

Transport specialists

FOR 27 YEARS, THE ITALIAN MACHINE MANUFACTURER TECNOPOOL HAS FOCUSED ON CONVEYING TECHNOLOGY



++ figure 1

++ figure 1
Plastic parts are inserted by hand. They turn the steel rod belts into a flat surface on which even small parts can be transported



++ figure 2

++ figure 2
The drive of the new spiral is situated on the outside which makes it easily accessible

++ figure 3
The plant shown in Orlando demonstrates that spirals do not necessarily have to be round

++ figure 4
The new connection between belt and transport rails have a clever design preventing the belt from jumping off the support

+ More than 1,500 systems operating worldwide demonstrate their success. At IBIE, in Orlando, Tecnpool will present the new system, T-WORTH.

Leopoldo Lago was already a specialist in conveying technology when he founded Tecnpool s.r.l. in 1980, in Padua, Italy. Before that, he played a decisive role in a company which had set an international standard in the transport of raw eggs, with their brand "Anaconda". The day-to-day operation of Tecnpool is now managed by Lago's daughter Michela, while Leopoldo Lago focuses on his tasks as president. Right from the beginning the company concentrated on the baking industry, which still accounts for up to 70% of Tecnpool's customers.

The products supplied by Tecnpool can today be found predominately in large craft and industrial bakeries: spiral towers in which products are proofed, cooled and frozen, including feeding and discharge units. The engineers of the company from Padua focus mainly on the conveying systems. Cells and air conditioning units are purchased from

third suppliers as the proportion of system business, which means the delivery of complete lines or production equipment, is also on the increase at Tecnpool. "Of course we could produce these components ourselves," says Corra, "but our core business involves the processing steps from proofing to the oven, cooling with ambient air or in filtered air, freezing and the loading and unloading of tunnel ovens. This is our focus and these are the fields we want to be successful in." More than 1,500 Tecnpool installations are in operation in bakeries all over the world. Sturdy and hard-wearing steel rod chains seem to be the trademark of the company. These steel rod belts are welded onto chains which are then pulled over steel drive shafts. Lubrication is a must. However, as sales manager Corra insists, to a lesser extent than required for the imitation products that are unfortunately also available.

For two years now, Tecnpool has been testing a new system which now became a sensation. This new equipment does not have to be lubricated at all and the noise level will be

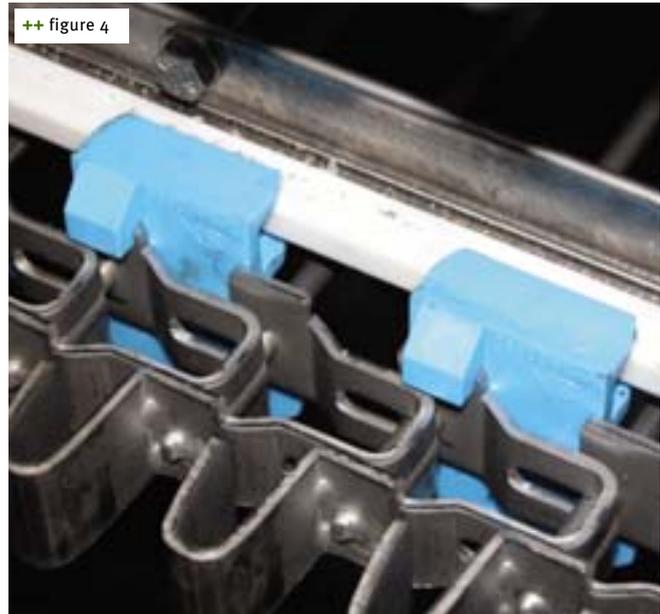


clearly lower than in former plants. In addition to that, the drives will be located on the outside making them easily accessible. They can move the belts forward and back, so that the spiral towers can also be used as buffers for the production lines if needed.

The belts have the same heavy-duty features as the previous ones. The decisive change is the sliding system: the steel rods and the links that move the belt along are fixed on special auto-lubricating plastic sliding elements which run on auto-lubricating plastic rails. The plastic material is actually a resin mixture, which, according to Tecnopool, has high wear-resistant properties, even under high loads and difficult conditions.

The guiding rails are shaped in such a way as to prevent the belts from jumping out of the guide. An innovation in the world of spiral towers is the fact that the belt can move forwards and backwards. The material can be used in the temperature range of -50 to +120 °C. According to Corra, the new belts run extremely smoothly at lower temperatures.

The belts are driven by plastic wheels which interlock from the outside with the chain guides. There is one driving wheel



at each level of the spiral. This way, each level is moved uniformly with jerky movements being excluded. Furthermore, only the drive wheels have to be maintained. Tecnopool uses two motors for the drive if the spiral's height is above 4 m, for lower spirals, one motor is sufficient.

This type of driving technology allows customers and designers the freedom to build the spiral in other shapes other than round. Oval shapes are possible, as are systems where the belt turns around at the top and moves down on the inside of the upwards moving spiral. The feeding and discharge sections are then both located at the bottom of the spiral. This is an interesting alternative for restricted spaces.

The entire plant is made from stainless steel and the above described plastic/resin parts. This fulfills all HACCP, IFS and BCR requirements. For over a year now, the new spirals have been operating in selected companies. The largest one is 10 m high and located in Spain.

The sales activities of Tecnopool vary from country to country. The company has a representative in Germany. More details can be found on the Internet, www.tecnopool.it +++

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