

CONVEYOR BELTS

Pietro Bonaiti: The history of the glass industry is written on these walls

“The sample of conveyor belt they sent us is not suitable for their temperatures,” said Massimiliano, owner of Pietro Bonaiti Srl. One look is enough for him to recognise a material and its characteristics, even before chemical and mechanical analyses. On the other hand, for decades now, conveyor belts no longer hold any secrets for him and for a company that has helped write the history of industrial hollow glass automation.

Their history hangs on the walls of this company, founded over 70 years ago: in the hall, between a machine and a large workbench, hang the sample links of every belt produced during its long life.

“You never know,” said a smiling Pietro, the third generation of the company together with his sister Marta. “The belts have a long service life, but it happens that you have to replace parts of them or even, at the end of their service life, have to remake them identically. And getting samples sent in is not always possible or easy. So here it is, this silent army of belts, the result of irreplaceable craftsmanship knowledge, now also aided by technological innovation and increasingly marked



Pietro Bonaiti Srl's facility does not just produce conveyor belts for the glass industry: it is also a large archive of over 70 years of production. And as the international market expands, new plants are designed to reduce production times and increase quality. Thus is built the success of a company that not even Covid could stop.



international expansion, but which maintains its roots here.”

WIDTHS UP TO 5 METRES

The ‘here’ he refers to is the Lecco area, in Italy: a place blessed by the beauty of Lake Como and its majestic mountains, but at the same time historically devoted to production, especially in the engineering sector. Among the local specialisations, that of the production of conveyor belts stands out, distinguished by quality, durability and performance: specifically, Pietro Bonaiti Srl over the years has dedicated itself to belts for glassworks, in particular those for hollow glass decoration furnaces and even more so those for annealing furnaces.

“Over the years, we have not only acquired specific know-how that allows us to act as consultants for our customers, but we have also developed and produced application-specific systems,” Pietro explained. “This is why we are able to fulfil our customers’ wishes and needs even when dealing with new applications. This knowledge, capability, and equipment cannot be found everywhere.”

These statements convey all the passion for a profession handed down between generations and also some justified pride. “Today we have arrived at producing conveyor belts up to 5 metres wide by several tens of metres long: these are important dimensions, even more so if we

think that every characteristic of the belt is customised: shape and length of the links, material used, operating temperatures and so on.”

A COMMITMENT TO CUSTOMERS

As far as customised and exclusive applications are concerned, Pietro Bonaiti Srl is introducing new systems into its machine park, specifically designed to increase process automation, without sacrificing flexibility and the possibility of producing highly customised products. “These are important investments, aimed in particular at continuing to guarantee full compliance with scheduled deliveries and also to better manage any emergencies, especially when the customer has to deal with machine downtime. Those who turn to us know that

they can count on our full availability and that we will do everything to provide timely and quality responses.”

The owners of the company are well aware of how it is precisely these characteristics that make the difference in the market. “Many of our customers have been buying from us for years, if not decades: this is because once you have experienced the difference in both product and service you realise how much what seem to be details can make the difference. Specialisation in the glass sector, in-depth knowledge of materials, requirements, solutions and products, the ability to become reliable consultants, adherence to specifications and timeframes, flexibility, the ability to implement special productions, the creation of tailor-made machinery... only such a comprehensive business culture, rooted in its artisanal history, can create this unique mix.” ■



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