

## Media Release

Voith Paper

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### Closed recycling loop for Infinity press felts from Voith reduces specific carbon footprint by up to 31 percent

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- Infinity +Green press felts, developed for recycling and produced sustainably, reduce the product's carbon footprint by 15 percent
- Closed recycling loop reduces the product's carbon footprint by an additional 16 percent
- Innovative method enables unlimited recycling cycles without compromising quality

**HEIDENHEIM, GERMANY.** Voith, leading full-line supplier of solutions to the paper industry, is launching an innovative recycling concept for press felts in collaboration with its partner Aquafil, enabling papermakers to drastically reduce their specific product carbon footprint. The newly developed Infinity +Green press felts and a closed recycling loop reduce Scope 3 emissions by up to 31 percent.

"The majority of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in press felt production are related to raw material sourcing," explains Anne Klaschka, Global Product Manager Press Felts at Voith Paper. "In addition, around 20 percent is caused by end-of-life disposal. The focus on recycling solutions is a logical consequence of this and supports papermakers in achieving their ambitious sustainability goals. We have given ourselves the task of developing an innovative concept that meets both the requirements of the industry and environmental goals," says Klaschka.

#### **"Design for Recycling" concept**

Voith's Infinity +Green press felts have been specially developed for recycling, with particular attention to the homogeneity of the product. Thanks to the implementation of the "Design for Recycling" concept, only one type of polyamide is used in the production of Infinity +Green. In order to meet the high-quality requirements of paper machine fabrics, Voith relies on chemical recycling through depolymerization. To this end, Voith works

closely with Aquafil, a pioneer in PA 6 recycling. In this process, used PA 6 is converted into the monomer caprolactam, which is efficiently purified and repolymerized into high-quality PA 6 granulate under the brand name ECONYL. Depolymerization has proven to be less energy-intensive than other chemical recycling methods. In addition, this process preserves the original material quality, as unlike mechanical recycling, there is no loss of quality due to downcycling.

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### **Reuse of resources in low-emission production**

Voith uses recycled ECONYL granulate from Aquafil to produce new material for press felts at its own site, which perform exactly the same as felts made from new material. For felt production, Voith uses only green electricity, which is partly generated by the company's own hydropower plant. Thanks to the forward-looking design and sustainable production methods, papermakers using Infinity +Green benefit from a 15 percent reduction in Scope 3 emissions compared to conventional press felts.

### **Closed loop ensures a further 16 percent reduction in emissions**

A closed recycling concept reduces the product's carbon footprint by a further 16 percent. "At Voith, we send our own production waste from felt manufacturing to our partner Aquafil," says Anne Klaschka. In addition, we are setting up a recycling chain for our customers in EMEA for used Voith press felts." This way, used press felts from papermakers and unavoidable production waste are turned into new, high-performance press felts. "By combining Infinity +Green press felts with the recycling of used press felts, savings of up to 31 percent in the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint are already possible today," highlights Klaschka.

The new Infinity +Green press felts are compatible with any machine configuration. Infinity +Green is already available everywhere in the EMEA region, with plans to expand global availability. With Infinity +Green press felts, Voith has achieved a breakthrough in the product-to-product recycling process. The latest advances underscore the leading full-line supplier's commitment to a sustainable future and its claim to support papermakers in achieving their ambitious sustainability goals.

### **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. Founded in 1867, Voith today has around 22,000 employees, sales of € 5.2 billion and

locations in over 60 countries worldwide and thus is 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 integrated solutions from a single source. The company's continuous stream of innovations facilitates resource-conserving production and supports customers in significantly reducing 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 improve the availability and efficiency of their systems in all sections of the production process.

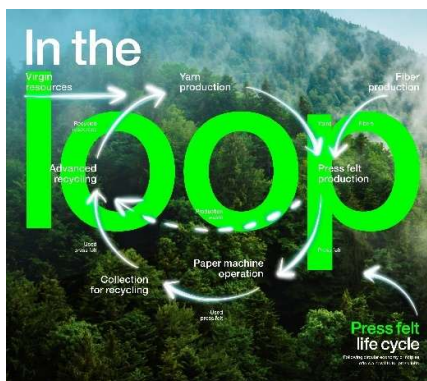
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Thanks to the implementation of the “Design for Recycling” concept, only one type of polyamide is used to produce Infinity +Green.



With its +Green concept, Voith has achieved a breakthrough in the recycling of press felts and reduces their specific carbon footprint by up to 31 percent.

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