

## Press release

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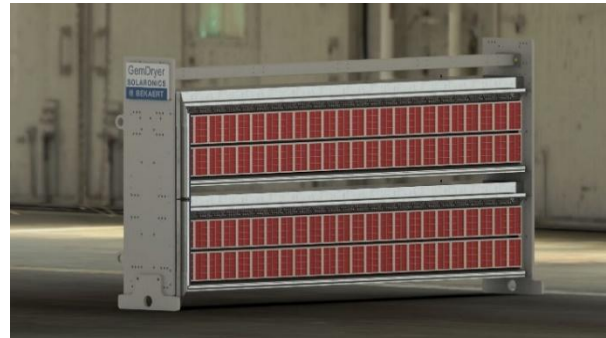
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**March 2018**

### Energy savings and high product quality in Metsä Board Kyro: goals achieved with Energy Recovery System and GemDryer® Infrared drying system

Metsä Board Kyro produces coated folding boxboard for packaging. It was decided to replace the existing gas infrared equipment on board machine n°1 with the goals of higher reliability, higher efficiency and significant energy savings. The start-up took place in September 2017.

Metsä Board and Bekaert Solaronics share a long history of partnership and Metsä Board counted on the experience of Bekaert Solaronics in the upgrade and optimization of non-contact drying systems. Bekaert Solaronics supplied a 4-row GemDryer® infrared drying system equipped with Gem9E emitters. The exhaust air from the GemDryer® is used as make-up air for the existing air-dryer via the ERS link. This reduces the gas consumption of the air dryers and thereby the energy efficiency of the total drying is significantly improved as well.



GemDryer® made of 4 rows of 24 Gem9E emitters

#### Significant energy savings and optimal product quality

Energy savings guarantees of 300 kW have been achieved while keeping the good drying strategy from quality point of view. The combination of the new Bekaert Solaronics Gem9E emitters and the ERS energy link implemented after the coating station increases the efficiency while keeping the same drying capacity. As a result, the cost of drying is decreased by 30% for the coating station compared to the situation before the rebuild.

The solutions meets also the customer needs in terms of flexibility, reliability and ease of maintenance.

According to Petri Huiko, Production Manager in Kyro mill, all the goals have been fulfilled: “we are very satisfied by the performance of the Bekaert Solaronics solution”.

**About Metsä Board**

Metsä Board is a leading European producer of premium fresh fibre paperboards including folding boxboards, food service boards and white kraftliners. Metsä Board, part of Metsä Group, has approximately 2,350 employees and totals €1.8 billion of combined sales.

Metsä Board Kyro mill produces high-quality fully coated folding boxboard for packaging and graphic applications.

**About Bekaert and Bekaert Solaronics**

Bekaert is a world market and technology leader in steel wire transformation and coating technologies. We pursue to be the preferred supplier for our steel wire products and solutions by continuously delivering superior value to our customers worldwide. Bekaert (Euronext Brussels: BEKB) is a global company with almost 30 000 employees worldwide, headquarters in Belgium and €4.4 billion in annual revenue. Founded in 1967, Bekaert Solaronics supplies customized drying and heating systems based on gas and electrical infrared technology to a wide range of industries. Today, more than 1 000 systems have been installed worldwide. The company also provides maintenance services and is available to assist on upgrades or improved energy efficiency of existing systems.