



Heraeus Infrared helps Non-woven Fabrics Manufacturer Meet Increased Production Targets

By installing an infrared heating system from Heraeus Noblelight, Advanced Fabrics (SAAF) has significantly improved the throughput of coated, non-woven fabrics at its Saudi Arabian manufacturing plant to meet increased demands for its products. The system was designed, built and commissioned on-site following extensive trials at Heraeus' Neston Application Centre.

SAAF is a major international force in the medical and hygiene markets for spunbond and SMS nonwovens, produced on state-of-the-art plant. To achieve the specific properties required in medical operations, of being alcohol-repellent and anti-static, fabric manufacture involves the application of a chemical to 100% polypropylene SMS. SAAF's objective was to increase the throughput of its line, whilst maintaining the high quality of application.

After contacting Heraeus, extensive tests were carried out at the company's Applications Centre. Various combinations of infrared emitters, at various powers were trialed to ensure that sufficient heat for drying could be transferred to the fabric without affecting the polypropylene, which has a low softening and melt point. These tests were then supported with proving trials carried by Heraeus personnel on-site at the Saudi Arabian factory and the results confirmed the suitability of infrared for the application. As a result, the optimum system was installed.

Ian Disley, of SAAF, who was instrumental in selecting the infrared option and took part in the initial trials, comments, "The Heraeus installation has achieved our target and proved eminently cost-effective."



Features

- non-woven fabrics (100% Polypropylen)
- coating with chemical to make the fabric alcohol-repellent and anti-static
- infrared heat dries efficiently without heat damage to the polypropylene

Technical Data

- fast response medium wave infrared system

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