

Five decades of screen preparation specialisation

Grünig-Interscreen AG celebrates its 50th anniversary as a specialist supplier of screen preparation technology for the international screen printing industry in 2017. The following contribution highlights the company's history and present-day activities.

The screen printing process and the industry that employs this technology have changed markedly since Hans-Ulrich Grünig established a small business in 1967 to design and manufacture specialist screen preparation equipment. Over the intervening 50 years, the process has been exposed to various tendencies, changes and challenges, while Grünig-Interscreen has evolved from being a purely mechanical one man operation into a high-tech business, serving the specialist needs of customers throughout the world.

The company's history can be traced back to 1967, when Hans-Ulrich Grünig started his own company in Switzerland in a small garage. It was here that he built the world's first screen coating machine in 1978. A year later, he developed and manufactured the industry's first automatic coating machine (model H-41), after which the first systems for automatic washing and de-coating were developed and installed worldwide in 1983.

Then, in 1984, the origins of Grünig's current G-WASH series of products can be found. In 1992, the period of co-operation (to develop and manufacture equipment) for

Harlacher ended and from this time on, the complete machine portfolio for professional screen making has been sold under the 'GRUNIG' brand on the international market.

FAMILY MANAGEMENT CONTINUITY

It was in 2002 that Marcel Grünig, who represents the next generation of the Grünig family, took up the reins and started to run the business. This transfer of management control was marked by the construction of a modern production shop, a revision to the company's branding and the appointment of Andreas Ferndrager as a member of the executive management team. Three years later, a revised corporate design and identity were implemented, devoted

to the 'stretching/coating/washing' disciplines.

As a Swiss family enterprise, Grünig subscribes fully to the principle of self-development and manufacture.

The company's core competences 'stretching/coating/washing' are based on Swiss professionalism and quality. 'Made in Switzerland' is not employed simply as an empty phrase but as a commitment that is implemented wholeheartedly by the organisation and its workforce. Today, a clear and dynamic market presence rounds off the overall picture of Grünig.

STRETCHING

Grünig has been building stretching equipment in all sizes and designs for 50 years. During this period, several thousand stretching machines have been developed in every possible technical variation, from purely mechanical, pneumatic and electronic versions up to fully automatic stretching systems.

The company's latest design covers the area of automatic gluing. Optimal co-ordination between the glue system used and the stretching equipment guarantees significant cost savings, while maintaining quality at a consistently high level.

G-STRETCH 275 is a fully automatic stretching machine with automatic UV gluing and LED curing

STRETCHING
COATING
WASHING

GRÜNIG

SWISS SCREEN TECHNOLOGY



Since 2002, Marcel Grünig and Andreas Ferndrager have jointly managed Grünig-Interscreen and Sign-Tronic in a turbulent economic environment.



STM-TEX-Pro-10 film-free CtS in-line screen making.



processes. A special feature of this design is the fact that, in addition to all customary meshes, this machine is also capable of handling pre-coated PCF meshes.

COATING

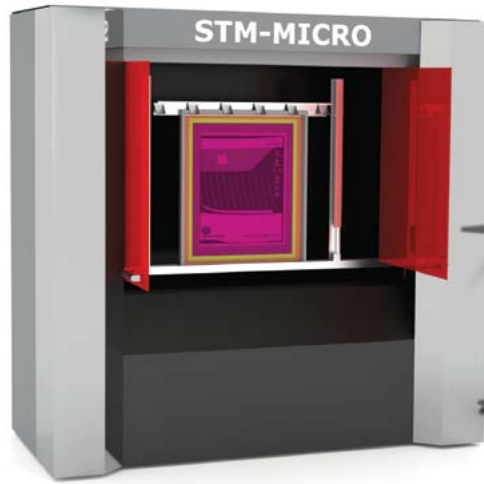
Since Grünig's development of the first automatic coating machine in 1979, thousands of systems have been implemented throughout the world. Whenever the need arises to enhance, standardise and automate the individual screen making processes, automatic coating is usually the first and most important step to be taken.

In all customer markets, major efforts are undertaken to improve print quality and reduce costs by standardising the processes employed. In this context, screen preparation is of the utmost importance. A perfect screen is recognised as a mandatory prerequisite to achieve these goals.

The G-COAT 415 system delivers in-line automation for the automatic coating and drying of printing screens. This equipment provides the standardised application of direct emulsion or capillary films with absolute precision.

WASHING

Screen automation is another central and important aspect, especially in the field of screen cleaning. Grünig's extensive product range offers ideal solutions for all customer segments and sizes, irrespective of whether they require a single compact plug and wash machine, if they need to handle small XS up to extremely large XXL



Introduced at FESPA 2017, the STM-MICRO can be utilised for small screens for hollow glass printers.

formats, or if the optimal answer to their needs involves global in-line automation solutions, which are becoming increasingly important.

For more than 30 years, modular concepts have enabled Grünig to offer tailored solutions to match

customer requirements. The company's G-WASH 170XM series is a modular installation concept for all washing processes: Automatic de-greasing, washing, de-coating and developing of printing screens of any size.



The world's first screen coating machine was built in a small garage by Grünig in 1978.



G-STRETCH 275 fully automatic stretching machine with automatic UV gluing and LED curing processes.



A highly qualified, motivated and flexible workforce is the basis for success at Grünig-Interscreen.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

In September 2011, Marcel Grünig and Andreas Ferndrager acquired a shareholding in Sign-Tronic AG of Widnau. This led, in June 2013, to acquiring 100% of the organisation's share capital, with the intention to ensure the optimal utilisation of synergies, to improve the competitive positioning of both companies and to offer screen printers systematic and customised professional solutions for their various needs.

Separate headquarters are maintained in Schwarzenburg and Widnau and despite the close working relationship that exists between both companies, they remain legally independent entities. Marcel Grünig is the CEO of Grünig-Interscreen AG, whereas Andreas Ferndrager is CEO of Sign-Tronic AG and Sales and Marketing Director of both companies.

The highly motivated personnel of both companies make the best possible use of the manifold synergies available to build a joint future. A dynamic team spirit has developed, making common appearances – such as during the FESPA 2017 trade fair in Hamburg – have become normal occurrences for members of staff.

All activities are co-ordinated and focused on automatic screen making. According to the shared motto 'The perfect screen', ingenious, customer-specific overall solutions are designed to cover all different customer requirements.

Sign-Tronic STM-TEX-PRO-10 film-free, in-line CtS screen making guarantees not only good screen quality but also unbeatable cost reductions. This technology features CtS direct exposure, combined with automatic screen development, blow-off/preliminary drying and feeder technology.

EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE

A long-term supporter of GlassPrint conferences, Grünig will exhibit with Sign-Tronic at the 2017 event on 29-30 November in Düsseldorf, Germany. Andreas Ferndrager will present 'Screen printing – the importance of a perfect screen' to an international audience of glassmakers, decorators, end users, suppliers and brand owners.

At glasstec 2016, Grünig-Interscreen was again flying the flag for serigraphy screen making, promoting countless possibilities that offered users many opportunities to distinguish themselves from other printing procedures. The company presented a series of innovations including



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Grünig and Sign-Tronic at a previous GlassPrint conference. Both companies will be present at the 2017 event on 29-30 November in Düsseldorf, Germany.

the G-WASH 170XM modular machine concept, which completes the successful G-WASH 170XS series by catering for larger screens.

INNOVATIVE TEAM SPIRIT

Highly qualified, motivated and flexible staff members are the basis for any company's success. Grünig can call upon several long-term staff members who are distinguished by a high degree of identification. The company's regular anniversary events have become a cause for celebration. Here and on the occasion of international distributor meetings, for

example, it is apparent that flexibility and professionalism, humour and a zest for life are the hallmarks of Grünig and its workforce.

Grünig-Interscreen AG can be expected to remain a small but global player in the screen printing business. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Grünig-Interscreen AG,
Schwarzenburg, Switzerland
tel: +41 31 734 26 00
email: mail@grunig.ch
web: www.grunig.ch

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Grünig

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Grünig-Interscreen AG · CH-3150 Schwarzenburg
www.grunig.ch · mail@grunig.ch

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DIGITAL CtS DIRECT EXPOSURE BROUGHT TO PERFECTION



TECHNOLOGY

the decisive factor permitting direct exposure on the screen, without compromising on quality. Your advantages? Elimination of processes, **film-free solution**, improved printing quality and **lower screen costs**.



SignTronic AG

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Sign-Tronic AG · CH-9443 Widnau
www.signtronic.com · info@signtronic.com