



# EFFICIENCY.

At airports as well as logistics and mail-sorting centers, our conveyor belts help move goods reliably and efficiently from A to B. The specific characteristics of the belts play a key role in ensuring smooth running of customer processes while increasing the product benefit. Through innovative technologies, close teamwork with customers, and long-standing know-how, we develop industry-specific solutions that add value. Our belts ensure the highest level of efficiency with minimal energy expenditure



forbo

MOVEMENT SYSTEMS

# MOVEMENT SYSTEMS





## EFFICIENCY

# SEAMLESS MOVEMENT

Our energy-saving conveyor belts are often running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in distribution and logistics centers, but they can overcome the challenges of even the most complex tasks reliably and efficiently. AmpMiser™ 2.0, the new generation of conveyor belts, saves up to 50 percent on the operating power required thanks to a special coating. As a result, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are saved accordingly. With several kilometers of belt material often in use at such centers, the contribution of this technology is considerable. AmpMiser belts are particularly well suited to operations with packaged goods and not only save power but also run more quietly than other installations – a plus for the staff involved.

# MOVEMENT SYSTEMS: INVESTMENTS TO SUPPORT GROWTH

'We can look back on a successful reporting year, despite the challenges in the supply and value chain. The countries worst affected by declining demand in the prior year mostly recovered with above-average growth. As a result, our production and fabrication plants saw a strong recovery in capacity utilization, which led to a marked increase in earnings. Reduced freight capacity and bottlenecks in the availability of raw materials brought additional costs, which made it necessary for us to adjust prices. At the same time, we initiated selective capacity expansion for certain production lines and for markets with above-average growth, coupled with technological innovations.'

The Movement Systems division generated net sales of CHF 402.2 million in the year under review (previous year: CHF 360.7 million), which was equivalent to an increase of 11.5% year on year in the corporate currency (11.9% in local currencies). The division accounted for 32.1% of Group sales in 2021. The majority of markets contributed to this gratifying sales growth. Operating profit (EBIT) increased sharply by 51.3% to CHF 54.3 million (previous year: CHF 35.9 million), due primarily to improved utilization of production and fabrication capacities. The positive impact of these economies of scale is based on optimized operating structures, increased productivity, and improved efficiency. Pricing adjustments on our part made a further contribution. The EBIT margin rose accordingly by 3.5 percentage points to 13.5% (previous year: 10.0%).



Marc Deimling  
Executive Vice President  
Movement Systems

## **Adjusted for currency effects, sales above pre-pandemic levels**

All three regions and product lines contributed to this growth, including newly concluded key account contracts for products and services. Sales growth was strongest in Europe, also reached two digits in the Americas, and was somewhat lower in Asia/Pacific. Adjusted for currency effects, sales increased above the pre-pandemic levels of 2019.

Most of the European markets saw double-digit growth. The catch-up effects were clearly felt in Southern Europe, in the important Italian and Spanish markets. Other countries badly affected in the previous year, such as Great Britain and France, showed a gratifying recovery. The key market of Germany and Switzerland saw a strong increase in sales, although they had been less significantly affected than others the previous year. Other positive signs worth noting were seen in the growth markets of Poland and Russia.

In the Americas region, the USA and Mexico were the main growth markets. The US market attained double-digit growth, despite the challenges after the upturn of finding qualified staff, above all for fabrication. The Mexico growth market was able to build on the good level achieved the previous year, thanks mainly to catch-up effects in the customer segments of industrial production and raw material processing. The newly established location in Columbia developed well.

In the Asia/Pacific region, the main market, China, as well as Australia and India, contributed with a double-digit increase in sales. Japan and other, smaller, markets in Southeast Asia reported gratifying sales growth.

### **Growth in all the main customer segments**

The food segment, which is the most resistant to economic fluctuations, reported moderate growth as in the previous year. The industrial manufacturing segment, which was strongly affected by the pandemic restrictions, saw an above-average recovery. Sales growth in the logistics segment was very gratifying, continuing to be driven by e-commerce package distribution centers, though still showing signs of hesitancy in the airport infrastructure segment. The uninterrupted growth in e-commerce had a positive impact on the paper and printing industry segment, as the demand for corrugated board and cardboard packaging rose accordingly. The raw material processing and textiles segments showed pleasing progress; demand for sports treadmills, which are widely used in fitness centers owing to their durability, was more subdued.

### **Application-specific innovations**

Despite continuing restrictions on personal customer contacts, which are important for the development and test phases of our application-specific products, we were able to introduce innovative products across all product lines for a variety of customer segments:

The Transilon unit developed curved belts that are versatile in use for industrial-scale laundries and logistics applications requiring low friction and antistatic properties. A further development was a belt aimed specifically at the food-processing industry. It is highly resistant to hot water and frequent washing, ideal for producing and processing dough, and making sushi using sticky rice. A belt that is particularly suited for use in long cooling tunnels was developed for the chocolate industry.

The plastic modular belt Prolink Series 8 has been extended with new options designed for industrial applications in numerous processes requiring high levels of power transmission and good gripping properties for reliable transport of goods. The new Series 17 is suitable for use in industrial applications such as parcel distribution and in processing corrugated board and paper.

In the Extremultus unit we have developed specific antistatic conveyor belts for weaving and spinning mills, as well as for the paper, packaging, and printing industry, with enhanced grip properties and precise product positioning.

In the area of robust Transtex belts, we have produced a roughened belt surface for the manufacture of façade panels in construction applications.

### **Investments to drive future growth**

In addition to a wide variety of product developments, we have undertaken capacity expansion in product lines and markets with above-average growth, based on cutting-edge technologies that increase efficiency and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

At the production site for Prolink plastic modular belts in Denmark, another step in the expansion program was completed with a new production building to increase the capacity of injection molding machines. A newly installed heat recovery system at the same plant makes it possible to use process energy to heat the new offices and production building. A new production hall was built in Pune, India, offering significantly higher fabrication capacity and a base from which local service personnel can cover a radius of up to 750 km.

We opened local fabrication and service centers in Atlanta and Kansas (USA), Frankfurt and Hamburg (Germany) and Siberia (Russia), which will enable us to serve customers more efficiently and professionally.

### **Good basis for 2022**

The market launch of the complete Fullsan range – the new homogenous conveyor belt product line – is a focal point in 2022. After the simple belt construction, two further innovative, more complex belt types will be ready for launch in the course of the summer. The full-scale start-up of the expanded Prolink production capacity in Denmark is intended to support this successful product line. Additional production capacity for Transilon belts is at the planning stage. The challenge we continue to face is to react to the limited availability of raw materials and further cost increases affecting logistics and raw materials by imposing price rises of our own as the situation demands.

# INNOVATIVE AND APPLICATION-SPECIFIC

Wherever drive forces are being transmitted and automated production and conveyance processes are running smoothly, Movement Systems is usually not far away. Our solutions for different constellations and requirements in the widest possible range of industries are known for innovation, precision, reliability and economy. With our know-how we are profiling ourselves as a competent partner for the development of industry-specific and individual solutions.

Our application know-how in diverse processing and production processes offers customers the corresponding advantages, and allows them to increase efficiency. Inspired by these experiences, in the reporting year we also developed innovations for various customer segments.

## Hygiene-sensitive applications for the food-processing industry

As diverse as the foods are that are conveyed on conveyor belts for production, processing and packing, just as specific are the corresponding belt solutions and surface coatings for these individual requirements to ensure efficiency, quality, hygiene, and the delicate conveyance of the foods.

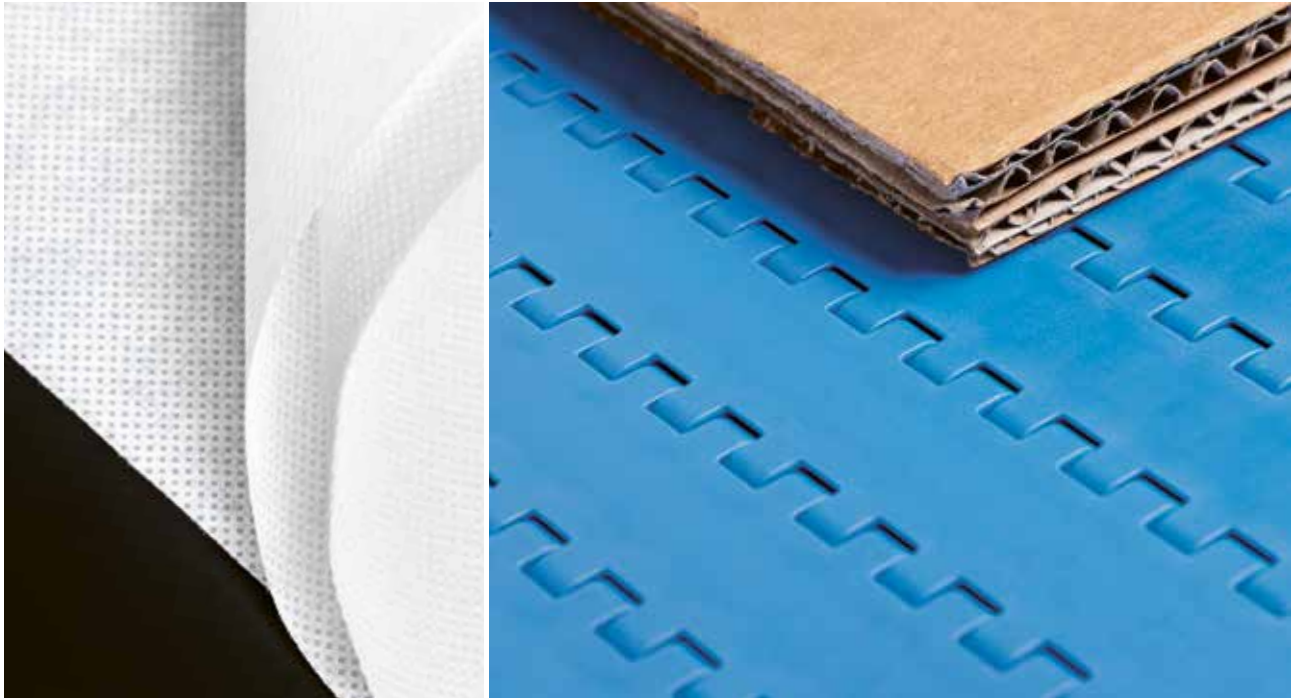
In the area of Transilon, a special belt was developed with metal-detectable upper and running side coating as well as high cut resistance. This special two-sided coating allows particles in the coating that could possibly contaminate the conveyed product to be detected by the automated control system. In this way we support the quality and hygiene concepts of our food-processing customers. The mate belt surface supports easy cleaning and has very good release properties. The belt is suitable for use in bakeries, dough and couscous processing, dairies, meat and poultry industry, and sweet goods production.



TRANSILON BELT FOR DOUGH PROCESSING INDUSTRY



TRANSILON BELT WITH METAL-DETECTABLE COATING



TRANSILON BELT FOR FLEECE MATERIALS PRODUCTION

PROLINK PLASTIC MODULAR BELT SERIES 17

Another belt was developed especially for the conveyance of unpacked foods, mainly for the dough-processing industry. The dehesive surface structure allows very good release properties so that the shape of the dough is optimally maintained without any further addition of flour. Another application field is the processing of boiled, sticky rice for the production of sushi, or boiled couscous for use in convenience meals. Accordingly, the belt is suitable for frequent cleaning, also with hot water.

#### Customer-specific industrial applications

The highly robust, newly developed Prolink Series 17 of plastic modular belts is especially suitable for industrial applications such as, for example, in parcel distribution centers or in the processing of corrugated cardboard and paper. The closed, smooth surface with low weight offers high rigidity and tensile strength, and, due to the underside of the belt, is also especially silent and hardwearing. Special flame-inhibiting versions are possible for the automotive industry, and for applications in the steel and recycling industry special belt types with hardwearing, cut-resistant surface are available.

## 'BELT PROPERTIES OFFER ADDED VALUE'

For the production of fiber products such as fleece materials that are made in high-speed systems, a lightweight Transilon belt was developed that has electrostatic properties and is highly resistant to chemical agents such as textile auxiliary agents. Such fleece materials are used in various applications: for medical and hygiene products such as face masks, sanitary towels and diapers, as well as for fleece jackets or as insulating material in cars and for geotextiles.