PRODUCTS & MEDIA

PRODUCTS

New annealer for PV-ribbon production line results in far greater productivity

At Booth 740 at Interwire 2011, company representatives from Germany's Bühler Würz Kaltwalztechnik GmbH and Maschinenfabrik Niehoff will be available to talk about a new integrated production line that is composed of a cold-rolling mill and an inline annealer for manufacturing PV ribbon made of copper.

A press release notes that the ribbon is rolled by the mill from round copper wire and is optionally tuned by an in-line process that uses an induction annealer to produce the required mechanical properties. The line can process the entire range of typical solar wire dimensions, it said. The needs of manufacturers of solar cells for yield strength and fracture are fully met, even at production speeds of up to 1000 m/min, it said. "Thus, for example, an output capacity of 1500 to/p.a. can be achieved for a solar strip with the dimensions 5.0 x 0.1," it said. "Compared with conventional systems on the market, it means an approvement in productivity of at least a factor of five with regard to the annealing process."

Bühler Würz notes that it has a long-time tradition of manufacturing cold-rolling mills for steel and nonferrous alloys for different applications. With its above-described line for manufacturing PV ribbon, which is sold and supported by Niehoff Endex North America, a proven and reliable technology in the field of photovoltaic energy is available to meet the needs of the U.S. market.

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2 new compounds for wind turbines to be introduced at Interwire 2011

At Booth 312 at Interwire 2011, U.S.-based Teknor Apex Company will introduce two high-performance vinyl jacketing compounds that it said can withstand the harsh cold, exposure to lubricants and other challenging conditions encountered by control and power cables within the nacelles high atop wind turbine towers.

A press release said that the company, drawing on its expertise in compounding elastomeric materials, has taken two different approaches to meeting the rigorous requirements of wind turbine applications. The first is Flexalloy® 9609-80, an 80 Shore A PVC-based elastomer that it said provides superior long-term UV resistance, with a brittle point of -60ºC. The second is Apex® N-56001, a 76 Shore A blend of PVC and nitrile rubber that it said provides superior long-term low-temperature flexibility and oil resistance, with a brittle point of -54ºC.

"Besides exceeding application standards for impact resistance at temperatures down to -40ºC, both compounds pass required tests for UV resistance, 60-day oil aging at 75ºC, and flammability performance as specified in UL 1685-F4," the release said. It noted that the two compounds are rated at 105ºC for maximum continuous operating temperature.

"Both products are high-performance alternatives to the standard flexible vinyl compounds used in cable jacketing and are particularly valuable for their cold-impact and oil-resistance properties," said Mike Patel, the company's industry manager.

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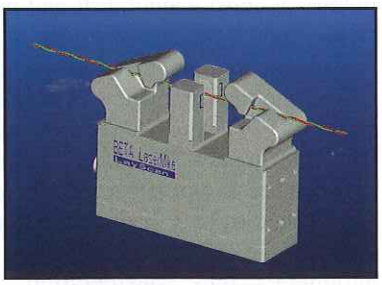
Lay-length measurement solution will be introduced at Interwire

At Booth 732 at Interwire 2011, U.S.-based Beta LaserMike will introduce its new LayScan measurement system for high-performance category cables.

A press release said that the patent-pending LayScan® system accurately and consistently measures the lay lengths of twisted pairs for high-performance category cables. The system, it said, uses optical, non-contact measurement technology to perform on-line, high-speed, lay-length measurements with the highest precision to within 1 mil. Providing high-data rate capabilities, LayScan precisely determines the variations in lay length within each lay, and systematic



lay variations that are typically caused by twinning and cabling operations can be readily observed and measured, the release said. It added that a data acquisition system effectively collects and processes the lay length data and reports the measurement results.

Benefits, the release said, include: improved product performance by better controlling lay lengths and delivering a higher level of cross-talk performance; minimized product cost and scrap by optimizing the lay set and providing the ability to consistently control lay lengths over time; reduced product development cycle through precise measurements of lay length values during design trials and experiments; and more.

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Extruder crosshead series line has been expanded with latest addition

At Booth 432 at Interwire 2011, representatives from Austria's Rosendahl Maschinen GmbH will be ready to discuss the company's latest addition to its RX line of crossheads, the RX5 model, which can serve the very wide-ranged demands in the field of cable applications that have conductor diameters between 0.1 and 5 mm.

A press release said that the crossheads provide perfectly balanced polymer distribution, temperature- and pressure-profiles that guarantee a smooth and stable melt-flow across the outlet zone. The RX-Type Crossheads generally provide high-precision centricity, preventing over-sizing of cable wall-thickness, which helps save material and production costs. Enhanced flow-channel geometry, it said, ensures short residence time of polymer melt and enables a quick and easy change of color or material. Logistically, the crosshead provides easy handling via its compact and modular design that can employ either high-precision ball-centering over an adjustable and self-sealing tip-holder or by well-proven fine-tuning centering that can be used in extrusion lines for fiber-optic cables as well as other applications.

The RX5-crosshead design, the release said, helps prevent process deviations and increases quality and efficiency in extrusion lines for micro-coaxial-, LAN- and standard power cables for automotive and non-automotive applications as well.

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