

Oerlikon Schlafhorst

Oerlikon Schlafhorst has been setting global standards for 125 years

Mönchengladbach, April 2009

For Oerlikon Schlafhorst, 2009 is a special year featuring a major anniversary: 125 years of successful business in textile machinery manufacturing. Oerlikon Schlafhorst provides its worldwide customers with innovative machines and concepts for ring spinning, winding and rotor spinning. The customised spinning solutions 'Made in Germany' ensure excellent and reproducible yarn and package qualities. 125 years of experience, know-how, tradition and innovative creativity in the most diverse segments of the textile machinery manufacturing industry offer a superb platform for the company with its more than 3,000 employees for mastering the challenges in the global textile industry. With its Autoconer, Autocoro and Zinser product lines, Oerlikon Schlafhorst has been market and innovation leader in staple fibre technology for a long time and is the only supplier with the process competence to offer comprehensive solutions from yarn to finished package for rotor and ring spinning technology from one source to spinning mills worldwide.

Everything started in 1884, when Wilhelm Schlafhorst founded the company under the name of W. Schlafhorst in Mönchengladbach. Thanks to the boom in the textile industry in the second half of the 19th century, the demand for spinning and weaving machines increased continuously, also in the textile region around Mönchengladbach.

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Legend:

Founder of Schlafhorst Wilhelm Schlafhorst

Schlafhorst, at that time having its main focus on the spare parts area, took advantage of the chances offered by close customer proximity. The entrance of the young engineer Wilhelm Reiners into the company 100 years ago cleared the way for the development of technologically high-grade textile machines and Schlafhorst becoming a think tank, as is underlined by countless patent applications. Under the name W. Schlafhorst & Co. the company with its warping units, weft winding, ring twisting and package winding machines became world market leader of machines for weaving preparation.



Legendt:

Schlafhorst brochure of a warping machine, approx. 1930

In 1950 Schlafhorst, had approx. 1,000 employees, new product generations were developed. 60 years ago the triumphant success of the Autoconer commenced, helping Schlafhorst towards an enormous international upswing.

Page 3 Almost 30 years later, in 1978, with the Autocoro, Schlafhorst started the second product line of rotor spinning machines which is very successful to date.

A keen sense of trend-setting technologies

Today, Oerlikon Schlafhorst combines the cream of the crop on the international spinning mill machinery market. Since more than 50 years, the Autoconer has revolutionised automatic package winding, and with each new Autoconer generation, Oerlikon Schlafhorst lives up to its pioneering role in innovative winding technology. Throughout the world, Autoconer packages are a hallmark for most sophisticated quality and highest efficiency in downstream processing. With the most recent generation of winding machines named Autoconer 5 and with the innovative yarn displacement system PreciFX, Oerlikon Schlafhorst enters the world of drumless yarn displacement.



Legend:

PreciFX, DigiPiecing and CompACT³ are only three of the numerous technologies with which Oerlikon Schlafhorst always demonstrates its leadership in technology.

We won't say: "It won't work." This has been Oerlikon Schlafhorst's motto for developing future-oriented rotor spinning machines that set global standards. Already in 1978, Oerlikon Schlafhorst showed real farsightedness when producing the first Autocoro. This Autocoro was the first rotor spinning machine world-wide which completely automated the piecing and package doffing processes. Ever since, the Autocoro has always set the benchmark for rotor spinning technology and the automation of this spinning technology.

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Page 4 The customers recognise and honour this, which is proven by the market share of 65 %. The most recent example of excellent technological competence is the Autocoro S 360. This new Autocoro generation with its innovative, digitally controlled piecing technology DigiPiecing for the first time enables even semi-automatic rotor spinning mills to produce excellent yarns and packages in Belcoro quality, combined with top productivity.

The ideal complement of the Oerlikon Schlafhorst portfolio was realised several years ago by the integration of the Zinser ring spinning technology. The Zinser roving machines and ring spinning machines are very attractive for all sectors of ring spinning and have an excellent reputation world-wide. No matter whether roving machines, ring spinning machines, components and automated solutions for short-staple as well as for long-staple yarns from fine to coarse, even innovative applications as spinning Kevlar® or blends with metallic fibres, everything is possible. This also applies to yarn structure; any way is open to Oerlikon Schlafhorst customers in this respect, starting with conventional ring yarn structures through to new structures such as compact yarns, elastic core yarns or Siro-spun yarns.

Precursor and partner for the textile industry

During these 125 years, ideas have continuously been transformed into competitive products. In addition, Oerlikon Schlafhorst established a global service network to ensure that all customers throughout the world possessing all kinds of machine generations may always share in the innovations. Oerlikon Schlafhorst has answers to the challenges of the global textile industry and will continue to break the mould and to actively set trends in the textile industry.

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About Oerlikon

Oerlikon (SWX: OERL) is one of the world's most successful high-tech industrial groups, specializing in machinery and plant manufacture. The company is synonymous with leading industrial solutions and advanced technology in the fields of textile production, thin film coating, drive, precision, solar and vacuum technology. Originally established in Switzerland and with a tradition stretching back more than 100 years, Oerlikon is now a global player employing more than 19,000 people at 170 locations in 35 countries.

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