

MACHINERY NEWS

Rajoo Engineers unveils 5-layer blown film line--PentaFoil

AS part of expanding its product portfolio, India's leading plastic machinery maker Rajoo Engineers Ltd. launched a new series of multilayer blown film series of multilayer blown film lines at the K

show, and putting a renewed focus

The company said the new film line is designed to reduce raw material and energy consumption

for plastics processors.



"We are launching the range under the brand 'Pentafoil,' which features a multilayer blown film line dedicated to the production of five-layer polyethylene-based non-barrier films for various applications including collation shrink, liquid packaging and lamination grade films," said Rajoo

President Sunil Jain, speaking to the K Show Daily newspaper.

"The idea is to innovate with a new line under the house brand to keep an excitement in the market, and there is no other better platform then the K show." He said.

What makes the event more unique is that the fact that Rajoo is the only Asian company with a live demonstration of a five-layer barrier film line that's now operating with a customer in South Africa. The company, which is based in Rajkot, Gujarat, in western India, said the Pentafoil line includes a cylindrical spiral die, internal bubble cooling circumferential, profile control with an elevated air ring, a triple lip, full automatic winder and a touch –screen based supervisory control panel.

The machine is designed to help processors produce films with a thin skin layer and thick core layers of less expensive materials, to compete on both film properties and costs, the company said.

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As well, executives said during an interview that the company is in a consolidation phase and spent last year focused on uprgrading systems at its Rajkot facility, while going after foreign markets.

"We have invested a lot on upgrading plant. Infrastructure and tooling, and started making electronic panels in-house, put-sourcing earlier," said Executive Director Khushboo Doshi. "It enhances our design capabilities to make these kinds of machines in-house, besides building a centralized inventory system in an area of 5,000 square meters.

"The upgrade improves efficiency levels at the shop floor and doubles installed capacity," she said.

In addition to the upgrades, executives said a renewed focus on exports has pushed overseas sales to about 40 percent of the company's \$60 million in annual sales.

"We have been out of these markets as there was lot of policy mess regarding import of plastic machinery, besides volatility in raw material prices," said Jain. "People hesitate to invest in capital goods like machinery in challenging times."

Africa remains its largest export market, but the company has also pushed sales into the Far East, the Middle East and in India's backyard in Sri Lanka in the last year.

"We have been successful in opening these markets after a gap of 5 or 6 years," Jain said "We have supplied multilayer blown film lines to Thailand, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Sri Lanka this year".

About 30 per cent of exports are to Africa, includi8ng most heavily to Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya, as well as to South Africa Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

The company said that while its international sales have grown, there continues to be uncertainty in India's market, particularly over container bans in some places that are hurting machinery sales.

"There Is also lot of confusion in the new plastic management rules," Jain said. "The industry is still trying to understand them and the lack of clarity hurts business."

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