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Stoughton MA., Addex Inc. has been granted a patent covering a method of correcting thickness variations in blown film.

The patented technology is deployed in the company's Model EGC and MGC air rings. The EGC is an automatic system that cuts thickness variations at least in half, which translates directly into 5-6% raw materials savings or a 10-12 months payback period.

The manual MGC system reduces thickness variations by 20-30% with a payback period similar to the automatic system due to its lower cost.

Both control the air volume of the Addex air ring via 100-304 air channels and control zones, the highest number in any air ring based system. Just two motors activate all the movable parts in the automatic version, making it also the lowest-maintenance system in the market.

The automatic system comes with either a direct contact or air cushioned capacitive thickness sensor, or an air cushioned nuclear sensor to cover all possible layer structures and thicknesses.

Since the filing several years ago Addex has sold more than 200 systems worldwide. The ability to closely regulate film thickness allows film processors to more judiciously consume resin, which is particularly critical since material prices have been steadily climbing for the past several years.

Addex Engineering Manager Bill Randolph was named in the patent (7,314,592).

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