

Media Release

Voith Paper

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Energy savings and decarbonization are key topics of Voith's research and development work

2023-08-29

- Voith and Essity work on an innovative concept for CO₂-neutral paper production
- For the electrification of paper drying, Voith is developing various concepts to avoid fossil fuels and reduce CO₂ emissions
- Voith is involved in various industry initiatives, such as the 'Modellfabrik Papier', to promote the decarbonization of paper production using completely closed systems

HEIDENHEIM, GERMANY. At the end of April, Voith unveiled a completely new disruptive concept for paper manufacturing in collaboration with hygiene and healthcare company Essity. This concept enables CO₂-neutral paper production as well as fresh water savings of up to 95 percent and energy savings of up to 40 percent. Currently, Voith and Essity are working on a pilot plant in Heidenheim, Germany. In addition to the disruptive concept, Voith is also focusing its research and development on other promising solutions. The leading full-line supplier invests around 100 million euros annually in the development of more efficient and sustainable solutions to drive decarbonization in paper production.

An important field of action for decarbonization is the drying of paper, as this is where the greatest energy consumption occurs. Drying cylinders are typically heated with steam, which is often generated by burning fossil fuels. In order to dispense with the use of fossil fuels, Voith is working intensively on concepts for the electrification of paper drying. In the process, various technologies are evaluated to determine their potential and identify suitable solutions depending on the energy source at the site. This leads to significant reductions in CO₂ emissions at the paper mills.

In addition to electrification, heat pumps for heat recovery are included in the development approaches to further improve the sustainability balance.

Digital solutions, intelligent control systems and innovations in the area of fabrics and roll covers offer additional efficiency benefits.

Voith is a member of various industry initiatives to drive forward the decarbonization of paper production. One such initiative is the 'Modellfabrik Papier', in which companies along the value chain work with research institutes and higher education institutions on pre-competitive basic research.

Dr. Lada Bemert, Vice President New Business and Research at Voith Paper and Deputy Chairwoman of the shareholders' committee of the Modellfabrik Papier, confirms the positive impact of the initiative. "With the help of completely closed systems, no more unused energy should escape from the process in the future," explains Bemert. "Building on our research results, our aim is to make the technologies available to industry as quickly as possible. In doing so, we are setting an important course for the future."

Sustainability program Papermaking for Life

As part of the "Papermaking for Life" innovation and development offensive, Voith Paper is presenting 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 locations worldwide. Learn more about Voith Paper's innovations in the area of sustainability: www.voith.com/papermaking-for-life/innovation. For more information on the Modellfabrik Papier, click here: <https://modellfabrikpapier.de/en/home-en/>.

About the Voith Group

The Voith Group is a global technology company. With its broad portfolio of systems, products, services and digital applications, Voith sets standards in the markets of energy, paper, raw materials and transport & automotive. Founded in 1867, the company today has around 20,000 employees, sales of € 4.3 billion and locations in over 60 countries worldwide and is thus one of the larger family-owned companies in Europe.

The Group Division Voith Paper is part of the Voith Group. As the full-line supplier to the paper industry, it provides the largest range of technologies, services and products on the market and offers paper manufacturers holistic solutions from one source. The company's continuous stream of innovations facilitates resource-conserving production and helps

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customers minimize their carbon footprint. With its leading automation products and digitalization solutions from the Papermaking 4.0 portfolio, Voith offers its customers state-of-the-art digital technologies to improve plant availability and efficiency for all sections of the production process.

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Voith has set the ambitious goal of achieving CO₂-neutral paper production by 2030.

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