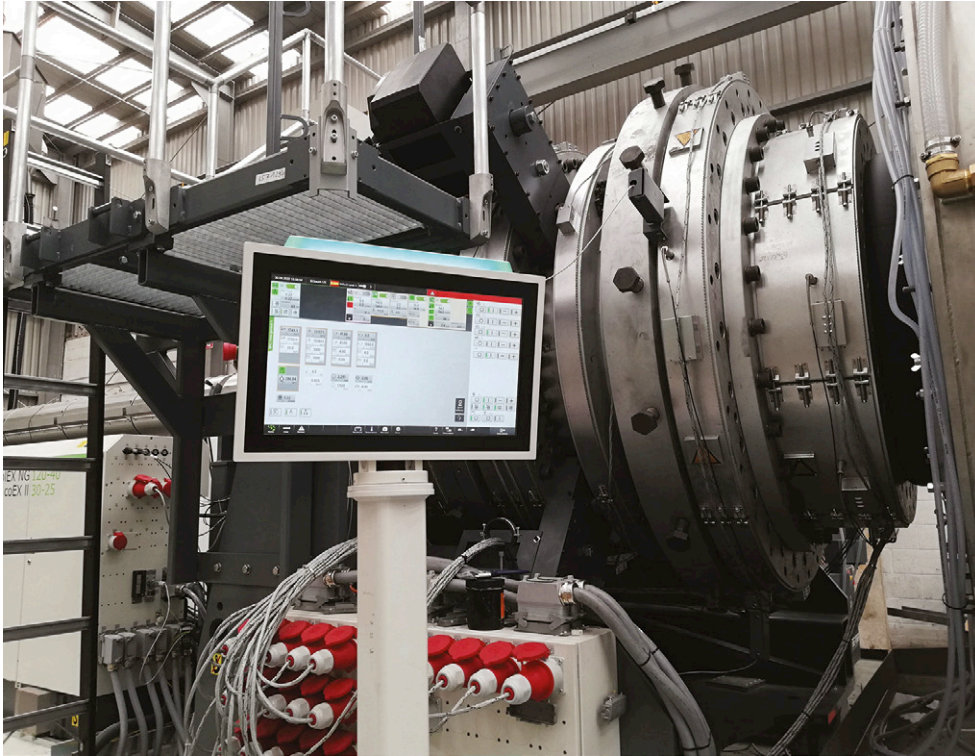


IMAGE: BATTENFELD-CINCINATTI



Recent die developments include a multi-layer design to make PEX pipe, a crosshead for corrugated pipe and a die with 'the largest adjustable melt gap ever produced'

Pushing the limits: update on pipe dies

Five-layer extrusion

Tecnomatic of Italy recently delivered a multi-purpose extrusion line - which includes an updated version of its Athena die head - to a European

IMAGE: TECNOMATIC



Above: A European pipe producer is using Tecnomatic's Athena die head to make five-layer PE-RT and PEX pipe

The material is extruded through a Venus Multi pipe head. Its spiral geometry is optimised for the latest generation of PE and PP raw materials and has been designed to have a smaller overall length, volume and operating pressure.

Extra features can be added to the pipe, such as a peelable outer skin. This peelable layer, often made from modified polypropylene, protects the pipe surface against potential notches and cracks during installation. It is typically 0.6-0.7mm thick and is added by a crosshead positioned before the final cooling bath.