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PRESS RELEASE

WITTMANN BATTENFELD at the Fakuma 2015

WITTMANN BATTENFELD with Medical Technology Competence

WITTMANN BATTENFELD will demonstrate its medical technology expertise to trade visitors with two exhibits at the Fakuma in hall B1, booth 1204.

Over the last few years, WITTMANN BATTENFELD has already shown that the company's technologies are ideal for clean room applications, especially with its all-electric machines from the *EcoPower* and *MicroPower* series. Based on this positive experience, WITTMANN BATTENFELD has decided to extend its activities in the area of medical technology and develop its machines further to meet the current requirements of customers from the medical technology industry.

So it was decided to roll out a "Medical" version of the all-electric *EcoPower* first, and then qualify it in a clean room. For this purpose, an ISO standard class 6 clean room from Max Petek Reinraumtechnik, Germany was installed at the WITTMANN BATTENFELD plant in Kottlingbrunn, and the machine was thoroughly examined there. At the same time, GMP (good manufacturing practice) standard machine documentation has been made available for machines of the Medical version. In this way, WITTMANN BATTENFELD has established the necessary prerequisites to meet the market demand in respect of machine capability documentation and software. The clean room measurements are carried out under both dry running and production conditions, to obtain as clear and accurate results as possible concerning the equipment's emissions. The installation of the clean room now gives the company's customers an opportunity to carry out production tests for tooling acceptance at the Kottlingbrunn facility under real conditions.

In further developing the all-electric *EcoPower* for clean room applications, special attention was paid to optimizing the interior mold space, which comes equipped with smooth surfaces, stainless steel covers and covered guide rails. The exhaust air conduits of the pneumatic valves are bundled and thus guided out of the clean room. Moreover, the machine as a whole has been provided with a water cooling system

with a closed cooling circuit, special alcohol- and solvent-resistant paint, nickel-coated clamping plates with covered threaded drillings and a laminar flow box, which supplies air with low particle content to the interior mold space. All openings in the mold area and the threading of the clamping plates are covered. The barrel insulation also minimizes emissions into the environment. For lubrication, exclusively “food grade” lubricants are used.

The machine series *MicroPower* and *SmartPower* will also undergo qualification.

At the Fakuma, the functionality of the *EcoPower*'s clean room model will be demonstrated by the production of a contact lens tray made of PP on an *EcoPower* 110/350. In addition to the features already mentioned, the machine on display at the fair is equipped with a good part / reject separator and an encapsulated clean room conveyor belt from Max Petek Reinraumtechnik, Germany, mounted below the clamping unit. The parts fall freely onto the encapsulated clean room conveyor belt and are subsequently transported to a laminar flow workstation.

The second exhibit relating to the theme of medical technology will be a *MicroPower* 15/10 in the medical technology version. On this machine, a PEEK micro catheter with a weight of about 20 mg is produced with a single-cavity mold supplied by Ernst Wittner GmbH, Austria, which is used for taking samples from peripheral tissue. The machine on display comes as a full-fledged clean-room production cell, equipped with a rotary disk, parts removal handling device, integrated quality inspection by image processing, as well as a clean-room module, which produces class 6 clean air according to the ISO 14644-1 standard. The parts are all injected, quality-inspected and deposited inside the clean room.



Fig. 1: Clean room technology at WITTMANN BATTENFELD



Fig. 2: *MicroPower 15/10* in clean room version

The WITTMANN Group

The WITTMANN Group is a worldwide leader in the manufacturing of injection molding machines, robots and peripheral equipment for the plastics industry. Headquartered in Vienna/Austria, the WITTMANN Group consists of two main divisions, WITTMANN BATTENFELD and WITTMANN, which operate 10 production facilities in 7 countries, including 30 direct subsidiary offices located in all major plastics markets around the world.

WITTMANN BATTENFELD focuses on independent market growth in the manufacturing of state-of-the art injection molding machines and process technology, providing a modern and comprehensive range of machinery in a modular design that meets the actual and future requirements of the plastic injection molding market.

WITTMANN's product range includes robots and automation systems, material handling systems, dryers, gravimetric and volumetric blenders, granulators, mold temperature controllers and chillers. With this comprehensive range of peripheral equipment, WITTMANN can provide plastics processors with solutions that cover all production requirements, ranging from autonomous work cells to integrated plant-wide systems.

The syndication of the WITTMANN Group has led to connectivity between all product lines, providing the advantage plastics processors have been looking for in terms of a seamless integration of injection molding machines, automation and auxiliary equipment – all occurring at a progressive rate.

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