

Trusted partners plan a design for future expansion

When the family-owned DBL Kuntze & Burgheim laundry business expanded its workwear operation, it chose Milnor and its German dealer Ott Waeschereitechnik to plan and install the barrier washers that process workwear under hygienically perfect conditions to meet stringent regulations



TRUSTED PARTNERS: The family-owned DBL Kuntze & Burgheim laundry has been working with Milnor for three generations. Fritz Kreyer, laundry technical manager is seen here (left) with Florian Ott of Ott Waeschereitechnik, Milnor's German dealer

The DBL Kuntze & Burgheim laundry has two production plants, one at its headquarters in Hannover in northern Germany and a second, more recent plant in Hermsdorf, close to Magdeburg.

At present, the site in Hermsdorf processes around 40,000 pieces of workwear per week in one shift but the new extension will double the laundry's production.

Founded in 1928, the company is still family-owned. Claudia Kuntze-Raschle, Jan Kuntze and Urs Raschle are third generation owners who remain deeply involved in the day-to-day business.

Jan Kuntze says that in total the business's two laundries have 31 Milnor washer-extractors (eleven in Hannover and 20 in Hermsdorf). These include Germany's oldest Milnor washer-extractor, which was built in 1969 and is still in operation.

"When it comes to our partners and the equipment we work with, we use three keywords that are very important for us: quality, reliability and loyalty. That's why Milnor and Ott Waeschereitechnik as the German dealer have been a good match for us for generations," says Kuntze.

The Hermsdorf expansion required barrier washers that met the highest hygienic requirements and that could also be used in conjunction with a complex water recovery system that was developed in-house. The re-use systems save water

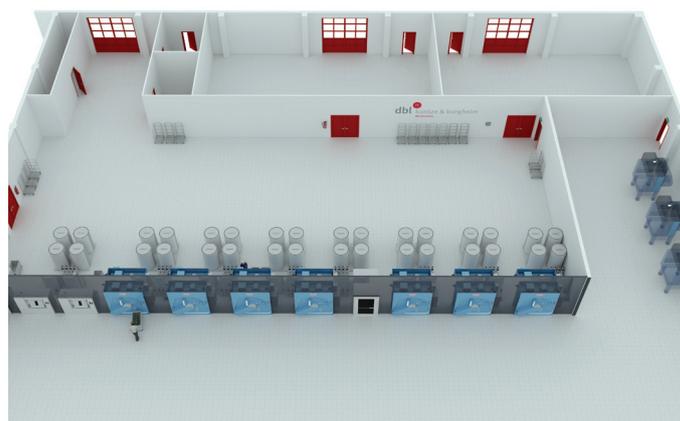
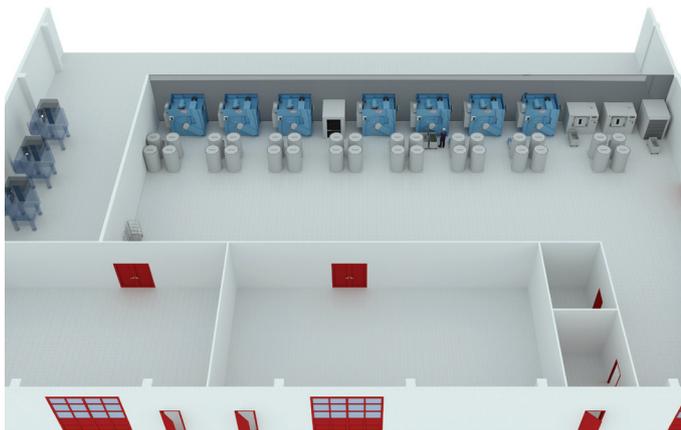
and, even more importantly, keep wastewater to a minimum. Therefore, the selected machines needed to have a flexible microprocessor control to link these systems.

The laundry bought five Milnor 60044 SR2 StaphGuard® washers with a loading capacity of 205kg each.

These machines are equipped with the latest Milnor MilTouch-EX™ control, which has been integrated with the laundry's established Mildata® network.



RAISING PRODUCTIVITY: DBL Kuntze & Burgheim's Hermsdorf site expects to double its production from 40,000 pieces of workwear per week in one daily shift



PLANNING PROCESS: Milnor and its German dealer Ott Waeschereitechnik provided DBL Kuntze & Burgheim with drafts for the layouts throughout the planning phase, including photo-realistic 3D presentations of the soiled side (left) and clean side (right)

The Milnor Midata network connects all 31 Milnor washer-extractors in Hermsdorf and Hannover. Wash formulae can be programmed, stored and managed on a server. In addition, the plant manager is able to create production reports and monitor the operation in real-time.

At the beginning of the project, several options were considered. These included CBW® tunnels and open-pocket washer-extractors. Eventually, DBL Kuntze & Burgheim decided to use washer-extractors for flexibility, since the range of workwear has been increasing, and to process workwear under hygienically perfect conditions that comply with German regulations, it chose Milnor StaphGuard barrier washers.

“Germany has strict regulations regarding linen for certain industries,” explains Florian Ott, of Ott Waeschereitechnik. He adds that the regulations applied to the healthcare sector have been extended to other industries such as workwear processing for the food industry.

“These regulations will probably become even tighter in the near future. That’s one of the reasons why customers such as DBL Kuntze & Burgheim decided to go for barrier washers. They wanted to be prepared for the future,” says Ott.

For the past two years Ott Waeschereitechnik has been using state-of-the-art 3D simulation software to provide customers with a clear view of the layout.

A photo-realistic 3D presentation (with a flexible all-round view) minimises design mistakes during the planning process, explains Ott. Even people without a technical background find it easy to understand the installation details quickly. Furthermore, it gives the installation teams a far better impression of the layout and reduces costly misunderstandings during the installation.

“Ott Waeschereitechnik provided us with 3D simulations throughout the planning process. It was very helpful to see the layout from different angles and perspectives, rather than just having a 2D drawing,” says Jan Kuntze.

The Milnor StaphGuard washers are true barrier machines, featuring the StaphAirtrol, which controls the airflow of the machine vent. The StaphAirtrol is a patented device that prevents air from the soil side going into the machine and air from the machine going to the clean side. In effect the machine “inhales” air from the clean side and “exhales” the

air into the dirty side. This feature is important in complying with the German regulations for hospital and healthcare linen. Milnor StaphGuard washers also use Hydro-Cushion™ suspension to minimise vibration.

The open-pocket machines have fewer doors than a divided cylinder design. Goods are loaded through a single inner door on the soil side and unloaded through one door on the clean side.

The Milnor MilTouch-EX machine control on these machines was important to the DBL group and had also featured on 12 washers installed last year. The control has a clear and informative touchscreen display that shows current machine status including total formula time and time elapsed. Formulae can be developed on a PC, saved to USB external memory and then uploaded via touchscreen. With intuitive fault diagnosis and troubleshooting suggestions, MilTouch-EX streamlines employee training and eliminates operator guesswork.

“Even though we had been pretty sure that we would stay with Milnor and Ott for the new installation, we also checked the technical abilities of other machine manufacturers,” says Jan Kuntze. “After intensive research, we confirmed that Milnor still provides the best solution for our needs. Kuntze & Burgheim Textilpflege and Milnor have been working together for nearly three generations, which is a clear indication of the trusting and good business relationship between the companies.” ■



RE-USE TANKS: DBL Kuntze & Burgheim uses a complex water recovery system at its laundry in Hermsdorf