



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

# 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 when Grünig decided to create its own brand and products for 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



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

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 thousands of stretching machines have been developed in every

*Continued over*



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

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 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 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



*The company's core competences, 'stretching/coating/washing' are based on Swiss professionalism and quality*

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.

### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

In September 2011, Marcel Grünig and Andreas Ferndrigger 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 Ferndrigger is Managing Director of Sign-Tronic AG and Sales and Marketing Director of Grünig-Interscreen AG.

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 – 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



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

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.

### FESPA 2017 ATTENDANCE

The FESPA 2017 exhibition on 8-12 May in Hamburg provides an excellent opportunity for Grünig-Interscreen AG and Sign-Tronic AG to fly the screen printing flag, with a view to offering customers the necessary tools to ensure their future success in this challenging field of screen-printing.

The key message of this joint trade fair appearance is 'The perfect screen'. To this end, each of the essential processes of standardised screen preparation in the field of stretching/gluing, coating/drying, CtS direct exposure and developing/washing/cleaning including water treatment will be presented on the joint exhibit. Visitors will discover that modular concepts are available for virtually every possible application, plant size, format and budget.

### 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. ■



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

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