

Conversions

Introducing EASY2 Run

Maximum Production at the Push of a Button

How hard can you push your blown film line without risking quality or downtime? We asked customers around the world, and most gave the same answer: they don't really know. No one wants to break the bubble and have to restart the line. That's why many lines run at less than 80% capacity or less. It's not because the equipment can't handle it, but because the risk doesn't feel worth it.

That's what led W&H to develop EASY2 Run, introduced at K 2025 in Düsseldorf. The goal was to remove the guesswork and anxiety from everyday operation and make it easy for customers to run at higher average outputs, with confident operators and reliable, shift-to-shift consistency. EASY2 Run is fully automated, and at the push of a button, it maximizes line performance and output. The system continuously monitors the process in the background, so operators do not need to rely on experience alone.

Key features include:

- Automated maximum output at the push of a button
- Real-time visualization of machine parameters and reserves
- Live image of frost line and bubble shape
- Automated frost line control under changing ambient conditions

EASY2 Run manages over 1,000 production-relevant parameters, taking the manual fine-tuning for the operator out the equation.

Using it is straightforward: press the button, and the system takes care of the rest. The frost line remains stable, output is maximized, and product quality stays consistent.



A crowd gathers for the live EASY2 Run demo at K2025

There is more good news! EASY2 Run is available with new lines and as a retrofit! When running the numbers, customers so far have consistently been surprised at how quickly the system pays for itself. Sometimes in just months depending on the application," said Leon Rupe, Director of Extrusion Sales.

To learn how EASY2 Run can increase output, reduce risk, and improve profitability on your line, contact your W&H representative today.

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President's Corner

W&H Corporation – Lincoln, RI (1977– Present)

Almost four decades ago, shortly after New Year's Day in 1988, I made my first visit to 23 New England Way, the North American home of Windmoeller & Hoelscher. I had been asked to come down and meet Jim Feeney, then President of W&H Corporation.

I remember the nearly one-hour drive from my home in Boston like it was yesterday. As I turned into the nondescript industrial park in Lincoln, Rhode Island, I had no idea what to expect. At the far end of the park sat an ugly cement-and-brown-wood structure, hastily assembled like so many quasi-industrial buildings of the mid-1970s. Standing there that day, I could not have imagined how many hours I would spend inside those walls - or how many friendships, challenges, successes, and defining moments would unfold there. Nor could I have known how deeply this place and this company would become woven into my life over the next 38-plus years.

Although I didn't officially start working for W&H until May of that year, I was already in regular contact with Jim and a handful of others. At the time, we were a small group of about 25 people trying to build something meaningful in a very competitive market.

Back then, W&H's North American business was anchored by a booming flexo printing division and its primary revenue drivers were tubers and bottomers for the multiwall bag business. These machines supported industrial sack production for



Andrew Wheeler

cement, building materials, and the highly profitable pet food market. Plastic bag machines, a fledgling newspaper press, and blown film extrusion lines rounded out a modest but ambitious product portfolio.

In 1988, W&H generated roughly \$35 million in North American business. While we had been selling into the U.S. since 1901, this marked the first true commitment to the American market. Enough land was purchased to at least dream about U.S.-based manufacturing someday.

Fast forward to 2017, and North American sales had grown to \$200 million. Our product mix had evolved dramatically: Extrusion at 41%, Printing at 45%, and Multiwall/Converting at 14%. We had grown to 61 people, and our once-brown wooden building had long before been "upgraded" with white stucco—an unmistakable case of lipstick on a pig. (In fact, the brown wood never even came off; we simply covered it up.) As the most significant hub in the W&H global organization, we all knew we had outgrown our surroundings and deserved a headquarters that better reflected who we had become.

A series of personal challenges delayed expansion plans, followed by the COVID pandemic and the resulting global supply chain crisis. Meanwhile, we were bursting at the seams. Warehouse shelves were stacked to the ceiling with essential spare parts and office space stretched well beyond its limits.

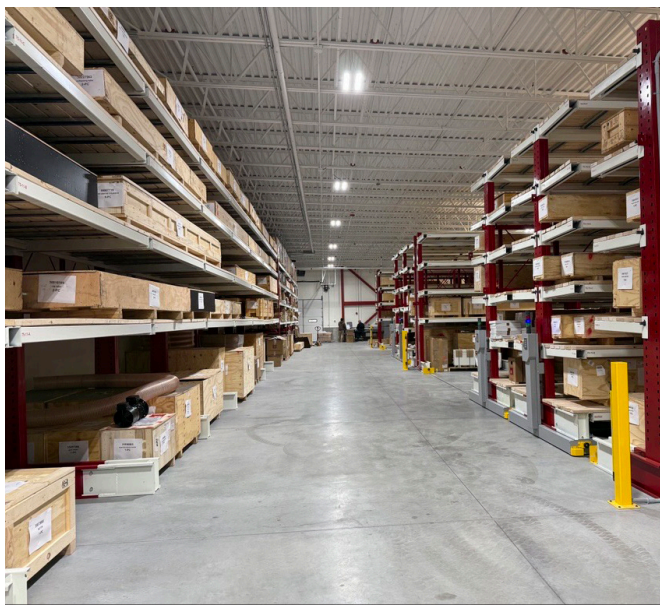


The W&H logo on the patio is designed to be visible on satellite images



President's Corner

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The new spare parts warehouse more than doubles capacity

Finally, in 2024, we undertook the long-awaited expansion.

We more than doubled our warehouse capacity to better serve our customers in the U.S. and Canada, and doubled our office space to support a growing and needed workforce. Annual sales had reached \$300 million, a staggering leap from our humble beginnings. Today, W&H Corporation is approaching 100 employees, and our expanded home stands as a visible symbol of our unwavering commitment to the North American market.

But this expansion is about far more than bricks and mortar. It reflects perseverance, trust, and a shared vision built over decades. It honors those who came before me, leaders like Jim Feeney and Hans Deamer, as well as our exceptional leadership team in Germany, all of whom believed deeply in us and in the promise of this market.

I am immensely proud of what we have built and even prouder of how we built it. We have always believed in doing the right thing for our customers. Along the way, we didn't just build a business; we built relationships and true partnerships, strengthened by the constant exchange of ideas, innovation, and mutual respect.

Yes, the Kool-Aid has been drunk—and every new employee is still welcomed with their own six-pack to get started. We believe in the company, the concept, and, above all, our customers. And after nearly four decades, I wouldn't have it any other way.



1977



1990s -
2024



2025 - In
Progress



Winter
2026



New Technologies from K 2025

Every three years during the K Show, W&H introduces new technologies at both the show and at the W&H Expo in Lengerich. This year was no exception. This issue features highlights on EASY2 Run, MDO, and twin screw technology. For the complete lineup of innovations, scan the QR code on the right.

MDO Mini-Rollers: Up to 50% Less Trim

MDO is a growing focus as the industry moves toward recycle-ready monomaterial films that support the circular economy.

With many years of experience in MDO, W&H has developed a new approach using mini nip rollers to make production more efficient and reliable, reducing neck-in and trim by up to 50% and generating material and cost savings.

The benefits:

- Consistent production with a wide process window
- Excellent film planarity with less need for profile adjustments
- No scratches and improved film appearance
- Low risk of web breaks and quick start-ups
- Up to 50% less trim

The smaller diameter of the mini-nip rollers delivers precise line pressure and a minimal stretching gap without roller bending or trapped air, resulting in smooth, stable MDO runs and high-quality films every time. Available on new MDO lines and as a retrofit.



W&H North American customers at a historic mill venue in Düsseldorf. Pictured with colleagues from Glenroy: Todd Krupa, Kasie Fairbairn, Evan Arnold, Falco Paepenmueller, Katie Juerhing, Marget Oolders, and Andrew Wheeler



The W&H booth at K 2025 in Düsseldorf

Twin Screw Solution Boosts PCR Film Quality

An interview with Steve Post, Sr. Sales Director for Cast Film at W&H, on the company's new twin screw technology for processing PCR and PIR. Steve brings 35 years of industry experience and joined W&H in September.

What is W&H's new twin screw technology?

At the W&H Expo in Lengerich, we unveiled twin screw technology designed to improve the processing of PCR and PIR.

The technology mixes the recycled material and reduces particle size directly in the extruder during the melt process.

How does it help?

By breaking down gels and dispersing them evenly across the film, consistency is improved. It also minimizes odor associated with PCR. Gases trapped in the material are released during processing rather than remaining in the final film. The result is improved physical and optical properties.

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Mid South Invests in Four VAREX II Lines

Mid South Extrusion (MSE), a 39-year-old, family-owned company based in Monroe, LA, has made its first investment in W&H technology with the addition of four VAREX II blown film lines.

The new lines position MSE to expand capacity and strengthen its presence in converter-grade and food films, while also opening opportunities in the medical and industrial markets.

The first two lines, both three-layer VAREX II systems, have been up and running since fall. While these lines were being commissioned, a third line - a five-layer VAREX II was drawing attention as the main highlight at W&H's K 2025 booth in Düsseldorf. Throughout the show, international visitors were able to see live demonstrations on the line, including the new EASY2 Run automation system.

Mark Kent Anderson, COO of Mid South Extrusion, said, "MSE is proud to partner with W&H, a company that shares our commitment to exceptional service. This new capacity enhances efficiency, broadens our production capabilities, and positions us to better support customers as they grow and adapt to evolving market demands."

In addition to adding new machinery, MSE has expanded its facility by constructing a new building, installing new raw material silos, and enhancing its HVAC system. The company estimates this growth will create approximately 38 new jobs.

All four lines are expected to be fully operational by May of 2026.



The MSE Team in front of their VAREX II at K 2025 Tim Frost, Mike Henagan, Andrew Wheeler (W&H), Ron Mason, Matt Dickerson, Leon Rupe (W&H), Mark Kent Anderson, and Caleb Triplett

Andrew Wheeler of W&H commented, "We've had a long and valued relationship with MSE, and we are delighted to officially welcome them into the W&H family and network. Their growth and vision align perfectly with the solutions we provide, and we're excited to support them on this journey."

<https://msefilms.com/>

Twin Screw Boosts Film Quality

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Who benefits from this technology?

Any manufacturer looking to increase recycled content in their film without compromising packaging integrity. The system can be retrofitted and is only required for extruders processing the PCR and PIR.

What's the status of the project?

The project is fairly new. Our Finnish customer, Rani Plast, is already using it successfully (see QR code for video). W&H is also running trials to proof of concept and welcomes companies to run their PCR through the system.



Steve Post, Sr.
Director of Sales

QR: Rani Plast Video



Catty Corp Acquires Its First CI Flexo Press for Candy Wrapper Applications

Harvard, IL-based Catty Corporation is six months into running its first CI printing press, and its first machine from W&H, a MIRAFLEX II.

Catty was looking for a CI press with high output that could run very thin foils with water-based inks for candy wrappers, which is one of the most challenging applications in package printing. Finding a press that could reliably handle this combination proved more difficult than expected. Knowing W&H had the expertise and experience with these materials, VP of Operations, Kim Harden, came to W&H with the project.

Catty has been running these jobs on inline presses for decades with great success but was looking to increase output with greater widths and speeds, and to eliminate the potential for the foil to wrinkle during production. The company ultimately decided to invest in a 52" 10-color MIRAFLEX II press that increases current output.

Harden had read that a fellow converter sent a team of operators over for training at the Tech Center in Lengerich before getting their first press from W&H, and that it had set them up for success. He decided to do the exact same thing and feels like it was an investment in his team and business that put them in the position to hit the floor running.

Todd Krupa, Regional Sales Manager, took things a step further by introducing the two printers, who focus on non-competing products.



Proud moment at Catty Corp: the crew stands with their newly installed 52" 10-color MIRAFLEX II press

The companies talked about what to expect from their first W&H press, how to prepare, and more. "It was great to see them comfortable and willing to exchange insights and experiences," said Krupa. "They're both part of the strong W&H network, and that's what it's all about."

The MIRAFLEX II was installed in late spring and has been running since June 2025. Harden said, he was impressed with the professionalism and technical expertise from the W&H team onsite.

"I've worked with many press companies, and W&H is right at the top," Harden said. "Printing on foil with water-based ink is about as challenging as it gets. This press was up and running quickly and improved our process significantly."

<https://www.cattycorp.com/>

We're here whenever you need us...
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24 hours/day

7 days/week

365 days/year



Introducing Masters of Packaging



Have a look at W&H's Masters of Packaging YouTube channel, featuring customers around the world leading the field of flexible packaging. For North America, we highlighted Charter Next Generation at their impressive Blythewood, SC plant and distribution center. Watch their video and explore more inspiring stories from industry leaders worldwide.

YouTube
Channel:
Masters of
Packaging



GARANT Awarded Silver Medal from EcoVadis

We are proud to announce that in our first EcoVadis assessment, GARANT ranked among the top 15% of companies evaluated worldwide. The award recognizes our performance in:

- Environment – energy efficiency, emissions reduction, resource conservation
- Labor & Human Rights – fair working conditions and safety
- Ethics – integrity and responsible business practices
- Sustainable Procurement – consideration of environmental and social criteria in the supply chain



Upcoming Trade Shows



February 2-4 Tampa, FL
AMI PE Films



April 21-23 Nashville, TN
SPC Impact



May 7-13 Düsseldorf, Germany
Interpack 2026



March 18-20 Orlando, FL
FPA Annual Meeting



April 26-29 Milwaukee, WI
FTA Forum & InfoFlex



October 18-21 Chicago, IL
Pack Expo International



April 15-16 Green Bay, WI
Converters Expo



May 4-6 Ft Myers, FL
Flex Forum by PLASTICS



New Faces at W&H and GARANT

Human Resources & Sales



Taylor Rose
Human Resources
Manager



**Mari
Amirgulashvili**
Internal Sales W&H



Alex Dubs
Technical Sales and
Process Specialist



**Stefan
Perez-Adler**
Internal Sales GARANT



Steve Post
Senior Sales Director,
Cast Film

Service



Tyler Gray
Business Development
Manager, Parts & Retrofits



Nate Orciani
Regional Service
Manager, Printing



Gary Oxford
Regional Service
Manager, Printing



Michael Pool
Project Manager,
GARANT



Syed Shah
Technical Support
Engineer-IDC



Balram Tiwari
Technical Support
Engineer-IDC



Jayadev Tripathy
Technical Support
Engineer-IDC



Michael Duerrbeck
Field Service Engineer



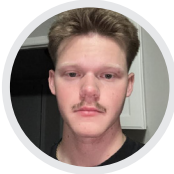
James Fishback
Field Service Engineer



Masud Gain
Field Service Engineer



Chad Gorham
Field Service Engineer



Devin Kelly
Field Service Engineer



Charles Lidster
Field Service Engineer



**Victor
Salazaroyarce**
Field Service Engineer



Kanu Patel
Field Service Engineer



Scott Reynolds
Field Service Engineer



Abhinandan Sarde
Field Service Engineer

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Head of Marketing Communications & Sustainability

