Digitalization and Sustainability were the Focal Points of the Wirtgen Group Technology Days 2024

Kleemann Plays Host to the International Industry Get-Together

2,700 guests from more than 100 countries responded to the invitation to visit the Wirtgen Group Technology Days 2024 in Göppingen. The overarching themes of the two-day event at the headquarters site of Kleemann GmbH were digitalization and sustainability. True to the motto “Smarter. Safer. More sustainable.” the company group demonstrated machines and technologies developed to enable the successful realization of construction projects.

The Wirtgen Group impressed and fascinated the professionals attending the event with numerous innovative systems and solutions, including eleven world premieres, and a clear vision for the future of road construction, and showed that the new developments are a response to the pressing challenges of our times. “Innovation is in our genes. As we are aware from the feedback we receive from our customers, there is increasing demand for smarter, safer and more sustainable solutions in markets around the globe. We have concentrated our efforts on this, and can now present state-of-the-art machine-technologies and digital systems with which we provide support and assistance to our customers in all aspects of the digital transformation. At the same time, we attach great importance to holistic solutions for their construction projects – from the planning phase through to documentation and statistical analysis,” says Dr. Volker Knickel, CEO of the Wirtgen Group. The motto of the event: “Smarter. Safer. More Sustainable. succinctly describes our road map for the future.

Machine Exhibition with 11 World Premieres

With around 70 exhibits for a range of different application scenarios, Wirtgen, Vögele, Hamm, Kleemann, Benninghoven, CIBER, and John Deere showed the concrete solutions with which they will accompany the industry on the way to more digitalization and automation in road construction and materials processing.

Interest in the world premieres was particularly strong. These included a SUPER 1800-5i “Dash 5” generation asphalt paver from Vögele that offers smart automatic functions, improved comfort, and an optimized drive system. Hamm presented a total of four new machines, including an HC series compactor with an innovative VA (variable amplitude) drum. The Smart Compact compaction assistant enables automatic compaction to a specified target value with VA-compactors. With its satellite-based AutoTrac system, the latest addition to the portfolio of wheeled soil stabilizers from Wirtgen, the Rock Crusher WRC 240i, demonstrated how the preparation of the ground for road and highway construction can be realized more quickly and with fewer resources.

For the materials processing sector, Kleemann, the host of the event, presented the new MSS 502i EVO scalping screen with an alternative, fully-electric drive option. Asphalt production offers the greatest potential when it comes to reducing CO₂ emissions. In response to this, the company group also presented the new generation of burners from Benninghoven, which supports the simultaneous use of up to four different fuels. This means, for example, that an asphalt mixing plant can be flexibly operated with the most appropriate energy source – including, for the first time, exclusively with green hydrogen.

Industry Experts Present Groundbreaking Technologies

Internationally recognized experts and specialists from the Wirtgen Group provided first-hand insights into the technologies of the future. In the program of presentations on the subject of sustainability, they shared their experiences and knowledge on subjects including sustainable construction, the potentials for CO2 reduction offered by the recycling of hot-mixed asphalt and cold recycling, and new, electrically-powered drive solutions for crushers and screening plants.

In the thematic complex of digitalization, presentations by specialists from the Wirtgen Group showed how the company group can support and assist its customers in the course of the digital transformation. Here, the John Deere Operations Center for construction equipment will become the central platform for providing digital solutions for the management of entire construction sites – at any time and from anywhere, including planning, monitoring, analysis, and maintenance. The Operations Center will act here as an interface between operators and machines on the construction site, the offices of site and resource managers, and the workshop manager.

But what does this mean in practical terms? Thanks to plannable machine availability, customers will, for instance, enjoy the benefits of high process reliability. The immediate availability of comprehensive information will enable project managers and machine operators to make the right decisions. A higher degree of process automation and the use of machine assistance systems will not only lead to higher productivity due to operators being able to concentrate fully on the work in progress, but also to a more efficient and effective deployment of human resources. The precision and, consequently, the quality of the work will also increase, which will in turn avoid the necessity of reworking and help reduce material and operating costs.

The broad spectrum and the informational depth of the presentations underscored that the Wirtgen Group has a road map that lays out how it will support and assist customers in the use of their production systems with product, system, and service solutions and, at the same time, decisively accelerate the digital transformation of the industry.

How to “Do More with Less”: Production System Solutions in Real-World Scenarios

The greatest ecological and economic potentials lie in the totality of the construction process. Various live demonstrations showed how the Production System solutions from the Wirtgen Group play a role in this – for instance the use of low-temperature asphalt, concrete and asphalt recycling, or soil stabilization, and illustrated how the target-oriented utilization of technologies leads to greater precision, higher quality of results, and the consumption of fewer resources. Or, in other words: how to “Do More with Less” – and be “Smarter, Safer, and More Sustainable”.

As Knickel explains: “This enables our customers to realize more construction projects with fewer resources, build and rehabilitate more infrastructure, and simultaneously increase their profitability.” At the same time, he emphasized that digital assistance systems and process automation also contribute to offsetting the shortage of qualified personnel throughout the industry: “This also means that less experienced machine operators will be in a position to deliver qualitatively identical results to those a skilled specialist would achieve.” On top of this, telematics solutions will deliver greater transparency about the operational status of customers’ fleets and enable them to carry out proactive and even more precisely targeted servicing and maintenance of their machines.

A Look behind the Scenes: Kleemann Opens the Factory Doors

On a guided tour through the Kleemann production facilities, the host of the event gave the professional audience fascinating insights into the manufacturing process chain. Since the opening of the new plant in 2009, the highly-specialized facility has been successively extended and, like all other Wirtgen Group factories, has been constantly upgraded for sustainable operation in line with the group’s sustainability strategy. Today, the Kleemann plant is one of the world’s most modern facilities for the production of crushers and screening plants. Many of the visitors were particularly impressed, not least by the highly complex prefabrication centers in which the core components of the Kleemann plants are produced with exceptional precision.

“In past years, we concentrated our efforts on target-oriented expansion of our product portfolio and now offer suitable solutions for every application, no matter whether for recycling or natural stone processing. To achieve this, we invested in areas such as expanding our production capacities and improving our assembly or logistics processes,” says Kleemann CEO Alexander Knam, describing the development of the company’s headquarters site in Göppingen. He believes that the specialist for materials processing equipment is ideally positioned for the future: “With these investments, we have laid the foundation for the ongoing production of our products and technologies under ideal conditions, sustainably and efficiently,” says Knam.

Photos:

   
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At the Technology Days 2024, the Wirtgen Group presented groundbreaking solutions for the road construction and materials processing industries under the motto “Smarter. Safer. More sustainable.”

   
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How to “Do More with Less”: The Wirtgen Group presented solutions for its customers’ production systems in a series of live demonstrations, and showed how the target-oriented utilization of technologies can lead to predictable results, greater precision, better quality of results, and the consumption of fewer resources.

  
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Among other things, the statements given by Alexander Knam, Managing Director of Kleemann GmbH, and Wirtgen Group CEO Dr. Volker Knickel, at the traditional press conference also provided insights into the company group’s sustainability strategy.

  
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With almost 70 exhibits, the exhibition provided a representative cross-section of the comprehensive range of products offered by Wirtgen, Vögele, Hamm, Kleemann, Benninghoven, CIBER, and John Deere.

  
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Visitors on the guided tour of the Kleemann plant were particularly impressed by the sheer size of the production workshops.

  
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The eight technical presentations by international experts drew a large audience. For example, Michael Klein, Product Manager for Digital Products, spoke about how users can benefit from the Operations Center, the digital platform with solutions for the optimization of processes, machines and services in their everyday work on the construction site.

*Please note: the photographs shown here are only previews. If you wish to publish them in other media, please download the higher resolution (300 dpi) versions from the* Wirtgen Group *websites.*

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