

Sumitomo (SHI) Demag recruits respected process engineering academic

Schwaig, June 25, 2019 - Sumitomo (SHI) Demag Plastics Machinery GmbH has intensified its application and process engineering capabilities with the appointment of respected academic Dr. Thorsten Thümen.

As Head of Application and Process Engineering, Dr. Thorsten Thümen, who joined the company on April 1, 2019, is responsible for aligning Sumitomo (SHI) Demag's application, plasticising technologies and Industry 4.0 technology-led developments.

The teams, led by Dr. Thümen, now report into an Application Centre (AC) hub. This is intentionally designed to foster greater collaboration across the company's two sites in Schwaig and Wiehe. As well as helping to troubleshoot processing issues for customers, the AC will also focus on delivering real-time process optimisation support and training. Dr. Thümen replaces former Head of Application Engineering and Training, Mr. Andreas Schramm, who has left the company to pursue new professional challenges.

Meeting future plastic production demands

CEO Gerd Liebig explains the rationale for bringing all these customer-centric support and troubleshooting functions under the direction of Dr. Thümen. *"As customers strive to boost their production output rates and maintain their competitive edge, we will assist them to react to market demands by providing application-led consultancy and professional development support and services, customised to their needs. Spearheaded by Dr. Thümen, the Sumitomo (SHI) Demag AC will focus on providing the most responsive manufacturing support and industry insight to customers."*

Last year, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag invested significant resources repositioning its product portfolio and increasing production capacity at the two German locations. The strategic realignment of both sites resulted in faster machinery delivery times and a 50 per cent increase in platen machine capacities. The Germany-based machinery manufacturer is now focused on developing the right technologies to continue its leadership in the packaging market, as well as applying its application know how and precision moulding expertise to support growth in the automotive and medical sectors.

Building a digital-led ecosystem

Dr. Thümen comments: *"Sumitomo (SHI) Demag has a very clear market strategy and focus. By bringing together the development of applications with providing hands on customer support and practical training,*

we will be better equipped to analyse customers' current production challenges and respond accordingly, adapting technology solutions so they are future proof. This could range from guidance on processing recycled, renewable or special plastic materials to clear direction on sourcing the optimal processing technology to increase productivity and boost Total Cost of Ownership," he adds.

In addition to processing technology, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag will also continue to take the industry lead on developing wider competence and skills. This includes making it easier for customer to connect with practitioners throughout the network and scaling up investments in Smart Factory solutions and IoT technologies. By synchronising data, this will facilitate faster real time production decisions and drive future strategic decision making. *"New business models are emerging every day and these developments are continuing to reshape our digital framework. For long term competitiveness these digital ecosystems need to be robust and sustainable,"* clarifies Dr. Thümen.

Noting that Sumitomo (SHI) Demag already has some market-leading innovations to support self-optimising control, including the active technology range, Dr. Thümen's immediate focus is to create an overarching digitalisation roadmap. He explains: *"Successful digitalisation requires a holistic approach, bring different concepts together. Rather than taking an insular approach we being customer-centric and examining all aspects of our digitised business model. Like any ecosystem, we need a solid platform to nurture growth, and strong investment in R&D."*

To achieve this alignment, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag is fostering partnerships with other industry players, as well as academic institutions to leverage specific expertise. *"Aligning all technologies and support services is like building a digital ecosystem. Our customers seek flexibility and production control. Yet, more than anything they want assurance of a unified experience."*

Delivering training when and where customers want it is another aspect to the AC programme. Germany already has plans in motion to replicate the company's highly successful UK Academy. The company's plan is to implement a globally accredited training concept with modular courses that could be rolled out via local subsidiaries and tailored to regional skill variations and customers' needs.

Dr. Thorsten Thümen studied mechanical design at the University of Paderborn, majoring in plastics processing. He completed a doctoral thesis on the optimisation of plasticising systems. The 44 year old specialist from Paderborn also has many years of experience in research and development roles in the (injection moulding) machine sphere.

Dr. Thümen will be at K 2019 for the entire duration of the show. Come by and introduce yourself, Hall 15 Stand D22.

Illustrations



<Thuemen.jpg>

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Sumitomo (SHI) Demag Plastics Machinery GmbH

Sumitomo (SHI) Demag has shaped the development of the plastics industry from its very beginning. As a specialist for injection moulding machines for plastics processing, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag and its Japanese parent company are leading the industry.

The global development and production network of Sumitomo Heavy Industries and Sumitomo (SHI) Demag is comprised of four facilities in Japan, Germany and China with more than 3,000 employees. The product portfolio includes all-electric, hydraulic and hybrid injection moulding machines with clamping forces

of between 180 and 15.000 kN. With more than 125,000 installed machines, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag is present in important global markets and ranks among the largest manufacturers of injection moulding machines in the world.

At Sumitomo's headquarters in Chiba, Japan, the company manufactures machines with clamping forces in the small to medium range. Nearly 95 % of all delivered machines are equipped with an all-electric drive concept. Sumitomo (SHI) Demag's German facilities in Schwaig and Wiehe produce the Systec Servo range with hybrid drive as well as the EI-Exis SP and Systec SP range of high-speed, high-performance machines. The all-electric IntElect range for international customers is also being produced in Germany.

As early as 1998, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag set up its first production site in Ningbo/China. In 2015, the Chinese subsidiary Demag Plastics Machinery (Ningbo) Co., Ltd. installed a new facility with a 13,000 m² floor space. It is earmarked for the production of the Systec C range with clamping forces of between 500 and 10,000 kN for the Asian market.

In addition to injection moulding machines, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag offers customised and standardised systems for the part handling automation, technical and process solutions for special applications, tailored services and service concepts as well as a range of financial options to support investment in injection moulding machines.

With its comprehensive sales and service network of subsidiaries and agencies, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag is present in all major markets.