

## Press release

### Customer feedback on the AI solution Prod-IQ · SmartPress: The concept convinces!

Krefeld/Hanover, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Within the new Siempelkamp digital platform "IQ" the proIQ area takes on a particular significance. Here everything revolves around the monitoring, control, and optimization of a wood-based panel plant. A central, new component for this is the autonomous closed-loop solution Prod-IQ · SmartPress, which Siempelkamp and SMARTECH provide for wood-based panel plants. The concept is meeting with great interest in the market, which is particularly focused on the savings potential and the simplified, harmonized operation of the plant.

**Prod-IQ · SmartPress** is the groundbreaking joint product of Siempelkamp, one of the world's leading suppliers of wood-based panel plants, and the innovative Israeli high-tech company SMARTECH. The AI-based solution offers a significant opportunity for wood-based panel producers to autonomously increase press throughput and quality while lowering manufacturing costs. This solution, developed for existing and new production lines in the wood-based panel industry, unlocks autonomous, real-time control for critical production processes. **Prod-IQ · SmartPress** is equally suitable for particleboard, MDF and OSB lines.

How is the market responding? "The customer feedback on **Prod-IQ · SmartPress** is developing extremely positively. Plant operators have quickly recognized the savings options that the concept provides them with. We are currently carrying out a series of potential analyses in order to optimally exploit very specific potentials in customer plants," explains Gregor Bernardy, Manager Control Technology & Industrial IT at Siempelkamp Logistics & Service GmbH.

The interest of Siempelkamp's customers is based on two main aspects. Great attention is paid to increasing the speed of the plants while at the same time ensuring the quality. Here, **Prod-IQ · SmartPress** includes blister and strength properties as well as plant-specific bottlenecks resulting, for example, from the dryer capacity. Another key issue is material savings, which can be realized when the mat weight is reduced. A third potential is currently in the starting blocks: "In the future, **Prod-IQ · SmartPress** will also show its strengths in the area of glue savings. Here we are devoting ourselves to the question if gluing factors can be reduced while taking into account the strength properties of the board," says Gregor Bernardy, casting a glance into the future.

In conclusion: With **Prod-IQ · SmartPress**, wood-based panel producers are taking a consistent step into the future in terms of digital options for improving the quality of their plant as well as reducing costs. The benefits are also noticeable in many other aspects. For example, the concept ensures stability and balances out operational variabilities between shifts that can result from different operator behavior and differences in the characteristics in raw materials. **Prod-IQ · SmartPress** also promotes the transfer of knowledge between shift groups by making best-practice solutions available to all those involved - also and especially important when new personnel are to be trained. As an autonomous closed-loop solution, **Prod-IQ · SmartPress** reduces the workload from the operators' routine operations, thus allowing them to concentrate on other tasks, such as progressive improvement of the processes. Last but not least, the AI concept unfolds its potential as the "brain" of the wood-based panel plant,

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providing all those involved in the production process with easy access to information and knowledge from the line.



**Caption:** Siempelkamp and SMARTECH: groundbreaking autonomous process control with Prod-IQ · SmartPress

### **About SMARTECH**

SMARTECH is a pioneering hi-tech company that provides game-changing technologies to the global manufacturing industry. SMARTECH revolutionizes traditional manufacturing by unleashing the latent potential of raw materials and data, and helps industries upgrade their plants to smart factories by transforming existing production lines into high-performing, autonomous, data-driven and sustainable assets. SMARTECH, Manufacturing™ Technologies is headquartered in Israel, with a presence in the USA, Canada, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

For more information about SMARTECH solutions, visit [www.smartech.com](http://www.smartech.com).

### **About Siempelkamp**

As a technology provider for machinery and equipment, casting and nuclear technology the Siempelkamp group has an international footprint. We are a system supplier of press lines and complete plants for the wood-based panel industry, metal forming, as well as the composites and rubber industries. With one of the world's largest hand-molding foundries, we manufacture large cast parts at our Krefeld location; these have a total unit weight of up to 320 t. We also provide transport and storage containers for radioactive waste, and specialize in the dismantling of nuclear plants. The wood-based panel industry forms one of our central markets and our core competence: We cover the entire production process for wood-based panels – from round log and raw material handling up to storage and handling solutions for the finished wood-based panels as well as new approaches of machine

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learning. We provide our customers with comprehensive after sales & service throughout the entire life cycle of their plant.

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