

Media Release

Voith Paper

Mailing address:
J.M. Voith SE & Co. KG
Global Communications Voith Paper
St. Poeltener Strasse 43
89522 Heidenheim, Germany
Tel. +49 7321 37-9055
www.voith.com

Rebuild for DS Smith's PM 4 at Viana Paper Mill successfully completed

2024-11-19

- Increased dry content after the press ensures higher energy efficiency and increases sustainability
- New Tandem NipcoFlex press enables 15 percent specific steam savings
- Almost 90 percent fewer paper breaks after rebuild

HEIDENHEIM/DEOCRISTE. Following its rebuild and start-up in October 2023, PM 4 at DS Smith's Viana Paper Mill reached final acceptance. The rebuild has increased production from 400,000 tons to 430,000 tons of kraftliner and high-performance top kraftliner per year, at a design speed of 1,200 m/min. This improves the plant's overall efficiency and further strengthens its position as market leader in Southern Europe.

The rebuild included modifications of the wire section, a completely new press section and upgrade of web transfer between the press and dryer sections. In addition, modernizations in stock preparation were part of the rebuild. The forming section scope comprised new dewatering elements, a high-pressure water jet edge trim cutter from the Prevo family and a suction reversing roll for the top wire. A new Tandem NipcoFlex press outfitted with QualiFlex Crown sleeves and modifications for the web transfer to the dryer section made up the scope of the press section rebuild. A comprehensive fabrics package including I-Series forming fabrics, Vector and Infinity press felts and Jade dryer fabrics were supplied for the start-up and optimization phase of PM 4, including services and spare parts. With machine safety in focus, the press section was additionally supplied with ProTect, enabling safe and reliable felt profile measurements.

In combination with Voith services and spare parts, the rebuild achieved 15 percent specific steam savings with an increase in production and almost 90 percent fewer paper breaks due to fly-off in the wire section. Driven by

sustainability, the rebuild objectives of increasing the overall efficiency and production of the machine at lower energy consumption were fully achieved.

"We are very satisfied with the results achieved. The promised dry contents after the press were achieved for all grades, helping us meet our 'Now & Next' decarbonization targets by reducing energy consumption and producing kraftliner more sustainably and efficiently," said Eduardo Fernandes, Project Manager at DS Smith. "The results after the rebuild speak for themselves," said Philip Schnellinger, Process Technology Manager at Voith Paper. "Our full-line solutions are having the desired effect on the overall efficiency of the process line and consumption of resources during production. This success was made possible by the selection of the right concept and the close and trustful cooperation between the two teams."

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 22,000 employees, sales of € 5.5 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 a single 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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Contact

Anna Dennerlein

Vice President Global Communication Voith Paper

Tel. +49 7321 37 9055

Anna.Dennerlein@voith.com

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