A PILOT PRODUCTION LINE COMES ON STREAM

P. N. Zernov

A notable achievement in honor of the 25th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was recorded by the personnel of the V. I. Lenin Man-Made Fibre Combine in Mogilev, i.e., a trial line for the production of polyester fibre by the continuous method from terephthalic acid has become operational.

This is the first time that this method has been used in the USSR. Its advantages over the method of producing the fibre on the batch system from dimethyl terephthalate are obvious. In the new method the polymer is synthesized continuously and the polymer melt is fed directly to the spinning machines. The net cost of the fibre produced by the continuous process is lower as a result of the significant reduction in the number of technological operations (to five from the nine in the batch process) and in the consumption of starting material per ton polymer (15% less terephthalic acid than dimethyl terephthalate).

The fact that the process is continuous means that the equipment is more compact and the degree of automation and equipment productivity higher. Working conditions are better as a consequence of water in place of methanol being given off in the ester interchange stage.

Launching the production of the fibre by the new method was preceded by a large amount of work by the personnel of the Combine in collaboration with workers from the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Synthetic Fibres. The work of tuning and running in the prototype equipment was shared by numerous establishment and Institutes, among them the State Institute for the Planning of Man-Made Fibre Establishments and the Krasnodar Planning and Design Office for Plastics Machinery.

The first high-grade polymer was produced on January 9, 1976. The Combine has already shipped fibre meeting all requirements of All-Union Standard OST 6-06-189-73 to establishments of the textile industry.

The personnel of the new production section worked with enthusiasm during the period of tuning-up the equipment and mastering the technological process. Examples to all were set by spinning machine tenders P. V. Shilovich, V. V. Grakov, and A. S. Kryukovskii; by mechanic P. F. Levkovich; electrician F. S. Titov; instrument fitter P. G. Shishov; and engineers A. P. Lukashik, V. I. Tishchenko, and P. V. Linnik. Significant contributions were made by the specialists of the Combine and the working group (ORG-1), among them Doctor Z. Laugner and Engineers V. Klimov and V. Anfinogentov.

In a special effort in honor of the 25th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union the personnel of the pilot production line set an example by bringing the output of the line to full production capacity and producing polyester fibre of improved quality. The socialist competition for the ahead-of-schedule fulfillment of the plan of the first year of the 10th Five-Year Plan is expanding from day to day.

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