oerlikon

Background information

Oerlikon Barmag and Oerlikon Neumag: two pacesetters in manmade fiber production

Oerlikon Barmag and Oerlikon Neumag have played a significant role in today's manmade fibers, enabling them to be used in more and more fields of application and to be produced in a highly efficient manner. Since their founding, both companies have been technology leaders on the sector and today continue setting new standards for the global production of manmade fibers.

Oerlikon Barmag and Oerlikon Neumag are considered as trailblazers for a vast number of technologies, methods and processes in the area of manmade fiber production. Oerlikon Barmag can look back on around 90 years of developing and manufacturing highly productive and innovative spinning systems and texturing machines for the manmade fiber industry: The company was founded in 1922 as Barmer Maschinenfabrik AG in today's Wuppertal – this was 13 years before the first fully manmade fibers were invented and processed. In the early days, Barmag acted as the in-house machine manufacturer for the rapidly growing manmade fiber industry of its co-founder, Vereinigten Glanzstoff-Fabriken AG. During this time, the product portfolio primarily consisted of spinning machines and pumps for viscose and cuprammonium rayon. Later, twisting, coiling and winding machines joined the line of products. Three years after its founding, the company expanded and moved to its current headquarters in Lennep near Remscheid.

Barmag spearheaded the development of emerging technologies at an early stage, improving their suitability for industrial application. In 1954, the first texturing machine was manufactured in Remscheid. By mechanically embellishing the surfaces of manmade fibers, they feel almost like natural fibers after this finishing step. Important development milestones were also reached during the 1950s in the area of spinning pumps and extruders for filament spinning. The long-standing company's breakthrough finally came in 1969, with the production of the world's first high-speed winders. Barmag provided another boost to the manmade fiber industry in the 1980s: The company took the sector by surprise with a completely new kind of thread holder on the spun bobbins. These innovations cleared the way for significant increases in productivity.

In 2007, Barmag, now a member of the Oerlikon Group, revolutionized the textile world with an innovative concept for filament spinning systems: With WINGS (Winder Integrated Godet Solution), the company introduced a particularly low-stress thread guiding system that was previously not considered feasible and required up to 35 % less space than traditional spinning lines. The spinning systems also significantly reduced energy consumption. Within only a few months of the market launch, several thousand machines were sold, giving Oerlikon Barmag practically overnight, a global market share of about 50 % in manmade spinning systems that it enjoys to this day.

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Barmag also identified the market opportunities in Asia at an early point: As far back as the 1960s, first steps were taken in Asia. Beginning in 1984, the company began operating in China, initially with joint ventures and partnerships and then with its own facility in 1996. Production has been gradually expanded ever since. Today, production hours are divided equally between Europe and Asia.

Pioneering spirit from Neumünster

Neumag, too, has earned an exceptional reputation by developing groundbreaking innovations for the entire manmade fiber industry: In 1948, they began processing polyester on a wide-scale basis. During this same year, the Neumünsterische Maschinen- und Apparatebau Gesellschaft was established. Its primary job was repair work. Two years later, Neumag provided domestic and international producers of rayon with their first equipment. A short time later, systems were created to process fully synthetic fibers and filaments. At virtually the same time, Neumag introduced cellophane-producing machines: The systems were more than 75 meters long and were made during 15 000 manufacturing hours as well as 50 000 working hours. The professional world toasted them as “technical marvels.”

At the end of the 1950s, Neumag developed pioneering innovations in the area of polyester staple fibers, ideas that still play a role in the manufacturing of the systems today. In 1967, Neumag opened the era of texturing machines and introduced the first system enabling bobbins to be changed without any thread loss. At the beginning of the 1970s, the company then raised the bar even higher in the filament sector: Engineers further increased the throughput rate and spinning speed, triggering a boom among high-performance winders. In 2002, Neumag entered the nonwovens business and became the first company to offer complete solutions for all key processes used to make nonwovens.

Undisputed market leader

Today, Oerlikon Barmag and Oerlikon Neumag are the market leaders in the area of filament spinning systems for manmade fibers, texturing machines, systems used for producing BCF carpet yarns and nonwovens. With about 2 500 employees, the two Oerlikon brands are located in 120 countries around the world with production, sales and service organizations. In the company’s research centers in Neumünster, Chemnitz and Remscheid, where Oerlikon Barmag operates the largest technical facility of its type, highly qualified engineers and technicians develop innovative products and continue to set standards in manmade fiber production.

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About Oerlikon:
Oerlikon (SIX: OERL) is a leading high-tech industrial group specializing in machine and plant engineering. The Company is a provider of innovative industrial solutions and cutting-edge technologies for manmade fibers manufacturing, drive systems, vacuum, coating, and advanced nanotechnology. A Swiss company with a tradition going back over 100 years, Oerlikon is a global player with around 13 000 employees at around 160 locations in 34 countries and sales of CHF 2.9 billion in 2012. The Company invested in 2012 CHF 106 million in R&D, with over 1 000 specialists working on future products and services. In most areas, the operative businesses rank either first or second in their respective global markets.

About Oerlikon Segment Manmade Fibers
Oerlikon Manmade Fibers with the product brands Oerlikon Barmag and Oerlikon Neumag is the world market leader for filament spinning systems used for manufacturing manmade fibers, texturing machines, BCF systems, staple fiber spinning systems and artificial turf systems and – as an engineering services provider – offers solutions along the entire textile value added chain.

As a future oriented company, the Oerlikon Group segment's research and development is driven by energy-efficiency and sustainable technologies. With the expansion of the product range to include polycondensation systems and their key components, the company now caters to the entire process – from the monomer all the way through to the textured yarn.

The primary Oerlikon Barmag markets are in Asia, with Oerlikon Neumag's main markets in the US, Turkey and China. Correspondingly, the companies – with almost 2500 employees – have a worldwide presence in 120 countries as part of the Oerlikon Manmade Fibers network of production, sales and distribution and service organizations. At the R&D centers in Remscheid, Neumünster and Chemnitz, highly-qualified engineers and technicians develop innovative and technologically-leading products for tomorrow's world.