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## **Autefa Solutions increases capability of fibers supply chain**



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### **New concept of AUTEFA improves automatic fiber logistics productivity and quality**

AUTEFA Solutions Germany, world market leader of automatic fiber logistics and manufacturer of hydraulic fiber presses presented a new machine concept two years ago with the UNI-FORK. The UNI-FORK optimizes the process of pressing a bale, increases the efficiency of the process and improves the quality of the fiber packing. In the meantime the process reached marketability and machines have already been installed at customers of AUTEFA Solutions successfully.

One of the customers is Shandong Yingli in China. As one of the first Chinese companies Shandong Yingli produces Lyocell fibers. Lyocell is an industrially produced regenerated fiber based on cellulose, produced with direct wet spinning process. Lyocell fibers are used for different applications such as textiles in the medical area and as nonwoven product for hygienic and cosmetics products. Using the fiber in the hygienic industry means highest requirements for the bale packing, Therefore Shandong Yingli was interested in the new solution of AUTEFA. Shandong Yingli was also convinced of the total concept with the extensive optimization of the process. For this reason the company bought a fully-automatic fiber press from AUTEFA.

### **The concept of UNI-FORK and AD-WRAP**

The UNI-FORK intelligent concept saves costs with a very small investment for a fully automatic process while improving quality. The central idea of the system is to use one transfer fork for one or more prepresses and to operate one or more main presses. At Shandong Yingli the

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cut Lyocell fiber of two (or more) independently working fiber lines go via a condenser to two (or more) AUTEFA pre-presses and are pre-compacted to a bale. These pre-compacted bales are taken out with the central working UNI-FORK on a rotating basis of the pre-presses and handed over to a central main-press. The main-press compresses the bale totally and makes the strapping around the bale. Afterwards the bales will be packed with two overlapping, elastic stretch hoods of polyethylene (AD-WRAP). In this way, the packing of the fiber bale is completely protected against dirt, foreign fibers (like hair) and insects. It has protection against contamination like no other type of packing. For every kind of hygienic fiber, it is a significant improvement, avoiding waste, decreasing costs and improving sustainability of the supply chain. Companies who still strap and pack manually can quickly profit with the AD-WRAP. A return on investment can be recognized in approximately 1.5 years.

Other advantages of the UNI-FORK are the high total capacity of up to 60 bales/h per main press, the gentle fiber transfer and the universal usability. Not only high-performance fiber lines with over 300 tons per day but also small fiber lines for aramid, polypropylene or colored fibers can be designed individually.

UNI-FORK and AD-WRAP from AUTEFA Solutions are known worldwide, are unique and are protected by a patent. Both machines together form a system which leads to a strong reduction of personnel costs, high availability of the machine and a short amortization period.

Picture: AUTEFA Solutions bale press with UNI-FORK

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