

Flexible lines for versatile products

With numerous new developments of adhesive systems, OLBRICH's solutions find remarkable success in the tape and label industries



Peter Rose



A glance into the application unit of an OLBRICH line

Recently, we reported about the extensive activities of OLBRICH from Bocholt, Germany, for a further strengthening and extension of its business unit for paper, film and foil coating. An important pillar of this growth strategy is its division OLBRICH CTH (Coating Technology Hamburg). Exclusively in C2, Peter Rose, technical director and site manager Hamburg, talks about current innovations of the company in the field of adhesives and their application systems.

C2: Mr Rose, which synergies exist especially in the area of adhesives coatings thanks to the collaboration between the OLBRICH sites in Bocholt and Hamburg?

Peter Rose: When it comes to adhesive application systems, the two OLBRICH branches in Hamburg and Bocholt are a perfect match. We can rely upon a unique and wide range of different technologies and fields of application. Thus, we are able to offer our customers tailored solutions for each of their products and applications. While our site in Hamburg has specialised in systems for aqueous adhesives for fast-running machines, Bocholt offers outstanding solutions for thick-layer coatings and solvent-based applications.

C2: Which special equipment properties make OLBRICH's adhesive lines unique on the market in your opinion?

P. Rose: With the development of the PGS system, we managed to establish a pressurised doctor chamber system for adhesives that enables our customers to process different adhesives and rheologies with only one system – without having to change the application technology entirely for this. Therefore, our customers can switch from a variant for clear-to-clear products effortlessly to another variant for standard adhesives for paper labels thanks to a conversion kit. This flexibility is unrivalled on the market thus far.

C2: In which industries are your coating lines for adhesives mainly used?

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One of the lines of the coating technology centre at OLBRICH's headquarters in Bocholt

P. Rose: The adhesive systems from Olbrich are used in a multitude of applications and in very different sectors. I want to emphasise the tape and label industries here, because of their versatility. The field of protective films for the strongly growing electronics industry is also becoming increasingly interesting for us.

C2: What are typical solutions and applications that are especially in demand at the moment?

P. Rose: In general, we currently notice a great demand in all our sectors and customer circles. This is obviously very pleasing and reaffirms our strategy. For Coating Technology Hamburg, however, the field of labels is currently very dominant.

C2: The OLBRICH Technology Centre in Bocholt truly sets standards in terms of equipment. How do you use the technology centre for innovations and tests in the field of adhesive coatings? Could you present to our readers a select new development in this field?

P. Rose: Currently, we operate four laboratory lines at the Bocholt site, two of which

are perfectly suited to adhesive-based product development – from simple pre-trials to industrial large-scale tests. On our BA 1 we can adapt our systems modularly to different customer requirements on 550mm of working width. Besides pre-trials, we can even offer specific product development. On our latest coating line BA 2, we can then profit from the experiences gained in the pre-trials by scaling up to the industrial production scale. Here, the working width is 1050mm, and the production speed reaches up to 500m/min. There are almost no boundaries in variants of coating and drying techniques. Currently, we are in the process of installing a dual layer slot die for our customers.

C2: How important is the further development of adhesive application systems? Can you present some current innovations in this sector to our readers?

P. Rose: As technology supplier, we thrive from the continuous adaptation and further development of our systems to the constantly changing market requirements of our customers as well as of the customers of our customers. Less material and energy consumption at

consistent or even increasing quality of the end products is an endless topic, which obviously has strong repercussions for our machine and line concepts. That OLBRICH can rise up to these challenges, is proven by the constantly growing number of satisfied customers all over the world. ■

INFORMATION

With the specially developed PGS pressurised doctor chamber systems, highly transparent coatings can be realised at high working speeds. The mass flow within the chamber in combination with the doctor blades prevents any air voids and thus the formation of undesired foam. The demanded coating weight is defined by the corresponding pressures within the pressurised doctor chambers. The higher the pressure inside the chamber, the quicker the coating medium will flow through the raster lines of the pressure cylinder. The PGS system is suited to both direct and indirect coatings.

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