

Media Release

Voith Paper

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Voith's XcelLine paper machine nominated for German Sustainability Award

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- The XcelLine paper machine has been nominated for the German Sustainability Award (DNP) in the Design competition, Vision category
- Decisive for the jury was the optimized design, measurable resource efficiency and innovative strength of the XcelLine
- The DNP is one of the most important sustainability awards in Europe

HEIDENHEIM. For the 16th time, the jury of the German Sustainability Award (DNP) has nominated outstanding innovations in the field of sustainability. Out of more than 1,000 applicants, Voith's XcelLine paper machine is a finalist in the "Design" competition in the "Vision" category. With eight competitions, the high number of applicants and more than 2,000 guests at the award's closing events, the DNP is the most comprehensive award of its kind in Europe. The award is based on the goals of the 2030 Agenda and thus on the key transformation fields such as climate, biodiversity, resources, supply chain and society.

"Making it to the finals makes us very proud and confirms our ambition as a leading full-line supplier to provide our customers with the most sustainable and efficient paper production," says Dr. Michael Trefz, President Projects Voith Paper. "In addition to technical performance, the development of the XcelLine paper machine also focused on resource efficiency, which is made possible by an optimized design. Compared to conventional systems, the XcelLine paper machine features reduced energy consumption, optimal fiber utilization and lower water consumption."

Thanks to the modular design of the XcelLine, highly individualized production lines can be put together for almost any application. All individual components are perfectly coordinated to achieve outstanding

results over the decades-long life cycle of the paper machine. The XcelLine portfolio today covers machine widths of up to 11 meters. Depending on the grade, speeds of up to 2,000 m/min can be achieved. The increasing production width and speed of the lines optimize productivity and thus reduce specific consumption data.

Award-winning excellence of the XcelLine in design, performance and sustainability

Voith's future and design study "Papermaking Vision" contributed significantly to the DNP nomination in the Design competition, Vision category. Dr. Christoph Lapp, Senior Vice President Product Management at Voith Paper, comments: "The jury evaluated both the current status and our innovative strength and research and development work. With our Papermaking Vision last year, we presented a long-term, visionary concept that goes far beyond the current state of the art."

In the overall concept, Voith takes into account all aspects of paper production. Maintenance and operation of the system are simplified, efficiency and safety are increased, interfaces are reduced through a higher degree of networking, and an attractive design ensures a uniform appearance. Another focus of the Papermaking Vision is the implementation of the "Clean Design" concept throughout the line. By increasing cleanliness, the risk of unplanned downtime is reduced. This improves operational reliability and machine efficiency and ensures a trouble-free production process. Aspects of this vision are being successively integrated into equipment that is already being delivered to customers today.

The optimized design of XcelLine paper machines also leads significantly to improved resource efficiency. "Our 'Papermaking for Life' sustainability program goes hand in hand with our Papermaking Vision design study," confirms Dr. Michael Weiß, CTO at Voith Paper. "For this, we invest around 100 million euros per year in the development of sustainable and efficient solutions." As part of its sustainability program, Voith aims to achieve completely CO₂-neutral paper production by 2030 through the use of energy-optimized products, digital solutions and renewable energies. In recent years, the implementation of various individual measures has already helped to reduce thermal and electrical energy requirements by 5 to 15 percent, depending on the paper grade. In addition to energy, water is another precious resource. As part of the XcelLine product family, Voith has developed the first completely closed water cycle in paper production together with Meri.

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Another important lever for increasing sustainability is the optimization of paper quality. Reducing process fluctuations enables more efficient use of the fiber material. In this way, fibers can be saved and resources conserved. At the same time, the integration of automation and digitization solutions from the Papermaking 4.0 portfolio enables further increases in the efficiency of the XcelLine. The applications, such as intelligent process controls, are often implemented quickly and pay for themselves in less than a year. The digital solutions are expected to be able to save up to 15 percent of production costs in the future.

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Sustainability also plays a key role for Voith in its own activities. For example, Voith pays attention to the durability of components, avoids critical substances when selecting materials, and promotes the recyclability of its own products as part of its circular economy concept. In addition, active supplier management ensures efficient sourcing strategies. As a measure, for example, transport routes for components have been significantly reduced and supplier chains improved.

Further information on the XcelLine 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)

Since 2008, the German Sustainability Award Foundation has been awarding the DNP in cooperation with, among others, the German government, civil society organizations and research institutions, thus honoring companies that promote sustainability as part of their business model. The winners of the DNP will be announced on December 2 at the awards ceremony in Düsseldorf, which will also be attended by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. More information about the DNP can be found here: <https://www.nachhaltigkeitspreis.de/en/>.

Papermaking for Life sustainability program

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.

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 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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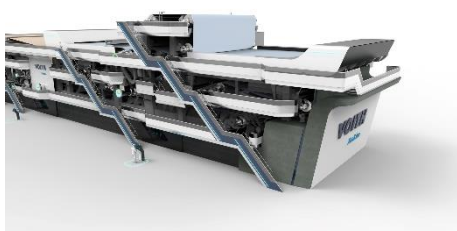
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