

The new top layer

New machine, new possibilities: Now that the “BSA 3500” extrusion coating machine has been commissioned, CaPlast has one of the most modern machines of this type in the world. The Euro 10 million investment underlines the position of the company as one of the leading drivers of innovation in the coatings industry.

Since its founding in 1967, the medium-sized company from Nordkirchen has become a well known supplier in the field of the extrusion coatings among global players in the construction and automotive sectors. As such, it is not surprising that CaPlast has taken the chance to invest in the new premium coating machine. As Managing Director Frederik Schaefer explains, “The new machine not only provides us with completely new technical possibilities, but it also offers us and our customers a huge advantage in terms of development.” As a result of the new machine, the company has also expanded its development team. Five engineers now ensure the development of customer-specific and application-specific solutions from the

very start, regardless of the challenge. Even the spatial dimensions of the machine impress: After 18 months of design and construction, the 42 metre long, ca. 25 metre wide and 12 metre high machine is now ready for deployment. The uniqueness of the machine lies in its overall concept. It has been developed according to the specifications of the CaPlast engineers under the leadership of Managing Director Josef Altepping and represents the entire body of technical expertise that is the extrusion coating industry. As Schaefer goes on to state, “We have ‘invested’ our many years of experience and expertise in the new technology. It’s now a case of fully exploiting the technical advantage with our customers in order to realize innovative, tailor made solutions. Services and high-tech manufacturing go hand in hand. This is where we emphasize our market position as a R&D service provider, which also has the appropriate modern production capacities.” Due to specially developed broad slit nozzle technology, the machine is in the position of being able to coat very thinly as well as being able to extrude

with plenty of coating compound (approx. 15 g/m² to 1000 g/m²). As such, substrates of approx. 10 g/m² to 1,200 g/m² can be processed – a globally unique range. 15 new staff have been hired to operate the machine. Each year, an extra 50 million m² (approx.) of substrate can be coated – and all this with a coating thickness of up to 3.30 metres. As a result there are many advantages, not least for the automotive sectors. As Roland Mones, CaPlast’s Product Manager for the construction industry explains, “This especially means cost savings. Where up until now, two or three processing stages were necessary, the new machine can do it in one. One example is pipe liners, whose thickness of 800 millimetres can be applied in one processing stage. A cost advantage which we are naturally able to pass on to our customers.” As such, CaPlast creates an ideal starting point in the growing market for energy efficient, sustainable and customer oriented plastic coatings. The company calls this service ‘Your Personal Coating Solution’ and in doing so, it reflects the market position and sentiment of the sector perfectly. ■