

Biesse suffers a further slump in order intake



Pesaro site

(Photo credit: Biesse)

The global pandemic led the Italian plant and machinery manufacturer Biesse S.p.A. to shutter its production facilities for around five weeks. According to the company, its locations in Italy and its facility in Bangalore, India, were equally affected by the stoppages.

A slump in ordering witnessed since the end of 2018 gradually intensified during the first half of 2020. Order intake had declined by a comparatively modest percentage of 17.0% to €507m in 2019 as a whole. The decreases were then bigger in the first quarter (-24.7% to €101m) and second quarter (-46.5% to €71m). Order intake thus tumbled by 35.5% to €172m (Jan.-June 2019: 268m) in the entire first half, while the backlog of orders was down 8.3% at €180m (225m) as of the end of June.

The Wood division fared worse than the company as a whole when it comes to these indicators. This division booked a 40.8% fall in incoming orders between January and June, with the backlog of orders down 13.4% compared with the same time last year. The division's revenues dropped 23.6% in a year-on-year comparison to €184.0m (241.1m). Unlike order intake and the order cushion, consolidated revenues fell more on a group-wide basis (-25.4% to €256.7m).

In terms of the different sales markets, the biggest slump in revenues occurred in Western Europe (-26.6% to €116.2m) and the Rest of the World (-27.6% to €9.7m). Somewhat smaller decreases in revenues were recorded in the Asia-Pacific region (-24.3% to €40.7m), North America (-24.9% to €56.4m) and Eastern Europe (-22.8% to €33.8m).

Biesse's earnings were lower in a year-on-year comparison, as well. EBITDA dived by 42.4% to €22.5m (39.1m), while adjusted EBIT (-78.4% to €4.4m) decreased almost twice as much in the first half of the year. Biesse booked an operating loss of €1.0m for the second quarter, something that it attributed to higher reserves. □

Giardina Group acquires De Stefani Valerio

The coating and drying technology specialist Giardina Group has widened its spectrum of products to include edging and profile grinding machinery for the woodworking industry by acquiring De Stefani Valerio & C. S.n.c., based in Birone di Giussano, Italy.

Giardina Group was created at the end of 2017 when the Italian machinery and plant producer Mauri Macchine s.r.l., headquartered in Cermenate, merged with Giardina Finishing s.r.l., based in Figino Serenza. While Mauri Macchine mainly supplies laminating and drying solutions for the woodworking industry, Giardina Finishing previously widened its portfolio to include additional applications for laminating units, for instance in the metal and plastic sector and solutions for the glass industry.

According to a press release issued on 1 June, the acquisition is part of the Giardina Group 2030 project, which sets out the group's strategy to diversify its offerings. De Stefano Valerio will continue to operate at its Giussano headquarters and be managed by Sara and Alessio De Stefani. Mauro Macchine and Giardina Finishing's production activities have been pooled in Figino Serenza since January 2018. □

Homag entering into another IT partnership

Homag Group AG signed a partnership agreement with DAU S.p.A., an Italian software firm based in Pieve di Soligo

that specialises in CAD solutions for the furniture, kitchen and bathroom industry, in May 2020. DAU develops and sells 3D product configurators and webshop links for the furniture sector under the 3CAD DAU brand. This data can be processed in Homag production planning systems. Customer projects are to be handled jointly as part of the strategic partnership. Homag and DAU also want to work together on developing new solutions.

DAU has been a part of the Norwegian firm Compusoft Group, based in Sarpsborg, since December 2018. Compusoft has widened its product portfolio, which used to focus on CAD planning software for kitchen and bathroom merchants to include end-to-end solutions for furniture manufacturers as a result of the acquisition. According to Compusoft, 3CAD applications allow for central management of the entire order process from the original customer design to CNC manufacturing using a web-based 3D configurator.

DAU reported that more than 600 furniture industry customers all over the world now use this software. They include the German firm Bulthaup GmbH & Co. KG (Bodenkirchen-Aich), the French kitchen, living room and bathroom furniture producer Schmidt Groupe S.A.S. (Lièpvre) and the Cassina, Cappellini and Poltrona Frau brands owned by the US group Haworth Inc. (Holland, Michigan).

Homag had already expanded its existing partnership with 3Tec automation GmbH & Co. KG, which specialises in software solutions for manufacturing execution system (MES), and the software firm imos AG, both based in Herford, Germany, in the first quarter. By working with 3Tec, Homag wants to enhance software integration with machinery from different manufacturers via an overarching production management system. The Homag iX 2019 software was unveiled in early April as a result of the partnership with imos. This technology covers all order processing stages from planning and presentation to construction and manufacturing. □