

SNOWBALLING SUCCESS – QUICKSWITCH TECHNOLOGY FOR INLINE DIMENSION CHANGE

Major pipe producers are investing in high-efficiency QuickSwitch system from KraussMaffei Berstorff

Munich, July, 20 2011 – Pipe producers are facing unrelenting pressure to keep prices low and to meet customers' needs for supply flexibility. Rising raw materials prices and the worldwide trend to cutting resource consumption are driving demand for cost-competitive pipe production systems. In this environment, many major pipe producers in Europe have invested in the highly-efficient QuickSwitch system from KraussMaffei Berstorff, which boosts flexibility and reduces material consumption.

Investments in single- and multi-layer PO pipe extrusion systems

“We're delighted that, especially in the European market, our QuickSwitch system is making a major contribution to efficient pipe production,” emphasized Andreas Kessler, Sales Manager, Extrusion Technology, KraussMaffei Technologies GmbH.

“Not only our regular customers, but also new entrants to the market are choosing KraussMaffei Berstorff's patented system for inline dimension change to avoid interrupting production processes,” says Kessler.

A Belgian customer of KraussMaffei Berstorff ordered two complete production lines for the diameter ranges 25 - 63 mm and 70 - 160 mm. Core components of the systems are the tried-and-tested KraussMaffei Berstorff 36D single-screw extruder, spiral distributor pipehead and QuickSwitch calibration technology. Another complete line for pipe in the 160 - 250 mm diameter range is being installed in the German plant of one of the world's major pipe producers. This line also features KraussMaffei Berstorff's Internal Pipe Cooling (IPC) system which will enable the producer to step up output without the cost of a longer cooling zone. A customer in Italy will soon be producing multilayer PO pipe up to 160 mm on a new QuickSwitch system.

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Short tapering section of pipe – the only waste produced during a QuickSwitch dimension change

Boosting competitive advantage with flexible production, short order lead times and small batches

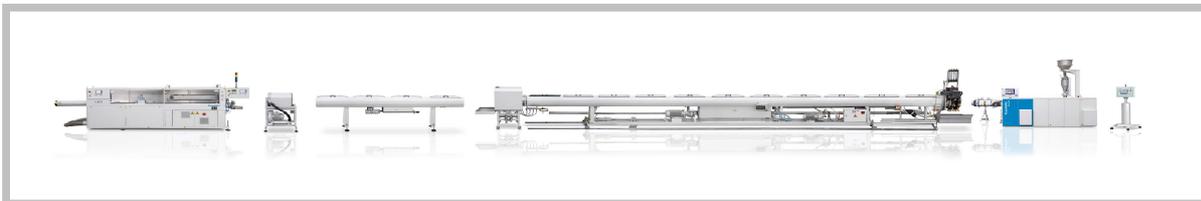
The QuickSwitch system developed by KraussMaffei Berstorff hugely increases flexibility, because producers can change pipe dimensions along the entire production line within minutes at the touch of a button. At the heart of the system is the QuickSwitch calibrating basket. The only waste material resulting from the dimension change is a short piece of tapering pipe. The labor- and material-intensive work processes involved in a conventional pipe dimension change are completely eliminated. “This obviously has substantial benefits for producers, ranging from huge savings in material, labor and storage costs to far more flexibility to respond to customer requests for small batches and short order lead times,” points out Kessler.

As standard, KraussMaffei Berstorff offers QuickSwitch systems for producing polyolefin pipe in the diameter ranges 25 – 63 mm, 70 – 160 mm and 160 – 250 mm. Special diameter ranges are available on request. The company also offers a QuickSwitch system for 75 – 160 mm diameter PVC pipe. Already installed production lines can be converted in affordable stages to flexible QuickSwitch systems by investing in individual QuickSwitch modules.

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QuickSwitch extrusion line for polyolefin pipe

Photos

Photo QuickSwitch_Konus.jpg: Short tapering section of pipe – the only waste produced by a QuickSwitch dimension change

Photo QuickSwitch_Linie.jpg: QuickSwitch extrusion line for polyolefin pipe

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KraussMaffei company profile

In terms of sales, KraussMaffei is world market leader in machines and systems for plastics and rubber processing. With its three divisions – Injection Molding Technology, Extrusion Technology and Reaction Process Machinery – KraussMaffei is a premium partner for the plastics and rubber processing industries worldwide.

The group markets its products under the KraussMaffei, KraussMaffei Berstorff and Netstal brands. The KraussMaffei brand covers the whole spectrum of injection and reaction molding technology, while the KraussMaffei Berstorff brand stands for successful extrusion solutions. The injection molding machines of Netstal, our Swiss subsidiary, meet the highest of requirements imposed on process implementation, parts quality and production performance and are mainly used to make highly sophisticated technical and thin-walled plastic parts.

With over 100 years' of expertise and know-how in machinery for plastics and rubber processing, KraussMaffei is today a major technology and process partner for industry. The group offers a wide range of solutions that includes specialized and fully integrated turnkey systems. Headquartered in Munich, the company operates a worldwide network of 140 subsidiaries and sales agencies, and deploys over 570 service technicians, ensuring fast response and closeness to customers everywhere.