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ZOW

REVIEW

Bespoke Bonding

The adhesive specialist, Kleiberit, demonstrated a firm focus on the processes of tomorrow at ZOW 2018.

What do you expect of your adhesive supplier? Products that meet your needs? Definitely.

Prompt delivery when you need it? Certainly. Advice on the most appropriate products for your processes? Possibly. Technical back-up to help you improve your products? Maybe. So, how about specially formulated products that have been modified to suit the more specific needs and processes used in your factory? Now that's more of a difficult one. For Kleiberit customers, however, it's all part of the service.

"As an adhesive specialist, our focus is on the processes of tomorrow," explained Wolfgang Hormuth, Industrial Adhesive Business Manager for Kleiberit, from the company's ZOW stand. "We use exhibitions like ZOW to talk to our customers about their specific needs and processes. We believe this to be our biggest strength. We don't pigeonhole our customers. Instead, we focus our attention on the optimum process for their manufacturing line. We want to know about their products, the machinery used, where the company is situated and the procedures that are already in place. Important in their own right, each answer offers us an insight into their business and allows us to find

a solution that fits. And, if this means modifying a glue or adjusting the formula in any way, then this is what we do."

Kleiberit's ZOW stand reflected this approach, with much evidence of extended product lines and customised solutions. It also highlighted market trends and key influences in furniture manufacturing, like the growing demand for flat lamination and the use of gloss foils and sheets. Drawing attention to Kleiberit 709.3 (for high gloss application), and 711.9 (for HPL or materials with uneven surfaces requiring very high initial strength), Wolfgang explains, "We have a series of modifications to fit the different processes, substrates and machines our customers are using when working with high gloss foils and sheets. Another area of interest in this field has been the bonding of LVT, which is the gluing of PVC vinyl flooring onto various substrates like WPC, PVC or mineraloid materials. You need to be able to guarantee a very good tack and offer an extreme resistance to plasticizers. Found in most PVC materials, a glue that is not optimised to cope with plasticizers can affect the durability and longevity of your product." It's this understanding of their products and the range of materials being used in the market that set Kleiberit apart.

Different material characters mean a greater need for different bonding solutions. ZOW presented an opportunity to showcase Kleiberit's comprehensive range of interior and exterior wrapping solutions. The latest developments within the Kleiberit 702 family of PUR Hotmelts have been designed to fit individual processes and a full range of variations in production. Whilst interior wrapping focuses heavily on the easy and economic processing and aesthetics at the top of every manufacturer's wish list, the exterior range emphasizes the rigorous testing that's gone into ensure bonding durability and longevity in the most hostile of weather conditions. Tested in accordance with German RAL standards, samples are subjected to 70°C temperatures and 98% humidity for six weeks. Wolfgang explains, "These conditions accelerate the aging process and test the formula's strength. Six weeks under these conditions equates to over 10 years of stress on the adhesive in a middle-European climate which gives us every confidence in our products."

Kleiberit has also extended its PUR edging grades thanks to the company's joint activities with leading machinery producer, like SCM. "We regularly work with the leading machinery producers in the industry and exchange ideas to create new machines and glues that push the boundaries of furniture

design," says Wolfgang. "Most recently, we worked with SCM to create a glue that could bond edging material very quickly, whilst keeping its unique J-shape. By working together, we developed a new grade within the PUR Hotmelt Kleiberit 707.9 family which helped SCM go on to win a coveted innovation prize at last Xylexpo." These latest developments in edgebanding consequently follow the zero glue line requirements of the existing Kleiberit PUR range at very high temperature and moisture resistance.

Forward thinking and an innovative approach to the role of adhesives in the manufacturing sector lay behind the development of Kleiberit's Micro Emission (ME) products, also on show at ZOW. Available throughout its edging, wrapping and flat laminate ranges, the company's advancements in Micro Emission technology has been seen as a huge step forward in the development of glues which are free of hazardous substances. "The industry has been keen to reduce the level of hazardous materials being used on its production lines for a number of years, but further reduction has proven difficult," says Wolfgang. Continual investment and research into this area, resulted in the development of the ME range, which provides a severe reduction in the Isocyanate Monomers that are found in normal PUR glues, lessening the risk of

chemical exposure without reducing performance. Wolfgang adds, "We have found a solution that has the same level of durability and performance as standard PUR glues but with the added advantage of improving health and safety in the workplace. The industry's response to this innovation has been strong and we're continuing to see it grow in popularity."

To find out more about Kleiberit's cutting edge solutions visit www.kleiberit.com, or to discuss an issue that's affecting your production, call Kleiberit UK on 01530 836699. You will also find Kleiberit in Nuremberg at Holz-Handwerk in March 2018, hall 10.1 stand 114.

