

Record turnaround secures major ThermoPress order

IPCO press technology provides additional 3500 t/a capacity for German glass fibre mat manufacturer

IPCO, one of the world's leading manufacturers of double belt presses and precision scattering systems, has completed the record-breaking delivery of a high performance press system for glass fibre mat manufacturer P-D Glasseiden GmbH Oschatz.

The order, confirmed at the end of September 2020, required a guarantee that the successful supplier would be able to meet a short delivery time, with on-site commissioning commencing at the end of January 2021, just four months later.

P-D Glasseiden's need for such rapid turnaround came as result of the company winning a seven year contract for the supply of fiberglass mats, placed by one of the largest car manufacturers. With the company's three existing production lines already at full capacity, the decision was made to invest in an all-new press system and the contract was put out to tender.

IPCO won the order based on a combination of the ability to meet this extremely challenging schedule and the superior performance of its advanced ThermoPress technology in terms of both productivity and energy efficiency.

The new line offers throughput speed of up to 40 m/min, a 33 per cent improvement on the existing lines, and delivers an additional 3500 tonnes/year capacity at the Oschatz factory.

The ThermoPress system also offers exceptionally good energy efficiency: the use of low cost, gas-fired thermal oil as an energy source instead of electricity delivers significant ongoing savings and was a key differentiating factor in IPCO's tender. It also means that the plant can be operated at a high range of temperatures.

The order was the first that P-D Glasseiden has placed with IPCO and they have been positive in their praise. Thomas Gabriel is head of the new plant project: "The new plant is extremely robust, designed for high production speeds and is an important anchor point for the continued success at the Oschatz site. We have been very pleased with the way IPCO has supported us and the partnership that has been created by our teams."

P-D Glasseiden produces mats made from chopped, non-oriented E- or ECR glass fibres which are either chemically reinforced using a powder or emulsion binder or are mechanically bound. The new IPCO ThermoPress line – code name Mat IV – has been designed for the production of mats with grammages of 30-600 g/m², and can produce material up to 1.5 m wide. The glass fibre mats now being produced on the system will be used in the roof structure of SUVs and Electrical Cars.

IPCO's scope of supply was the ThermoPress TB double belt press featuring an elongated lower belt and including heating, pressure and cooling zones where the product is melted and solidified. IPCO also supplied the thermal oil heating and cooling system.