

29 May 2008

New high speed 4,000m labelstock slitler

The first of Alpha Converting's new ALPHATWIN HR twin shafted slitler rewinders has been delivered to a major European labelstock manufacturer. It is the second rewindeer the company has purchased from Bedfordshire, UK, based Alpha Converting in the last two years.

The HR meets the demand for higher operating efficiencies through automation of knife set up and core positioning and the rewinding of larger diameter rolls – it can wind 4,000m long rolls up to 1m diameter at speeds of 600 m/minute. It complements Alpha Converting's standard ALPHATWIN 800 mm rewind diameter format, which was displayed on its stand at Drupa 2008.

"The customer was attracted to the ALPHATWIN HR because of its integrated automation and fast changeover for different slitting patterns," says Simon King, Alpha's managing director. "Slitting patterns can be stored in the computerised recipe system, downloaded from the factory management system or entered directly at the machine by the operator while the machine is running.

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ALPHATWIN HR slitler rewindeer.



ALPHATWIN HR – unwind.



ALPHATWIN HR – side view.



ALPHATWIN HR – rewinds after slitting.

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“Integrated with the automatic knife setting is rewind core laser positioning,” he said. “Even for a skilled operator, setting up a job is time consuming – our auto-knife system will typically reposition both sets of knives in 75 seconds, no matter how complex the job.”

The ALPHATWIN HR (HR stands for horizontal displaced rewinds) is equipped with captive Alpha differential shafts for winding paper and plastic based pressure sensitive products to ensure the optimum formation of large diameter rolls, aided by independent control of both the centre and surface drives to the two shafts.

On completion of a job, top and bottom slitting knives are automatically repositioned for the next slitting pattern by Alpha’s own patented knife setting system. The operator has only to load cores on to the rewind mandrels, positioning them to a laser line projected from above, which is automatically set from the slitting pattern.

The HR’s overhead web path keeps the floor clear for automated unloading of the rewind rolls on powered trolleys with inbuilt scissor lifts.

The machine supplied includes a full roll handling system with the roll lifter and manipulator positioned to the side of the machine for placing rolls directly on to shipping pallets. The roll handling system removes the need for manual handling of the rolls by the operator.

The ALPHATWIN HR can be supplied with shaftless unwinds for mill rolls up to 1,600 mm diameter and four tonnes in weight and vacuum splice table for easy splicing of the web.

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ALPHATWIN HR – reel being removed.