

DUOFIL : a new breakthrough

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Fastest spunlace line by Fleissner

Bericht englisch

After having sold 16 spunlace lines for nonwovens, most of which are already in operation, Fleissner has now received the order for the fastest and largest spunlace line during the Index 99 show in Geneva, Switzerland. Fleissner company has thus demonstrated its ability to rise to the leading manufacturer of spunlace lines within a short time.

The line incorporates most modern components in the spunlace machine with latest PCS system and the well-known Fleissner high capacity TAD Through-Air Dryer. The line will be shipped out in the first quarter of 2000. Investor as well as installation site and process technology are proprietary information for the moment. Products up to about 80 g/m² will be produced on this line. Fleissner has successfully entered several new sectors with the spunlace technology. The AquaJet technology can be applied for different products.

AquaJet: Hydroentanglement of all kinds of fibers and web weights; up to 300

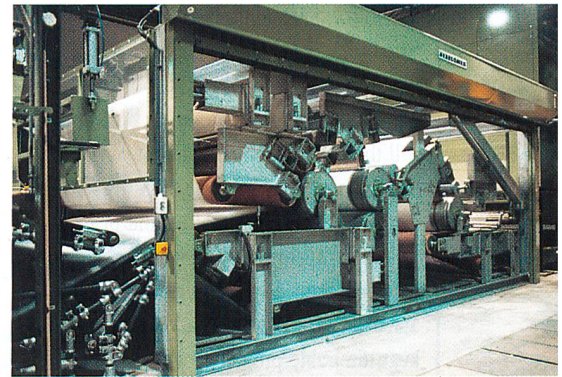
m/min and 600 bar; plain and apertured; 3 dimensional structures, composites

AquaPulp: Combines spunlace and airlay technologies for multipurpose products

AquaSpun: A new technology for spunlacing spunbonded nonwovens:

The potential for the future! 600 m/min; 5 m width; for homopolymer and bico fibers

AquaSplit: Spunlace system for microdenier split fibers from staple fibers and spunbondeds; high quality non-



wovens for garments, automotive applications, wipes, filters, etc.

AquaTex: Revolutionary introduction of the AquaJet process to enhance woven fabrics for the Interspun technology of BBA which results in specific aesthetic, performance and quality characteristics for woven fabrics; no chemical usage; reduction or elimination of chemical and finishing processes; cost savings, lower cost yarns, reduced fabric weight

DUOFIL – a new breakthrough

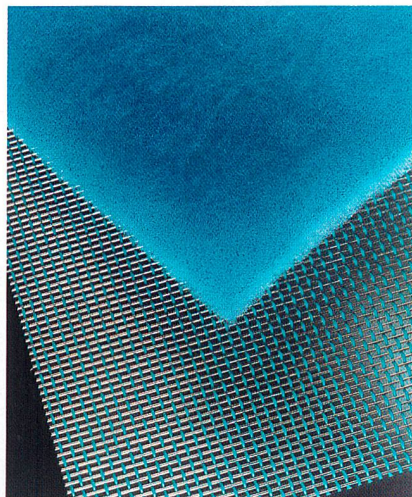
Whether for packaging, protective clothing or hygiene articles, whether for filtration of liquids, insulation of facades or stabilisation in the construction of vehicles: nonwovens are on the advance. Tear-proof, light, active breathing and microberesistant – with properties like these, compressed nonwoven material is the predestined choice for a wide range of applications.

But just as wide-ranging as its application is the variety of its composition and production: each type of nonwoven calls for a specific manufacturing procedure precisely tailored to its particular properties. Process belts from GKD meet these requirements. The belts are essential components in the industrial manufacture of glass, plastic, mineral and cellulose fibre nonwovens, and are planned and produced by the wire-mesh specialists in close co-operation with

the user. Here, GKD can draw on over 20 years of experience in the business, ensuring that the result is always a made-to-measure, high-performance product.

Latest development

DUOFIL is a process belt in which both plastic and metal wires are woven together. Compared with belts woven with pure metal or plastic, the innovation combines the advantages of both



DUOFIL – high flexibility, mechanical stability and safety photo: GKD (G)

materials. These are, first and foremost, its exceptionally high flexibility, mechanical stability and safety. The PES, PPS or PEEK warp wires, woven longitudinally in the running direction of the DUOFIL belt, allow for endless amounts of reverse bending, even with equipment running at high speeds (up to 400 m/min) and with very small roller diameters (ca. 100 mm). At the same time, the stainless-steel weft wires ensure that the belt is flat and stable. A further, major advantage of the innovation, particularly relevant for nonwovens producers, relates to the conductive discharge of static electricity. For this purpose, all metal weft wires are woven at the edges of the belt with bronze strands which ensure continual grounding via contact with steel rollers.

Comparison with belts woven with metal

DUOFIL, in combination with PEEK, is heat-resistant up to 240° C, thus meeting the demands of fields of application – like for example in nonwovens driers – which were previously beyond the range of process belts made of metal. Like its counterparts in stainless steel, cast steel or bronze, the GKD innovation is mechanically stable, resistant to chemicals, very easy

to control and highly flexible. And its surface structure is smooth. In the past, it was primarily woven metal belts which established themselves in the nonwovens industry. And these are still the preferred choice when it comes to production processes requiring marking sensitivity, extreme mechanical stability and/or resistance to high temperatures. GKD's woven metal process belts can handle temperatures of up to 1,200° C. These belts also store and conduct heat, desirable properties with clear technical and energy-saving advantages in special drying processes.

Product range

GKD supplies both DUOFIL and woven metal belts in a range of precision weaves with mesh apertures from 0.1 up to 15 mm. The aperture size determines the relative strength of the consistent flowthrough of air. The process belts can be supplied in widths of up to 8 meters and in seamless lengths of up to 200 meters. One or more belt elements can be connected to make an endless loop by means of reopenable pin seams, endless soldered seams or endless sewn seams, the last two variants being free of markings.

GKD constructs both the stitched seams and the belts edges to the highest quality standards, thus ensuring that these potential weak points in the process, like the supporting meshes, provide long-lasting stability under very high strain.

GKD – Gebr. Kufferath GmbH & Co. KG,
Metallweberstrasse 46, D – 52348 Düren,
Tel: +49 2421 803-0,
Fax: +49 2421 803-182,
E-Mail: gb2@gkd.de, Internet: www.gkd.de

Die Globalisierung des Textilgeschäfts

Die unaufhaltsam zunehmende Globalisierung des Textilgeschäfts in Verbindung mit den anhaltenden Problemen am Industriestandort Deutschland zeigen immer deutlicher ihre Wirkung auch im Investitionsverhalten der deutschen Textilindustrie. Die Bruttoanlage-

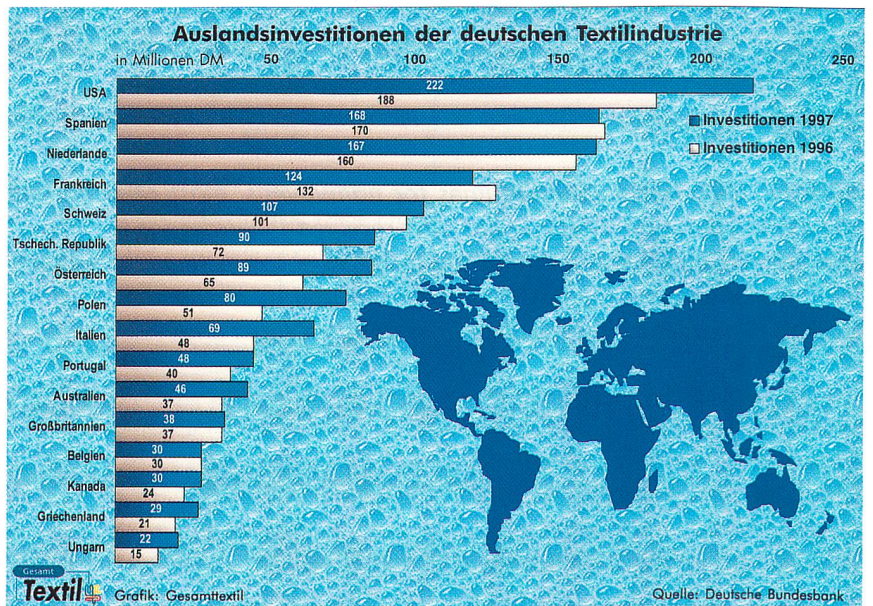


Abb. 1: Auslandsinvestitionen der deutschen Textilindustrie

investitionen im Inland haben in den vergangenen Jahren bei einer Größenordnung von 1,25 Mia. DM pro Jahr oder 4% des Umsatzes stagniert. Gleichzeitig sind die Kapitalanlagen des deutschen Textilgewerbes in anderen Ländern weiter kräftig gewachsen.

Die gesamten Direktinvestitionen des deutschen Textilgewerbes im Ausland (Abb. 1) haben nach den Berechnungen der Deutschen Bundesbank Ende 1997 einen Wert von mehr als 1,5 Milliarden DM erreicht. Gegenüber 1996 entspricht das einer Zunahme um 242

Mio. DM oder um 19%. Dabei hat sich die im Vorjahr bereits erkennbare Favoritenrolle der Reformländer in Mittel- und Osteuropa als Ziel für Investitionen deutscher Textilunternehmen verstärkt.

Engagement in Mittel- und Osteuropa

In den Reformländern haben sich deutsche Textilfirmen inzwischen in 36 Unternehmen mit einem Gesamtvolumen von 314 Mio. DM engagiert. Innerhalb eines Jahres bedeutet dies eine Zunahme um 122 Mio. DM oder um 64% – Oder anders betrachtet: Die Hälfte des gesamten Anstiegs der Auslandsinvestitionen

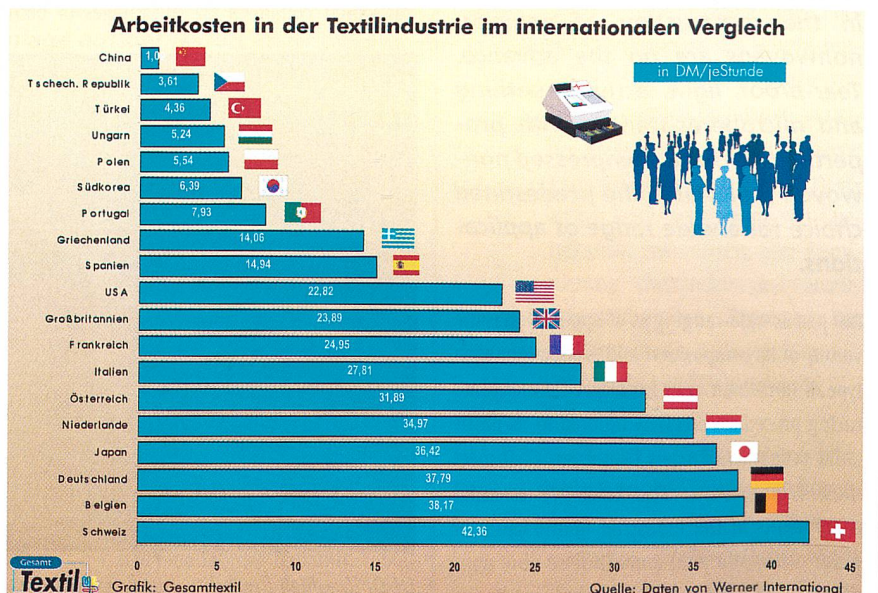


Abb. 2: Arbeitskosten in der Textilindustrie im internationalen Vergleich