Trendsetter in energy revolution

There is no alternative to a major extension to the electricity supply grid if plans for the adoption of renewable energy sources are to be realized, an aim shared by politicians and industrialists alike. The challenges thrown down to, amongst others, the cable and steel wire rope industries, are enormous.

Sket has always been one of the leading manufacturers of machinery and equipment for the production of cable and steel wire rope. Of particular importance are drum twisters for the cable industry and long tubular stranding machines and large cage type stranding machines for the manufacture of offshore ropes.

Whilst cage and tubular stranding machines have been associated with the reputation and traditions of the Magdeburg stranding machine manufacturer since the beginning of the 20th Century, drum twisters, also known in the German speaking world as universal stranding machines, have only been designed, built and delivered over the last fifty years. Mainly used for the production of energy and telephone cables, for the screening of medium and high voltage cables, for the armouring of energy cables with round or flat steel wires and for the manufacture of Milliken conductors for high voltage and super high voltage cables and for the manufacture of offshore energy cables, these machines are essential for the above referred to extension of the grid.

In line with the traditions of the Magdeburg stranding machine manufacturer and its professional approach to business, each machine is customized to the product specific requirements of the user. Right from the project planning stage the particular needs of the customer are examined and evaluated and a proposal specific to these requirements is worked out and, in cooperation with the user, optimized and implemented. The result of this is invariably a tailor-made machine design which meets the technical, technological and economic demands placed on it.

Pay-off and take-up reel dimensions of up to 5,000mm and weights of over 50t are not only possible but already successfully in use. In this way Sket Verseilmaschinenbau GmbH strives continually to meet the demand for ever longer production lengths and is developing its drum twisters to meet the specific needs of manufacturers of offshore energy cables.

This trend continues the demand for long, heavy duty steel wire ropes for offshore and mining applications and inevitably faces suppliers to the steel wire industry with new challenges.

Drum twisters for the cable industry and long tubular stranding machines and large cage type stranding machines for the manufacture of offshore ropes: KRD 800.

When Sket supplied the first tubular stranding machine having 48 bobbins with a flange diameter of 630mm in 1998, the assumption was that this was a one-off business requirement. Since then, however, a whole range of machines having more than 40 bobbins with diameters of 560 or 630mm have been supplied. A further machine type SRW 1+48x630 is soon to be delivered. Currently in production and a candidate for the Guinness Book of Records is a tubular stranding machine type SRW 1+48x800. With a length of over 122m, this machine is the largest machine of its type in the world to date.

Workshop assembly of Drum Twister at Sket.
Photos: Sket Verseilmaschinenbau

In the cage type stranding machine sector too, the demand for ever bigger machines remains unbroken. In addition to machines type MKVS 8x2030 and MKVS 8x2700 already supplied or currently in production, the construction of a further large tandem cage type stranding machine is currently in the planning stage.

Whereas production weights of 160t represented an absolute peak twenty-five years ago, today coil weights of rope of up to 400t are regarded as standard. Newly qualified as top of the class are recently supplied pay-offs and take-ups with a capacity of 600t. In the race for bigger and better, Sket is not only seriously involved but has its nose well and truly in front!

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