

Twice as good

The two-story PMK in Mikkeli, Finland, is an impressive vertical project. On this line, Mölnlycke produces and packages medical dressings that are gentle on the skin.

It was exactly 30 years ago that the Swedish company Mölnlycke launched its Safetac® technology for dressings. A contact layer with silicone adhesion ensures that the patch rests firmly on the skin, but can be removed gently. Removing the patch is less painful for the patient compared to conventional adhesive products. When removing the dressing, there is no tissue trauma either, which is beneficial for wound healing.

Mölnlycke Health Care produces more than 100 million multilayer border products of the Mepilex® product line per year – mainly in Maine, US and in Mikkeli, Finland. The location in Finland, about a two-hour drive from Helsinki, is rich in tradition, and in recent years it has become a state-of-the-art, high-performance production facility, in particular for high-tech products for dressing wounds. Every day, containers full of wound dressings leave the facility and

are sent all over the world. Mikkeli has also a research and development department in order to implement product improvements in close cooperation with and proximity to production.

“For the production and packaging line, it was important for us to have a lot of flexibility in the configuration, a wide variety of possible formats and short changeover times in order to switch quickly between our various products,” says Timo Saahko, General Manager

and Managing Director of the Mikkeli production facility. “Time to market is of essence, therefore the line should be easy to modify so that we can process the materials of the future as well as today’s products at any time. We have been working with Harro Höfliger for more than a decade, and we are sure that the company is the right partner for this task.” Future viability has always been a specialty of Harro Höfliger’s modular PMK setup. What is new about this line, however, is its layout: To accommodate in as compact a space as possible the numerous stations for the complex production and packaging processes, the decision was made for a two-story system.

The high-speed line is more than five meters tall. On the upper floor, the various web materials are automatically unwound and wound up: multilayer laminate, wound pads made of foam material, Safetac® wound contact layer, release liner and the packaging material

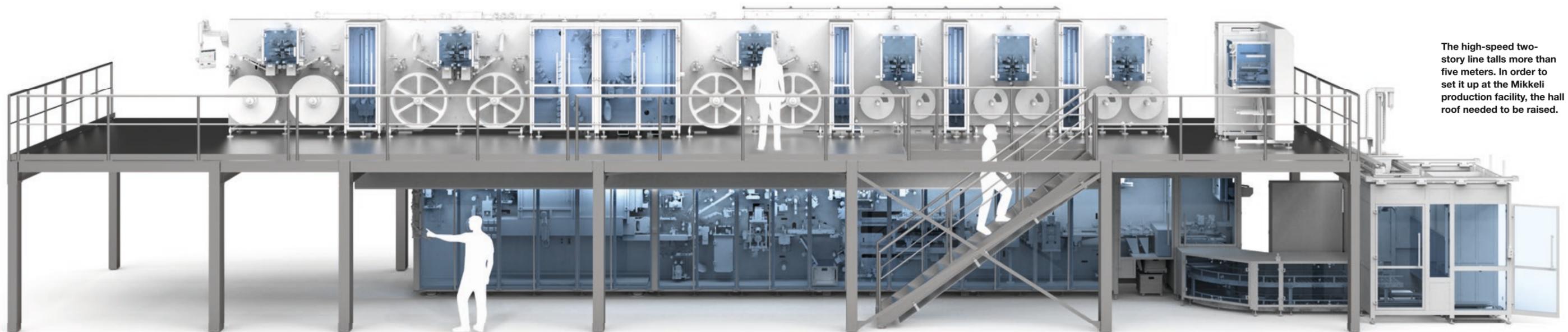
“We have been working with Harro Höfliger for more than a decade, and we are sure that the company is the right partner for this task.”



Timo Saahko, General Manager and Managing Director of Mölnlycke's Mikkeli production facility

for the sachets. Packaging takes place in the lower area. The wound pads are cut out exactly using cut & place and placed on the carrier film. After lamination of the different layers of film and confectioning, the patches are individually packed in pouches. Numerous camera stations monitor the processes and ensure, among other things, that the pouches are correctly printed with all batch-relevant data and with the UDI code for track & trace. At the end of the line, all products in perfect condition are stacked and moved to packaging. For Timo Saahko the high-tech two-story line is an investment in the future of Mölnlycke: “To set up the system, the hall roof had to be raised. It was worth it: The line is efficient and, thanks to its modular setup, offers us long-term production reliability for our current and future patch products.”

Mölnlycke has since acquired additional two-story lines from Harro Höfliger, each of which effectively can produce border products in three shifts. ■



The high-speed two-story line tall more than five meters. In order to set it up at the Mikkeli production facility, the hall roof needed to be raised.

Border products

Border products have a self-adhesive edge that allows the dressing to be securely applied to the skin. In the case of Mölnlycke's Mepilex® products, the Safetac® technology is used to make sure that the dressing can be changed without damaging the wound or the skin, or exposing the patient to additional pain.



Helmar Lünig, Mölnlycke

About Mölnlycke

Mölnlycke, a global company with a Swedish heritage, is a world-leading medical products and solutions company that equips healthcare professionals to achieve the best patient, clinical and economic outcomes. Customers use their solutions in almost 100 countries – and the company owns operations in more than 40 of them. Mölnlycke's headquarters are in Gothenburg, just a short distance from the town of Mölnlycke, the place where the company was founded in 1849.

