Valmet's new OptiBin innovation in use at Nordic Paper's Bäckhammar pulp mill

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Valmet has developed a new chip bin, OptiBin, for pulp mills' digester chip feeding. Its task is to serve as a buffer before the digester and to remove air from the chips in an odorless manner.
The new design is the result of years of development aimed at a cost-effective solution with as few moving parts as possible.

The first installation in the world
The first OptiBin was recently started up at the Nordic Paper Bäckhammar pulp and paper mill nearby Kristinehamn, Sweden. In spite of a very tight schedule, the installation and assembly of the new chip bin exceeded expectations at Nordic Paper – everything had to be completed during the regular eight-day mill shutdown. "The startup was very successful. We started production according to our schedule. What's more, even the startup curve, with a gradual increase in output, followed our plans. A week after the shutdown, we reached full production," says Jonas Lindqvist, Deputy Director of Production and Project Manager at Nordic Paper. "There is still some residual points and, of course, some trimming to ensure that we achieve the goals we have set the project," he adds. "For us at Valmet, Bäckhammar was the perfect partner for taking our new development into practice. Partly because the mill is close to our development center in Karlstad, Sweden, and also because we've always had a very good relationship with Bäckhammar," says David Elfman, Sales Manager at Valmet.

Valmet and Nordic Paper project representatives at the Bäckhammar pulp and paper mill

OptiBin reduces fiber loss and environmental impact
Valmet's new OptiBin can be used in various cooking processes. The innovations in the OptiBin design bring several benefits. The design allows chips to flow smoothly and results in even presteaming and less runnability problems. Without good prestreaming before cooking the cooking liquor will not penetrate the whole chip and results in uncooked chips. The flow design allows a cold top to be used. This means that the bin itself will form a lid of chips that disables gases to flow to the atmosphere which results in less odors to the surroundings. Thanks to the new chip bin, Nordic Paper estimates an increase in production of about 1000 Adt/yr. In addition, the OptiBin has led to a substantial fiber savings, and as a bonus for those living nearby the mill, it is expected to minimize malodorous emissions into the environment.

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Valmet Corporation is a leading global developer and supplier of services and technologies for the pulp, paper and energy industries. Our 11,000 professionals around the world work close to our customers and are committed to moving our customers' performance forward – every day. Valmet's services cover everything from maintenance outsourcing to mill and plant improvements and spare parts. Our strong technology offering includes entire pulp mills, tissue, board and paper production lines, as well as power plants for bio-energy production.

The company has over 200 years of industrial history and was reborn through the demerger of the pulp, paper and power businesses from Metso Group in December 2013. Valmet's net sales in 2013 were approximately EUR 2.6 billion. Valmet's objective is to become the global champion in serving its customers.

Valmet's head office is in Espoo, Finland and its shares are listed on the NASDAQ OMX Helsinki Ltd.
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