

Media Release

Voith Paper

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Voith wins German Sustainability Award for its XcelLine paper machines

2022-12-06

- Voith's XcelLine paper machines win German Sustainability Award in the Design competition, Vision category
- The future study "Papermaking Vision," which was presented last year, contributed significantly to the award
- With leading solutions, Voith paper machines enable significant energy and water savings for the most resource-efficient operation possible

HEIDENHEIM. Voith Paper's XcelLine paper machines won the third German Sustainability Award (DNP), presented last Thursday in Düsseldorf, in the Design, in the Design competition, Vision category. "We are overwhelmed that our paper machines prevailed among the many competitors," says Dr. Michael Trefz, President Projects at Voith Paper. "The award underlines our market-leading and innovative solutions that contribute significantly to a sustainable transformation in the paper industry." The German Sustainability Award is the most comprehensive award of its kind in Europe, with eight competitions, a high number of applicants and more than 2,000 guests at the various closing events. The award is presented by the Stiftung Deutscher Nachhaltigkeitspreis e.V. (German Sustainability Award Foundation) in cooperation with the German government, leading municipal associations, business associations, civil society organizations and research institutions.

The decisive factor for the DNP jury was the contribution to achieving the climate targets of the 2030 Agenda. The XcelLine paper machines convinced across the board with their highly efficient design and the resulting resource savings: From material selection and product design to optimal production operation and product durability, the modular paper machines set industry standards. The award in the Vision category is also based on the design study "Papermaking Vision," which Voith presented in 2021 and which shows the future of the papermaking process. The

visionary concept is already being integrated step by step in customer projects and optimizes performance as well as design, safety, ease of operation and maintenance, and quality.

The design study also plays into the goals of Voith Paper's Papermaking for Life sustainability program. "As the leading full-line supplier in the paper industry, we see it as our responsibility to provide our customers with the most sustainable and efficient paper production," emphasizes Michael Trefz. "In addition to technical performance, the focus of Voith's research and development teams has been on maximum sustainability and resource efficiency from the very beginning." By 2030, the sustainability program aims to achieve 100% CO₂-neutral paper production, reduce fresh water consumption by 90% and increase the paper recycling rate to 90%. To achieve this, Voith is relying on energy-optimized products, highly efficient solutions and disruptive innovations. Digitalization and automation solutions from the Papermaking 4.0 portfolio are further levers for optimal production. Sustainability is also deeply anchored in the company's own activities: Voith operates in a CO₂-neutral manner at all its locations worldwide and was once again awarded a prime status of B- by the independent rating agency ISS ESG. This rating places Voith among the top three companies worldwide in the area of sustainability compared to 176 other plant and mechanical engineering companies. "For our team, the German Sustainability Award is recognition and motivation to continue on the path towards resource efficiency in the long term," adds Dr. Christoph Lapp, Senior Vice President Product Management at Voith Paper.

The jury of the German Sustainability Award was convinced by Voith's holistic approach to playing a pioneering role in the paper industry, both today and in the future. Voith therefore "completely deserved" won the German Sustainability Award, said Prof. Michael Baumgart, founder of the Cradle to Cradle concept, at the award ceremony in Düsseldorf.

Further information on the XcellLine can be found here:

<https://voith.com/corp-en/components-papermaking/xcelline.html> and on the Papermaking Vision design concept here: <https://voith.com/corp-en/industry-solutions/papermaking/papermaking-vision.html>.

German Sustainability Award (DNP)

The German Sustainability Award is the national award for excellence in sustainability in business, communities and research. With eight competitions, over 1,000 applicants and 2,000 guests to the events, the award is the largest of its kind in Europe. The setting for the award ceremony is the German Sustainability Day in Düsseldorf, the most visited annual communication platform on sustainable development issues. More

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information about the DNP can be found here:

<https://www.nachhaltigkeitspreis.de/en/>.

Papermaking for Life sustainability program

As part of the innovation and development offensive "Papermaking for Life," Voith Paper presents versatile technologies and initiatives that lead to more efficient and sustainable processes in papermaking. The focus is on water, energy and fiber savings as well as digitalization, innovations and partnerships as levers for more sustainable production. Another focus is on Voith's own activities at its sites worldwide. Learn more about Voith Paper's innovations in sustainability: <https://voith.com/papermaking-for-life/innovation>.

About the Voith Group

The Voith Group is a globally active technology group. With its broad portfolio of equipment, products, services and digital applications, Voith sets standards in the energy, oil & gas, paper, raw materials and transport & automotive markets. Founded in 1867, Voith is today one of Europe's major family-owned companies, with more than 20,000 employees, sales of €4.2 billion and locations in over 60 countries around the world.

The Voith Paper Group Division is part of the Voith Group. As the paper industry's full-line supplier, it delivers the broadest range of technologies, services and products on the market and offers papermakers integrated solutions from a single source. The company's continuous innovation enables resource-saving production and helps customers significantly reduce their carbon footprint. With its comprehensive automation products and leading digitalization solutions from the Papermaking 4.0 portfolio, Voith offers its customers state-of-the-art digital technologies to increase the availability and efficiency of their equipment in all areas of the production process.

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Voith wins the German Sustainability Award Design 2023.



At the ceremony, Prof. Michael Baumgart presented the German Sustainability Award to Dr. Christoph Lapp, Senior Vice President Product Management at Voith Paper. Copyrights: Dariusz Misztal.



Proud winners: The German Sustainability Award honors outstanding solutions that contribute to achieving ambitious climate targets. Copyrights: Ralf Rühmeier.

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