


TOP LEFT: production environment with central pipe and a lot of EM-Modules (exhausting modules) for the extraction and cutting of edge trims and matrix **TOP RIGHT:** press container with air-material-separator, main ventilator and balance ventilator outside the plant. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Josef Thor, Managing Director Matho GmbH; Right Jack Willemsz, Managing Director W&R etiketten shaking hands after finishing installation and acceptance of the system **BOTTOM LEFT:** EM-160 module on every label press, cuts the matrix and edge trim waste and extracts it through the main pipe to the press container outside.

Optimized productivity

A WASTE-HANDLING SYSTEM has helped a Dutch converter to increase productivity. James Quirk reports

W&R Etiketten, based in Tilburg, Netherlands, was faced with a common problem: how to increase productivity despite limited factory space? Expansion of the production hall was impossible, so the company's management looked for alternatives to optimize its existing space as well as improve productivity.

After a detailed evaluation of the products on the market, W&R's managing director Jack Willemsz turned to Ellwangen, Germany-based Matho – a company which develops, designs and produces customized cutting-units and exhausting systems for the label industry as well as other sectors, such as converting, food processing and packaging industries.

Willemsz purchased a CP-6000 integrated waste-handling system for ten printing machines. In the six months since the installation, a further two presses have been adapted to Matho's equipment. Due to its modular structure, this expansion was realized quickly and easily.

'As a result of implementing a central waste-handling system, combined with a high-capacity press container, the waste is exhausted directly at different production lines, chopped into small pieces and disposed through a piping system,' says Willemsz. 'As a result of integrating the new system, up to 60 minutes of working time per day could be saved at each printing machine – this time was formerly needed for the manual handling of the waste material.'

According to Willemsz, an additional advantage of the Matho system is that the tension of the winding-up of the rolls can be kept constant throughout the whole production process.

Previously, web tension had to be controlled and adjusted continuously by the staff to avoid breaking the web and downtime of the machinery.

W&R produces self-adhesive labels and foils. Foil production waste used to be exhausted by a blower and collected in a separate container, but this process has also been optimized. The whole production area is much cleaner today; the extra container for the foil waste could be removed and additional space was gained for future machinery expansion.

By using the press container, the volume of waste has been considerably reduced. Today W&R needs only 35 percent of the waste pick-up by truck as it did in the past – which of course has its added environmental benefits.

Thanks to the change of from manual processes to the machine-aided handling with a central exhausting system, W&R Etiketten has not only seen financial advantages but has also benefited from various side effects: 'The cleaner production environment leaves a lasting impression at W&R customers,' says Jack Willemsz. 'Furthermore, our staff is highly motivated because of the clean and tidy working environment: they can do their proper jobs much more effectively without being disturbed by annoying waste-handling processes.'

Willemsz also believes that the company will recoup its investment quicker than originally anticipated. 'Six months after the installation of the system, it looks like we'll make the money back much earlier than the three years we had predicted.'