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WATER TANKS

The Tank version of the Leonardo machine developed by Persico for fully automatic rotational moulding is currently in operation at a US and at an Australian processor. Both the companies are employing versions of the machine for producing tanks with capacity from 2,000 to 6,000 litres. In particular, the tanks made by the US company have the advantage of a multilayer configuration, obtained using recycled materials which significantly reduces production costs. In the case of the Australian processor, the machine is used for producing vertical water tanks (slim tanks) with capacity of 2,000 and 3,000 litres. The advantages of using this machine lie not just in process automation, but also in the attendant benefits of shorter cycle times (by up to 35%), lower energy consumption (by up to 25%) and product weight reduction (of up to 38%). The vertical tanks are characterised by a uniform thickness across the entire cross-section, that ensures high mechanical properties. However achieving this property also complicates the moulding of the tank, especially with regard to maintaining consistent thickness of all the sections while at the same time optimally forming the connection elements for the outer walls. On conventional machines the extremities of the mould are masked and heat is concentrated on its central portion, but this solution entails great dispersion of energy. This drawback is overcome by direct mould heating using diathermic oil, which uniformly distributes the heat through all parts of the mould and permits zones to be differentiated according to the geometry of the part to be moulded.

PERSICO spa - Divisione Rotazionale - Via Camozzi 8 - 24027 NEMBRO (BG) - tel +39 035 4531811 - fax +39 035 4531812 - e-mail: info@persico.com - www.persico.com

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