



System for Automated Reel Handling

WINDAK OÜ, Peetri, Estonia, a global leader in cable packaging automation, offers the AutoLoader AL60 automatic reel handling system. Designed specifically to address common challenges in cable manufacturing, the AL60 significantly improves production efficiency, operator safety and reduces downtime associated with manual reel handling. From managing heavy reels to frequent equipment adjustments, cable manufacturers face daily obstacles that can impact productivity and safety. Manual loading and unloading of reels on rewinding systems often slows down production — especially when forklift operators or handling equipment aren't readily available. Our solution simplifies this process: by allowing multiple empty reels to be preloaded, the system eases the workload for both the line operator and the forklift driver. The AL60 directly addresses these concerns, enabling seamless inline rewinding and hands-free heavy reel packaging. Its intelligent automation allows efficient handling of reels weighing up to several tons, easy reel size changes through a single recipe adjustment, and continuous production with minimal manual intervention. With the launch of the AutoLoader AL60, Windak provides a robust, automated solution that empowers cable manufacturers to enhance productivity, streamline operations and create safer working environments. www.windakgroup.com

Reliable Nondestructive Testing

Magnetic Analysis Corporation (MAC®), Elmsford, NY, USA, a pioneer in nondestructive testing solutions, helps wire mills tackle challenges through its Minimac® digital eddy current test equipment. Union welds, an unavoidable byproduct of high-speed wire production, can present a significant hurdle for wire manufacturers. These defects have been rejected outright by end-users, making it essential for manufacturers to detect and remove them during production. MAC's Minimac digital eddy current test instrument has become an answer for wire manufacturers facing these quality rejects. The Minimac, designed for high performance and cost-effective detection of these union welds, has recently helped a premier wire mill in Mexico. After a successful on-site demonstration, the company incorporated five Minimac systems into its production line. These systems now inspect insulated copper cables ranging from 2.5 to 10 mm in diameter, ensuring that defective sections are identified and removed before shipment. The Minimac features advanced encircling coil sensors and a CP65NS coil platform, which ensure accurate positioning and vibration control during high-speed testing (currently operating at 120 meters per minute). The results have been remarkable. Customer returns due to weld defects have been virtually eliminated. www.mac-ndt.com



MAC® CP 65NS with bushing is shown testing single wire cable.

Providing Fiber Sizing Support for Aluminum-Coated Basalt Fiber Innovation

Michelman, Cincinnati, OH, USA, a global developer of advanced materials, collaborated with **FibreCoat**, a high performance materials company based in Aachen, Germany, to support the launch of FibreCoat's aluminum-coated basalt fiber. This new fiber, AluCoat, was developed by FibreCoat to address the need for lightweight, conductive materials in applications such as electromagnetic interference (EMI) and radio-frequency interference (RFI) shielding, as well as thermal management for electric vehicles, consumer electronics and energy storage. Michelman's Hydrosizer® fiber sizing technology plays a critical role in enhancing the performance and processability of FibreCoat's fiber for composite manufacturing. FibreCoat's patented aluminum-coating process partially or fully coats basalt fibers, combining the material's mechanical properties with aluminum conductivity. By integrating Michelman's Hydrosizer fiber sizing, the aluminum-coated fibers achieve key performance attributes necessary for reliable composite applications. Michelman's sizing helps form stable fiber bundles, reducing fuzz and maintaining fiber integrity during processing, and supports weavability, making continuous fibers more spreadable. Additionally, the sizing ensures compatibility with the resin systems, and balances compatibility between the aluminum and basalt surfaces on the fiber. www.michelman.com

