

Cincinnati Extrusion adds spirally wound pipe packages

ACO-OPERATION in the production of spirally-wound pipe lines has been set up by Cincinnati Extrusion of Austria and Bauku of Germany. Spirally-wound and corrugated pipes are used in parallel applications for waste water, sewage and drainage, but spirally-wound pipes can increase on the potential diameter up to 3.5 m, and also can be produced with double walls.

In the Bauku process the extruder is mounted on a mobile carriage running on rails alongside several winding stations. The winding stations are designed to accommodate mandrels from 300 to 3,000 mm nominal width – or up to 3,500 mm as an option. Different profile dies can be used to produce virtually any type of pipe profile and also to extrude pipes with very thick walls using stepless or multi-layer processes.

Pipes are produced to a standard 6 m length and are normally extruded with a socket and spigot, so that the socket joint automatically becomes an integrated part of the finished product.

The capital required for a basic extrusion line to produce spirally wound pipe is about €1.8 million and this would make pipe in diam-

eters ranging from 1,100 – 1,800 mm or 2,000 – 3,500 mm. The winding stations required for each diameter range cost about €0.3 million per unit and can be retrofitted on a modular basis. Lines specially designed for small pipes (300 – 1,000 mm) cost an additional €0.5 million, bringing the total investment required for an extrusion line producing small sizes of spirally wound pipe up to €2.3 million.

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Laying a 2,300 mm diameter spirally wound pipe.



SMS sells all its pipe and profile equipment businesses but stays in film and sheet

THE Battenfeld and Cincinnati pipe and profile extrusion system companies are being sold by their parent, the German industrial conglomerate SMS. SMS is involved predominantly in metals producing and processing equipment and is selling its plastics machinery operations to focus on its core businesses, although it is keeping a stake in plastic film and sheet machinery. Last October SMS sold its Battenfeld injection moulding machinery subsidiary and hired the former chairman of Mannesmann Plastics Machinery, Pepyn Dinandt, 'to further develop the Plastics Technology Business Area within a limited time frame in order to maximize potential for further options for the SMS group'.

In January SMS reported growth in orders over the previous year, mostly due to vigorous global performance in the steel industry, and noted that

its plastics processing markets had 'also developed well'.

All but one of the SMS extrusion businesses are going: SMS is selling Battenfeld Extrusionstechnik (Germany), SMS Extrusion Kempen (Germany), American Maplan Corporation (USA), Battenfeld Extrusion Systems (China), and Cincinnati Extrusion (Austria, USA and China). Film and sheet equipment producer Battenfeld Gloucester of the USA is being retained. Overall, the companies being sold have sales of around €200 million with some 1,000 employees.

The buyer is Triton, an independent European private equity investor which SMS says 'expects significant growth and value creation potential for the companies'. The transaction is subject to approval by the anti-trust authorities. No financial details have been disclosed.

Wavin shows how profitable extrusion can be

PIPE and building profiles manufacturer Wavin has shown that in some sectors extrusion is still a licence to print money. The company achieved record sales and profits in 2006 from growth in the construction industry across Europe, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe where Wavin now draws 17 per cent of its revenue. Overall the company's revenue increased 12.8 per cent to €1,501 million, with the building and installation sector (above-ground pipe systems) revenue increasing 25.8 per cent and increasing its share of overall revenue from 32 per cent to

35.7 per cent. Sales of underground pipe systems increased 8.6 per cent.

The boom in above-ground pipe systems came from replacement of traditional piping systems with plastics. In particular, there was substantial – 42.4 per cent – growth in sales of hot and cold water supply pipe as overall plastics' penetration in this area is still quite low. The hot and cold segment generated 18 per cent of Wavin's total revenue. Wavin says the growth comes from a combination of increased building activity, rising metals prices, and recognition of the cost-effectiveness of plastics installations.

Increasing emphasis on energy efficiency in buildings fuelled 'robust growth' in indoor climate control applications such as underfloor heating and ceiling cooling systems.

Away from pipe, Wavin recorded a 25.2 per cent increase in sales of cable ducting helped by an acceleration in data communication (Last Mile Telecom) in several countries.

The UK and Ireland remain Wavin's biggest sales territory and returned 11.8 per cent more revenue in 2006 at €449.8 million – although it showed an erosion of profit margin (15.3 per cent down to 15 per cent) – but has

still the second highest margin in the company's seven territories, behind Central and Eastern Europe, where the margin also slipped.

Wavin buys telecom cable duct maker

Wavin has bought Polyfemos, a Norwegian supplier of cable duct systems for telecom access networks. Wavin already has a dedicated plant in France for micro duct related systems and is a major operator in the European market for cable duct systems for 'Last Mile Telecom'.

ASTM publishes standard for polypropylene siding

THE plastics-based siding industry developed around the use of PVC but the last two decades have seen the introduction and uptake of polypropylene as an alternative. The change prompted work on a new standard which has culminated in the recent approval of D7254, Specification for Polypropylene (PP) Siding. The new standard was developed by subcommittee D20.24 on plastic building products, which is under the jurisdiction of ASTM international committee D20 on plastics. Specification D7254 establishes requirements and test methods for materials, impact strength, appearance, surface flame spread, and windload resistance of siding products manufactured from polypropylene materials.

www.astm.org

Naylor recoups investment in Maguire blenders

YORKSHIRE-based Naylor Drainage has seen a 12 months pay-back through improved quality and the control of colours and other additives on the installation of four Maguire blenders from Summit Systems. Naylor has been making clay sewer pipes since 1890 and in 2000 set up a plastics division to service non-sewer markets, buying Poet Plastics in 2000 and Argival Plastics in 2002.

The market for cable ducting has been buoyant over recent years and with projects such as the 2012 Olympic park in the pipeline, Naylor put together a programme of investment designed to modernise equipment inherited from both acquisitions, as well as increase its own capacity.

Naylor has the capacity to produce more than 20 million metres of ducting annually. Its extruders run at 300 – 400 kg/hr feeding clam shell corrugators, to produce twin-wall ducting and single wall land drainage pipes.

