

TOOLING

Compact modular extrusion dies are half original size

The DSS Compact Coex die from Dual Spiral Systems is a new modular extrusion die for blown film and tubing.

The company has cut the height and weight of the die in half, compared to its traditional multi-layer DSS modular die system.

Benefits of the new die include: faster heat up time, due to lower die mass; lower residence time, and consequent faster purging, due to shorter flow passages; 60% less energy consumption due to

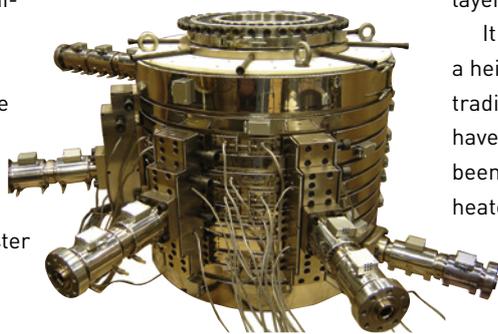
reduced heat requirement; and greater flexibility in running different resins.

The company recently manufactured a 22-layer version of the die. It is set up

with five extruders: extruders A&E feed two layers each, while extruders B,C and D each feed six layers. The die can be arranged with any combination of extruder-to-layers configuration.

It weighs 3865kg and has a height of 819mm. A traditional version would have weighed 7400kg and been 1610mm high. Total heater wattage for the die has also been reduced, from 173,000W to 68,000W.

www.dualspiralsystems.com



CONTROL

Easy-to-use extrusion controllers



West Control Solutions has introduced the PlastX family of temperature controllers for plastics and rubber extrusion.

An easy-to-use menu features pre-populated setup fields with default parameters for plastic applications. This, together with the removal of unnecessary options, ensures that configuration is straightforward and fast to implement, says West.

The controllers provide both 'heat only' and 'heat/cool' control in the same instrument. Units can be quickly converted to process indicators, reducing the need to stock multiple products for extrusion applications.

PlastX controllers are available in a compact 1/16 DIN size (48 x 48mm) and 1/8 DIN size (48 x 96mm). Standard features include process and loop alarms, with LED indicators for the band and low alarms. An LED indicator is also present during auto-tuning. The controller has one universal input, multiple output configurations and optional Modbus RS485 communications.

www.west-cs.com

TESTING

Friction, peel and tear tester

Mecmesin has introduced the FPT-H1 horizontal friction peel and tear tester.

It is supplied pre-programmed for all the main industry standard friction-testing methods and also has fixtures for peel and tear testing – so is suited to the packaging industry, as well as manufacturers, converters and users of sheet materials.

Fast, accurate measurement of the coefficients of friction (COFs) is vital in sheet and web-fed machinery. Machine speeds can only be only optimised if tearing, jamming and misfeeds are prevented, so the FPT-H1 is designed for reliable, rapid testing. With an integral touch screen to access test routines, and

guidance through each run, testing requires minimal training with maximum repeatability.

When fitting plastic film samples it is vital not to compromise the surface being tested. To minimise handling, the FPT-H1 uses quick-attachment grips, and COF sample sleds with magnetic grips. The plane bed is easy-clean stainless steel.

Its Emperor software for control, data acquisition and analysis makes it suitable for detailed laboratory

testing and extension into other tensile testing.

“With the FPT-H1 we have put ease of use and clean design at the forefront,” said John Page, managing director of Mecmesin. “It is suitable for continuous daily use, but also for finer and more detailed laboratory friction testing.”

www.mecmesin.com

