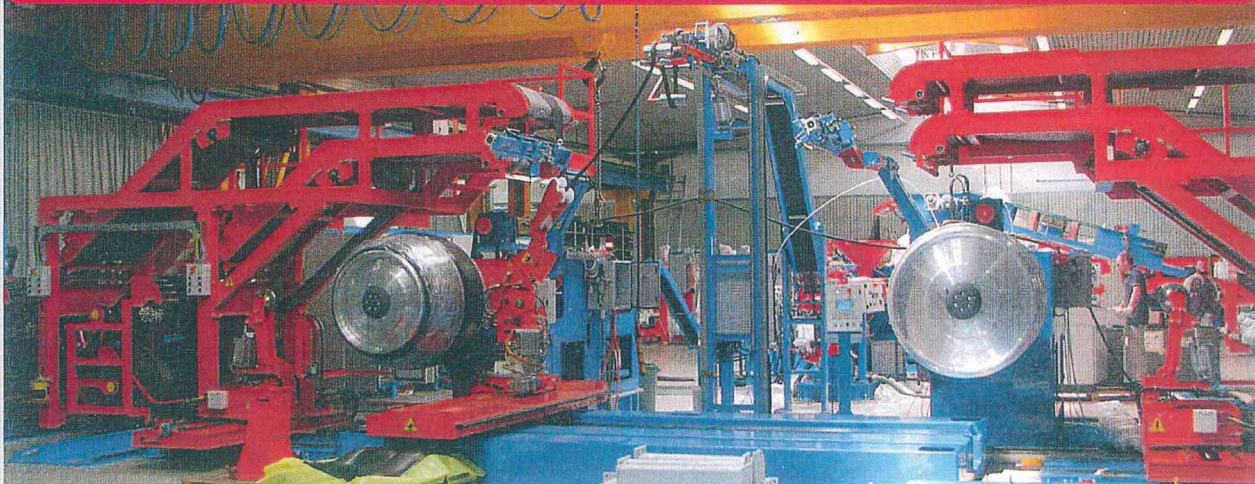


Machinery survey 2014



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MACHINERY

Uzer Makina prepares for growing tire curing equipment demand

The Kartepe, Turkey-based company has almost doubled its plant space for curing press manufacture over the last two years.

Uzer Makina claims status as Turkey's premier tire curing press and curing mould manufacturer, and produced 21 percent more presses and 30 percent more moulds in 2013 than in 2012. The company expects better performance still in 2014, and a "boom" in demand from the beginning of 2015.

Uzer Makina has focused on its tire curing portfolio, including container mechanisms and bladder moulds, for the past 35 years, claiming to have invested millions of dollars upgrading both its plant and staff capability. It serves major tire manufacturers in Turkey, Europe, the USA, the Middle East, the Far East and Russia. Customers include Bridgestone, Goodyear and Pirelli.

Production of tire curing presses began almost 20 years ago with 60in twin Bag-O-Matic (BOM) dome-type mechanical models. The company has since delivered more than 250 sets of curing presses worldwide, from mechanical to "state of

the art" hydraulic systems. The mechanical presses range from a 40in twin cavity tilt-back configuration to 104in single-cavity slide back.

Uzer Makina has recently developed a patented "floating column" hydraulic press configuration for producing radial tires for cars and light commercial vehicles. The press requires no additional mould height adjustment system.

Direct engraving is Uzer Makina's principal mould manufacturing method, using the latest software and modern five-axis CNC machines.

The company's mould range covers sizes PCR, LVR, LTR and TBR sizes in segmental configuration. Tread segments are either of steel or aluminium; sidewall plates are of steel throughout. Full circular AG, AGR, OTR and bladder moulds are also made. AG, AGR, and OTR tire moulds are manufac-

tured by direct engraving using forged or cast steel materials, which the company says offer extra precision and durability for this group of moulds.

New-generation curing presses feature improved centring of "green" tires into moulds for better uniformity

