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New kiln for Holcim Romania

Romania: Holcim Romania has just successfully commissioned a new Euro120m kiln line at its Campulung cement plant. The new facility has a cement production capacity of around 2Mt/y. This makes it the country's biggest kiln and strengthens Holcim's presence in Romania. It replaces three outdated smaller production units. According to the company: "The best available technology was used for the construction of the kiln and the plant complies with the toughest environmental regulations."

The construction industry is seeing some of the highest growth rates in Romania, with cement consumption rising from 4Mt/y to more than 10Mt/y since 1998.

Mondi opens new bag application centre

Austria: On 4 July 2008 Mondi Frantschach inaugurated a Bag Application Centre (BAC) at the site of its R&D Innovation Centre. The development work now also covers packaging technology research. In his opening speech, Peter J Oswald, CEO of the Mondi Division Europe & International, stressed that Mondi is now in an even better position to provide comprehensive customer-oriented product development from fibre resources to the final packaging solution.

In the BAC laboratory, specific situations of bag application can be simulated for customers whereas paper manufacturing and processing requirements are covered by the R&D Innovation Centre. A series of tests are used to analyse the essential properties of industrial bags, from de-aeration behaviour during filling to storability of the contents under different climatic conditions as well as drop tests to detect possible weak areas of the filled bag to make it resistant to rough handling. To this end, investments were made in state-of-the-art technology, such as a high-speed camera recording the drop test with 1000 pictures per second and the climatized room where storage behaviour under conditions ranging from 10-90% relative humidity and 20-38°C can be reproduced.



Peter J Oswald (left) and Jörg Haider (right) open the new Bag Application Centre.



The new Bag Application and the R&D Innovation Centre in Frantschach.

Intensiv-Filter opens its doors to the public

Germany: Filter firm Intensiv-Filter of Velbert-Langenberg, Germany opened its doors to the general public on 7 June. Thomas Blüggel, joint managing director, (right) can be seen giving a guided tour to one of the groups. The curious visitors gained an insight into all departments including witnessing the latest specialist welding, robotic and filter-bag technologies.



Pfister welcomes dosing experts in Germany

Germany: More than 30 weighing and dosing experts of Europe's most important cement manufacturers participated at 'Pfister Dosing Days 2008' which were held in Augsburg, Germany. The seminar was initiated for the second time by Pfister GmbH, a supplier of dosing technologies for cement and minerals as well as coal-fired power plants.

Under the slogan 'cost and emission reduction by intelligent dosing technologies' the most current technical trends were presented and discussed. Both are aspects which are gaining in importance in industrial production world-wide. The guests discussed basics of dosing technology and sophisticated applications in the cement industry, ATEX directive as well as modern maintenance and service concepts. Pfister's engineers gave a preview of a brand-

new generation of dosing electronics, which will be introduced on the international markets within the coming months.

A new edition of 'Dosing Days' is already being planned. According to Pfister, the next event will be in cooperation with users in North and South America, Asia as well as the Middle East.



Weighing- and dosing experts of the most important European cement manufacturers were guests at Pfister's Dosing Days 2008 in Augsburg.