

Wülfig gets much MORE from Monforts

Family-owned German home textiles leader boosts production with a complete finishing line upgrade.

For leading European textile manufacturers, adapting quickly to changing and highly uncertain market conditions has long been a necessity. The need for flexibility has only been intensified since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Monforts has been able to assist its customers all along the way through this difficult period, not least with its MORE – Monforts Original Replacement Equipment – programme.

The Monforts commitment to customer service is based on four principles – helpful, accurate, fast and reliable. The company has established a reputation for quickly and efficiently dispatching spares and components where they're needed worldwide.

Monforts machines are known for their robustness and long service life, but major advances in digital technology mean that there are now significant gains to be made in the retrofitting of the latest automatic drives and control systems to machines, going far beyond the basic replacement of spare parts.

Home textiles leader

Wülfig GmbH, founded in 1885, is one of the oldest but also the most modern home textiles companies in Germany, with its main weaving and finishing operations located in Borken, North Rhine-Westphalia, and a further jacquard weaving mill in Steinfurt, as well as with a making up and packaging plant in the Czech Republic.

The family-owned company's extensive home textiles portfolio – spearheaded by the well-known Dormissette brand of bed linen – is supplied both to a wide range of retailers, discounters and catalogues, as well as to airlines hotels, retirement homes and other public institutions.

In addition, Wülfig is also a specialist in African damask fabric weaving at the production site in Steinfurt.

All told, the company has over 500 employees and with 160 weaving machines in continuous operation has an annual capacity of 60 million square metres of cotton fabrics – roughly the area of 8,400 football pitches. In addition 200,000kg of high quality 95% cotton yarns are always in stock, with 15,000kg processed into fabrics on a daily basis.

“Our particular strength is in wide-width weaving and the development of customer-specific ranges,” says Gerd Schulte-Mesum, Wülfig's Borken plant manager. “We have fully-integrated production in Germany on the most modern machines and flexibility is fundamental to our

continued success. The fast-moving market demands ever-increasing innovation, service and the rapid implementation of new ideas.”

Fabric stability

At its Borken plant, Wülfing has employed a Monforts sanforizing line since 2009 to guarantee the required dimensional stability and shrink-fastness of its high quality bed linen. With a working width of over three metres, the sanforizing process is a central pillar in the production of typical wide-width cotton fabrics for home textiles.

In 2017, the company was able to acquire a second Monforts sanforizing line from another company which, although built in 2005, had been virtually unused. It was overhauled and installed behind a Monforts equalizing frame of a similar age.

“Unfortunately, the two machines had to be operated separately via individual controls and did not represent an integrated unit,” says Schulte-Mesum. “This resulted in deficits in the desired productivity and in the control technology.”

Wülfing consulted with Monforts on a number of upgrade options and opted for a completely new joint control system to merge the two machines, as well as a new connecting inlet, a tensioning and damping field and a steaming unit.

“Monforts provided a fast and precise erection and commissioning of the technology in spite of the difficult pandemic circumstances,” says Schulte-Mesum. “The result has been an increase in production speeds by 20% and enhanced uniformity in fabric width through a much improved guidance system.

“We are also achieving energy savings as a result of the new control and drive technology and operation has been simplified and improved as a result of the unified control. We benefit from simplified access for maintenance work such as the grinding of the rubber blanket, but most of all we have greatly improved our flexibility and now have two almost identical Monforts sanforizing lines.”

“It’s been a pleasure to work with the team at Wülfing on this project, which demonstrates what is possible in the modification and upgrading of Monforts machines already in operation,” adds Thomas Päßgen, Monforts Area Sales Manager.

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Picture captions:

AWOL247

A completely new joint control system joins the two machines seamlessly.

AWOL248

Two almost identical Monforts sanforizing lines now provide Wülfing with much improved flexibility.

FOOTNOTE TO EDITORS

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