

## THE BROADER VIEW

### 6 **Faster transition needed for double transformation**

Plastics Europe

## MARKET REPORT

### COATING, LAMINATING & EXTRUSION

#### 8 **From laminator to coater**

Karl Verpackungen GmbH (Kraftsdorf, Germany) /  
megapak GmbH & Co. KG (Hilden, Germany)

#### 10 **Removing impurities from fluids**

New Era Converting Machinery, Inc. (Paterson, New Jersey)

#### 12 **The “supreme discipline” of coating and laminating technology**

SML Maschinengesellschaft mbH (Redlham, Austria)

#### 14 **45 years of industrial contract coating**

Rhenotherm Kunststoffbeschichtungs GmbH  
(Kempen, Germany)

#### 18 **“Our dies have the reputation of being the best in the world”**

TSE Troller AG (Murgenthal, Switzerland)

#### 20 **“The land of the coaters and thinkers”**

JHT Jakobs-Houben Technologie GmbH  
(Geilenkirchen, Germany)

#### 23 **“We are seeing a high demand from coating customers in sectors such as energy storage device manufacture”**

Emerson + Renwick Group (Accrington, UK)

#### 26 **Added value through digitalisation**

Coatema Coating Machinery GmbH (Dormagen, Germany)

## MARKET REPORT

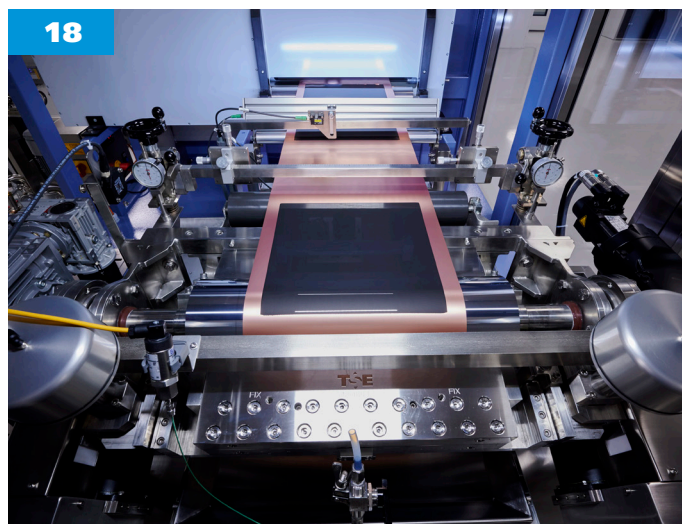
### STATIC CONTROL & WEB CLEANING

#### 29 **Static control and web cleaning for the battery sector**

Meech International (Witney, UK)

#### 30 **“Swiss Quality” convinces customers**

Gema Switzerland GmbH (St. Gallen)



# “Swiss Quality” convinces customers

**C2 in conversation with Sebastian Muchenberger, Area Sales Manager Europe at Gema Switzerland GmbH – the parent company of the antistatic and web cleaning experts at Hildebrand Technology**

**C2: Mr Muchenberger, what has been happening at Gema Switzerland and Hildebrand Technology in recent months?**

**Sebastian Muchenberger:** Gema Switzerland recently broke ground for its new building in Gossau. From summer 2024, our electrostatic and web cleaning systems will also be developed, assembled and shipped all over the world here. The new building features a number of highlights. In addition to production and office space, a contemporary high-bay warehouse will also be integrated on the 20 000m<sup>2</sup> site. The production area will be significantly larger than it is today.

The modern test and customer application laboratory will offer approx. 60% more space. With the new building, Gema is not only well prepared for further growth, but also offers very attractive working conditions with its state-of-the-art infrastructure and optimal connections.

Last but not least, we would like to mention that our electrostatic components, web cleaning modules and cutting dust extraction knife hoods are manufactured in Switzerland. Our “Swiss Quality” is appreciated by our customers worldwide.

**C2: A major issue currently preoccupying the entire converting industry is delivery readiness in the face of material bottlenecks and the distortions caused by international crises such as the war in Ukraine. How is your company responding to this?**

**S. Muchenberger:** Hildebrand Technology quickly recognised the new situation and reacted to it. We have increased our stock and are in close contact with our component suppliers. This is also exactly what our customers appreciate, our very short delivery times – we are unbeatable in this respect! Our electrostatic products iONstream 4.0 and iONcharge 4.0 are ready for delivery within a few working days.



Sebastian Muchenberger

**C2: Let's talk about the products: For static control, you offer the iONstream 4.0 system. What are the strengths of the system?**

**S. Muchenberger:** We can proudly say that our customers are very satisfied with our iONstream 4.0 discharging systems and our service. Contact persons from larger corporations, who preferred us to the better-known system suppliers such as Simco, Fraser or Haug, confirmed to us that our iONstream 4.0, including the CANbus system as well as the ATEX variant, was the “most advanced ionisation system.”

Our iONstream 4.0 discharge bars are robust and have proven themselves in the industry even under the highest stress. They can be used stand-alone or even in a network in a straightforward manner.

**Other features and benefits:**

- » AUTO DC Technology up to 100Hz, for better discharge
- » 24V DC supply, all components as well as high-voltage generator integrated in the profile, therefore no high-voltage cables, which makes operation safer
- » Extremely high active power
- » Network-compatible through CANbus
- » Plug & Play, for easy installation
- » Data visualisation via iONcontrol panel



Real-time measurements

- » Data transfer possible via WLAN, OPC and any fieldbus
- » 100% process control with data acquisition of system parameters
- » Optional TQM Static Sensor for logging the residual charge, for quality assurance vis-à-vis the end customer
- » Touch-proof according to EN 60335
- » Also available certified for: ATEX II 2G IIB T6 and II 2D IIIB T85°C; Certification number PTB 21 ATEX 5003 X

**C2: Keyword measurements in real time: Why is this aspect so important?**

**S. Muchenberger:** More and more customers, especially new customers, want to get an accurate picture of the electrostatic situation in their production before installing new discharging bars. It is important to them not to continue to expand a “patchwork” that has developed over the years, but to ensure efficient and optimised discharging of your product in production. With our iONcontrol panel in combination with several iONsense sensors, you can comfortably carry out this analysis over a longer period of time. The measuring sensors can be installed at different positions in the production and the measurements can be visualised and stored in real time.



The laboratory facility at Gema with the SLITstream slitting dust extraction system

**C2: In the field of web cleaning, Hildebrand Technology relies on the Xstream system. What can you tell us about it?**

**S. Muchenberger:** Our Xstream web cleaning system has proven itself in industry over decades. Both in the cleanroom, where less dust is generated, and in the nonwoven or tissue industry, Xstream manages efficient web cleaning even at high speeds and with high dust levels. Xstream works contactless, without consumables and is almost maintenance-free. This is also confirmed by customers who have been using Xstream for more than 10 years and then, based on their good experience, ask us again for another system for a new installation.

Xstream has already been used successfully for material widths from 300mm to 12 000mm. The combination with our

iONstream 4.0 AUTODC ionisation system, which discharges the substrate before suction, the high performance vacuum blower and the corresponding filter system, makes Xstream a highly efficient web cleaning system with best and constant performance. If required, Xstream can also be used in a network and the vacuum, position of the Xstream modules and efficiency of each individual iONstream 4.0 discharge bar can be monitored and visualised.

**C2: Recently, your customer lab was also expanded – with what goals?**

**S. Muchenberger:** Yes, our visitors and potential customers can now also test their delivered material with our SLITstream slitting dust extraction system. For this purpose, we have installed two shear cutters and equipped

them with our SLITstream knife hoods for dust removal. Our customer lab has generally become very popular, as people can see our systems in action and also take part in the test “hands-on.” We are happy to receive visitors at our facility so that they can be present during the test, or they can also participate via MS Teams and watch the test online with the help of several cameras.

**C2: Finally, we would like to ask you about the topic of retrofits: What do you have to consider here – and what does your service in this area look like?**

**S. Muchenberger:** Retrofitting has become an important topic, especially in electrostatics. Many new customers have already used several electrostatic discharge systems over the years and installed them in their systems. In the past, the wrong discharge positions and/or incorrectly dimensioned systems may have been selected. With our motivated and experienced team, we offer professional support in analysing the situation, in determining the installation positions and also in tests with our iONstream 4.0 discharge bars. If required, we also offer installation, commissioning and training.

It is important for us that our customers are actively supported and not left alone. Among other things, they also appreciate our fast response time and willingness to travel. ■

*Image sources: Gema Switzerland GmbH*

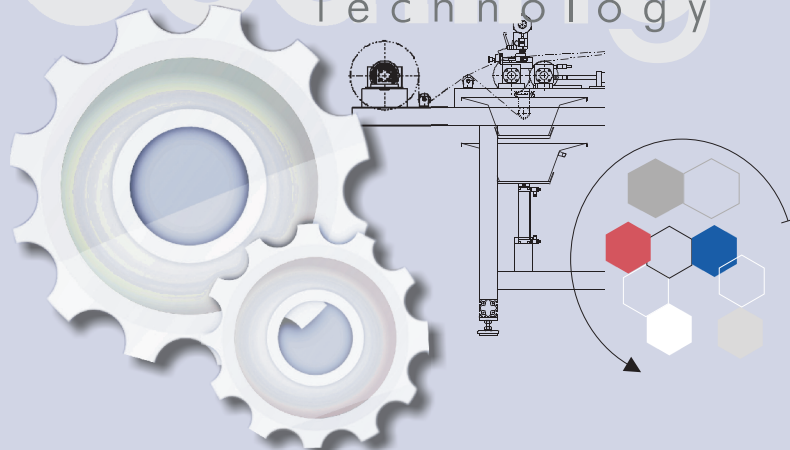
## Jakob Weiß & Söhne Maschinenfabrik GmbH

Neulandstraße 10 | 74889 Sinsheim Germany  
Tel. (+ 49 72 61) 91 53 0 | [www.jws-online.de](http://www.jws-online.de) | [kontakt@jws-online.de](mailto:kontakt@jws-online.de)



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- **Trend-setting.**
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