

EXPANSION IN POLAND Grinding Capacity Increase

The Matrix Polymers Polska facility at Kolo in Poland has installed a new 'Powder King' pulverizer and the improved technology of the American machine has led to greater cost-efficiency and production output.

The Powder King employs a direct-drive system mounted on the mill heads, which are cast, rather than fabricated. This innovative design eliminates the pulleys, belts, drive shafts and bearing assemblies previously required on commercial pulverizers. As a result, this machine requires far less spare parts, maintenance and less electrical power than before. The heads have a directed air-flow and the grinding disks are larger and they are fastened to the mill head by a tapered collar, not bolted, which lessens the risks of cracks and enhances safety.

The Powder King also uses an improved design of sifter, with only six decks, the sieves being mounted in an aluminium frame, instead of wood. This configuration enables easier cleaning and hence a quicker turn-around.

MPPL Process Development Manager, Peter Luxford was the man charged with training the 12 Polish operators on the new machine. Despite some occasional language difficulties, he and his translator managed to combine their expertise and soon had the three shifts running smoothly.

"We are very pleased with our rapid progress." said Paul Sands, Managing Director of Matrix Polymers Polska. "Our initial decision in 2005 to locate here and offer the same level of service for grinding, compounding and blending as provided by MPPL in the UK, has proved very successful. Kolo is particularly well positioned for transportation of powders throughout Poland and the rest of Central Europe and we are on course to expand even further."

