







## **PRODUCTION EXPANSION**

A new facility dedicated to the pre-production of curing presses and molds brings capabilities in-house, ensuring quality and reliability across the production process

fter doubling its capacity in 2018 by separating the press and mold factory, Uzer Makina completed another expansion in June 2020. This new facility is entirely dedicated to the pre-production activities – including storing steel raw materials, cutting, bending, construction, welding, sandblasting and heat treatment. It serves both the tire curing press and mold markets, which were part of the press manufacturing facility before.

The investment decision was made at the end of 2019 by top management before the Covid-19 pandemic, with the goal of decreasing costs by reducing the amount of manufacturing activities that are outsourced. Following this decision, Uzer Makina acquired a 9,500m² (31,200ft²) area of land next to the existing press manufacturing facility and finished the construction of a new 6,500m² (21,300ft²) building in less than seven months. Uzer Makina has added brandnew pre-production equipment – including

a heat treatment furnace, sandblasting machine and bending machine. With these machinery investments, Uzer Makina aims to decrease the cost and production time per product, while increasing the total quality of the processes by bringing these operations in-house, rather than outsourcing them.

This expansion will also enable Uzer Makina to better utilize its existing press manufacturing facility. Pre-production previously occupied a large area within the building; the remaining space will now be used for press manufacturing and assembly. Uzer Makina will be able to manufacture more presses, in the same amount of time as before. Uzer Makina has also made machinery investments in the existing press production area and has installed an automated spray painting booth for painting press bodies/ parts and a vertical turning machine with a 3m turning diameter, which will mainly be used for parts of bigger (over 85in) mechanical presses.

Main: In the same area as before, Uzer Makina now has three separate facilities for mold and press manufacturing and pre-production

**Top:** Inside the new pre-production facility

Middle: The new heat treatment furnace installed on site

**Above right:** An Uzer Makina floating column hydraulic tire curing press for PCR products Uzer Makina now runs three facilities that cover more than 40,000m² (131,200ft²) of land; only three years ago it had only one facility. It has also started construction of a new office on the second floor of its press manufacturing facility. The existing management office in the mold facility will be moved to this brandnew office by 2021.

Even though demand has been significantly affected due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Uzer Makina is optimistic and continues to prepare for its recovery. During the pandemic, Uzer Makina took all the necessary precautions and continued production with a reduced workforce. All employees are now back working full-time at the company's factories, adhering to social distancing and hygiene rules.

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