

Asselin-Thibeau Airflow control system for crosslaid nonwovens lines

The latest development from Asselin-Thibeau, Elbeuf/France, is the ACS (Air Control System) to enhance the productivity of nonwovens crosslaid lines. The ACS was introduced for the first time during the Vliesstofftage Hof in November 2010 in Hof/Germany. The first equipment has been operational in the industry since January 2011.

Because year after year card technology allows higher production capacities from single cards, it has become easy to add individual needlelooms or to extend the length of ovens. As a consequence, the pressure remains high on the crosslapper to optimize and balance the production capacity of the whole production line. Commonly, the production capacity increases with the ability of the crosslapper to handle a card web at high speed, without generating extra fiber tension. Extra fiber tension on the web helps to ease its entry into the crosslapper infeed carriage. Extra tension on the card web directly results in generating web weaknesses and a cloudy aspect, measurable on the final nonwovens fabric.

As a consequence, most nonwovens producers prefer to run the crosslapper infeed speed

between 70–110 m/min. There are only a few exceptions which are running day and night, 7 days a week at speeds up to 140 m/min. Those producers are using Asselin crosslappers equipped with the Ouatsys system.

The second option to increase the production capacity is to run with heavier card webs, parallel or condensed; and feed the crosslappers as fast as possible, but always at lower speeds than when running with conventional card web weights. Nevertheless, it has not been proven that running with such heavy card's webs really enable higher production rates.

The Ouatsys system introduced in 2003, enhanced the crosslapper productivity with any parallel or condensed card webs.

As speed further increases or as the card web weight increases, the requirement for higher

air suction power increases; in order to keep the web in contact with the rotating cylinder. The Ouatsys system found its limits.

The ACS performances are very interesting. With literally no draft (difference of speeds) between the card and crosslappers infeed speed, it has been possible to reach the performances shown in Fig. 2.

The system clearly improves the whole nonwovens production line productivity with a special increase of production capacity when the process requires the use of a condensed card web. As an additional benefit, it includes no static parts which can detain or scratch the card web structure. It does not use any air vacuum power and does not require any specific cleaning requirement.

ACS can be seen in the nonwovens showroom of NSC. ■

Fig. 1

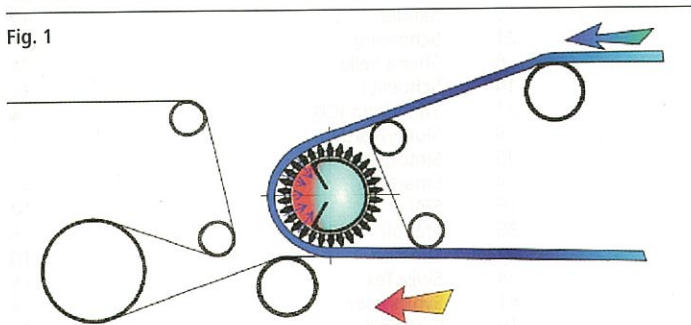
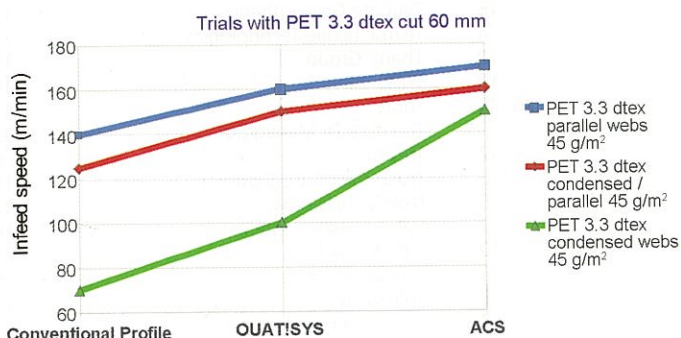


Fig. 2

ACS vs. previous solutions



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