designed to restore equipment performance, extend operating life and reduce downtime. The company is a specialist in refurbishing paper mill pumps including ones from Ahlstrom, Andritz, Nash and Sulzer. The process begins with cleaning, disassembly and assessment, where all components are inspected for wear, damage and corrosion.

More than just a repair, this is a chance to enhance performance, reliability and efficiency by trusting Salvtech to bring your pumps back to life … better than ever.

A detailed report and cost estimate follows, giving clear advice based on component life expectancy and best practices.

Once approved, parts are shotblasted to remove rust and coatings, preparing them for rebuild. Worn components … such as impellers, shafts, sleeves, bearings and seals … are replaced as needed or upgraded using high-quality parts. Salvtech recommends replacing critical wear parts once they reach a specific percentage of their expected life for long-term reliability and checks this by measuring component thicknesses.

Using its in-house pump sizing software the company can, if required, adjust the pump's duty during the refurbishment … changing flow rate or efficiency as needed, without the cost of a new unit.

The refurbished pump is then painted with industrial-grade coatings and goes through a final inspection and report to ensure it meets strict quality standards in line with OEM specifications.

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David Moss receives lifetime achievement award

David Moss (2nd right) ▶ with Kadant UK directors Mike Draper, Michael Williams and Karl Wilkinson

Kadant UK Limited has presented Senior Sales Manager, David Moss, with a lifetime achievement award at the Kadant European sales meeting in January 2025.

After leaving school in 1973 David joined ED Warburton & Co, a small paper machinery builder, as an apprentice engineer. Following further training at a local technical school, he was selected as a junior draughtsmen and design engineer. David moved companies joining the Holder Group in 1978 to further expand his career in the paper industry, becoming a project engineer, sales engineer, and finally sales manager.

In 1989, early in his career and during his tenure with the Holder Group, he secured a notable contract for a complete small paper machine installation at a long-established fine paper mill in the north of England. This significant order was a multi-million pound project and at the time represented a substantial investment in advanced paper manufacturing technology.

In 1999, he served as president of the Paper Makers Allied Trades Association (PMATA), a role that involved significant networking and industry leadership. The Association was known for hosting biannual events at the Manchester Piccadilly Hotel, which were well-regarded social and professional gatherings within the industry.

In 2000 the Holder Group and Warburton Holgate merged with David taking responsibility for the sales department. In 2002 he joined the Johnson Corporation as UK sales manager, the company becoming part of Kadant in 2005.

Later in his career in 2013, he orchestrated a substantial sale for Kadant which encompassed two paper machine steam systems and three M-clean™ systems with 14 cleaning beams installed at a leading packaging grade paper producer located in the south of England. This was another multi-million pound project.

A particularly memorable professional milestone for David was being credited with selling the 1000th cleaning beam for M-clean in 2020, a testament to the product's market penetration and his sales expertise. He has held the position of senior sales manager for the past three years with Kadant, continuing to drive success in the paper industry machinery sector. He has mentored and trained others with his extensive knowledge of the paper industry and the solutions he can provide.

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Compact, combined safety guard locking and operation

Miniaturisation is an important aspect of industrial transformation. It ensures efficient and sustainable processes because smaller solutions save space and energy. Pilz supports this aspect with safe sensor technology solutions. Its new safety gate system PSENmgate combines the classic safety locking device PSENmlock and the control element PITgatebox in a compact solution requiring less space on the safety gate. At the same time, PSENmgate offers maximum protection against manipulation and defeat, for safeguarding safety gates guaranteeing safety on the plant or machine. Overall, it saves important machine space and saves installation time due to simplified wiring via a single plug-in connector.

The new safety gate system PSENmgate combines the classic safety locking device PSENmlock and the control element PITgatebox from Pilz in a compact solution

Safeguard locking - On accessible safety gates as well as covers and flaps, PSENmgate protects the process and operator. The compact system guarantees safe interlocking and safeguard locking up to the highest category PL e, Cat. 4. Also, several safety gates can be connected in series quickly and simply. The effort and time required for wiring is reduced, speeding up installation.

Versatile operation - PSENmgate provides various control elements such as pushbuttons and illuminated buttons, as well as E-STOP pushbuttons and an escape release. Users can choose the right handle from a range of options so the system offers configuration options for different applications. It is versatile and can be applied on the widest range of plant or machinery. Machine builders and operators alike benefit, as there is greater flexibility for machinery design.

Sustainability and diagnostics for high output - The compact design of the energy-efficient PSENmgate reduces power consumption through its bistable locking principle and so reduces energy costs. In the event of error messages, comprehensive diagnostics via four LED indicators and a diagnostic output enable quick reaction times to status changes. Users receive a sustainable product, reduce downtimes on their machine and increase their productivity.

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Retraining: A commitment to competence

Retraining at Salvtech in dye penetrant testing has strengthened the company's culture of precision, safety and continuous improvement

At Salvtech safety, quality and precision are non-negotiable. That's why the company has recently undertaken a comprehensive retraining programme for its engineers in *Dye Penetrant Testing (DPT)* … a critical non-destructive testing method used to detect surface flaws in metal components. This is used in many places but primarily for detecting impeller cracks in fans during the annual outages. While Salvtech's team already had prior experience, evolving industry standards and new technologies meant it was essential to refresh and deepen its expertise.

The retraining covered the latest techniques, equipment handling and interpretation of results, with a strong emphasis on hands-on practice and real-world applications. Engineers were also re-evaluated for certification to ensure every individual meets both company and regulatory standards.

Dye penetrant testing is one of a long list of competencies Salvtech's site engineers are trained in for their work. The company is proud of its team's renewed commitment to excellence and to Picon's training support through the TAGX scheme. Retraining not only strengthens Salvtech's capabilities but also reinforces a culture of precision, safety, and continuous improvement. In today's high-stakes engineering environments, proper training isn't optional … it's essential.

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Did you know?

Love Paper® - tells the story of printed communications, paper and paper-based packaging and is a global campaign which explains the sustainable and attractive attributes of these vital components in our lives. Run by not-for-profit organisation, Two Sides (www.twosides.info), the campaign seeks to give consumers across the world a positive message and promote paper's environmental credentials, its ability to improve mental wellbeing and help with learning and creativity.

Love Paper (www.lovepaper.org) presents the sustainable facts in a simple and consumer friendly way, and through donated national newspaper and magazine advertising, social media and supported by a website, it reaches more than 20 million consumers every month in the UK. Key messages explain the high recycling rates of 71% for paper and 82% for paper packaging, the highest of any material in the world, and the fact that European forests are growing in size by the equivalent of 1,500 football pitches every day.

In February this year Two Sides launched Love Paper Week, a celebration of paper and a focus for the industry to really promote this remarkable medium. Despite being renewable, recyclable and the material of choice for innovators and creatives, there are many misconceptions relating to paper, print and paper packaging … and Love Paper aims to deliver the true facts to thousands of people through social media, online content and print stories, educating and informing them about their high levels of sustainability and effectiveness. It is anticipated that Love Paper Week will become an annual event and will motivate everyone in the world of paper.

Whilst more than 1250 businesses have removed or amended misleading anti-paper statements in their communication materials due to intervention by Two Sides there is still much more to do. Many of these organisations are very well known brands and their greenwashing threatens the loss of millions of pounds of value to the sector through misleading messages. Two Sides, however, continues its campaign and this Spring will publish its latest biennial Trend Tracker report, one of the industry's largest surveys into consumer preferences and perceptions of paper, print, and paper packaging.

New custodian for Paper Gold Medal - the Paper Gold Medal aims to encourage and recognise those who, by their exceptional contribution over and above their normal duties, ensure that the pulp and paper industry is recognised for its outstanding achievements.

Presented annually at the Paper Industry Gold Awards held at Stationers' Hall in London, this is the ultimate industry award. Now the Stationers' Company, having been closely associated with the Gold Medal since its inception in 1966, will safeguard its future by becoming the ideal custodian with a reach and influence across many of the industry sectors.

The Stationers' Company will continue to work closely with the Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI) to ensure its continued success and award for many years to come. Following the completion of the agreement the Paper Industry Gold Medal Association (PIGMA) will be dissolved.

What's on around the world?

PAPER & TISSUE EXPO	26-28 May 2025	Istanbul, Turkey www.paperandtissueexpo.com
PAPER & BIOREFINERY	04-05 Jun 2025	Graz, Austria www.paper-biorefinery.com
PULP & PAPER EXPO CHINA	05-07 Jun 2025	Guangzhou, China www.paperexpo.com.cn
ASEAN PAPER BANGKOK	11-13 Jun 2025	Bangkok, Thailand www.aseanpaperbangkok.com
PAPER VIETNAM 2025	25-27 Jun 2025	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam www.paper-vietnam.com
ZELLCHEMING EXPO	01-03 Jul 2025	Wiesbaden, Germany www.zellcheming.de
PRIMA / SPECIALITY PAPERS EUROPE	02-04 Sep 2025	Prague, Czech Republic www.prima-paper.com
PAPER MIDDLE EAST/ TISSUE MIDDLE EAST	09-11 Sep 2025	Cairo, Egypt www.papermideast.com
PRO PAPER DUBAI	13-15 Oct 2025	Dubai, UAE www.propaperdubai.com
PAPER-ME 2025	17-19 Nov 2025	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia www.papermideast.com/ksa
PAPEREX 2025	03-06 Dec 2025	New Delhi, India www.india.paperex-expo.com
TISSUE WORLD MIAMI	25-26 Feb 2026	Miami Beach, Florida, USA www.tissueworld.com/miami
PULP & BEYOND	15-16 Apr 2026	Helsinki, Finland www.pulpandbeyond.messukeskus.com

bpmsa Membership directory

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OBITUARY

Bernard Wright

It is with much regret we announce that Bernard Wright passed away on 5 December 2024 at the age of 85 following a short illness.

Born in Bury in 1938 his career in engineering commenced at Rigby & Mellor before moving to Henry Hargreaves & Sons and then on to paper machinery builder Walmsleys (Bury) Ltd where he worked in the fabrication department. In the mid-1960s Bernard became an instructor in the newly opened apprentice training school at Walmsleys site in Bolton, UK.

He started his own fabrication company in nearby Rochdale in 1975 and moved to Radcliffe in 1984 as Parsons Skillforce Ltd following the acquisition of E.D.Parsons Ltd.

Bernard was a great character and was known by many in the industry and will be sorely missed. He served on the BPMSA/Picon Executive Committee and was a Council member for many years retiring in 2012. He was also a Council member for the Engineering Employers Federation.

A keen golfer, he was a former member and Captain of the local Lowes Park golf club.

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Thank you
Rod Lomax, Editor - BPM News

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