

Newsletter



Special interview with the management of the Mill

Following period is very important and full of challenges for our Mill. This year we are launching the long-announced reconstruction of the machine, so for that reason and in order to inform our partners more closely, we prepared an interview with one of our chief executives from production department.

The standstill of the Mill's production will last for 3 months and machine downtime is scheduled to begin on June 14th.

Saša Dobrić - production manager at Umka Board



1. Can you share with our readers your review of the work of production sector in the previous year, and in general in the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic?

We have very challenging period behind us, accompanied by necessary adjustment to the ongoing situation while trying to maintain the stability in production. Considering that in our industry it is not possible to work remotely, we have put great effort and focused on the employees, paying special attention to prevention, well-being and health security. Promptly after the outbreak of the pandemic, all necessary protective equipment has been provided for the employees. Also, the shift work has been reorganized in a more suitable way, to ensure less direct contact among workers. In order to educate and keep the employees well informed about this hazardous situation, we have successfully organized numerous trainings and workshops together with medical staff, while continuously applying all state adopted health recommendations.

The last year's record in production showed us that the applied measures were both well-tailored and appropriately timed. The fact that this record has occurred in such a challenging period for all the world makes us even more proud on the results that we have achieved.

The majority of the state issued health measures has continued to be applied in 2021 as well. In the first quarter the company has organized the vaccination for all the employees that have shown interest in this way of protection against the virus. Hopefully, we will soon return to the normal work life.

2. In the current year, Umka will have a major three-months reconstruction of the production machine, how are you preparing for that part of the investment, and what are the main improvements on the machine that will be made?

The final preparation for the reconstruction, which will take place during summer, is ongoing. Considering that this is the biggest renovation that the factory has encountered so far, we take it very seriously and carefully plan every step to detail. The majority of the technical staff has been intensively working on this challenging project for months. In close cooperation with the company Valmet, which is known as the leader in the production of equipment for the paper industry, the improvements of the board machine are carefully planned in order to achieve both the increase of the production capacity, as well as the improvement of the quality of the final product.

The major upgrade is expected to occur at so called „wet-end“ on the board machine, where the current technology of the vacuum formers is being replaced with the state-of-the-art forming section. It is expected that the newly installed three layers fourdriniers with the latest generation of the headboxes enable the capacity enlargement and top quality of our board. Besides this, the completely new configuration of the coating section is designed, by installing pulling groups and new curtain coater. In order to keep up with the capacity increase, it is also necessary to substitute the existing winder with the new, fully automated device, also produced by Valmet.

3. What do you expect after the reconstruction regarding the product itself and production capacities in general?

The proposed upgrades, besides the mentioned increase in the capacity and the quality, will hopefully have positive impact on our portfolio, as well. After all these improvements, we will be able to offer to our customers significantly wider range of the board grammages 160- 450 g/m², allowing us to produce the „liners“, and adequately answer to the market requirements.

The characteristics of our board will also be significantly improved. The way of web forming is going to be changed, by implementing new fourdriniers. This will result in better fibres formation, improved visual effect, as well as surface smoothness and more balanced grammage on the whole web width. Curtain coater will enable better coverage and consequently better printability of the top layer. Pulling groups will add stability on the coating section, hopefully leading to less unplanned breaks. One of the most important aspects is the safety of the employees which will be significantly improved by implementing automatic tail trading system, both on the press and coating sections. This upgrade will also positively affect the web trading efficiency and lead to less waste production.

After performing all the activities planned for the next two exciting years, the capacity is expected to be almost doubled, with the maximum board machine speed of 600 m/min and maximum daily production of cca 700 t. In order to achieve this goal, we are dedicated to build completely new OCC line in stock preparation in 2022. and upgrade the top layer line, also in cooperation with Valmet. Besides the capacity increase, this will also lead to better cleanness and quality of the inlet stock.

There are many challenges in front of us, but we feel that we are ready to tackle this significant assignment. We are looking forward to implement and start using the state-of-the-art equipment of the board production industry. We are eagerly expecting to see the results of the long-time effort, which will hopefully manifest in even more satisfied customers and all participants in the production process

News and trends

Internation Day of Forests 2021 (March 21st)



Forests are one of the most complex ecosystems. They represent a natural habitat for many plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms.

Their excessive use has led to a constant reduction of forest areas and environmental degradation. Restoration of forest ecosystems and increase of the territory under the forest is one of the basic preconditions for preserving a healthy environment and the survival of life as we know it.

As one of the largest recyclers in the Balkans, Umka Board Mill annually processes about 150,000 tons of recycled cardboard, which can be compared to 2.5 million preserved trees. Bearing in mind that some plants such as pedunculate oak ("Quercus robur") take 120 to 180 years to fully grow, we are very happy for every tree we can save from being cut down.

With this text and facts we want to remind once more on importance of preserving the beauty of the biodiversity of our natural environment. One of the ways how to do it is responsible waste management, especially waste paper. Happy International Day of Forests!



In Q1 2021 we managed to deliver our products to 28 countries across Europe, Asia and North America. Our products were shipped to Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Mexico, Poland, Greece and Russia among others.

Depending on the transportation possibilities, pandemic issues and all other relevant factors, we will continue to adapt and follow latest market trends and limitations caused by the pandemic.

Thank you for your trust and cooperation!

If you have questions or inquires please contact us

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