
Presseinformation / Press Release

Datum / Date	April 4, 2016	E-Mail / E-mail	richard.elmer@ferag.com
Nr. / No.	FPI527	Anzahl Zeichen / Number of characters	3350 without captions
Rückfragen / Enquiries	Richard Elmer	Bilder / Photographs	2

Skyfall doubles production output **200 cartridges per minute**

Atlanta/Hinwil, April 4, 2016. Swiss company Ferag AG can book a second major order from Belgian construction chemicals specialist Soudal for its main factory in Turnhout near Antwerp. The system supplier from Switzerland is delivering Skyfall conveyor technology for two complete filling lines, including a total of more than 2,000 Skyfall hangers. Each line will incorporate two loops that on the one hand feed empty cartridges to the filling machines and on the other hand buffer and transport the silicone-sealant-filled cartridges to the packaging zone. Thanks to the innovative Swiss technology, Soudal is set to double production capacity to more than 200 cartridges a minute.

Soudal describes itself as Europe's biggest independent manufacturer of sealants, adhesives, PU foams, sealant tapes and building protection products. The family-owned company is also one of the first Skyfall customers anywhere in the world. An installation delivered in 2014 can be regarded as a pilot project. This overhead conveyor system is installed at Soudal's headquarters in Turnhout, Belgium, inside an older factory building where space is extremely confined. It transports cartridges containing acrylic filler and acrylic sealant from the automatic filling machine to the packaging station. It is so stable and smooth that the construction chemicals specialist, which has undergone a vigorous expansion in recent years, has

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decided to order two additional Skyfall lines for a further scale-up of production in Turnhout.

Soudal will accommodate the new Ferag systems with their total of well over 2,000 Skyfall hangers in a newly built factory extension. Compared to the existing Skyfall installation, they will follow a slightly different topography, in that each will have two loops. One will feed empty cartridges. It will connect the loading station, where empty cartridges are placed onto the conveyor either manually or automatically, with the automatic filling machine. The other will function as a buffer and transport line for the cartridges, which in this case are filled with a silicone compound. At the same time, it will connect the filling machine with the packaging zone, where the so-called case packers will receive the filled cartridges, place them in prepared cartons, and transfer them on to the palletizer. Diverter units are planned between the two lines, which will each allow goods to be channelled flexibly back and forth between one line and the other. High speeds can be reached on each of the four loops in order to process the target of 200 cartridges a minute. In one fell swoop, Soudal will thus boost its production output by 50 percent.

On the pilot installation, which Soudal commissioned two years ago, high production output was already a key issue. At the same time, a solution had to be found for the integration of the much slower case packers and the bridging of short-term stoppages. The Skyfall technology, which can adapt perfectly to specific customer requirements and is also tuned to high energy efficiency, meets these demands with flying colours. Now, Soudal even has an option to introduce and fully integrate further technical improvements into the production process, such as digital printing of the cartridges. Ultimately, all these measures are set to make the manufacturing processes still more flexible and faster for this Ferag customer.



((Captions:))



((FPI527a.jpg – FPI527b.jpg))

Buffering silicone cartridges: the two new Skyfall lines at Soudal's Turnhout facility make for greater flexibility while doubling production output.

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About Ferag AG

Ferag AG, with its headquarters in Hinwil in Switzerland's Zürcher Oberland, is a specialist in innovative conveyor and processing technology. It is seen as the global market leader in the development, manufacture and marketing of postpress processing systems. At the same time, this traditional, family-owned company is stepping up its activities in the intralogistics and packaging industries. Like its associate companies Denipro AG, WRH Marketing AG with 20 WRH Global subsidiaries, and PMC Print Media Corporation, Ferag is part of the Walter Reist Holding AG corporate group, which employs a staff of more than 1,000 worldwide.

