CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

When integrated Swedish mill Holmen Paper Hallsta wanted to further enhance its book paper production process, it called on ANDRITZ to carry out a rather unique project of utilizing two second-hand twin wire presses, and an existing, pre-used screw press to increase capacity and improve pulp quality for its PM 12.

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In an effort to continually improve the quality of its book paper grades Holmen Hallsta decided that it needed to look into its water management between the TMP line and PM 12, and particularly at the dewatering stage.

Due to machine movements and conversions in the past, the dewatering stage between the TMP line and PM 12 at the mill was always considered to be a temporary arrangement, and the plan had been to improve the system as soon as the time was right. In the meantime, the mill managed to acquire two 15-year-old ANDRITZ twin wire presses from another Holmen mill, at the same time as having an ANDRITZ screw press from a DIP line that was shut down at Hallsta Paper Mill in the past. It was decided by the mill that it would be a good idea to utilize all three dewatering presses for the improvement project.

“The twin wire presses we acquired, as well as the screw press, were still in excellent condition, which gives an idea of the engineering and manufacturing quality of ANDRITZ equipment. We decided that utilizing the equipment we had would be an excellent solution for our needs for improving pulp washing for PM12,” says Rydstrand.

ANDRITZ TRUSTED TECHNOLOGY WITH FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCCESS

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With its long history in dewatering technologies – ANDRITZ built its first dewatering press in 1950 – the company was the perfect fit for the project at Holmen Hallsta. ANDRITZ has now built and supplied more than 600 twin wire presses and 500 screw presses to pulp and paper mills around the world, but, most importantly for this project, it also has vast experience in servicing both types of presses,

Holmen Hallsta and Holmen Paper Hallsta

Erik Sandgren, Project Manager, Holmen Paper Hallsta, says, “I have been working on various projects here for over 30 years, and I know that ANDRITZ always does a good job. We can always trust that they take full responsibility for the end result.”

Fast forward to 2018, and the mill has been through the recent market shakeups of graphic paper decline, particularly in newsprint, and has become adept at adapting to different market needs. In early 2014, Holmen Hallsta got out of newsprint production altogether and concentrated its two remaining machines, PM 11 and PM 12, on making lightweight uncoated and book papers respectively.

Magnus Rydstrand, Production Engineer, TMP, Holmen Paper Mill says, “The strategy from Holmen Paper recently has been to get away from newsprint production completely and to focus on making higher quality papers using virgin fiber. In this area of Sweden we have a lot of access to wood, particularly spruce, which we now use for 100% of our products coming out of the mill.”

“We converted PM12 to Holmen BOOK grades in the process of closing down PM4, 11 years ago.”

Holmen Hallsta sends its 570,000 t/a of paper products from the mill in Sweden mainly to the European market, including the Nordics, Germany, UK, Netherlands, Poland, and France.

AN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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integrating second-hand equipment, rebuilds, retrofits, upgrades, as well as spare and wear parts and consumables.

In the case of Hallsta Paper Mill, ANDRITZ was contracted to refurbish, install, commission, and start up all three dewatering presses. This included the overhaul and reutilization of the two second-hand wire presses, the relocation and light overhaul of the existing screw press, rebuilds and relocation of two existing conveyors, installation of a new conveyor, and basic engineering and erection.

The first customer contact was in January 2015, with the contract and project start taking place in March 2018. Start-up took place just seven months later in November 2018, after major works undertaken by Hallsta Paper Mill in civil construction, and the installation of tanks, pipes and piping, and agitators.

AN UNUSUAL PROJECT WITH VERSATILE RESULTS

This was an exceptional project, even for ANDRITZ, as much that installation took place using two different types of dewatering technology, the twin wire and screw presses, both pre-used. Henrik Fernström, ANDRITZ Product Manager, Dewatering and Pulping, says, “Utilizing a screw press in this process stage was unusual, thus challenging. However, it was obvious to integrate it, since this piece of equipment was at the mill already.”

“The screw press was almost ready to be integrated in the new line, but the wire presses had to be dismantled for transport,” adds Patrik Rådmans, ANDRITZ Project Manager, Pulp & Paper Services. “The condition of the twin wire presses was really good. After refurbishment of the rolls, and due to the stainless steel construction, they looked like new machines. Yes, there were some parts that needed replacing, but after the refurbishment work over four or five months, both twin wire presses were as good as new.

“We refurbished most of the moving parts and bearing housings, blasted and painted them to keep them running for years to come, and replaced all rubber covers and seals as they had perished a bit after 15 years. The motors were all pretty much intact; we just serviced them and checked them over.”

The refurbished presses were connected, commissioned and started up during a short shutdown at the mill in November last year.

“The result is that the quality of the dewatering of the pulp that we are producing has been improved, and the amount of bleaching chemicals has been reduced, it has also increased the productivity of the pulp.”

“ANDRITZ continues to assist us in optimizing both the twin wire presses and the screw press to achieve this, but already it can be seen that we will obtain even better results than the ones we were expecting when we first embarked on this project.”

Mahir Mehinagic, Product Engineer, Twin Wire Press, ANDRITZ, says, “This was a really interesting project we took part in at Hallsta Paper Mill, and the mill team was a pleasure to work with. Even though this was a used equipment project, the presses looked like new when they were installed and started up, and we can all be happy that such reliable equipment from ANDRITZ is up and running again.”

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