

M-Tech steps up service delivery

A call to action at M-Tech Plastics has led to investments in top-class converting equipment to meet a stringent service strategy, reports KAREN STRETCH.

THE M-Tech Plastics team is on track towards achieving its long-term service and supply goals, with news of investments to enhance its fast-growing flexible packaging operation.

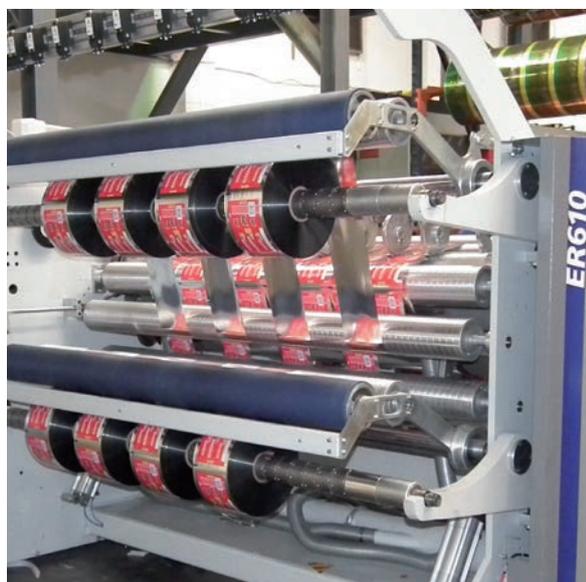
'We've embarked on equipment purchases in line with our expansion plans. This includes a recently-installed Titan slitter/rewinder, supplied by Beswick Machinery, as well as the order of a Nordmeccanica Super-Combi laminator/coater and a Rotomec ELS ten-colour gravure press, both scheduled for delivery in 2013,' explains Barry Le Roux, M-Tech Plastics' MD. 'We're experiencing substantial organic growth and service levels remain of utmost importance to our management and operations teams. We're constantly striving to improve our performance to support our customers' valued brands and believe the latest investments will open the arena for us to produce and deliver exceptional products.'

Until now, slitting and rewinding at M-Tech has been completed on two machines. 'Our existing equipment carried us through our early growth stages, but it's now time to push ourselves into the next level,' remarks Barry. 'We've always appreciated Titan's world-class technology, but the investment level has been a restriction. However, the new ER610 has hit the perfect balance between price and performance and Beswick Machinery has an excellent team providing top-class technical and maintenance support. I'm very happy.'

Advanced equipment excellence

The Titan ER610, developed by UK-based Atlas Converting Equipment, is an affordable high-performance slitter/rewinder loaded with innovations. It's designed to run at a production speed of 450m/min and can handle a minimum 35mm slit width, with a rewind diameter of 610mm. It also features an integral edge-trim extraction system and a shaftless unwind stand for a 1 000mm reel diameter and 1 650mm web width.

The pneumatically-controlled braking system provides accurate web tension control and a digital edge guide system directs lateral movement of the unwind reel. Also included is a high-speed 3G Bobst CUBE human-interface system with a 254mm touchscreen terminal, non-language symbols, compact flash memory and fault diagnostics.



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'The control system simplifies operation. Anyone who can use a cell phone can operate the CUBE,' comments Riaan Hopley of Beswick Machinery. 'Installation and operator training was carried out by our qualified technicians and the ER610 is already having a very positive impact on quality and service to M-Tech's customers.'

Barry's ultimate goal is to reduce lead times drastically and produce consistently high-quality goods for all customers.

'We're upgrading our systems to enhance our manufacturing capacity and the Titan is already handling the majority of our slitting requirements,' asserts Barry. 'From next year, we'll experience a serious rise in production and then we'll see this impressive machinery perform to its true potential. We have every confidence that the Titan's performance will speak for itself, and we'll be purchasing more Titan slitting equipment in the future,' he concludes.

With our core values of INTEGRITY, QUALITY and SERVICE, M-Tech Plastics produces high-quality gravure printed BOPP, PET, PVC, PE and paper as well as duplex and triplex laminations including 5-layer co-extruded Nylon, EVOH, Nucrel and Surlyn barrier films, all produced in line with ISO22000/HACCP quality & food safety management systems.



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