

Elastomer processing shifts towards modernization, ecology and efficiency.

Industrial components made of polyurethane cast elastomers have become indispensable in mechanical engineering and many other industrial sectors. Because of their excellent resistance to wear, high mechanical strength, low permanent deformation and vibration-damping properties, they are ideal for a great number of applications, including:

- Roll and roller coatings
- Damping material
- Linings as protection from wear and noise
- Drive and coupling elements
- Seals
- Wiper blades
- Cutting strips.

Based on the current trend towards a growing demand, Hennecke GmbH has cooperated with Bayer AG in developing a machine concept that permits a far more constant and reproducible parts quality than conventional elastomer production lines – some of which still require a high degree of manual operation. At the same time, account has been taken of a large number of ecological aspects in the processing of PU raw materials.

Materials handling, for instance, has been automated, all functional sequences have been significantly improved, the machine design conforms to the latest state of the art, and the machine configuration has been extended to include a separate rinsing unit. Rinsing and cleaning are now usually carried out with glycol – an environmentally compatible solvent – which is heated up to about 160°C.

ElastoLine – so the trade name of the new machine series – is designed to process Vulkollan® and all other conventional cast elastomers (TDI and MDI systems) and is offered in three standard sizes as a two-component machine for different outputs. The basic version consists of a two-component metering machine with temperature control, control system and mixhead. The machine is supplied with a separately produced prepolymer. Depending on customer requests,



ElastoLine, the new concept for cast elastomer systems

Photo: Hennecke

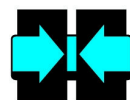
the machine frame can undergo modular extension with little conversion effort to include units for additional components fitted to the side of the basic machine.

There are mainly two reasons why Hennecke has launched its innovative machine concept at just the right time: Firstly, the trend in elastomer processing is clearly moving away from manual towards automated production. And secondly, insiders expect requirements for modern casting machines to grow due to increasingly tougher demands in terms of parts quality, production capacity, industrial hygiene and optimized raw material input with minimum loss.

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