

Newcomer relies on flexible pipe extrusion line from KraussMaffei

- KraussMaffei delivers first QuickSwitch line to North America
- Pipe dimensions adjusted at the touch of a button

(Hannover, February 21, 2022) When searching for the ideal production technology for the newly founded pipe manufacturer Encoma Ltd in Manitoba, Canada, plant manager Derek Hofer had clear goals in mind: no simple me-too products, but efficiently produced, high-quality HDPE pipes. With the first QuickSwitch line in North America delivered and commissioned by Hannover-based KraussMaffei Extrusion GmbH, the industry newcomer found the perfect solution to translate these goals into reality. Two additional production lines have already been ordered.

Encoma started manufacturing multilayer HDPE pipes for water supply, geothermal and cable protection applications as well as for underfloor heating in the fall of 2021 after building a new factory accommodating several extrusion lines in Manitoba. Within the frame of this project, KraussMaffei Extrusion installed a complete 3-layer QuickSwitch line covering the entire production process – from raw material to semi-finished product handling. “For us as a newcomer in this branch of industry, it was extremely important to have a competent partner at our side who would be able to set up a turnkey plant on our premises and also provide training and support,” says Derek Hofer, Plant Manager at Encoma. He adds that there is absolutely no reason to regret the purchase decision because KraussMaffei has fully met all expectations. What’s more, Encoma is so satisfied with the plant technology and machine supplier that the company ordered two new lines just three months after the start of production – a second QuickSwitch line and a 5-layer PE-RT line specifically designed for underfloor heating pipes. “Quality, reproducibility and production time achieved with the first QuickSwitch line for HDPE pipes were so convincing that we decided to go straight back to KraussMaffei as our machine supplier,” explains Derek Hofer.

**KraussMaffei Extrusion GmbH
Marketing**
An der Breiten Wiese 3 – 5
30625 Hannover/Germany

Phone +49 (0)511 5702586
Press@kraussmaffei.com
www.kraussmaffei.com

Pipe dimensions adjusted at the touch of a button

QuickSwitch is the name of KraussMaffei Extrusion's unique package solution for the flexible production of pipes of widely differing dimensions on one line without requiring any retooling. The core component of each QuickSwitch line is the adjustable calibration basket, which is set to new pipe dimensions fully automatically and within a given time without having to stop the production line. The waste produced during the "quick switch" period is limited to a cone-shaped piece of material, which contributes not only to higher efficiency but also to enhanced sustainability in hose production. In addition to changing the pipe dimensions at the push of a button, QuickSwitch also ensures fine adjustment of pipe wall thickness and pipe centering. Both parameters are of fundamental importance for the production of high-quality pipes. Once saved, production data can be retrieved and adjusted at any time, which ensures exact reproducibility. The entire downstream equipment integrated into the control system is automatically adjusted as well, readjustment is therefore no longer necessary. Thanks to the intelligent control system, all production parameters can be monitored, documented and correlated with each other. The line thus manages itself and the personnel effort is minimal. All in all, QuickSwitch is the ideal solution for newcomers in the market like Encoma. With the line already installed at the Manitoba site, Encoma produces pipes with diameters ranging between 25 and 63 mm. The line now ordered will extend the dimensional range up to 6 inches (168/175 mm). „Thanks to the perfectly tailored machine solution, we are able to produce a wide range of different pipes for changing customer requirements even in small quantities.” Against this background, Derek Hofer is deeply convinced that the company is well prepared for future growth.

Captions:

Photo1_20220221_PM_EXT_Encoma: One of the first loads three layer HDPE pipe with silicone inner layer from industry newcomer Encoma in Canada.

Photo2_20220221_PM_EXT_Encoma: KraussMaffei commissions first QuickSwitch system in North America at Encoma Ltd. in Manitoba, Canada

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Photo3_20220221_PM_EXT_Encoma: With QuickSwitch, Encoma produces multilayer HDPE pipes in different diameters from 25 - 63 mm on the same line.

Photo4_20220221_PM_EXT_Encoma: At the push of a button, QuickSwitch not only changes the pipe dimension but also fine-tunes the pipe wall thickness and centering.

For further information and printing-quality photos, please visit:

www.kraussmaffei.com

Press contact:

Andreas Weseler

Content & Campaign Manager / Press Officer Extrusion Technology

Phone: +49 511 5702-586

E-mail: andreas.weseler@kraussmaffei.com

Mathias Künstner

Head of Corporate Marketing Global

Phone: +49 89 8899-2217

E-mail: mathias.kuenstner@kraussmaffei.com

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KraussMaffei – Pioneering Plastics

KraussMaffei is among the world's leading manufacturers of machinery and systems for the production and processing of plastics and rubber. Our brand has been synonymous with cutting-edge technology for over 180 years. Our range of services covers all areas of injection molding machinery, extrusion technology and reaction process machinery. This gives KraussMaffei a unique selling point in the industry. With the high innovative power of our standardized and individual product, process, digital and service solutions, we can guarantee customers sustained added value over the entire value-adding chain. Our range of products and services allows us to serve customers in many sectors including the automotive, packaging, and medical and construction industries, as well as manufacturers of electrical and electronic products and household appliances. KraussMaffei employs around 4700 people all over the world. With more than 30 subsidiaries and over 10 production plants, as well as about 570 commercial and service partners, we are represented internationally close to our customers. The company headquarters has been in Munich since 1838. In April 2016, the Chinese state-owned company China National Chemical Corp. Ltd. ("ChemChina"), one of the leading chemical companies in China, became majority shareholder of KraussMaffei Group. At the end of 2018, ChemChina listed the KraussMaffei Group as KraussMaffei Company Ltd. in Shanghai. This listing opened up access to the Chinese capital market and local investors.

For further information, please visit: www.kraussmaffei.com

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