

Selle Royal shifts into high gear

Hennecke's high-pressure technology for gel processing

In the past, Selle Royal, an Italian manufacturer of bicycle saddles based in Bassano del Grappa (Vicenza), had only used low-pressure technology for mixing and injecting the gel under saddle covers. But since the beginning of 2001, this job is done for the first time by a high-pressure machine supplied by Hennecke.

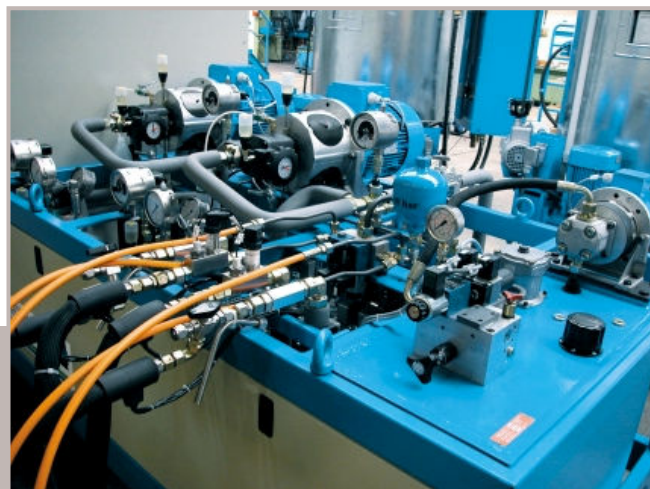
In a production area of 30,000 square meters, the well-known supplier to the bicycle industry manufactures up to 80,000 bicycle saddles of different types per day in non-stop operation. Based on the positive results achieved by Hennecke production lines and mixheads in the processing of Bayflex, Selle Royal's production manager, Paolo Terreni, asked Hennecke's specialists to develop a high-pressure technology for gel blending.



Saddle made by Selle Royal

Photo: Hennecke GmbH

Gels are highly viscous and extremely difficult to blend which is why they were regarded as being unsuitable for high-pressure processing. In cooperation with Selle Royal, Hennecke carried out laboratory tests and equipped the MX mixhead with various special functions. The outcome of these joint efforts is the HK 55-gel high-pressure foaming machine which has been successfully used for one year now.



HK 55 foaming machine customised to match the new foam system

Photo: Hennecke GmbH

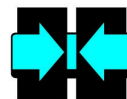
Selle Royal is not only very satisfied with the quality of manufacture and gel blend, but also very happy about the significant cost savings on solvents and their disposal – costs that are still in-

evitably involved in the use of low-pressure production lines. „For this reason, we will gradually replace the remaining low-pressure machines for gel injection with more efficient Hennecke high-pressure foaming machines,“ explains Paolo Terreni. Hennecke is currently preparing two additional high-pressure foaming machines for this purpose.

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