

Press release

Binder+Co's BUBLON sets new trends in the development of construction materials

Gleisdorf, October 13, 2011. Today, the innovative machine and complete systems manufacturer Binder+Co, recently granted the Open Innovation Award in Berlin, presents its latest development to the wider audience of research and industry: BUBLON – an optimised method for producing an all-natural lightweight material and filler with significantly improved properties in comparison to conventional methods. The president of the Chinese Perlite Association, amongst others, is also attending the ceremonial presentation of the first BUBLON plant in Gleisdorf.

"Our success in recent years is based on the consistent implementation of new ideas as well as the pursuit of a meaningful supplement and expansion of our product range: BUBLON combines both, creating an innovative method that fits perfectly into our portfolio, as the upstream and the downstream process steps are already among our core competencies. We see very attractive market potential for this technology, whose development would bring us a significant increase in sales", explains Karl Grabner, member of the Management Board of Binder+Co.

"Popcorn" with excellent insulation properties

Due to the trace water contained in the starting material, perlite and obsidian multiply their volume up to 20-fold when heated. Similar to the fabrication of popcorn, BUBLON uses this feature of the raw materials, which exist in large quantities, to produce an excellent base for the manufacture of building materials with superb insulation properties. In conjunction with the corresponding binders, the innovative "popcorn" produced in BUBLON plants can be processed into insulation plates or lightweight materials, like (insulation) plaster and (thermal insulation) mortar as well as used in cavities of concrete block to improve the level of insulation.

Binder+Co's latest product innovation is based on an invention developed by a joint Austrian-Chinese team. In China, it already is a successfully applied procedure, whose rights of use Binder+Co has secured.

Significant advantages over conventional methods

"Perlite popcorn" produced with conventional methods has strong hygroscopic properties, which, together with its low dimensional stability as well as low strength, are responsible for this product only being of limited use for the construction and insulating material industries.

The expanded perlite, manufactured with BUBLON plants, is well suited for further processing into plates and molded parts due to its low water absorption and closed surface. Furthermore, the new method allows to specifically adjust the bulk density as well as the strength of the granules, and is also characterised by a significantly lower energy consumption.

Open Innovation at Binder+Co

The development of BUBLON in Gleisdorf is carried out in close cooperation with the Chinese partner Chi-Che Euro-Technic, the Leoben University of Natural Resources and Applied Sciences and the FH Joanneum University of Applied Sciences. Therefore, a pilot plant has been built at Binder+Co's headquarters in Gleisdorf, which not only serves the further optimisation of the new method, but is also already being used for experimental purposes by the first potential customers.

Perfect integration into Binder+Co's product portfolio

Before BUBLON is used, the raw material must be comminuted, screened, dried and the finished product also packaged. As these steps have been among the core competencies of Binder+Co, BUBLON integrates optimally into the existing product portfolio.

Potential BUBLON customers include the construction industry, brick, ready-mix plaster and insulation panel manufacturers as well as the fire protection and industrial soundproofing industry.

The Binder+Co Group

Binder+Co AG is a specialist in the field of processing, environmental and packaging technology and the world market leader in the screening and glass recycling segments. The company was listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange at the end of 2006 and is now part of the third market in the mid market segment. Binder+Co was awarded the 2010 Austrian National Innovation Prize for its development of the world's first industrially mature system for the sorting of heat-resistant special glass from recycling cullets. Moreover, the Binder+Co Group recently expanded its product range in the comminuting technology area through the incorporation of Comec-Binder S.r.l.