



**LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIP:** The Schmid-Suhr laundry in Switzerland's north Alps has had a long relationship with Pellerin Milnor

# A successful partnership proves its value

When the Schmid-Suhr laundry was destroyed in a fire in 2010, the company knew it could rely on its long-term equipment partner Pellerin Milnor. The rebuild provided an opportunity to expand and PulseFlow CBW tunnels have allowed Schmid to do so while achieving significant water savings

**S**ituated in the affluent town of Suhr, in Switzerland's northern Alps, Textilerewashing Schmid is a family-owned business that started as a wiper washing plant in 1884 but now services workwear, hotel and restaurant linen and wiper goods for an area that extends over a radius of 800km.

CEO Christoph Streuli-Schmid CEO has had a longstanding relationship with Pellerin Milnor Corporation that started with washer-extractor installations and that has spanned all of the generations of CBW tunnels. From 1987, Schmid-Suhr has relied on Milnor's tunnel washing technology to process its customers' goods. These include wipers (highly combustible rags for the printing industry) which are processed in a separate laundry on the site.

The value of that relationship was proved in November 2010, after a fire broke out late at night and burned the flat linen and workwear laundry to the ground. The next day Streuli-Schmid contacted Karl Schubert at Milnor International in Belgium and

began to plan the laundry's rebuild.

Before the fire, Textilerewashing Schmid was running three Milnor CBW's (circa 1987, 1989, 1995 respectively). These machines were served by a pair of two-stage presses, a centrifugal extractor and five, 50040 single-batch, steam-heated, pass-through dryers. The laundry ran two shifts daily and the CBWs had an average fresh water consumption of 7 – 8litre/kg (0.8 – 0.96gal/lb).

During 2010/2011 Milnor's revolutionary, new PulseFlow Technology CBW tunnel had been gaining a strong following and praise throughout the world. After careful testing and verification, the Hohenstein Institute awarded Pellerin Milnor

**MORE WORK WITH LESS WATER:** Two PulseFlow tunnels have increased Schmid-Suhr's capacity to 2,000kg/hour (4,400 lb/hour) while achieving a fresh water consumption of only 3.5litre/kg (0.42gal/lb) on flatwork and 5litre/kg (0.6 gal/lb) on workwear, previously the average was 7 – 8litre/kg – (0.8 0.96gal/lb)





**OPENING CEREMONY:** CEO Christoph Streuli-Schmid speaking at the opening of the refurbished laundry. His wife is seen fifth from right and the founder and his wife are on the far right

Corporation its prestigious "Certificate of Innovation" for achieving as little as 2.5litre/kg (0.3gal/lb) fresh water consumption for light to medium soil in CBW tunnels using PulseFlow Technology.

This technology was not only proved to save an unprecedented amount of fresh water but has also been successfully implemented in every type of commercial laundry (from prison to healthcare, from dust control to industrial workwear).

### Rebuild, expand, upgrade

Streuli-Schmid knew that he had an opportunity to expand his operation while rebuilding his laundry. He decided that upgrading to PulseFlow Technology would be the way forward and so he asked Milnor International to present a solution for the new laundry's washroom. He specified that the installation should increase production but that this had to be achieved within the footprint occupied by the previous laundry, due to foundation constraints.

The architects, Schmid, and Milnor worked together and found a solution. This allowed the plant to operate on three different levels using a rail system on the soiled side and an automated linen elevator to feed the dryers. On the clean side a sophisticated rail system distributes the dried/conditioned linen to the various finishing stations.

Milnor was able to accomplish this by customising two PulseFlow CBW tunnels so that one would handle workwear and the other flatwork. The Milnor tunnel systems were successfully integrated with the three-level layout and sophisticated rail plan described.

Textilerewashing Schmid now has the capacity to process 2,000kg/hour (4,400 lb/hour) with two, 50kg (110 lb) eight-module 76028 PulseFlow CBW tunnels.

The flatwork CBW produces 1,300kg/hour (2,860 lb/hour) with a fresh water consumption of 3.5litre/kg (0.42gal/lb) and using an MP1540 40bar single-stage press. The workwear tunnel produces 700kg/hour (1,540 lb/hr) with a fresh water consumption of 5litre/kg (0.6gal/lb) using a MXV42032 centrifugal extractor. Both systems feed into a single bank of six 50040TS single-batch steam-heated dryers.

This increase in production has allowed Schmid to move from two shifts to one while increasing production over the previous design. The company can now serve over 600 customers.

After seeing the workwear and flatwork laundry's successful start-up and continued efficiency, Schmid-Suhr decided to upgrade the print rag tunnel, which was located in a nearby



**THREE-TIER SOLUTION:** To increase production within the original space, Milnor helped to devise a three-tier layout. The dryers are fed by an automated linen elevator and a rail system delivers linen from the dryers to the finishing stations

building. This installation posed a fresh set of challenges, including the need to enclose the tunnel in an explosion-proof container. Milnor's 12-module 76039 PulseFlow CBW tunnel will replace its 50kg (110 lb) G1 tunnel, which had been in operation since 1987. This PulseFlow tunnel will double the capacity but use only 60% of the quantity of fresh water that the vintage tunnel washer needed.

Christoph Streuli-Schmid says: "The night when our plant burned down was a traumatic and sad experience. However, it gave us the opportunity to start from scratch and build a new, highly automated plant using the latest technology for sustainable growth on a sound ecological basis."

Pellerin Milnor Corporation is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year and the company soon expects to celebrate having sold 100 PulseFlow CBW tunnels throughout the world. With loyal and satisfied customers like Schmid-Suhr, that celebration could take place any day now. ■

*PulseFlow and CBW are Pellerin Milnor's registered trademarks*

