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## **High Precision Slitter Modules**

Acu-Slit slitter modules, available in both on-line and cut-to-length configurations, are said to be multi-purpose and accurate. Built to last, they can easily replace existing outdated slitter stations or serve as an add-on to any web processing line, according to the company. The rotary system features a solid, hardened anvil, and blade materials are through hardened D-2 steel. Each unit is equipped with precision bearings designed to handle high load forces, as well as precision machined steel side frame plates. The unit can be mounted on any production line and performs a variety of tasks from simple slitting to motorized slitter



functions that cut dense materials. Shear cut slitters provide clean, precise cuts on flexible materials and provide the longest blade life. Crush cut slitters effectively cut thicker, low density materials such as filter media and nonwovens. These are said to be convenient units for frequent changeovers.

Azco www.azcocorp.com

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## Rubber And Liquid Silicone Molding

New opportunities in multi-component technology are available with this process for silicone vulcanization at low temperatures, feasible due to enhancements made to silicone rubbers in the past two years. While conventional silicone rubbers require high temperatures for crosslinking, the new types vulcanize with exposure to light in the ultraviolet wavelength range at room temperature. This enables silicones to be combined with a wide range of thermoplastics using two-component and multi-component injection molding. Even temperature-sensitive materials such as polypropylene can now be processed with silicone in a single step. UV vulcanization requires mold cavity inserts that are permeable to light and UV lamps integrated in the mold for irradiation. This new process not only facilitates new molding applications, but also reduces cycle times and energy consumption. In a recent exhibit with partner Elmet, the irradiation time required for the vulcanization of the silicone component was around 20 seconds. In the conventional high-temperature process, silicone parts with a similar wall thickness would need more than a minute for crosslinking. With the



development of the Roto Feeder, a rotary conveyor for continuous feeding of solid silicone or BMC materials to the plasticizing unit, avoiding inclusions and maintaining constant pressure during processing of these materials could become significantly easier and more economical, according to the company. The development of the new all-electric Roto Feeder opens the use of solid silicone and BMC materials to applications where these materials were previously not cost-effective due to high material and processing costs. The lack of automatic process engineering capabilities, particularly for small batch sizes (up to 50,000 parts), often made the use of solid silicone or BMC materials unfeasible. The continuous, air-free material feeding through the Roto Feeder dispenses with the cost-intensive, problematic engineering process of rolling the silicone, and therefore allows for an economical molding process. Processing is kept consistent via the units' closed loop pressure control which regulates the speed of the feed-screw, and the all-electric design provides energy efficiency and a cleaner process than found with the typical hydraulic stuffer unit. The Roto Feeder also eliminates material leakage, again supporting a cleaner more cost efficient process. The company's Ecodrive, now available on the Elast series of machines, is said to be an innovative drive system based on a servomotor that varies the drive speed dependent on the speed requirement for the particular movement of the machine. In other words, the drive is only active during machine movements, with energy consumption dropping to virtually zero when the machine is idle. In contrast to standard hydraulics with asynchronous drives, Ecodrive does not consume flushing or idle energy when the machine is not in motion. Legacy hydraulic drives continuously pump the hydraulic oil through the system. Besides the increased energy consumption due to constant motor/pump activity, the cooling water requirements of standard systems are also higher because the hydraulic oil is heated by the constant movement. Heating of hydraulic oil in particular is a key indicator of energy inefficiency. The use of Ecodrive with Elast machines can save up to 70 percent of energy consumption compared with standard hydraulics, according to the company.

Engel www.engelglobal.com

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## **Electric Cabinet Oven**

The No. 912 is an electrically-heated, 500 degrees F cabinet oven, currently used for curing rubber parts. Workspace dimensions measure 20" wide x 20" deep x 26" high on this oven, which features a stainless steel exterior with a #4 brushed finish and a Type