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PR KADECO: KADECO, FORMERLY ERWILO, INVESTS IN A NEW POWDER COATING SYSTEM

Just in time for the start of the new outdoor season, the awning manufacturer from East Westphalia completes the installation of the new, state-of-the-art powder coating system, thus laying the foundation for even higher quality, a wider range of colours and shorter delivery times.

MORE CAPACITY FOR HIGH CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

As early as 2007, when erwilo was taken over and the site relocated to Lübbecke, the decision was made to integrate a first in-house powder coating system into the production process. Over the years, the continuous growth of the company coupled with the increased demands of the end consumers for colour customization, brought the plant to the limits of its capacity. Up till now, the standard colours white and silver were supplied from stock and special colours were created by the company's own plant or external service providers. However, the increasing demand for individualized colours has risen steadily in recent years from around 15% to 80%. In the past, this repeatedly led to capacity bottlenecks during the peak season, which also affected delivery times. From the company's point of view, the decision to invest in a new, larger powder coating system within the 10,000 square metre production site, is a major step towards customer satisfaction. At the same time, it also represents a clear commitment to the awning business, the brand and the location, while underlining the strategic focus on positive growth. With an investment of around €2 million, KADECO formerly erwilo, has now brought the latest technology in-house and was able to put the new powder coating system into operation on March 15, 2019, in compliance with the cost and time schedule.

SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF THE COLOUR SPECTRUM

In addition to a significant increase in capacity, the new system offers many other advantages and related added value for customers. While a colour change in powder coating, for example, previously involved a great deal of effort, this can be carried out within approximately half a minute in the future. It also creates additional flexibility. With the comprehensive redesign of the plant, the system has also been integrated in such a way that ongoing production processes are optimally coordinated. As a result, retailers benefit from shorter and more reliable delivery times, among other effects. The high efficiency in the production chain and the mastery of all processes in-house, opens up further opportunities for the company to respond to customers' wishes. In this way KADECO formerly erwilo, expanded its colour range to 20 colours, at no extra cost, as of April 2019. The best-selling standard colours follow trends such as grey and anthracite shades and represent an important sales argument for specialist retailers vis-à-vis end customers. In the future, they will ideally be able to match the colour of their awnings exactly to the colour of the conservatory, windows or other building elements, without having to pay any extra. Beyond the standard colour program, all other RAL colour requests are also possible upon request. To ensure optimum quality, a state-certified colour and paint technician has been hired to monitor those processes in the coating.

IN ADDITION TO CUSTOMERS, THE ENVIRONMENT ALSO BENEFITS

With the integration of the system, KADECO formerly erwilo, not only creates clear advantages for customers and the quality of its products – the environment also benefits from the investment. The chromium-free pretreatment of the profiles meets both the highest quality and environmental standards. In addition, avoiding transport routes to external service providers saves around 4000 litres of diesel fuel a year. This corresponds to slightly more than one car tank filling per week. Due to the state-of-art technologies used, shorter throughput times are achieved, saving up to 52% of the total energy to be expended in the ongoing operation of the powder coating system. Moreover, in-house production will reduce packaging material by around one ton.

In the future, a three-digit number of awnings per day will pass through the company's new, optimized process and be delivered to the dealer. "With the new system, we have made an important investment in the future that will hopefully benefit not only us as a company, but also the environment and our customers, in the long term. We are very excited about the coming season and are looking forward to the first sunny days," said Günter Schöttler, the Managing Director of erwilo, in the past.