



Customer Focus: Stora Enso



A flexible, versatile and easy-to-clean packaging line. Carl Ternström at Stora Enso states that they are very satisfied with Vebe's system. "It's a clear-cut solution that makes it easy to get an overview and follow the process."

Vebe's system a piece of the puzzle in Stora Enso's environmental push

Stora Enso has launched the production of wood fiber-based biocomposite – an environmentally friendly alternative to plastic. Now, the company has invested in a completely new packaging line from Vebe.

"We are satisfied. The line is both flexible and easy to clean," says Carl Ternström at Stora Enso.

Europe's largest facility for wood fiber-based biocomposite is located at Hyltebruk, just outside Halmstad. The investment is part of Stora Enso's transformation to focus on renewable materials. The goal is to replace fossil-based materials with wood-based, renewable materials as much as possible and pave the way for a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

"The biocomposite that we manufacture is a mixture of wood fiber and polymers. It's a product that can replace many different types of plastics. We sell granules—tiny balls of 4 millimeters, explains Carl Ternström.

When Stora Enso increased its production volume of biocomposite a few years ago, they chose to invest in a packaging line from Vebe.

"Vebe has installed a line with the bag filler Autopac EC 4.38, palletizer, wrapping machine and transport system. It's a clear-cut solution that makes it easy to get an overview and follow the

actual packaging process. Furthermore, the line is easy to clean," says Carl Ternström.

He adds that Stora Enso chose Vebe's packaging solution for several reasons. Among other things, due to the flexibility of the line and to the fact that Vebe was able to handle the entire packaging process.

"We are satisfied. It has worked well with both installation and service, and we have good communication," he says.

The biocomposite that Stora Enso sells is used in many different types of products, such as kitchen utensils, packaging, plastic pallets and clothes hangers. The material is as moldable as plastic and as pliable as wood.

"The biocomposite becomes stronger and stiffer than plastic and withstands heat better. This is a sustainable alternative and an effective way to become more environmentally friendly," says Carl Ternström. ■

New filling technology provides dust-free filling

Vebe is now launching an upgrade that eliminates dust when filling bags. The new technology will be standard on new machines, but can also be retrofitted on older machines.

Dust can be a problem when filling bags with powder material. To remedy this, Vebe has developed a sealing system that is placed at the end of the filling pipe.

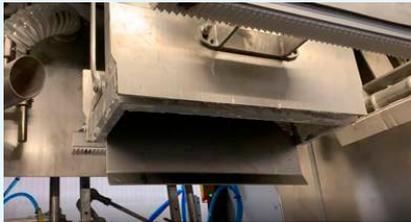
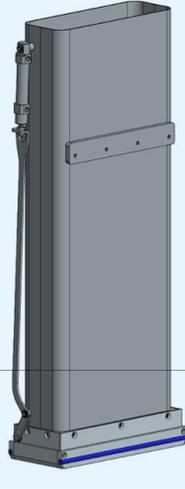
"This means that the dust during the filling step disappears completely. Therefore, the machine doesn't need to be cleaned as often," says Krister Bertilsson, technical manager at Vebe.

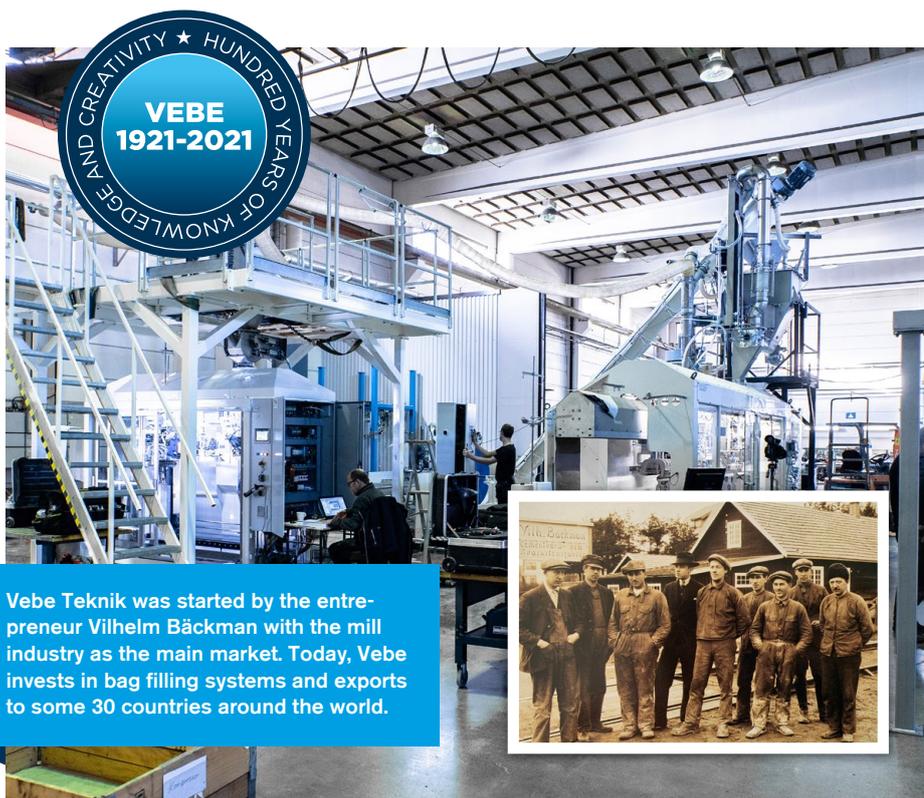
The sealing system will be standard on all new bag fillers, but is also compatible with older machines.

"When we retrofit this technology on an older machine, we replace certain parts of the bag clamp and update the software for the machine.

We have already tested this on several machines with good results," states Krister Bertilsson.

"Packing products that dust a lot is a bit of our specialty, and with this technology we can develop this specialty even further." ■





Vebe Teknik was started by the entrepreneur Vilhelm Bäckman with the mill industry as the main market. Today, Vebe invests in bag filling systems and exports to some 30 countries around the world.

Spirited 100-year old charges ahead

This year, Vebe turns 100 years old. It is a vital and vigorous 100-year-old now going for it in the international market. But it all started with mills.

In 1921, Vebe Teknik was founded by the young Vilhelm Bäckman. During a trip to the United States, he developed a great interest in the mill industry, and he decided to start building mills.

"Vilhelm Bäckman was a creative entrepreneur who saw opportunities in most things. For more than 40 years, he led and developed the company, until he died in a traffic accident in the 60s and the family took over the operation," says Mats Lindgren, CEO.

The family then ran the company, but sold it after 10 years. At that time, the business was focused on dry powders and granules. Since then, ownership has shifted between private individuals and investment companies, and the business has increasingly concentrated on bag filling and palletizing.

"Today, we develop bag filling systems for the food, chemical and feed industry. With over 100 years of experience in finding solutions for powder and granule handling, we have developed in-depth knowledge that benefits our customers," says Mats Lindgren.

Mats Lindgren himself started at the com-

pany as early as 1979 and worked his way up in the organization, from cutting sheet metal to becoming CEO. For a number of years, he was also a partner.

Export investment

Today, the investment company Karnell K4 is the main owner of Vebe. They want to propel the company forward and have set ambitious goals, such as doubling sales and increasing exports.

"We have successfully stepped into the international market and want to continue to grow there. If we can succeed at home, the conditions are good for success abroad as well," asserts Mats Lindgren, and explains that Vebe exports to some 30 countries around the world. Exports currently account for about 70 percent of sales. In the past year, however, the pandemic has affected trade shows and marketing.

"But when it is over, we expect to be able to continue on the path we have set and grow even more abroad. We will invest in participating in more trade shows and increase the number of sellers and agents," says Mats Lindgren.

Of course, Vebe will also continue to invest in finding new, smart solutions to remain at the forefront of the development of systems for bag-filled products. ■



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Tony new salesman at Vebe

Tony Douhán is Vebe's new addition to the sales side. Tony has a solid background as a technical salesman and key account manager in the packaging and manufacturing industries.

"I look forward to working with Vebe's first-class products and hope to be able to contribute expertise to the company and our customers," he says.

What does a good day look like in private?

"Then I am out on the lake with my boat pulling up a pike or playing padel or hiking in the woods and fields with our dogs. Family and friends are important. Like everyone else, I long to be able to travel again. Rome, Greece and the USA are next in line when the opportunity comes! ■

