

Growing flexible market drives demand for slitter-rewinders

SP Ultraflex dominates Indian market

Mumbai-based SP Ultraflex has achieved good success with its latest Roboslit dual turret slitter-rewinder in the past year. “In the last financial year, we achieved good sales,” says Biku Kohli, director of SP Ultraflex. “As always, it is a rewarding experience to see projections and estimates being substantiated on the floor, one after the other at the plants of leading flexible packaging companies.”

Slitter-rewinders have been installed in the past year at Shrinath Rotopack’s new plant in Hyderabad, ITC’s packaging division near Chennai and at Caprihans, a leading producer of PVC materials for pharmaceutical blister packaging. Another SP Ultraflex slitter-rewinder has also gone to Paharpur Packaging in the Delhi-NCR. Kohli points out, “Paharpur is very strict in its evaluation process and we are proud that they have selected us. In fact, the deal now stands testimony to the high quality products that we manufacture.”

“The last few months have seen several Roboslit installations across the length and breadth of the country. With confidence replacing initial scepticism, more



Biku Kohli with the SP Ultraflex slitter-rewinder at TCPL's new flexible packaging plant in Silvassa

PACKAGING PRODUCTION

and more customers are investing in dual turret technology as a means of achieving sustained growth without a corresponding increase in outlay in terms of manpower, space and utilities,” adds Kohli.

The company launched the Roboslit in 2014 and installed its first machine at GLS Industries, Gurgaon in late 2014. The Roboslit has a capacity to handle unwind reels having diameters of up to 1,000 mm and web widths of up to 1,300 mm. It is possible to produce rewind reels with diameters of up to 600 mm at speeds of up to 700 mm. With the Roboslit brand now established in the market and the benefits of dual turret technology well known, both new and repeat orders are coming. The company recently customized its slitter-rewinder for ITC, which is using it for converting whisky cartons. Many other leading flexible packaging converters including Huhtamaki PPL and Parakh Agro’s Packaging Division.

SP Ultraflex is now considered the leading Indian manufacturer of slitter-rewinders in a market populated by perhaps a dozen local competitors as well as the four leading global suppliers. Apart from its large installed base in the country, it is a successful exporter of slitter-rewinders mainly to the Middle East and African countries. In some markets such as Nigeria, it enjoys total dominance with as many as 30 to 40 slitter-rewinders installed.