



Manfred Göpperl & Emil Huber

BUILDING WHAT OTHERS CAN'T

Deep in the heart of Bavaria, close to the Alps and Austria, lies the gleaming new production facility of Brückner Textile Technologies. The 25,000 m² state-of-the-art factory has allowed the company to double production capacity thanks to new production equipment including an LVD *Easy-Form*[®] tandem press brake.

Brückner Textile Technologies manufactures standard and customised textile drying and finishing lines. It ships these around the world, predominantly to Asia and the Far East but also to Africa and South America as well as Europe. The textiles processed on the line not only include clothing fabrics, but also carpets, industrial textiles, glass fibre, hygiene products and construction materials.

Works Director Manfred Göpperl says: "We will build anything the

customer wants, whether that is a standard system, or a special machine designed from scratch, but it is a hard-fought market, with lots of competition from manufacturers in low-wage economies. Customers come to us because we can build them lines that other companies cannot. Made in Germany means something to our customers too - it is about quality and innovation."

Brückner's old press brakes could bend up to 5 m, but there was a growing demand from customers

for carpet drying lines 5.2 m wide. The working width determines the longest parts that need to be formed, in particular the nozzles that the drying air is blown through.

Emil Huber, who is responsible for procurement in production planning, says: "We had two options: make the nozzle plates in two parts and then join them together, which meant a big extra workload, or subcontract them out. Using a subcontractor added significant manufacturing and logistics costs

– and there were also problems with delivery times. We weren't in control of the production process.”

As well as bending capacity, a key consideration when selecting a new machine was accuracy.

The most critical components in the line are the transport rails on which the feed chains run. The textile being processed is picked up on either side by pins or clips which transport it through the line at speeds of up to 300 m/minute. The material is also stretched widthwise to keep it taut so that it does not shrink during drying.

The lines are divided into 3 m bays, and each bay has a pair of chain rails. They have to be accurately aligned with the rails in the next bay to ensure that there are no collisions or rubbing. They must also have a constant tolerance over their whole length to avoid uneven wear.

The rails are made on a press brake from 5 mm steel plate and, according to Emil Huber, the aim is to achieve higher processing accuracy. “Ideally we aim after six bends for plus or minus 0.2 mm along the whole length of the chain rail.

“When it came to finding a potential supplier, we started off by looking at some well-known manufacturers, but it seemed to us that the press brake designs had not moved on since we bought our old machines twenty years ago.”

“LVD was the only supplier that could show us the accuracy we were



Textile drying line

aiming for. LVD really understood the challenge and worked hard to achieve what we wanted.”

He says that when it came to making the decision to buy an LVD machine, all the individual advantages it had over the competition added up to a compelling argument.

“We wanted accuracy, so the *Easy-Form*® adaptive angle control system was important, so was the quality of the sample parts and the fact that the control and software all came from LVD too. It was clear to me that LVD had been constantly thinking about and developing its bending solution over the past twenty odd years.

This was maybe the most decisive factor for us.”

“We originally planned to buy a single 6 m press brake but talking to LVD we realised the advantages of a tandem machine.”

“Most of our bending work is up to 4.5 m long, which is why we chose two 4.5 m machines. To give us the capacity we need for standard line components we can use them as two separate press brakes, but when we need to bend a longer part for a special line, we're covered for that too – we have both options in one machine.”

