



EFFICIENCY.

Conveyor belts are used in a wide range of applications. They ensure a streamlined flow of goods and efficient operational processes. We work constantly to increase the added value offered by our versatile drive and processing belts and to maximize their environmental compatibility, providing individual solutions for a wide variety of industries and applications. To make sure our customers' operational processes run smoothly, we work closely with their own specialists to develop new products and services. This way, we can accommodate individual needs optimally.





MOVEMENT SYSTEMS



EFFICIENCY

SAFELY ON THE MOVE.

Precision and efficiency in logistics and distribution centers are increasingly important factors for success. Our conveyor belts comfortably handle complex processes and requirements, often running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, efficiently and reliably. They save energy and come in compact, space-saving layouts. Our production processes, combinations of materials, and assembly operations ensure that every belt has the characteristics specified for each area of application. The AmpMiser™ 2.0, for example, achieves up to 50 percent savings in operating energy, enabling customers to significantly reduce their environmental footprint.

MOVEMENT SYSTEMS: BROAD-BASED INVESTMENTS

‘Given the varied ongoing diverse challenges, we look back on a relatively positive reporting year. Continued Covid lockdowns in China and reduced availability of raw materials and shipping capacity placed demands on our operations and supply chain management. Substantially higher costs of raw materials, logistics, and energy required us to respond with price adjustments, especially in Europe. At the same time, we successfully launched the first belt types for the new Fullsan product line and, in addition to product innovations, invested selectively in a wide range of areas including capacity expansion and new technology.’

The Movement Systems division generated net sales of CHF 415.2 million in the year under review (previous year: CHF 402.2 million), corresponding to a year-on-year increase of 7.3% in local currencies and equating to growth of 3.2% in the corporate currency, taking negative currency effects into account. This increase is entirely due to sales price increases. Most markets reported growing sales. The division accounted for 32.1% of Group sales in 2022. Operating profit (EBIT) decreased slightly by 0.6% to CHF 54.0 million (previous year: CHF 54.3 million), which was attributable to the increased cost of raw materials, transport, and energy as well as to negative currency effects. The EBIT margin declined by 0.5 percentage points to 13.0% (previous year: 13.5%).

Sales growth thanks to sales price increases in all regions

All three regions contributed in roughly equal measure to the growth in sales. In local currencies, sales increased most substantially in Europe, with growth in the high single digits. It was slightly below that in Asia/Pacific and equally pleasing in the Americas.

Most of the European markets – the key German market along with Switzerland, France, Scandinavia, and Eastern Europe – saw double-digit growth. Sales growth in Southern Europe was good, although a bit less pro-



Marc Deimling
Executive Vice President
Movement Systems

nounced, with Italy and Spain contributing the most. The Netherlands recorded a satisfying increase; however, Great Britain saw a slight decline in sales.

In the Americas, the key US market generated pleasing sales growth, as did Mexico. There was a double-digit increase in Canada thanks to catch-up effects after Covid. The newly established manufacturing site in Colombia has become well-established and is posting gratifying growth.

In Asia/Pacific, the sales picture was mixed. In the key Chinese market, sales reduced due to the ongoing lockdowns and associated wide-ranging operational restrictions and challenges. Other bigger foreign subsidiaries including Japan, Australia, and India generated pleasing sales growth. Thailand and Indonesia recorded double-digit growth. Sales in South Korea was below the previous year level.

Different trends in the customer segments

Levels of demand and general trends varied across the main customer segments. In some cases they were still dependent on specific circumstances relating to recent years. Double-digit sales increases were recorded in sports treadmills, raw material processing and industrial production. Some of these were attributable to an increase in demand after the pandemic. Conveyor belts for the wood, stone, insulation material, and gypsum processing industries were in high demand as well as for tires, cars, machine parts, and industrial roll-up doors. Equally pleasing, albeit less strong, were the sales increases in the food, paper and printing, and textile segments. After some years of strong growth, the logistics segment saw sales declining slightly, mainly

because demand for new e-commerce centers had not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Application-specific innovations

During the year under review, we launched application-specific innovations in all product lines for various customer segments with particular requirements for products and services.

Modules with a grid structure have been added to Series 18 of the Prolink plastic modular belt. They are particularly suitable for the food-processing industry and for steep curves. With a high proportion of open spaces, they guarantee excellent air circulation and drainage.

The newly developed Fullsan product line introduced a number of belt types with various surface structures for use in the food industry. Depending on the properties of the belt, they are suitable for the meat, poultry, and fish industries, for vegetable, fruit and dough preparation, and for use in dairies and cheesemaking.

In the area of Transilon, an iron-gray logistics belt was developed for cross-belt sorters. The surface coating has a ribbed, non-reflective structure, making it ideal for applications involving the scanning of bar codes. With the sustainable objective of saving primary raw materials, a versatile conveyor belt was developed with tension members made of recycle from PET bottles.

The Extremultus product line produced elastic belts for the electronics industry. These are used in the production of semiconductors and the manufacture of photovoltaic modules. They have optimum tracking properties and are quick, easy, and safe to assemble on site.

A new Transtex processing belt was developed specially for the tire industry, for use as a collecting belt after the steam vulcanization process. The special Texglide™ coating ensures the tires remain properly positioned in the center of the belt.

Broad-based investments

We invested in infrastructure, technology upgrades, and capacity expansion at many of our manufacturing and production sites, as well as in a wide range of product developments.

At the production plant in Pinghu/China, an additional production line for Transilon conveyor belts is to be installed. It will be able to operate in different production modes. It was planned and built during 2022 and is due

to be assembled in spring 2023. It is expected to come on-stream towards the end of the year.

To increase capacity for the manufacture of Prolink plastic modular belts in Denmark, additional injection molding machines were installed along with the relevant specialist tools. They will also allow new module series to be produced.

At the production location in Germany, the control system for the mixing plant was replaced, and a dual-fuel burner that can operate on natural gas and heating oil was installed. In the nearby manufacturing center in Garbsen, longitudinal cutting equipment was upgraded and solar panels were installed.

At the Extremultus flat belt production plant in Switzerland, the control system for the coating machine and the air extractor in the compounding area were updated with state-of-the-art technology.

Storage capacity was increased at the European manufacturing center in Slovakia. A modern shelving system was installed.

The main plant in the USA received a camera-based product inspection system to make the quality control process more efficient, and the control system for the compounding machine was upgraded.

Situation-specific action required in 2023

In 2023, we will again be challenged to respond to the limited availability of some raw materials and address the rising costs of logistics, raw materials, and personnel with sales price increases. The economic trend in Europe is uncertain, but we do anticipate a recovery in China. We must react locally and with agility to market developments and fine-tune our sales and production planning accordingly. Key projects for the year ahead include bringing the new production line in China on-stream, finalizing the planning of a new coating machine in Japan, and adding further belt types to the new Fullsan product line.

CUSTOM DEVELOPMENTS

Wherever drive forces are being transmitted and automated production and conveying processes are running smoothly, Movement Systems is usually not far away. Our solutions for a wide range of configurations and demands in numerous industries are renowned for innovation, precision, reliability, and cost-effectiveness. We draw on our know-how to stand out as a competent partner in developing industry-specific and individual solutions.

With our application know-how in a wide range of production and manufacturing processes, our customers enjoy real benefits and are able to increase their efficiency. Inspired by these experiences, we developed new products for various customer segments during last year.

Hygiene-sensitive applications for the food industry

The first high-quality belt grades of the new homogeneous Fullsan product line were launched in the reporting year. Their properties ensure the highest level of hygiene for the food industry. They defy thermal and mechanical challenges, are easy to clean, and withstand cleaning chemicals. They are completely sealed, which means they do not offer any entry points for contamination by oil, grease, or moisture. High UVC resistance enables regular disinfection with UVC irradiation. There are belt types with a matt surface for dry and packaged foods such as fruits and vegetables, and a glossy surface with high cleanability for wet and moist foods such as meat, fish, and cheese. Another surface with an inverted pyramid structure reduces product contact area and improves product release, especially for dough and vegetable items.

The extended Prolink plastic modular belt Series 18 is a boon for the food-processing industry. Large bakeries and processors of meat, fish, and seafood use it in the



FULLSAN BELT WITH GLOSSY SURFACE COATING...



...AND WITH AN INVERTED PYRAMID STRUCTURE



PROLINK PLASTIC MODULAR BELT SERIES 18



TRANSILON BELT FOR LOGISTICS APPLICATIONS

return of trays, baking sheets, and product packaging materials. It enables the conveyed product to be pushed off to the side without interference. Conveyed products can also exceed the actual width of the belt. With a surface permeability of 44 percent, it ensures excellent air circulation and drainage. There is another special version for tight radius curves in the processing line. This range can now be upgraded with additional rubber-like "friction top" elements, attached to the top of the modules. This feature is particularly suitable for inclined transport, where it prevents boxes, trays, and other packaging materials from sliding down.

'CONVEYOR PROPERTIES OFFER ADDED VALUE'

Customized industrial applications

A new conveyor belt from the Transilon product group has been specially developed for use in cross-belt sorters in logistics applications, where goods are fed from several belt conveyors coming together at right angles to the conveying direction. It boasts a low-noise running side and an inverted pyramid surface structure. Its iron-gray belt color and non-reflective properties make it ideal for barcode scanning applications on cross-belt sorters.

A new Extremultus elastic flat belt has been developed for the electronics industry. It is designed and developed for the production of semiconductors and the manufacture of photovoltaic modules. The structured belt surface enables optimum grip and exact positioning of printed circuit boards and modules. The homogeneous belt design prevents dust formation and contamination of electronic components. The elastic properties allow a simple joining technique, for fast and reliable on-site belt assembly.