

10 YEAR CELEBRATION

GAZZELLA ATLANTIQUE HITS A LANDMARK YEAR.



This year, Gazzella Atlantique celebrates its 10 year anniversary, based on more than 30 years of experience gained under the former Sodeme company. We took the opportunity to go back over our 10 years of activities and discuss the steps the company has made – and particularly significant changes implemented three years ago, helping them get in to the path of industry 4.0.

Analysing sales made between 1985 and 2000, only 35% of the customer base had replaced an older machine and 30% had invested in an additional machine. But since 2000, the customer list has been expanded, with 70% being totally new companies. “We noticed that the previous Sodeme machines were well respected, as they were heavy duty, robust machines that continued to operate at a high standard, producing excellent boxes,” explains Andrea Torcellan, CEO. “Those customers kept running the machines and never seemed to replace them,

“We noticed that the previous Sodeme machines were well respected, as they were heavy duty, robust machines that continued to operate at a high standard, producing excellent boxes. Those customers kept running the machines and never seemed to replace them, which is testament to the quality. We continue to build robust machines that will operate for many years and decades.”

ANDREA TORCELLAN, CEO



which is testament to the quality. We continue to build robust machines that will operate for many years and decades.”

Each year, about 10% of the turnover is invested in R&D, to ensure continuous development of the company’s machinery portfolio. “Over the last 10 years, we have significantly enhanced the stitch head motors, for example,” continues Torcellan. “The heads are now faster than ever, achieving 1,500 stitches per min.”

He adds, “We decided to develop even more innovations; firstly, we improved the automatic passage of the corrugated sheet through the machine. We have implemented an advanced flexibility on the mixed junction for all stitching combinations; hot melt gluing, vinyl gluing and taping – all possible automatically without any mechanical intervention.

“We have developed a solution to quickly change the stitching/gluing shoe, an innovation that allows users both to reverse the position of the shoe without having to return the stack upstream and to have a shoe of different widths from 50 to 100mm, according to the style of stitching/gluing combination required.”



Industry 4.0

“We have a permanent quest; we always work on bringing more services to our customers than yesterday. It is through this mantra that we entered into the evolution of Industry 4.0; optimisation of performance can only be achieved by collecting and analysing data,” says Torcellan.

“We have focused on how to generate legitimate KPI in a process where the human component is more influential than the technology itself, and the solution came during a team meeting where we were examining productivity of operators in different countries such as Korea and Germany rather than the United States and Brazil.

“The conclusion was to ‘relieve’ the operator of the problems associated with the equipment

flow (stack input, settings and palletizing) to allow him to assume the role of machine driver and not a machine handler. This means the machine manages the stream while the operator manages the product,” he adds.

“When we know that some format changes are still based on manual settings, this concept is essential,” continues Torcellan. “Our novelties will be to offer a new ‘supervision’ interface to customers who want a full integration of the machines in their plant system. Our machines will be able to generate data and this production data will be processed from the ERP-GAZZELLA interface, from receiving orders to post-production data. The data will be optimised to configure the productivity indicators that will best suit our customers needs.

“By processing this data, each customer will be able to appreciate the real quality of our machines and the gain an advantage from using Gazzella Atlantique equipment.”

Automatic Controls

“We have also worked on developing automatic settings within our semi-automatic machine range,” says Torcellan. “We have developed an automatic control function for the boxes at the start of the series, so the operator can control production directly on his workstation, without having to move and without stopping the machine – prior to this new feature, the operator had to move to the back of the machine to extract the board to examine it and put it back in its place if correct, and repeat this process until you achieve compliance. This new function automates this task, it has been patented and named ‘TEST MODE® By Gazzella Atlantique’. Another improvement will be to add special cameras along the end of the machine, which will monitor the presence and formation of the stitches, identifying non-compliant boxes in the production line. The calculated productivity gain, compared with the old machines, is equal to +42%.”

Torcellan concludes, “Our 10th anniversary marks our entry into a new era of development and innovation; the feedback from the first customers has been very positive and we are already working on other innovative developments. To help continue growing our customer base, we are further strengthening our export markets and this year, we are developing our network of agents and distributors in Russia and Asia.” ■