Bucher Emhart Glass to show BIS and FleXinspect BC at glasstec

Bucher Emhart Glass will be showing two of its flagship machines at its booth during glasstec 2014.

BIS is the most recent addition to Bucher Emhart Glass' range of IS glass-forming machines. It offers the supreme precision of servo-electric motion and is designed to handle a variety of container designs, sizes, and weights, in smaller quantities and with quicker job changes. BIS is ideal for manufacturing glass containers, from large and small, beverages, baby food through to pharmaceuticals.

At glasstec, Bucher Emhart Glass will show an eight-section BIS machine. The machine shown is an actual production machine that will be shipped to a customer in Germany following the show to go under glass.

Two sections will be run and sections will be equipped in double-gob and triple-gob configurations, showing the ease of switching between centre distances and carrying out fast job changes, including the use of moulds originally developed for other IS machines.

As well as demonstrating the benefits of BIS, Bucher Emhart Glass will also be explaining which features of the machine can be retrofitted to its pneumatic AIS, AIS + and IS lines.

BIS was originally announced in 2010 and successfully prototyped in 2011. It uses the parallel mould open/close technology pioneered on Bucher Emhart Glass' AIS machines and is available in eight-, 10- and 12-section configurations handling double-, triple- and future quad-gob production. Two machines have already been installed and are in production at Nampak Glass in South Africa.

"BIS is a technology whose time has come," says Leo Diehm, Director of Product Management at Bucher Emhart Glass. "The history of IS machines falls into three very clear phases. First we had pneumatic motion controlled by a timing drum, which lasted a long time but was obsolete by around 1985.

"It was succeeded by electrically controlled pneumatic motion, which originated around 1980. The new standard will be the electrically controlled servo motion of machines like BIS and NIS."

Servo control opens up levels of accuracy that simply couldn't be achieved before. With pneumatic motion, each individual IS section was a unique 'personality' that had to be coaxed to peak performance by a skilled operator. With servo mechanisms controlled by modern technologies such as Bucher Emhart Glass's FlexIS system, the motion of the IS line is repeatable, precise and controlled – and the benefits are clear. 'BIS easily outperforms pneumatic IS machines built on 4.5", 5" and 5.5" section frames,' says Mr Diehm. "It allows glass-container manufacturers to cut container costs."

Inspection

Turning to the Inspection Business, the company's glasstec stand will also feature the firm's FleXinspect BC 300 vision inspection machine in its latest configuration.

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FleXinspect BC includes 360-degree wraparound lighting and patterned lighting for 100% sidewall inspection of containers

The FleXinspect portfolio features the full range of inspection machine used in today's glass plants. The concept, 'FleXinspect' means that all inspections are of a modular design that allow for simple expansion. When customers want to add a new function, or update an existing one, they simply replace a module with one optimized for the new requirement.

This future-proofed design makes FleXinspect the natural choice for customers who are setting up quality control processes for the first time or are simply updating the ones they have in place with the benefit of knowing that they can add more inspection functionality when required.

It also allows them to upgrade their inspections for an investment that is very modest in comparison to the cost of replacing an entire fixed-function inspection machine. Many customers find they can absorb this cost of new FleXinspect modules into their maintenance budgets without getting into capital expenditure.

FleXinspect BC includes 360-degree wraparound lighting and patterned lighting for 100% sidewall inspection of containers to precisely pinpoint both opaque and transparent defects. Polarised lighting is utilised for stress inspection to ensure detection of defects that may be missed by conventional methods. When equipped with a mould-reading option, the FleXinspect BC mould correlates results from all installed inspections within the machine.

Bucher Emhart Glass' philosophy, across both forming and inspection, is to make its technology as intuitive and easy to use as possible, to increase the flexibility and to achieve high performance in a safe environment. As part of that, the FleXinspect BC 300 at Glasstec will debut a new concept in inspection equipment operation as well as several other product enhancements.

The company can be found at booth 13D51 at glasstec. ■

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