Huizhou Fook Woo mulls over tissue expansion

Huizhou Fook Woo Paper is mulling over plans to install two 20,000 ton/year tissue paper machines at its mill in Huizhou city, Guangzhou province, China, in the next two years. The move would be part of the company's efforts to replace the existing small, old tissue machines at the facility with larger ones.

A decision is expected after a new 20,000 ton/year tissue PM and a 110 ton/day deinked pulp (DIP) line come on stream at the plant at the end of this month. The 2.85 m wide machine, an Advantage DCT 60 model from Metso Paper, which also supplied the DIP line, will have a design speed of 1300 m/min. An identical Metso PM was already commissioned at the site in May.

The facility houses 22 other machines with a total capacity of 40,000 tons/year of tissue and 30,000 tons/year of various other grades, including newsprint, chipboard, grey-back coated duplex board and printing paper. Some of these are expected to be retired in the next two years, making room for larger units.

The plant has two DIP lines, one with a recovered paper processing capacity of 65 tons/day and the other 50 tons/day. The Huizhou mill also boasts converting equipment which processes tissue paper into finished products, such as facial and toilet tissue, napkins and towels, for sale in the domestic market and overseas.

More than 70% of the goods are exported to the US, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore. In China, the firm provides private label tissue products to leading retailers such as Wal-Mart and Vanguard.

Benefiting from long-established relationships with customers and an overseas sales network, the firm has weathered the global economic storm pretty well, when many Chinese export-oriented enterprises have been badly hit by weaker demand from major developed economies.

As Chinese consumers prefer tissue products made from virgin fibre, many domestic producers do not make recycled tissue products. Huizhou Fook Woo is one of just a few such manufacturers. It is owned by Hong Kong-based recycler Fook Wo Group, which operates one of the biggest recovered paper sorting plants in Huizhou. News from RISI(www.risinfo.com)

ABB to build new factory in Shanghai

On 16 December 2009, ABB announced that it will be transferring manufacturing of its web inspection systems, WIS HDI800, to a new factory in Shanghai, China. The new Shanghai facility, already under construction, is part of a previously announced transfer of ABB’s Quality Control systems business. The Web Inspection business is currently located in Helsinki, Finland, and is part of ABB’s Process Automation Division, Pulp and Paper Business Unit. Web Inspection Systems are used by the pulp and paper industry to inspect the surface of the paper as it is being produced. Web Inspection Systems can see and report many types of defects including holes, spots and streaks. Using patented neural classifiers, ABB adds intelligence to the system by letting papermakers know exactly what type of defects are occurring thus reducing rejects, saving fiber and reducing energy consumption. ABB, through its ULMA business, has been an industry pioneer in Web Inspection Systems for 40 years.

Organizationaly, ABB operates a business unit dedicated to providing automation and electrification products specifically designed for the pulp and paper industry. This investment is a continuation of ABB’s commitment to supply leading-edge technology to its pulp and paper customers.

According to Roger Bailey, global manager of ABB’s Pulp and Paper business, the decision to merge the Web Inspection factory into the new Quality Control systems factory in Shanghai was based on ABB’s continuing strategy to align its footprint with the market demand. “Given our significant investment in a new state of the art facility to manufacture Quality Control Systems, moving the Web Inspection business is a logical conclusion of that business decision.”

Italian paper machinery manufacturer

Record has reported orders for a complete new tissue machine in Bangladesh and two rewinders for producers in Lucca, Italy. In Bangladesh, the company is to install a complete Crescent Former machine and a complete slitting rewinder of 1500 m/min and trim width of 2200 mm. Start-up is foreseen for the end of January 2010. At Cartiera Ansonia in Porcari (Lucca -Italy) Record is to install a new 1200 m/min rewinder. Start-up is foreseen for the end of January 2010.

America ratified a labour contract that constitutes a master labour agreement applicable to union workers at all SCA Tissue operations. By ratifying the contract, employees at the location gain access to a SCA/USW national framework for wages and benefits, exact terms of which were not disclosed. The contract also includes an agreement to collaborate on productivity improvements and on the creation of a joint health and wellness committee. The pact,