

CMC Texpan – a reliable partner in plant engineering

By Ralf Griesche

For a fourth of a century Siempelkamp and CMC Texpan have been business partners. Forming machines and other aggregates for wood-based material production plants are developed and built in cooperation. I visited the plant in Colzate, Italy and talked to Dr. Dario Zoppetti, president of CMC Texpan, to recognize our excellent cooperation of 25 years.



Dr. Dario Zoppetti

A little bit of history

CMC S.r.l. (Carpenterie Metalliche di Colzate) was founded in 1962 by Dr. Zoppetti's father and a few other businessmen as a metal-working company.

In 1972, after completing a technical program of studies at a university, Dr. Zoppetti joined the company and started a cooperation with ELMAG SpA, the representative office of the Siempelkamp Group in Italy. Thus, the road leading towards products for the wood-based material industry was taken.

CMC began to produce machinery and plants for the wood industry such as loading and unloading equipment, finishing lines for furniture components and vibrating screens.

In 1976 Texpan SpA was founded as a spin-off of the ELMAG with the intent to focus on the field of particleboard production.

In 1980 CMC cooperated directly with Siempelkamp and started to build forming machines for different wood-based material types (PB, MDF, OSB).

In the following 15 years CMC grew immensely, doubled its production capacity and took over the expertise and personnel of Texpan in 1997. The label CMC Texpan now offers the production and engineering of machines.

In 2005 Siempelkamp increased its share in CMC Texpan to 40 % and thus, underlined their trust in the company after a successful cooperation of many years.

Reflecting on these milestones, Dr. Zoppetti says: "The formed alliances helped us conquer new products and markets. The strategic partnership with Siempelkamp provided us with contracts

for forming machines, amongst others, which we as subcontractor built according to Siempelkamp drawings. This area amounts to about 30 % of our orders. Another 30 % is machinery that we developed on our own and, including the associated engineering, offer to the wood-based products industry. With our expertise and experience we have become the number one when it comes to the construction of forming machines for forming and press lines."

The CMC Texpan range of products consists, next to forming machines, of storage bins for chips and strands, mat scales, saws, and loading



The work unit submarine full of batteries



The manned control submarine

and unloading equipment for short-cycle presses. With this offering CMC Texpan makes about 70% of its sales with the wood industry.

Off to new shores

"The remaining sales are generated with challenging projects in the field of metal working," notes Zoppetti.

Just recently two submarines for a power supplier in Venezuela were produced.

One submarine is going to be used as a work unit and the other as a manned control unit. Both are designed to open the turbine valves of a dam in a depth of 40 m and carry out inspections.

"This order was a challenge for the entire team. The project brought out the strengths of our company; flexibility, the dedication of our employees and the quality of our work are the traits that make us so interesting to the market.

We will continue cultivating these characteristics in the future because we know the market will reward us for it. Just recently we received the order for three more submarines."

Nobody should think that CMC Texpan is turning into a shipyard for submarines, moving down the little river of Serio running through Colzate and disappearing into the Mediterranean Sea. However, a healthy diversification in different fields is close to Zoppetti's heart.

"We are concentrating on machinery for the production of wood-based products which is a field that generates profit for us. At the same time we are becoming established in other fields which will help us compensate possible losses and research new industrial sectors.

The principle of a continuing improvement process is important to me. To achieve this principle within a manageable timeframe,

you need small units which operate flexibly, dynamically, quickly, and aggressively in the market and are willing to take risks. Our company in Colzate with its 70 employees has mastered all this and we are proud of it."

No doubt, the company, allocated over several locations, is well organized. All processes such as cutting, welding, and machining are carried out on state-of-the-art machinery by highly motivated and well-trained employees most of which have been with the company for decades. Still I am curious for how long such a company can operate efficiently paying the high European wages.

"The market will decide for how much longer we can afford it," answers Zoppetti, "Sure, hourly wages and transport costs are very high but quality and reliability are rare these days. Many customers are willing to pay a fair price for them in many cases. The question of whether to purchase products, produce them in a low-wage country or produce these products here in Italy has to be weighed up as the case arises.

We already operate double-tracked because we also have a production location in Rumania. Thus, in my opinion, we can easily withstand the competition and can calmly await the challenges of the years ahead."

The interview was conducted by
Mr. Ralf Griesche



The work unit in total



Discharging bunkers