

DILO GROUP
ENGINEERING FOR NONWOVENS

2021

Best wishes for a successful new year



Foto: Andreas Held

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the first time in our lifetime, we were confronted by a pandemic in spring this year and have had to take note of potential consequences. In numerous industry sectors, the economic summit had already been passed mid-2018 and a slowdown and return to normal had become apparent. Then Covid-19 hit the worldwide economy with full force. Consequently, the machine building industry has had to apply its expertise to soften the economic consequences of a recession in numerous sectors. As a big surprise to many people, during

the summer signs of a recovery have been visible which has had impacts on business development in the last few weeks.

DiloGroup with a traditionally high business share in China has experienced this recovery since mid-2020 which resulted in significantly better business prospects for the nonwovens industry as a whole.



High-speed carding line for hydroentangled products

Medical and hygiene products

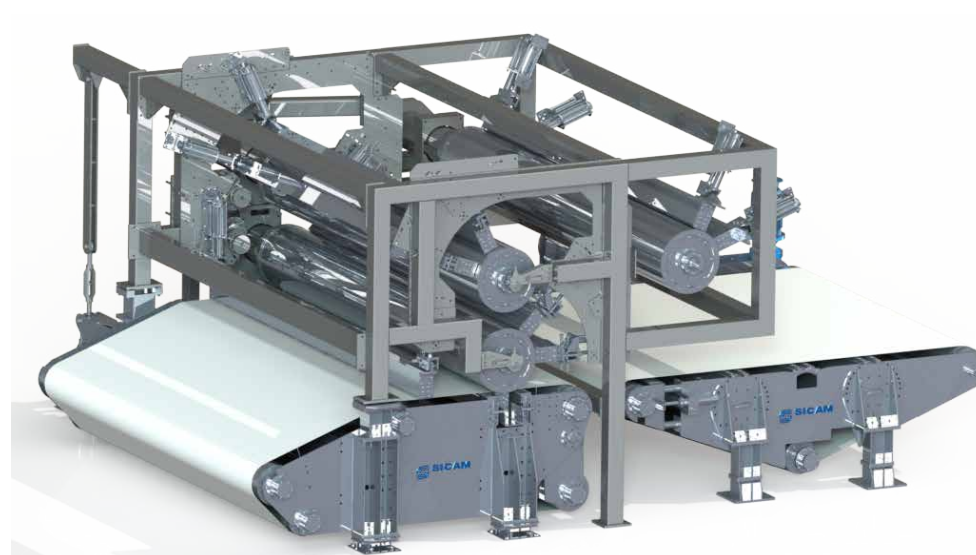
Evidentially, such a medical crisis has increased the need for medical and hygiene nonwoven products which resulted in new orders for machine systems for fibre preparation and web forming of hydroentangled products. In this sector, DiloGroup traditionally stands for large card working widths and high web speeds. In Asia, there is an increased demand for higher cross strength in this kind of product, which can be realized by using the classic random web carding technology or – even better – by combining these production lines with high-speed crosslappers.



High-speed card, working width 5.1 m

In the general field of hydroentangling lines, DiloGroup has had no partnership with a hydroentangling equipment specialist. For this reason, we have not been able to deliver complete hydroentangling production lines as general

contractor starting from fibre preparation to the end of line equipment such as cutting, winding and packaging. The fibre preparation and carding equipment for these lines has been contracted as separate projects directly with the customer.



Hydroentangling unit SICAM

Cooperation with SICAM s.r.l., Italy

However, since mid-2020, there has been a close cooperation with SICAM which enables us to engineer and deliver complete production lines including all components of hydroentangling, drying and end-of-line systems. This cooperation makes DiloGroup a general contractor for hydroentangling lines for the production of lightweight nonwovens from fine fibres with high production capacity. A first project has already been contracted. This marks the beginning of our increased activity in the lightweight and hygiene sector complementing the classical needling and will help to improve our worldwide position in this special field of application.

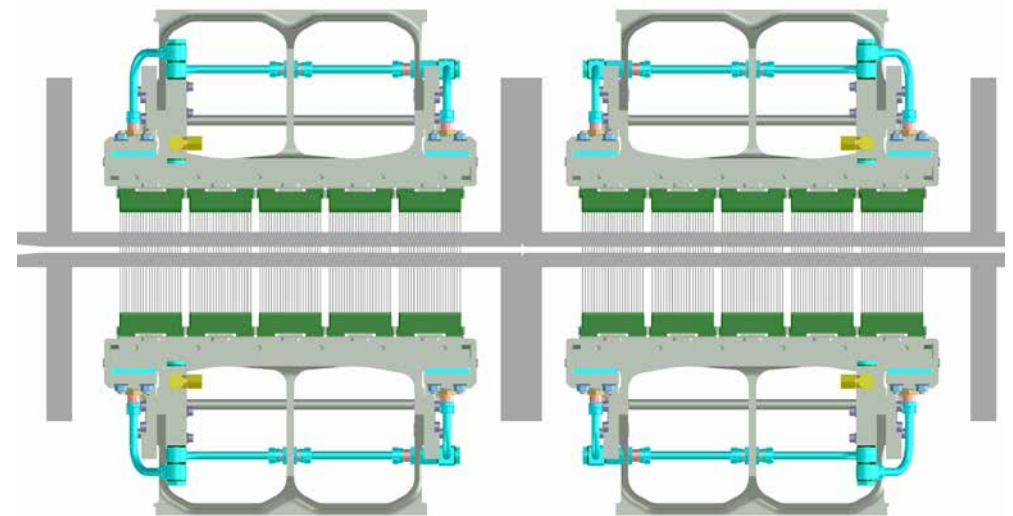


Hydroentangling unit with end-of-line system (SICAM)

Sustainable Nonwovens

In addition, the demand for sustainable nonwoven products is increasing. Political demands for sustainability and for reducing the energy and water consumption in the production phase are well defined. Nonwovens used as disposables should be biologically degradable. This is where we return to the beginning and where DiloGroup with results achieved in the specialization of processing natural and viscose fibres can now gain further experience based on the development work with “MicroPunch”-technology.

The cooperation with partners in the development work has led to successes that also impact the improved lifetime of the needle modules in the intense needling technology. In the meantime, the improved economy of our intense needling process has been confirmed.



MicroPunch Needling Zone

When comparing hydroentangling and needling, it is predictable that the proportion of lightweight needled nonwoven products will dramatically increase in future and that in the area weight range below 50 g/m² the hydroentangling process will continue to prevail. Given the worldwide efforts to reduce energy and water consumption for ecological reasons, being able to offer both technologies is a good base for further increasing business forecasts across the whole nonwovens industry.

At the end of the year, I send best wishes for a Happy New Year, good health, fortune and success, and look forward to meeting with you and for continuing cooperation.



Johann Philipp Dilo

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