

Press Release

F'IS-Voith Partnership in Paper Bears First Fruit

New paper machine with integral process control and monitoring system for LEIPA – Some 400 sensors ensure early damage detection

Herzogenrath, October 15, 2003 – The partnership between FAG Industrial Services GmbH (F'IS) and Voith Paper Automation, a division of Heidenheim-based Voith Paper, has achieved its first spectacular success. In a cooperative agreement signed in February this year, the two companies announced their intention to pursue the integration of the F'IS online vibration monitoring system VibroCheck into the complete, web-based process monitoring system of Voith paper machines. LEIPA Georg Leinfelder GmbH, based at Schwedt, is the first company to deploy a paper machine with this fully integrated process control and monitoring system. The new machine, which will operate at LEIPA as PM4, is designed for an annual production volume of 300,000 tons LWC offset paper. Comprising a wire width of 8,900 millimeters, the machine is to be operated at production speeds of 1,800 meters per minute. To enable the early detection of bearing damage, the press and guide rolls as well as the drying cylinders are monitored by a total of almost 400 sensors, which transmit the measured values to the monitoring system. This is the first system to incorporate a web-based visualization, which displays the condition status on the same screen as the parameters of the production process.

Through their cooperation, the two internationally operating companies made allowances for the fact that the unplanned shutdown of production facilities causes extremely high costs, especially in the paper industry. Now as before the most reliable method of detecting pending failure in the machines at an early stage is the permanent online monitoring of vibration and temperatures as well as the diagnosis through correspondingly trained experts. The integration of innovative F'IS condition monitoring systems enables Voith Paper, one of the two largest paper machine manufacturers in the world, to offer a complete system including control and monitoring option from one source. Moreover the online monitoring system represents a service instrument that permits the company permanent machine control via the Internet from any point in the world.

FAG Industrial Services GmbH (F'IS)

Since the beginning of 2001, FAG Kugelfischer AG, a company of the Schaeffler Group, has been focusing its service business in FAG Industrial Services GmbH (F'IS), headquartered at Herzogenrath near Aachen. As an independent company, F'IS offers its maintenance services and service products on a manufacturer-neutral basis, so helping customers to save maintenance costs, optimize machine availability and avoid unexpected machine downtime.

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