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Cartiere Del Garda is located in the picturesque town of Riva Del Garda in northern Italy. Two paper machines produce 350,000 tonnes of WFC paper a year, with a wide variety range of 90–400 g/m². The philosophy of Cartiere del Garda is to be flexible and achieve the highest possible performance in terms of reliability, efficiency and quality.

Buying knowhow

boosts competitiveness of Cartiere del Garda

Valmet's press nip analysis service increased production and saved money, but also helped to gain fundamental knowhow.

TEXT Minea Hara, Kaisamajja Marttila

Lectra Group's Cartiere del Garda mill in Riva del Garda, Italy, decided to utilize Valmet's iRoll Portable press nip analysis service to resolve a problem with moisture profiles and reduced press felt lifetime. In addition to increasing production and saving money, the mill gained fundamental knowhow to further strengthen their position in the market.

"In order to succeed in the papermaking market, knowledge is vital," says **Antonio di Blas**, Production Manager at Cartiere del Garda. "If you lose the knowhow, you lose your margin and you're out".

Finding an accurate measurement solution

The mill had noticed an increase in the wearing of the fabrics on its PM 3 and suspected that the problem was caused by a press nip overloading effect. "Despite conducting infrared and temperature measurements, the fabric lifetime kept decreasing, and we were not able to measure anything useful or find partners to help us. So we started looking for other options, including new technologies, and we learned about Valmet's iRoll technology," explains di Blas.

The iRoll Portable press nip analysis service combines dynamic nip profile measurement with the capability of doing testing in real process conditions. "We soon understood the possibilities of iRoll measurement technology in the press section. For example, we could measure

dynamically over a long time period, which sounded fantastic for us.”

iRoll improved runnability in the press section

The iRoll Portable analysis took place in April 2015. The measurements showed that the nip loading was actually low in the area where the felt was wearing quickly.

“As a result, we added extra cooling to the Nipco oil distribution system, and the Nipco itself was loaded based on parameters drawn up with Valmet’s specialists

according to the measurement results,” says di Blas. The mill started adjusting the nip in manual mode with the new loading profiles suggested by Valmet.

For Cartiere del Garda, utilizing iRoll technology was justified not only from a problem-solving perspective, but also from a knowhow point of view.

Longer lifetimes and better profiles

Within just a couple of months, the changes made based on the iRoll Portable Analysis results were showing positive results. The felt lifetime was increased from 30 days



“Surviving in the market has to do with finding solutions for improving a certain part of your process instead of making huge investments,” says Antonio di Blas, Production Manager at Cartiere del Garda (left), pictured with Mr. Stevanato Loris, operator on the PM 3 and Maurizio Sala from Valmet.

to 50 thanks to less wearing, which means a reduction from using 12 felts every year to eight. In addition, moisture profiles and reeling performance have improved, and the cover lifetime of the press roll has grown longer, resulting in reduced maintenance and regrinding costs.

Above all, the better profiles mean that production has increased due to improved runnability and higher speeds. "As the wrinkles have disappeared, we have been able to increase the speed of the machine by 30 meters a minute. For us, that's really a lot," says di Blas.

"We are really satisfied with Valmet's service and the results," di Blas reflects. "We got a solution to our problem. Actually, it was a double success: we got an accurate technical explanation plus a 'free-of-charge' solution for further savings." ■

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iRoll Portable measures and optimizes nip profiles

The iRoll Portable service provides cost-effective process analysis and advanced nip profile measurements for improving sheet quality and optimizing nip profiles.

- Designed for press nips, sizers, reels, winders and coaters
- Analyzes paper and fabric tension profiles
- Traditional nip film and electrical blanket measurements are replaced with sensitive film sensors mounted on the surface of the roll
- Measured nip profiles are visualized in true dynamic running conditions.

Benefits achieved at Cartiere del Garda:

Press felt lifetime increased from 30 days to 50

Machine speed increased by 30 m/min

Increased cover lifetime of the press roll



↑ "In our case, we were able to improve the press section's runnability by introducing iRoll technology", says Antonio di Blas, Production Manager at Cartiere del Garda.