

New Titan SR9 Series slitter rewinders win global acclaim and Converting Innovation Award



The Titan SR9-DT Dual Turret slitter rewriter

"In the development of the Titan SR9 Series, we focused our product development strategy on achieving significant reductions in machine stop-time for converters & film producers."

Since the launch of the 'next generation' Titan SR9 Series slitter rewinders at the beginning of 2012, sales of the new technology platform have gone from strength to strength with Dual Turret (DT) and Duplex (DS) slitter rewinders commissioned in locations from Australia to the USA, in Canada, Western Europe, SE Asia and Indonesia.

This included a 2250mm (88 in) wide Duplex slitter to Applitec S.A., a contract converter in France and three SR9-DT turret rewinders to Bak Ambalaj, one of the largest converters of flexible materials in Turkey.

The company was also delighted to win the coveted C2 European Converting Innovation Award for 2013 at the ICE Europe exhibition in Munich, Germany in March for the advanced design & technology of its new Titan SR9 Series slitter rewinders.

The Award was presented to Alan Johnson, Managing Director of Atlas Converting Equipment Ltd. and Barrie Homewood, Sales & Marketing Director for the Titan product range. The Titan SR9 Series was the exclusive winner in the slitting & rewinding category.

"In the development of the Titan SR9 Series, we focused our product development strategy on achieving significant reductions in machine stop-time for converters & film producers," Barrie Homewood explained.

"With lower operator intervention and also a reduction of costly waste materials, this all adds up to substantial gains in productivity. The SR9-DT turret rewriter takes only 30 seconds from stop to re-start between set changeovers," he confirmed.

Innovative engineering design has led to the application for three patents (one granted, 2 in process) on the Titan SR9 Series and has led to significant improvements in the quality of slit reels and significant reductions in set-up procedures.

A newly designed Linear Tracking Slitter (LTS) section ensures the shortest and a constant web length between the knives and the rewind shafts for improved web control giving the highest possible side wall quality of rewind reels and also reducing the possibility of waste material.

Many other new features of the Titan SR9 platform provide exceptional performance and productivity at running speeds of up to 1,000 m/min. (3,300ft/min.) in two machine widths - 1650 and 2250mm (65 & 88 ins).

Elimination of all hydraulics on the SR9 Series helps to provide a cleaner environment and the use of high efficiency motors and regenerative braking enables a considerable reduction in energy consumption and makes it the most efficient slitting & rewinding solution in the Titan range.

(see also page 4)



Alan Johnson (right) & Barrie Homewood with the Innovation Award at ICE Europe 2013

Cosmo Films (India) inaugurates its ninth BOPP film line and two Atlas slitter rewinders

"We are very pleased with the quick installation and commissioning of the two new film slitters which was carried out by the Atlas Service team based in India."



The 8.7m wide Atlas CW984AP primary film slitter at Cosmo Films

Cosmo Films Ltd. is one of the world's largest producers of BOPP & thermal laminating films with operations in three locations in India, as well as in South Korea and in the United States.

In the last week of August this year, the company inaugurated its 9th BOPP film production line on a new greenfield site in the Special Economic Zone in Shendra, close to Aurangabad in India, approx. 450km north east of Mumbai.

Atlas has commissioned two slitter rewinders in conjunction with this latest huge investment project – one 8.7m wide Atlas CW984AP primary film slitter at the end of the film line and a 2.8m wide Atlas CW800 secondary film slitter for processing narrower widths of BOPP film. Both machines will be running at speeds of up to 1000 m/min.

The new, high speed film line is 8.7m wide and is expected to produce up to 45,000 tonnes of BOPP film per year. The line will be processing thinner gauge films particularly used for lamination in flexible packaging applications.

Both Atlas slitter rewinders feature an unwind splice table for high quality splicing and the CW984 primary slitter is working with a slit roll conveyor system to transport the rolls to both the Atlas CW800 secondary slitter and the packing/storage facility.

"We are very pleased with the quick installation and commissioning of the two new film slitters which was carried out by the Atlas Service team based in India,"

commented Mr. Sanjay Chincholekar, VP of Sales, Marketing & Projects for Cosmo Films.

"We are also pleased to be working in collaboration with Atlas again for our new film line. We now have 12 Atlas film slitters operating in several locations, some of which have been in service for more than 25 years," he confirmed.

Cosmo Films Ltd. has its corporate head office in New Delhi and commenced production of BOPP film 33 years ago with the start-up of its first film line in Aurangabad in 1981.

Five more BOPP film lines were added over the following 20 years at this site and in 2002 it acquired Gujarat Propack Ltd. with 2 more film lines.

In the last 10 years the company has expanded its operations to include several extrusion coating lines and vacuum metallizing of various film substrates. In 2011, the company established a new manufacturing plant in South Korea, in addition to its US operations.

Since 2008, Cosmo Films has focused on the development of various types of coated film and is now amongst the top five coated film suppliers in the world.

In 2013/14, Cosmo Films will produce 150,000 tonnes of BOPP film, 40,000 tonnes of thermal film, 20,000 tonnes of coated film and 8,000 tonnes of metallized film which makes it one of the world's largest producers of plastic film, supplying customers in over 100 countries.



The Atlas CW800 secondary film slitter

Mr. Sanjay Chincholekar
VP of Sales, Marketing &
Projects for Cosmo Films



Astro Plastics (Pakistan) celebrates first anniversary of BOPET film line & Atlas CW964 primary film slitter

Astro Plastics Pvt. Ltd., part of Astro Films and the Ismail Industries Group has become the first manufacturer and exporter of BOPET (Bi-oriented Polyethylene Terephthalate) films from Pakistan.

The company is located in the Port Qasim Industrial area, close to Karachi and commenced BOPET film production on a 'green field' site with a 6.7m wide film line in September 2012. An Atlas CW964AP primary slitter rewriter and Atlas CW800 secondary film slitter were commissioned at the same time as the new line.

The new BOPET film production facility is the latest investment of this leading Pakistan plastic film manufacturer and has been designed to the highest international standards using first class equipment throughout.

It has enabled Astro Plastics to supply either plain or metallized BOPET film with a thickness range from 8 to 125 microns to both domestic and worldwide markets.



The 2.5m wide Atlas CW800 secondary slitter for metallized film

At the first anniversary of the new film line, the company has reported a successful year with production of the new line steadily increasing to its full capacity of 1,500 tonnes/month or 18,000 tonnes/year.

The 6.7m wide Atlas CW964 primary film slitter was commissioned together with a 2.5m wide Atlas CW800 secondary slitter rewriter at the end of the film line. The Atlas CW964 is a centre winder using the latest technology for high volume slitting of plastic films.

The machine features automatic knife & rewind arm positioning with off-line edge trim spoolers and there is also a special razor blade system to process both thin and thicker



The 6.7m wide Atlas CW964 primary film slitter at Astro Plastics

polyester films for a wide range of market applications.

The Atlas CW800 secondary slitter is mainly used for processing the metallized BOPET film produced at the plant.

"We are achieving high quality output of finished rolls using the Atlas CW964 primary film slitter direct from the film line and also using the Atlas CW800 secondary slitter after metallizing," commented Mr. Jawwad Ali, General Manager at Astro Plastics.

"As this is one of only two BOPET film lines operating in Pakistan, our domestic customers very much appreciate being able to obtain films without the need to import them from abroad. We hope that within a few years we will be able to expand our production by adding a second BOPET film line," he confirmed.

Astro Films is the collective brand name used for CPP (Cast Polypropylene), BOPP (Bi-oriented Polypropylene) and BOPET films manufactured by the Ismail Industries Group in Pakistan – Astro Pack, PlastiFlex Films Pvt. Ltd. and Astro Plastics Pvt. Ltd., being the three film producing companies respectively.

The Group also manufactures the Candyland brand of confectionery products, Bisconni biscuits and Snackcity chips for which it supplies a large proportion of its flexible packaging films.

"We are very pleased to have provided the slitter rewriters for the new BOPET film line at Astro Films and congratulate the company on the first anniversary of this important project," added Peter Turner, Sales Manager for Atlas. "We wish the company every success for the future in this growing market."

"We are achieving high quality output of finished rolls using the Atlas CW964 primary film slitter direct from the film line and also using the Atlas CW800 secondary slitter after metallizing."



Mr. Jawwad Ali
General Manager, Astro Plastics

Contract converter Applitec S.A. (France) installs Titan SR9-DS Duplex slitter rewinder

"We are sure that the innovative Linear Tracking Slitter (LTS) technology will enable us to take the quality of our product to a market leading level."



The Titan SR9-DS Duplex slitter rewinder

Applitec S.A., based in Les Echets, near Lyon, in eastern France was established in 1990 and at the beginning of this year confirmed an order for a 2250mm wide Titan SR9-DS Duplex slitter rewinder.

The company commenced contract converting operations in 1995 and has established an extensive clientele which includes customers throughout Europe, in South Africa, the USA and even Japan for contract slitting & rewinding services.

"When the time arrived to look for a new slitter rewinder, we naturally wanted to discuss the technology on offer from Titan," explained Mr. Michel Junet, owner and founder of Applitec S.A.

"We installed a Titan SR6 slitter in 1996 which has been a true workhorse for our operations so we were very aware of the build quality, low cost of ownership and performance continuity that comes with a Titan slitter rewinder."

"We are a small company and operate with a lean structure which does not include dedicated engineers. So reliability and low maintenance are even more important for us," he explained.

The design concept of the new generation Titan SR9 Series, which focuses on three key criteria of optimum efficiency, optimum rewind quality and modularity, was critical in the discussions at Applitec and resulted in Atlas Converting Equipment being chosen as the partner for their latest slitter rewinder project.

With its modular design of unwind, slitter & rewind sections, the Titan SR9-DS Duplex cantilever slitter can be upgraded to a Dual

Turret (DT) format in the future to meet increased production requirements, by only changing the rewind module of the slitter.

"This is a very appealing design concept for our business. Our production volumes are constantly increasing and we have just completed two record months," he confirmed.

"We are confident that we will be able to meet future capacity whilst ensuring

optimum efficiency, thanks to the range of upgrade configurations available on the Titan SR9-DS slitter," he continued.

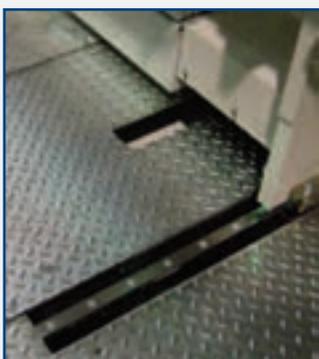
It was quickly understood that the ability to have the Titan SR9-DS slitter supplied in a width of 2250mm would provide Applitec with an advantage in their business as a contract converter.

"The key to our success is the ability to offer our customers a wider choice of products and the fact that we can process wider reels contributes greatly towards this," Mr. Junet added.

"Our business also needs to be able to convert as many materials as possible, including a wide range of papers, flexible materials and non-wovens. I am confident that the new Titan SR9 will ensure that we can meet the market demands of our business."

"Our first concern is always the quality of the reels which we supply. The new developments that are integral within the Titan SR9 were particularly important considerations for Applitec. We continually strive to improve the quality of our reels and we are sure that the innovative Linear Tracking Slitter (LTS) technology will enable us to take the quality of our product to a market leading level," he concluded.

Many other new features of the Titan SR9 Series provide exceptional performance and productivity at running speeds of up to 1,000m/min. The SR9 Series is available in two widths of 1650 and 2250mm and sets a new benchmark in productivity levels for a secondary slitter rewinder for flexible materials.



The Linear Tracking Slitter (LTS) section of the Titan SR9 Series

Plastic Connections, Inc. (USA) expands business with Titan ER610 compact slitter

Earlier this year, Atlas Converting North America, Inc. commissioned a Titan ER610 compact slitter rewinder at Plastic Connections, Inc., (PCI) based in Santa Fe Springs, California, approx. 30 miles (48 km) south of Los Angeles, in the USA.

Investment in the 65in (1650mm) wide Titan slitter was made by the company to diversify its already flourishing business.



The Titan ER610 compact slitter rewinder at Plastic Connections, Inc.

PCi was incorporated in 1996 as a broker supplying directly shipped containers of PET films and is a privately-owned, small business that prides itself on a strong sales-oriented philosophy coupled with a vigorous, lean methodology.

After several years of successful business, the company entered the converting sector and concentrated its activity in slitting & rewinding but also in sheeting and die-cutting of PET film.

“Three years ago we installed 3 slitters up to 86in (2185mm) wide and a 72in (1830mm) wide sheeter,” explained John Pastor, Sales & Operations Manager at PCi. “But more recently, we realized that to be more competitive, we needed more speed.”

“We needed a slitter that was robust enough to handle large, long runs but also flexible enough to effectively process short runs as well. Downtime was a major issue which we wanted to minimize, so productivity as well as OSHA safety requirements were a major concern,” he added.

The new ER610 slitter at PCi is for materials up to 65in (1650mm) wide with a maximum speed of 1500ft/min. (450 m/min). Rewind diameters can be up to 24in (610mm) with a minimum slit width of 1.37in (35mm). The slitter was also be equipped with laser core positioning and a static control system.

“We sell PET and OPP films to small start-ups as well as large multi-national corporations and government entities for packaging, electrical, industrial and graphics applications both in the USA and beyond.”

“The addition of the new Titan ER610 slitter has opened up new markets for us and allowed us to tap deeper in to existing ones,” John Pastor confirmed.

The Titan ER610 slitter can process a wide range of flexible materials including plain, printed, coated or metallized film from 20 to 200 micron, a wide range of laminates and paper from 30 to 200 gsm.

A pneumatically controlled braking system provides accurate web tension control and a digital edge-guide system controls lateral movement of the unwind reel to +/- 2in (50 mm). Optional features include an edge trim extraction system and shaftless unwind roll pick-up from floor.

The ER610 is a more sustainable solution with reduced power consumption, no hydraulics for oil-free, hygienic operation and un-lubricated compressed air for zero oil/air emissions. Its ‘one-piece’ compact design also enables rapid installation and commissioning.

“We are very pleased to have had the opportunity to provide PCi with an effective slitting solution,” added Thierry Fontolliet, General Manager for Atlas Converting North America, Inc.

“We are certain that the Titan ER610 will make an important contribution to its business and we look forward to a successful partnership with PCi in the future,” he confirmed.

“The new slitter had to be reliable and easy to operate and the Titan ER610 was the perfect solution for our business.”



Plastic Connections, Inc. sells PET & OPP films to small as well as large multi-national corporations for packaging, electrical, graphics & industrial applications

Atlas & Titan expand global Service & Customer Support operations

“One aspect of customer support which has expanded rapidly this year is the increasing use of secure connectivity via the internet for remote access to machine diagnostics.”

This has been a year of continuing expansion of the global Service & Customer Support operations for Atlas & Titan slitter rewinders. Investment has continued in skilled resources in several regions including Mexico, India and SE Asia in addition to extended coverage throughout Europe, North America and in China.

The increasing number of new machine installations this year has driven the requirement for additional service engineers and technicians who at the same time cover existing installations to further extend product life cycles.

Local support in conjunction with existing and new agents covering various countries and languages has also been increased during the year with training of engineers provided in-house by Atlas technical personnel or in the various regional on-site locations.

“One aspect of customer support which has expanded rapidly this year is the increasing use of secure connectivity via the internet for remote access to machine diagnostics,” explained Paul Reader, Head of Customer Service.

“This helps to resolve malfunctions and other software problems related to control systems, without the need for an engineer to travel long distances to rectify faults.”

“The main benefits derived from remote access via the **‘Atlas Service Gateway’** are savings in costly machine ‘downtime’ and lengthy periods of lost production for the customer,” he added.

Remote machine diagnostics can be installed on both new and existing Atlas & Titan slitter rewinders to provide peace of mind for customers during machine commissioning, start-up, warranty periods and beyond, enabling quick response at all times.

Direct communication via VOIP and video, with secure local approval and access through a sub-division between the machine and the customer’s LAN network provides rapid access to update software, drives, PC, PLC and for network interrogation.

Several training programmes have been completed this year for customers’ machine operators and technicians in various locations to support the latest technical developments,



with many covering all aspects of machine control systems and process technology.

This can also be arranged at the dedicated Atlas & Titan Training & Demonstration Centres in either Bedford (UK) or in Charlotte, NC (USA).

The wide variety of substrates now used in both the plastic film and flexible packaging sectors requires detailed knowledge for web handling and tension control which training can provide, in order to optimise levels of slitting & rewinding productivity.

“Annual Service Contracts are available upon request and provide added security of ‘trouble-free’ machine operation with maintenance planned in advance, annual machine audits and service calls within a fixed price package,” he further explained.

Availability of genuine Atlas & Titan spare parts is now much more extensive with inventory held at the company’s facilities in Bedford, UK serving the whole of Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Central & South America; in Charlotte, NC serving the USA, Canada & Mexico and in Shanghai, China serving the Greater China region.

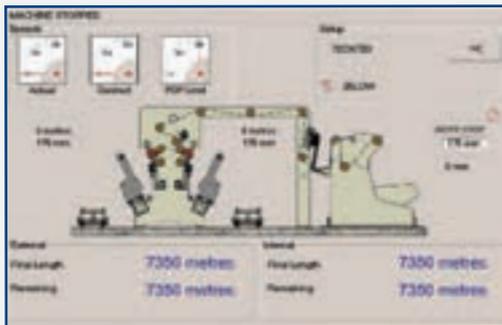
Machine relocation can also be provided for any Atlas or Titan slitter rewriter with machine decommissioning, removal from the production facility, transportation to the new site, re-installation, re-commissioning and operator training.

Remote machine diagnostics can be installed on both new and existing slitter rewinders



Upgrades to older slitter rewinders provide much improved productivity

Atlas Converting Equipment Ltd. has been manufacturing slitter rewinders since 1976 and Titan slitter rewinders were first introduced in 1964. Consequently, in almost 50 years, more than 3,500 Atlas & Titan slitter rewinders have been installed in 73 countries worldwide.



Main operator screen

Most are still in operation but slitting & rewinding technology has advanced dramatically over the years, leaving the older machines to be much less productive. Not to mention how much more sophisticated the range of materials has become for processing, especially for flexible packaging.

Atlas provides a dedicated service for upgrading the specification of older slitter rewinders to help increase productivity, reduce waste and improve the quality of the finished slit reels, which should all help to improve the profitability of converters' business operations.

Improved web tension control, replacement of obsolete components and retro-fitting the latest computer hardware & software systems are just some examples of how Atlas & Titan can support the future business of its customers.

An audit of an older machine generally identifies how productivity can be improved, which was recently the case for an Atlas OCS-2 centre surface rewinder, originally installed and commissioned in 1992 in the United States. The customer wanted to increase the running speed of the slitter without compromising the quality of rewinding.

"New differential ball lock rewind shafts were proposed to replace the original lug style shafts with central support arms for heavier reels to improve the quality of rewinding," explained Kevin Murphy, Sales Manager for Atlas & Titan Upgrades.

"This also enabled the higher running speeds to be achieved which were increased to a maximum of 600 m/min (1,970 ft/min.)."

The original 152mm (6 in) lug shaft sleeves were modified to fit over the upgraded 76mm (3 in) differential rewind shafts which have reduced machine downtime for job changeovers.

The upgrade enabled narrow widths as well as wider rolls to be rewound with very accurate tension control. The 76mm (3 inch) Quick Shafts with central supports enable much bigger and heavier reels to be rewound and have eliminated any possible problems in deflection.

"For both Atlas & Titan slitter rewinders, an important upgrade is the machine control system which helps to improve productivity and rewinding quality," he continued.

"The control desk upgrade for the Titan SR5 and SR6 duplex slitter rewinders has been very successful in recent years for machines dating back to the early 1980's."



Titan SR5 control desk - before

"A number of these upgrades have been completed for Titan customers globally including Mexico, Thailand, the USA, Chile, Malaysia and France to name just a few," he confirmed.

The controls upgrade provides a much improved system with an easy-to-operate HMI touch screen. Precise control of tension and contact pressure provides better and more repeatable rewind quality.

The control desk also includes several options including AC or DC drives and data export for production systems via Ethernet.

"For both Atlas & Titan slitter rewinders, an important upgrade is the machine control system which helps to improve productivity and rewinding quality."



Titan SR5 control desk - after



*"The 46 year old
slitter is still used for
production purposes
on a daily basis."*

Rewind to the Past! Vintage Titan SR2 slitter rewinder still going strong

During a recent sales tour of Eastern Europe, Atlas-Titan Sales Manager Mark Miles was suprised to find a vintage Titan SR2 duplex slitter rewinder still in operation at the company MDM, in Bulgaria.

Investigation of the Titan archives revealed that the SR2 slitter rewinder was originally manufactured by Pershke Price Ltd. in 1967 and sold to Mars in Slough (UK) for slitting confectionery wrappers.

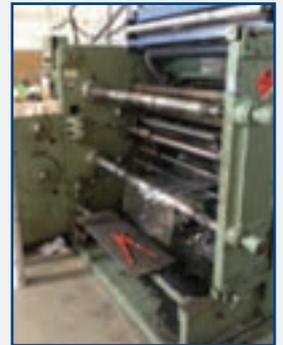
It was also discovered that the machine was later sold to other companies before arriving at its current location.

"We purchased the Titan SR2 slitter from a company in Hungary and it was installed at MDM in 2004," explained Mr. Ilian Molov, the owner of MDM, located in Assenovgrad, Bulgaria. "The slitter is still used for production purposes on a daily basis."

Pershke Price was founded in 1964 in London and was the original manufacturer of the Titan SR slitter rewinder. Titan Converting Equipment Ltd. was established later in 1981 when it was acquired by Atlas Converting Equipment Ltd.

The Titan SR Series is now in its ninth generation of production and an important part of the Atlas-Titan product portfolio.

The discovery of the Titan SR2 has rekindled a desire at Atlas Converting Equipment Ltd. to search for other vintage Atlas & Titan slitter rewinders still in operation around the world and the company would be pleased to receive information on any Atlas or Titan slitter rewinders which are still in operation 30 years or more after installation.



*The vintage Titan SR2
slitter at MDM, Bulgaria*

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Atlas Converting Equipment Ltd. - Head Office staff, September 2013

Events 2013/14	Venue	Dates
CPPIA BOPP Film Conference	Suqian, China	12 - 13 December
Interplastica / Upakovka	Moscow, Russia	28 - 31 January
Saudi PackPrintPlas	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	17 - 20 February
BrasilPack	São Paulo, Brazil	12 - 16 March
Ipex 2014	Excel, London	24 - 29 March
Chinaplas	Shanghai, China	23 - 26 April
FTA Info*Flex	Baltimore, USA	28 - 29 April
Interpack	Düsseldorf, Germany	08 - 14 May
Feiplastic	São Paulo, Brazil	20 - 24 May
Rosupak	Moscow, Russia	17 - 20 June